

Religion & DV Issues Committee Meeting

Minutes for July 26, 2022

I. Meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Bernita Walker. Present were Co-chair, Varsha N., Cecelia Walker, Co-chair, Breanne Lash, Rohida Khan, Farah Abunadi, Carol Tantau, Griselda Marquez, Jesse Garcia, Phong Truong, Sarah Monarrez, Letitia Ortiz-Gonzalez, Terri Inda, Melinda Oakley, Viliana De La Rosa, Chryssi Miranda, Nicolle Perras, Isabel Checa

II. Attendees were invited to introduce themselves, share organization affiliation, and their favorite summer drink.

Breanne Lash Senior Program Manager of Nile Sisters Development Initiative provided a detailed presentation on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) and offered insights into the origins (cultural rather than religious), where these types of procedures are prevalent (92 countries), and the average age of person undergoing the procedure (5-8 years old).

Breanne also shared that the practice is not tied to religion, yet it is practiced by those of various faiths worldwide. Because of this, faith leaders play an important role in prevention by educating their congregants, and providing support to those who have experiences related to FGM/C.

Some of the implications for service provision included establishing trust, taking care to mirror the terminology that the client uses to describe the procedure, avoid stigmatizing or victim-blaming, and avoid over-emphasizing the need for disclosure.

Matters not posted on the agenda, to be presented, and placed on future agenda:
None

Next meeting is September 27, 2022

Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm