



VIOLENCE FREE
MINNESOTA

THE COALITION TO END RELATIONSHIP ABUSE

WORDS THAT WORK

As our organization has evolved, so has our language. While crisis and urgency messaging can work when used strategically, our history of crisis messaging has often cast the problem of intimate partner violence as too big to fix. By approaching our issue with asset-based language and a visionary framework, we can make movement to end relationship abuse.

REPLACE	EMBRACE
BATTERED WOMAN	SURVIVOR; VICTIM/SURVIVOR*
BATTERER; ABUSER; PERPETRATOR**	PERSON WHO ABUSED; PERSON WHO COMMITTED HARM
BATTERING; DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	RELATIONSHIP ABUSE; INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE
BATTERER INTERVENTION PROGRAMMING	DOMESTIC ABUSE TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMMING (DATP)
FLEEING ABUSE	SEEKING SAFETY
SECURITY; STABILITY	CARE FOR CHILDREN; LIVE FREE FROM VIOLENCE; SAFETY

*THE STANDALONE WORD “VICTIM” SHOULD BE RESERVED FOR THE CONTEXT OF HOMICIDE OR IF A PERSON WHO IS OR HAS EXPERIENCED ABUSE SELF-DESCRIBES AS A VICTIM, PLEASE MIRROR THE DESCRIPTION OF THEIR LIVED EXPERIENCE.

**THE WORD “PERPETRATOR” SHOULD BE RESERVED FOR THE CONTEXT OF HOMICIDE AND/OR SOMEONE WHO HAS A CRIMINAL CHARGE; IF A VICTIM/SURVIVOR USES “ABUSER,” “PERPETRATOR,” ETC. PLEASE MIRROR THE DESCRIPTION OF THEIR LIVED EXPERIENCE.