



# Abolition as Presence:

Building Survivor-Centered  
Strategies to Address  
Campus Sexual Violence

June 27, 2024  
10-11:30 am PDT

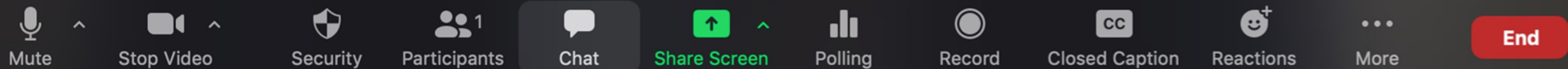
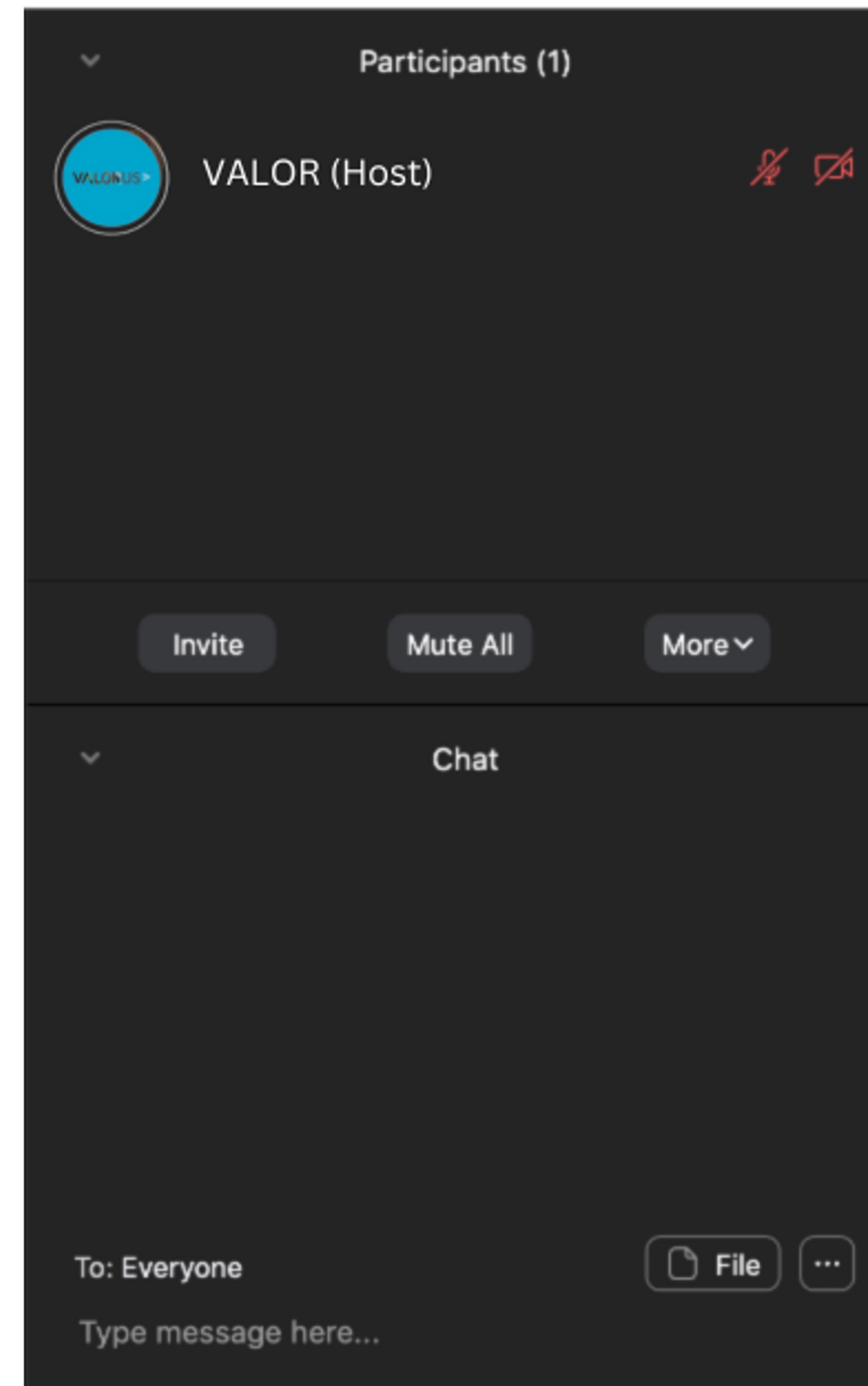
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# HOW TO USE ZOOM

