

Refugee women: Key to the Global Compact on Refugees

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS USING RECIPROCAL RESEARCH: Session 4: Story Circles



UNSW Forced Migration Research Network

Sharing stories

- We can learn a lot by sharing stories with each other.
- They can be stories of survival and bravery, of risk and violence.
- They can be happy, sad or funny stories.
- By listening to each other we can identify common issues for community members and service providers.
- We can support one another and celebrate our strengths.





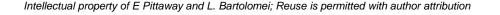
Story circles - using stories to identify issues of concern to a community

Story circles can be used:

- To identify a range of problems experienced by individuals, families and communities.
- For sharing information
- For gathering information
- > As healing spaces
- > To validate experiences



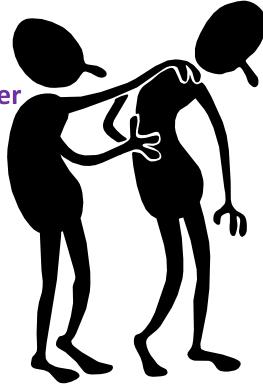
For emotional support/befriending





Key things to consider in supporting Story Circles:

- Create a safe and friendly space
- Confidentiality
- Verbal / non- verbal communication
- Formulation of strategies to care for each other during and after the exercise
- Dealing with the issues that come out of the stories
- Not forcing anyone to join or speak
- Ongoing support strategies/befriending
- Peer support/worker debriefing
- Respecting participants choices, even if you dont agree with the choices





Listening, thinking and acting to help communities

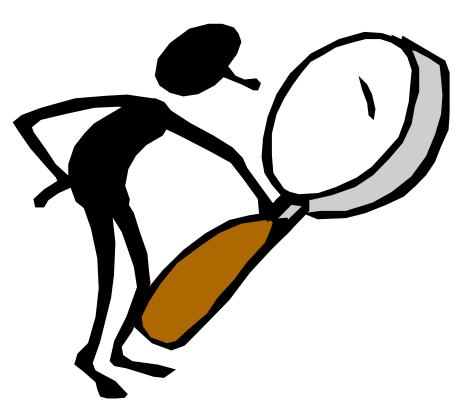






Analysing the Stories

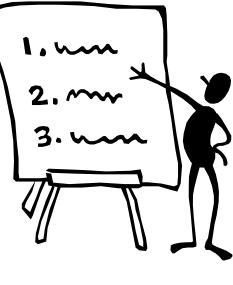
Listening,
checking,
responding
recording





Using Stories Effectively

- > Are there common themes in the stories?
- What lessons can be learned from the stories?
- What are the problems which need to be addressed?



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