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**

**Pattie Pryma**



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

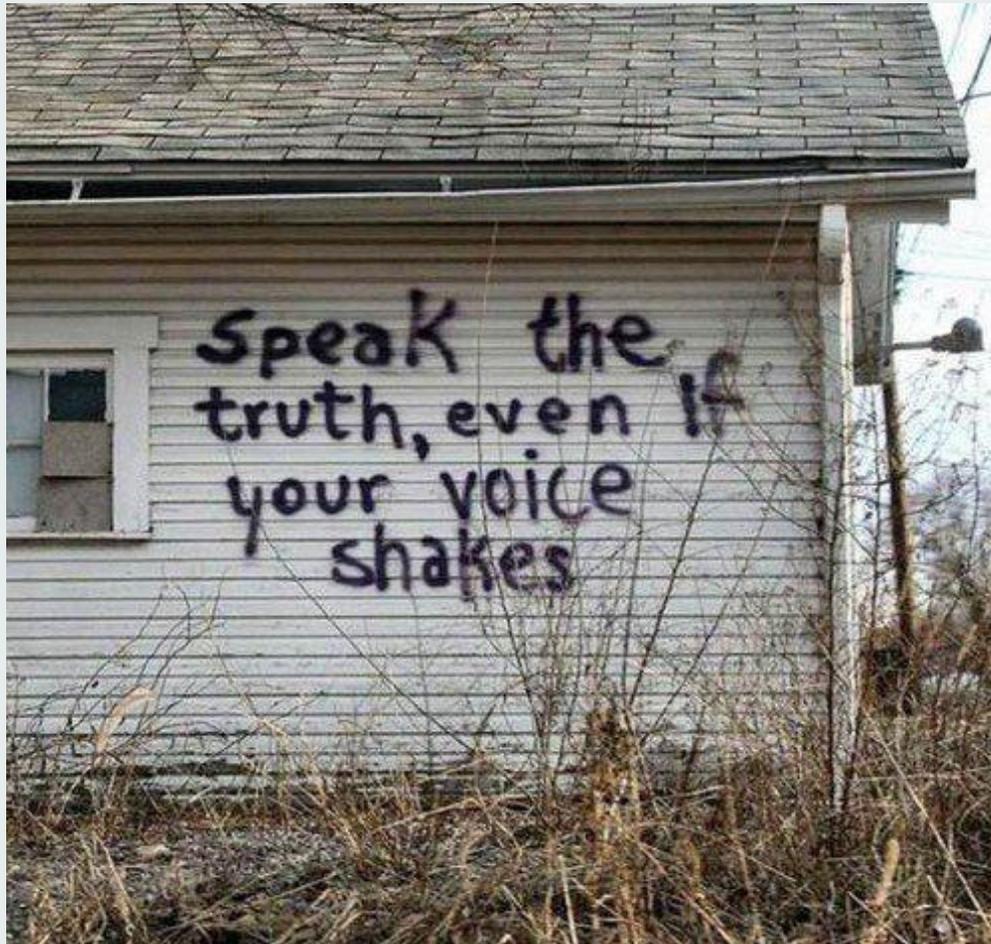
# Violation of Human Rights



- **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

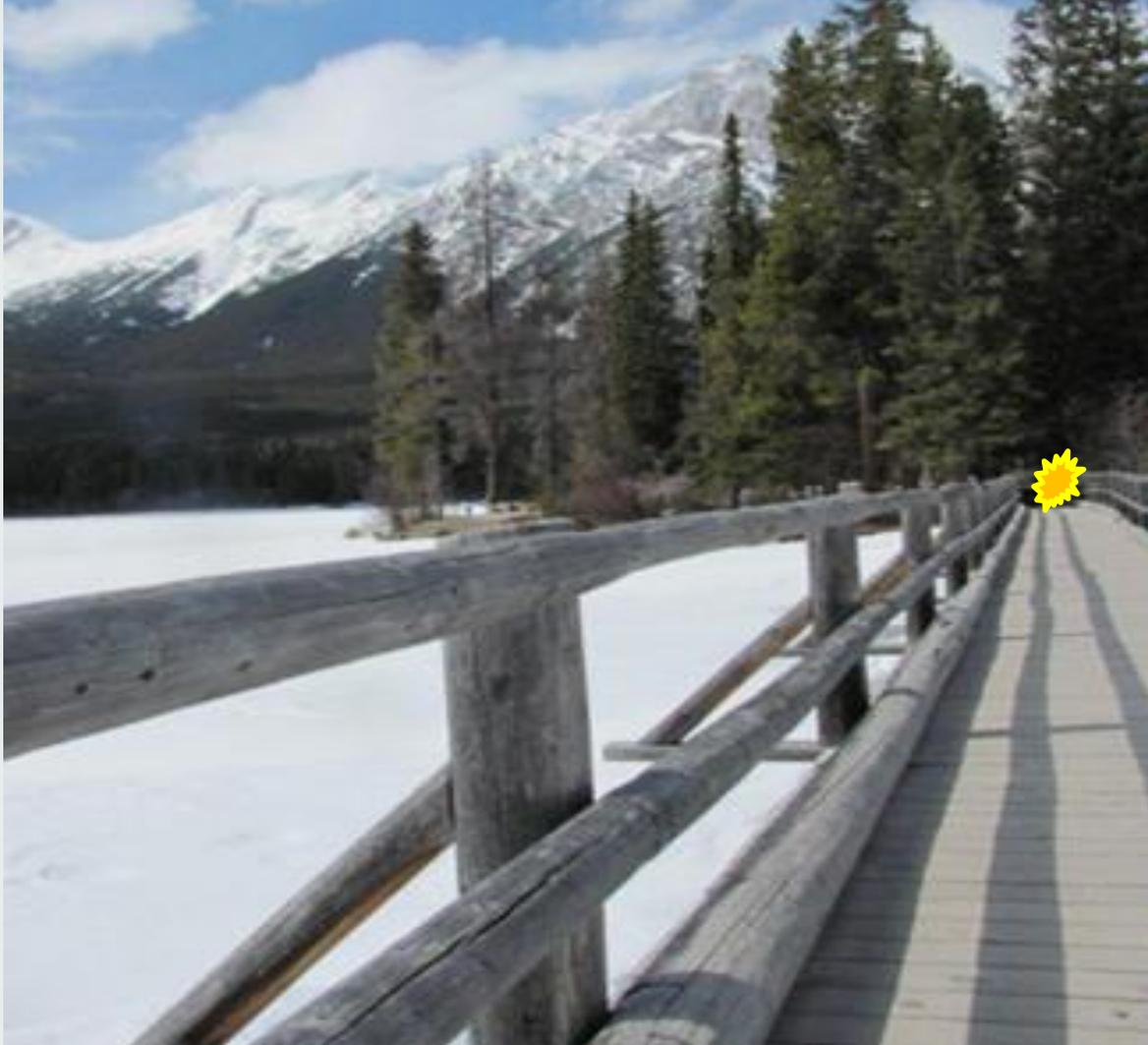


# Changing Expectations



# 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.