- Text chat
- Polling
- Phone
- Live captioning
- Recording & slides



# ValorUS Team



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## **The Rise of Sexual Choking/Strangulation:**

What You Must Know  
About Prevalence, Consent,  
Communication, and Safety

July 2, 2024  
10-11:30 am PDT

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<https://www.valor.us/webconferences/the-rise-of-sexual-choking-strangulation-what-you-must-know-about-prevalence-consent-communication-and-safety/>





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# Meet Your Presenter



Dr. M. Colleen McDaniel  
she/they  
Independent Researcher  
Ever On Strategies & Consulting



# Imagining Abolition and Educational Safety Beyond Policing



National Center for Institutional Diversity · Follow  
Published in Spark: Elevating Scholarship on Social Issues · 5 min read · Nov 14, 2023



Illustration by [Megan Rizzo](#)

# Title IX Policies Mirror the Prison System and Harm Student Survivors

By M. Colleen McDaniel and Jennifer M. Gómez



Illustration by [Megan Rizzo](#)



Please respond in  
the text chat box

In one word or short  
phrase:

What do you think of when  
you hear  
“ABOLITION”?



“Abolition is about **presence**,  
not **absence**. It’s about building  
life-affirming institutions.”

– **Dr. Ruth Wilson Gilmore**

Abolitionist, Prison Scholar



# **TITLE IX and the CARCERAL MINDSET**



## 37 WORDS of TITLE IX

“No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

- Became law in 1972
- 90's, Sexual harassment made explicit
- 2011, Spotlight on sexual harassment and sexual violence, “Dear Colleague” letter

## **TITLE IX in the 2010s**

- Cover ups, victim blaming, insufficient offender intervention and punishment
- Hold Universities accountable
- INVESTIGATE and ADJUDICATE



Please answer  
the Zoom poll.

True or False:

Most men who commit  
sexual assault are “repeat  
offenders.”



Please answer  
the Zoom poll.

FALSE.

Research has demonstrated that there is a small percentage (~4%) of perpetrators who are repeat offenders....

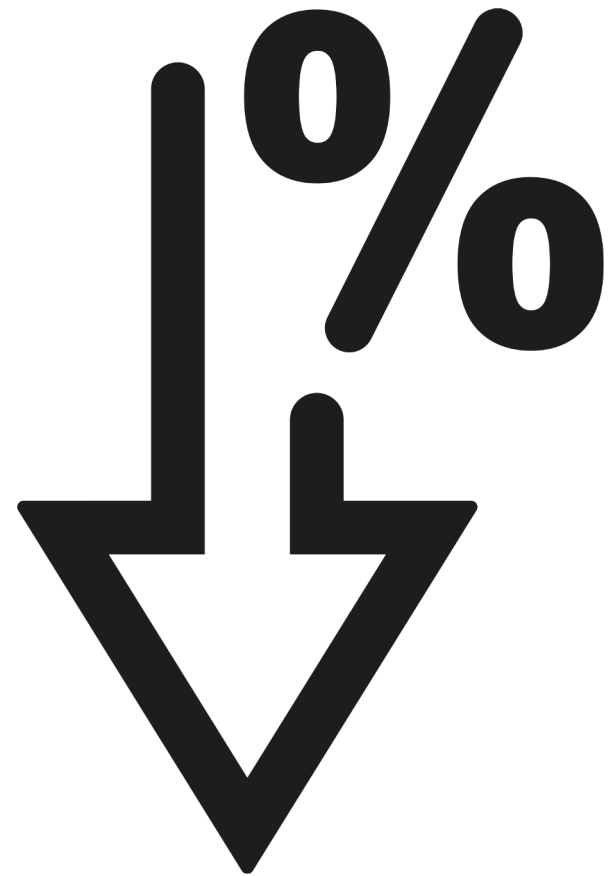
however, a much larger portion (~75%) of perpetrators are 1-2 X offenders.



