

A large, leafless tree with a bright sun or moon behind it, set against a blue sky. The tree's branches are dark and intricate, silhouetted against the lighter background. The sun or moon is a bright, circular glow, partially obscured by the tree's branches, creating a lens flare effect. The sky is a deep, clear blue. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

Women Framing their Journey from IPV to Positive Growth

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Coming to the
Research Puzzle



Background



“Around the world, millions of women and girls suffer from physical and sexual violence, with little recourse to justice and protection” (United Nations Children’s Fund [UNICEF], 2007, p. vii).

WHO 2002 definition

Interpersonal Violence (IPV)

- Violence perpetrated on one individual by another

Further Subdivided

- Family and intimate partner violence
- Community violence

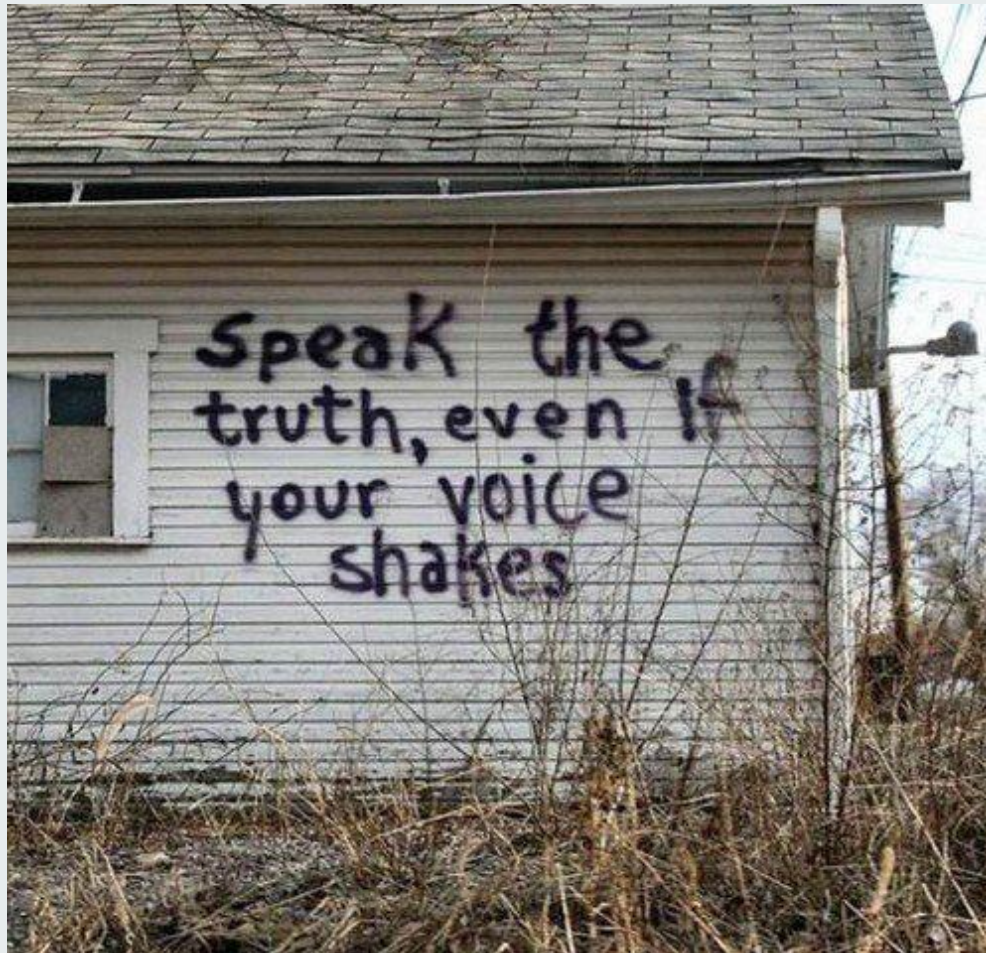
Violation of Human Rights



- **1 in 5 women face some form of violence during her lifetime**
- **The powerful dynamic of secrecy surrounding violence against women ensures it remains hidden**



Talk about it



Literature in the Area



❖ **Post Traumatic Growth (PTG)**

❖ **Resilience**

❖ **Thriving**

Aim of the Inquiry



- **Purpose : to carry out collaborative research with women who have experienced IPV to gain an understanding of their experience of positive growth.**

Photo Voice



- Photo-voice is a participatory action research tool developed by Caroline Wang and Mary Ann Burris (Wang & Burris, 1994).
- “In Freirian terms, photographs serve as one kind of ‘code’ that reflect the community back upon itself, mirroring the everyday social and political realities that influence people’s lives” (Wang & Burris, 1994, pp 172).
- Feminist theory within this research stresses the importance of women’s subjective experiences, respect of diversity, partnership in research and issues of power, representation and voice in relation to gender (Speziale & Carpenter, 2007; Wang, 1999)

Analysis



- Through photographs and conversations the women told their stories.
- The co-participants and I reflected on their experience uncovering deeper meaning
- Through this reflection I was able to frame the depth and complexity of their stories illuminating patterns across their accounts of growth.

