



## Keeping Safe in the Country Conversations with Rural Women

Community Coordination for Women's Safety (CCWS) is a program managed by The Ending Violence Association of British Columbia (EVA BC) and funded by the Ministry of Housing and Social Development. The goal of the program is to assist rural and isolated communities enhance safety for women experiencing sexual assault or violence in relationships. To accomplish this, we are assisting communities with creating or enhancing coordination and community development initiatives.

These questions are a tool to facilitate a dialogue from which community groups can generate action for change. They are intended to be addressed in a group format, with each member having an opportunity to speak. Information gathered from these conversations can be used to motivate a community to address violence against women as a community safety issue. The information can be used to advocate for change at a local, regional, provincial and where necessary, federal level.

1. If you are comfortable doing so, share your personal reason for being interested in violence against rural women.
2. Challenges
  - ◆ What are the challenges faced by women experiencing or fleeing violence in your rural community?
  - ◆ What are the challenges for women experiencing violence who also face discrimination such as racism, ageism and homophobia?
3. Services
  - ◆ What services are available in your area for women experiencing or fleeing violence?
  - ◆ If services aren't available, what is one thing/service you think could make a difference
  - ◆ What do rural women do to keep themselves safe if services aren't available
  - ◆ What tactics do YOU use to help keep women safe if services aren't available
4. Support
  - ◆ What support relationships are valuable to a woman experiencing violence and living in the country? (neighbour, family, police, Victim Assistance Worker, community volunteer, other)
  - ◆ As a helper of rural women, who is your most important partner and support?
  - ◆ Why is this the most important partnership - what makes it work?
5. Action
  - ◆ Of the challenges described, which can be, or are, being addressed through community action? What would you like to see addressed?
  - ◆ Of the challenges described, which require action at the regional, provincial or federal level?

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