

Survivor Leadership Series

The Survivor Leadership Series is a space where survivors of partner abuse* in the LGBTQ/T, SM, and/or polyamorous communities can come together, own our stories, make sense of our experiences individually and collectively, and support each other's leadership to feel better prepared to share our experiences when and how we want to.

We will offer workshops, trainings on skill development, space to process and connect with each other, space to create through different mediums, and opportunities to share, all in a supportive environment with folks who share an experience of survivorship. Workshops will include our analysis of partner abuse, its inherent connection to systemic oppression, and others, based on participants' interest and experiences.

**Partner abuse is a systematic pattern of behaviors where one person non-consensually uses power to try to control the thoughts, beliefs, actions, body, and/or spirit of a partner.*

By partner, we are referring to a range of intimate relationships including but not limited to:

boyfriend/ girlfriend	date	primary, secondary, or other non- monogamous partner	spouse	sexual partner
play partner	boo	hookup	lover	life partner

Partner abuse is also called domestic violence, battering, intimate partner abuse, and/or dating violence. Those who abuse may use a number of behaviors to control their partner including physical abuse, sexual abuse, economic abuse and cultural/identity abuse.

The purpose of this group is to cultivate leadership among folks in the LGBTQ/T, polyamorous, and/or SM communities

Applicant Requirements:

- Be a survivor of partner abuse
- People of color and transgender people are especially encouraged to apply
- Be interested in learning about the connections of partner abuse and systemic oppression
- Desire for community and social justice
- Be open to exploring different creative mediums
- Applicants must be able to commit to attending in-person meetings in Boston twice a month for five months

Part of the application process will involve a conversation about your experience

**FREE 24/7 HOTLINE:
617-742-4911**

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Application

Name:

Pronouns:

Email address:

Telephone number (optional):

Is it safe to leave a message about the project at this number?

YES

NO

Accessibility?

Do you need Spanish to English interpretation?

YES

NO

Availability: Our meetings will be **two hours long twice times a month.**

As of now, our meetings will likely take place on Tuesday evenings at the Family Justice Center in Allston, MA (989 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215.)

1. Does this time and day work for you?
 - a. If not, what other evenings are you available?

2. Does this location work for you?

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**Our intention with the following questions is not to test your knowledge, rather to get a sense of your experiences and where you're at. This will help us craft a curriculum and start conversations. **

Part 1

1. Are you a survivor of partner abuse in the LGBTQ/T, SM, and/or polyamorous communities?
2. We are accepting applications from all survivors of partner abuse in the LGBTQ/T, SM, and/or polyamorous. However, we want to center the stories of those who are most marginalized (for example: black, indigenous, and people of color; transgender & nonbinary folks; disabled folks, immigrants, etc.). Would you like to share anything about your identities and/or experience of power/oppression?
3. Have you ever done anything that someone else considered to be abusive? Please explain.
4. While most of us experience some form(s) of oppression, many of us also hold some privilege, whether class, race, religion, language, ability, age, gender identity, etc. Have you dealt with situations in which someone has made you aware of privilege you hold or oppressive comments or actions you have made? If not, can you remember a moment when you became aware of a privilege you hold? Please describe what thoughts/feelings came up for you and how you dealt with them.

Part 2

1. What is exciting to you about the Survivor Leadership Series?

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2. What's your general experience with education, community, and/or creative expression?

3. Would you be interested in collaborating with TNL (after the end of the Survivor Leadership Series) to help facilitate a series of conversations in the community?
 - a. What topics would you be interested in facilitating?

4. Would you like to share any other ideas, thoughts, or comments on the Survivor Leadership Series?

Part 3

1. What is your definition of partner abuse?

2. Why do you think partner abuse happens?

3. What do you think are the similarities and differences between partner abuse in heterosexual/cisgender communities and LGBTQ/T communities?

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Are you interested in learning about other services TNLR provides?

We have a voice. We are not alone. Our stories are powerful.

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