Life – A Complex Tapestry



Growth as Embedded in Life

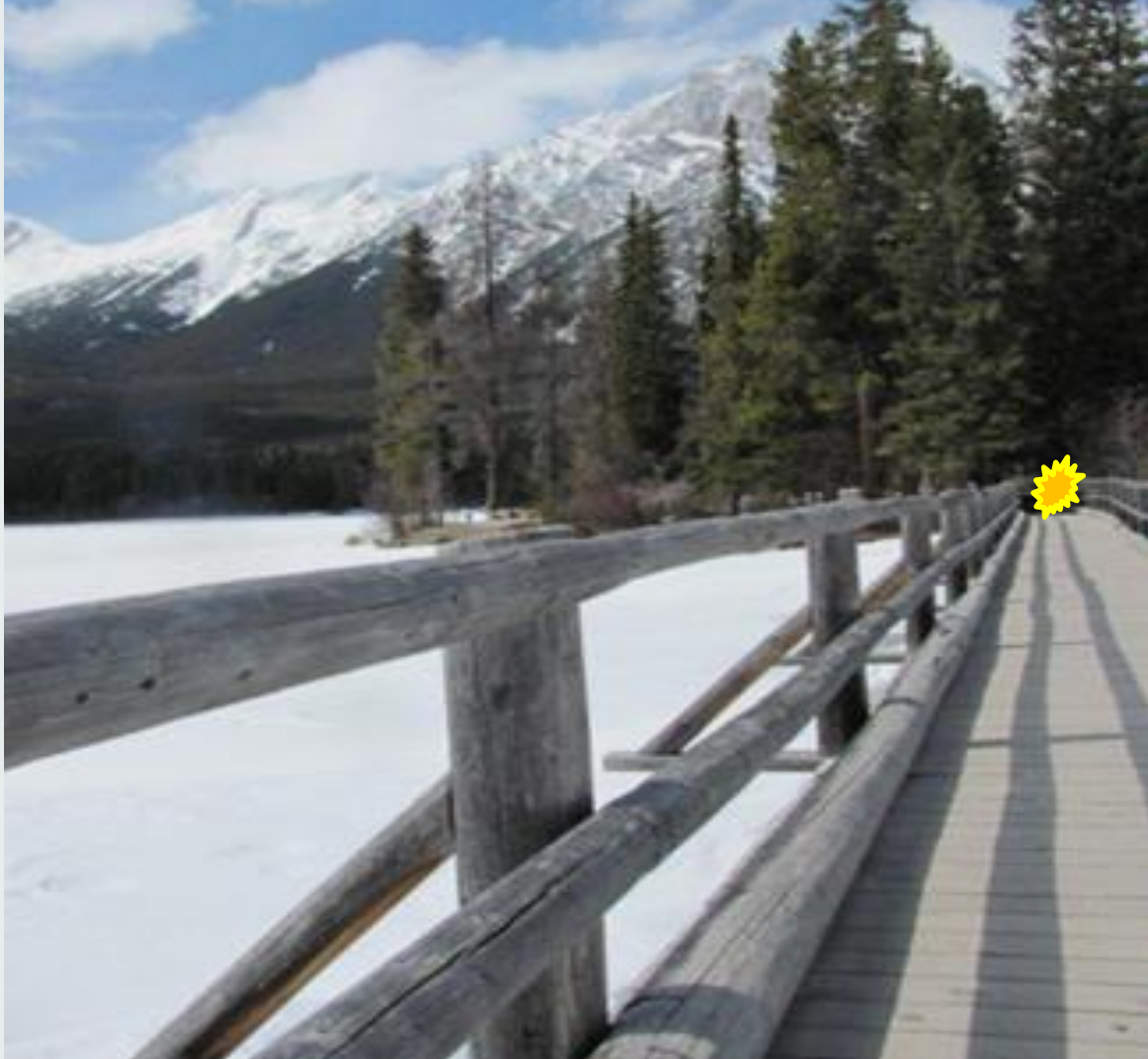


Changing Expectations



Influences on Positive Change





Sometimes you feel like you're standing on the edge of a cliff and it's so painful. And then if you look forward you can see a light further in the distance...

Familial Influences



Re-storying Lives



New Story
“We are not
Damaged Goods”

**The participants do not
want to be seen in the light
of an old story or metaphor.**



Implications



Implications for Nursing

- healthcare provider responses are varied and ineffective.
- IPV is not a singular event it is lived and addressed in the context of each woman's life.
- There is no cookie cutter approach
- Many nurses have been taught to “ask the question”, check the box and move on with their care either not allowing the answer to impact care or judging/stereotyping women with a history of IPV.
- Others receive little to no formal training related to IPV and appropriate interventions.