

## 3.4. Values to Guide Your Intervention

Creative Interventions developed this model not only to end violence, but to lead to healthier ways of being in community with each other.

We found it important to create values to guide us in our own work. As we did our work, we returned to these values to see if our day-to-day way of doing things followed these values. We also returned to our values from time to time to see if they really reflected what we believed and to see if we were missing anything that was important to our work. These values underlie our vision and practice and are reflected throughout this Toolkit.

The following is a list of the Creative Interventions values.

### Creative Interventions Values (Long Version):

1. **Creativity.** Solutions to violence can emerge out of a creative process.
2. **Collectivity or Community Responsibility.** We believe that violence is not an individual problem and that solutions also cannot be individual. It takes all of us to end violence. The actions of a group (if done well) can be much wiser, healthier, effective and long-lasting than those carried out by an individual.
3. **Holism.** Solutions to violence can involve consideration for the health and well-being of everyone involved in and affected by violence – this includes the survivors or victims of violence; people doing harm; and friends, family and community. We also want our solutions to keep communities whole. This does not mean that abusive relationships or families necessarily need to stay together, but this does mean that they may be able co-exist peacefully in the same community or transform to healthier, more cooperative and respectful relationships.
4. **Safety.** We are interested in creating safety in all of its forms (physical, emotional, sexual, economic, spiritual and so on).
5. **Risk-Taking.** While we prioritize safety, we also believe that it sometimes takes risks to create more safety in the long-run. Safety may require action which has the potential to increase short-term risk or danger in order to reach long-term goals.
6. **Accountability.** All of us have our own role and responsibility to take in ending violence. Community-based solutions to violence require that we all step up and think about the ways we may have contributed to violence, the ways we may need acknowledge and make amends for our contribution to violence, and the ways we can take action to make sure that violence does not continue and that healthy alternatives can take its place.

7. **Transformation.** We believe that everyone involved in violence can go through positive change. What is needed is a model for taking action which believes that healthy change is possible for all – and can also take realistic and sometimes difficult steps to create an environment in which long-term change can be supported.
8. **Flexibility.** Situations of violence are often complicated and so are the steps towards long-term change. We try to remain flexible so that we can make changes and create new strategies when needed.
9. **Patience.** Violence is built over time and so the solution to violence takes time. We ask people to step out of expectations of quick results and take the time to create thoughtful solutions to violence, solutions which will hold in the long run.
10. **Building on What We Know (Organic).** We believe that we all as individuals, families, friendship networks, communities and cultures have a history of creative and community-based ways to resolve violence. We want to remember, honor and build upon the positive things we have known and done throughout history.
11. **Sustainability.** We need to support each other to create change in ways that can last over the time it takes to successfully intervene in violence. We encourage that solutions to violence are built to last over the course of the intervention, over our lifetimes, and throughout future generations.
12. **Regeneration.** We can all contribute to expanding opportunities to challenge violence and contribute to liberation. Although any of us may be thinking of our own unique situation of violence when creating a community-based response to violence, our successes lead to new changes and transformations for everyone involved. And our stories can be passed on to others so they can learn from our experiences. We ask you to consider sharing your intervention stories and lessons learned through the website ([www.creative-interventions.org](http://www.creative-interventions.org)), the StoryTelling & Organizing Project (STOP) ([www.stopviolenceeveryday.org](http://www.stopviolenceeveryday.org)) and through other community spaces.

Note: A brief version of Creative Intervention values is in checklist form later in this section of the Toolkit. You will also find a helpful list of values created by Communities against Rape and Abuse (CARA) in Section 5.4 that may help you think about the values that you want to guide your intervention.

A blank document for you to list values or use wording that may be a better match for your group is available at the end of this Section 3.