

Exercise

Culture and Respect

AVERT
FAMILY VIOLENCE



**Collaborative Responses in
the Family Law System**



An Australian Government Initiative

Australian
INSTITUTE
of SOCIAL
RELATIONS™

Copyright

© Commonwealth of Australia 2010

This resource is protected by copyright. Apart from any use as permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968*, and those explicitly granted below, all other rights are reserved.

With the exception of the Commonwealth Coat of Arms and except where otherwise noted, all material presented in this training package is provided under a Creative Commons Attribution-No Derivative Works 3.0 Australia licence <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/3.0/au/legalcode>. The terms under which the Coat of Arms can be used are detailed on the It's an Honour website <http://www.itsanhonour.gov.au/coat-arms/>.

For the avoidance of doubt, this means this licence only applies to material as set out in this training package.

You must include the following link: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/3.0/au/legalcode> when re-using or distributing this work so that it is clear to others that the Creative Commons licence applies to this copyright material.

The details of the relevant licence conditions are available on the Creative Commons website (accessible using the links provided) as is the full legal code for the CC BY-ND 3.0 AU licence <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/3.0/au/legalcode>.

Any reference to, reuse or distribution of all or part of this training package must be attributed in the following way: Australian Attorney-General's Department, **AVERT Family Violence: Collaborative Responses in the Family Law System**.

Contact us

Inquiries regarding the licence and any use of this resource are welcome at:

Assistant Secretary

Family Law Branch

Attorney-General's Department

3-5 National Circuit

Barton ACT 2600

Disclaimer

The information presented and opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government.



An Australian Government Initiative

Australian
INSTITUTE
of SOCIAL
RELATIONS™



Culture and Respect Exercise

Purpose:

- To promote discussion about respect and how culture and context impact on how respect is understood and applied
- To link ideas of respect, culture and accountability for acts of violence, at the individual, community and societal levels
- To support a human rights perspective when understanding and responding to family violence.

Materials required:

- Fact Sheet – *Culture and Respect in Indigenous Communities*.

Process:

1. Ask participants to find someone in the room who they do not know or do not work with very closely. Instruct them to introduce themselves to that person and spend five to ten minutes discussing:
 - What does it mean for you to be shown respect?
2. After the allotted time, ask participants to return to their seats and open the discussion to the large group.
 - What ideas did people discuss and what are the practices of respect?
 - What does it mean to generate a Culture of Respect?
 - How difficult might it be to convey or notice respect when there are significant differences between people? (Such as culture; language; gender; sexuality...)
3. The facilitator can record themes on the whiteboard as a way of capturing the key points. If the group is not very forthcoming recording on the whiteboard can often prompt other contributions from participants.
4. The facilitator should ensure that the activity is linked back to the concept of respect, culture, human rights and the unacceptability of acts of violence, irrespective of whether they occur in the home, workplace, or in public settings.



5. The facilitator can also invite the group to consider the following quote by Mick Dodson

“We have no cultural traditions based on humiliation, degradation and violation”

*(Mick Dodson, Address to the National Press Club: Violence Dysfunction
Aboriginality, June 2003, Canberra.)*

Key elements to draw out of the discussion:

- Principles of respect for human dignity are a vital component of a human rights approach to family violence. A human rights approach gives value to cultural diversity but not at the expense of rights to human dignity and respect
- In all cultures there are values, practices and traditions that facilitate male dominance and oppression of women as well as values that are empowering, respectful and support men’s recognition of women’s self-determination
 - Culture is never a reason to excuse violence. However, we need to understand culture so that our response to violence is culturally meaningful and *effective*
 - Organisational and workplace culture can either promote or block respectful relationships. Federal legislation includes a number of related concepts—respect, courtesy, harassment and diversity—that all relate to the nature of working relationships and workplace culture.

The facilitator may wish to utilise and/or handout the factsheet that is a suggested accompaniment to this exercise.