# Misconceptions about Perpetration

- The myth of the back-alley, behind the bushes rapist
- The misconception of the Serial Offender

# Beneficial myth?



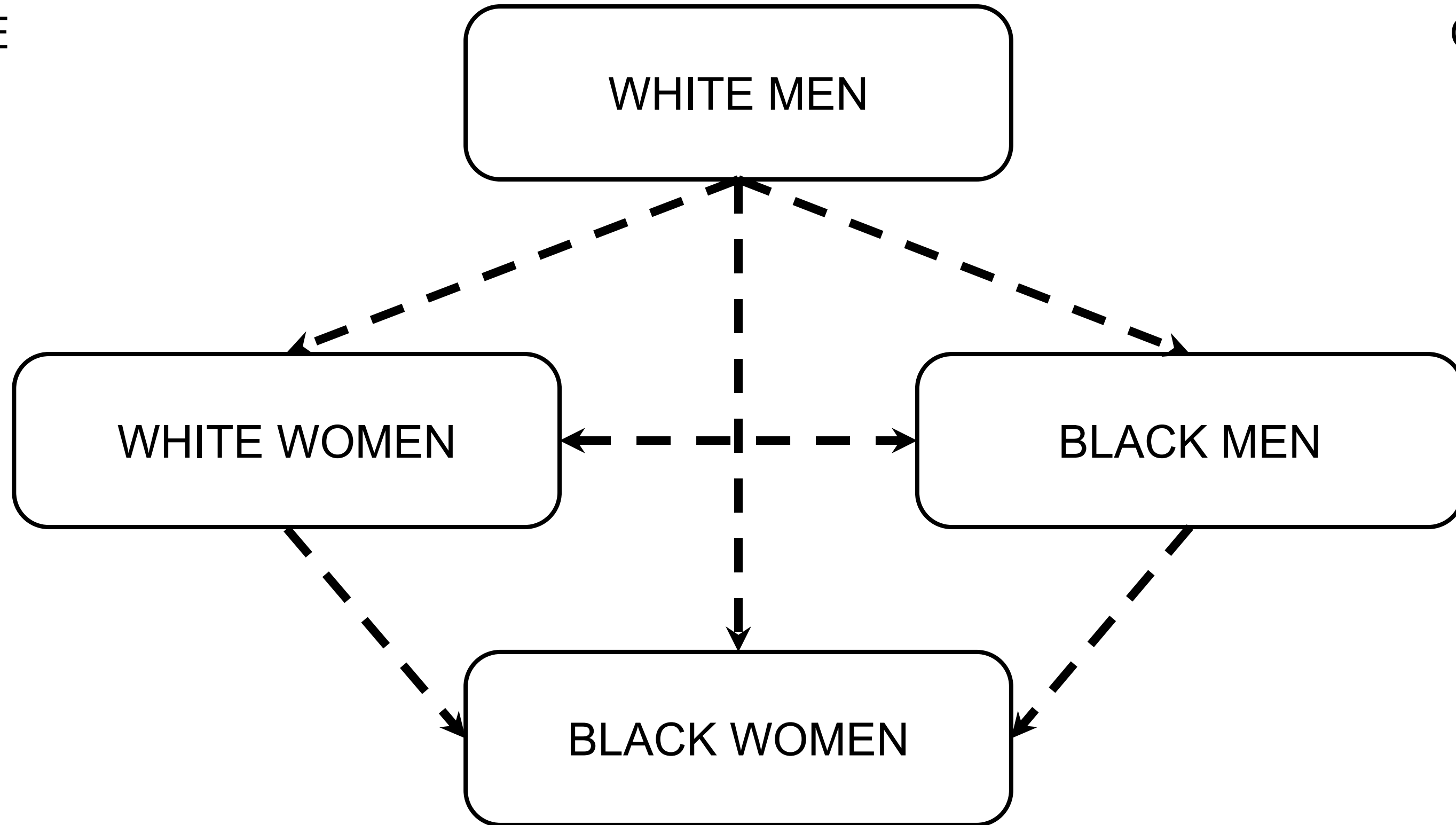


# Misconceptions about Perpetration

- The myth of the back-alley, behind the bushes rapist
- The misconception of the Serial Offender
- History of false accusations to enforce anti-Black racism

RACE

GENDER





# **CARCERAL FEMINISM**

a feminism which sees punitive measures including surveillance, policing, and incarceration of violence offenders as necessary tools for women's liberation.

“If men rape because they are men — as . . . theorists have argued — women will always be forced to regard the police, courts, and prisons as their only glimmer of hope. If . . . the incentives for rape are not a natural product of male anatomy or psychology, but are rather social in nature, the prospects of eradicating sexual violence will depend on changes of an entirely different order.”

– **Angela Davis**

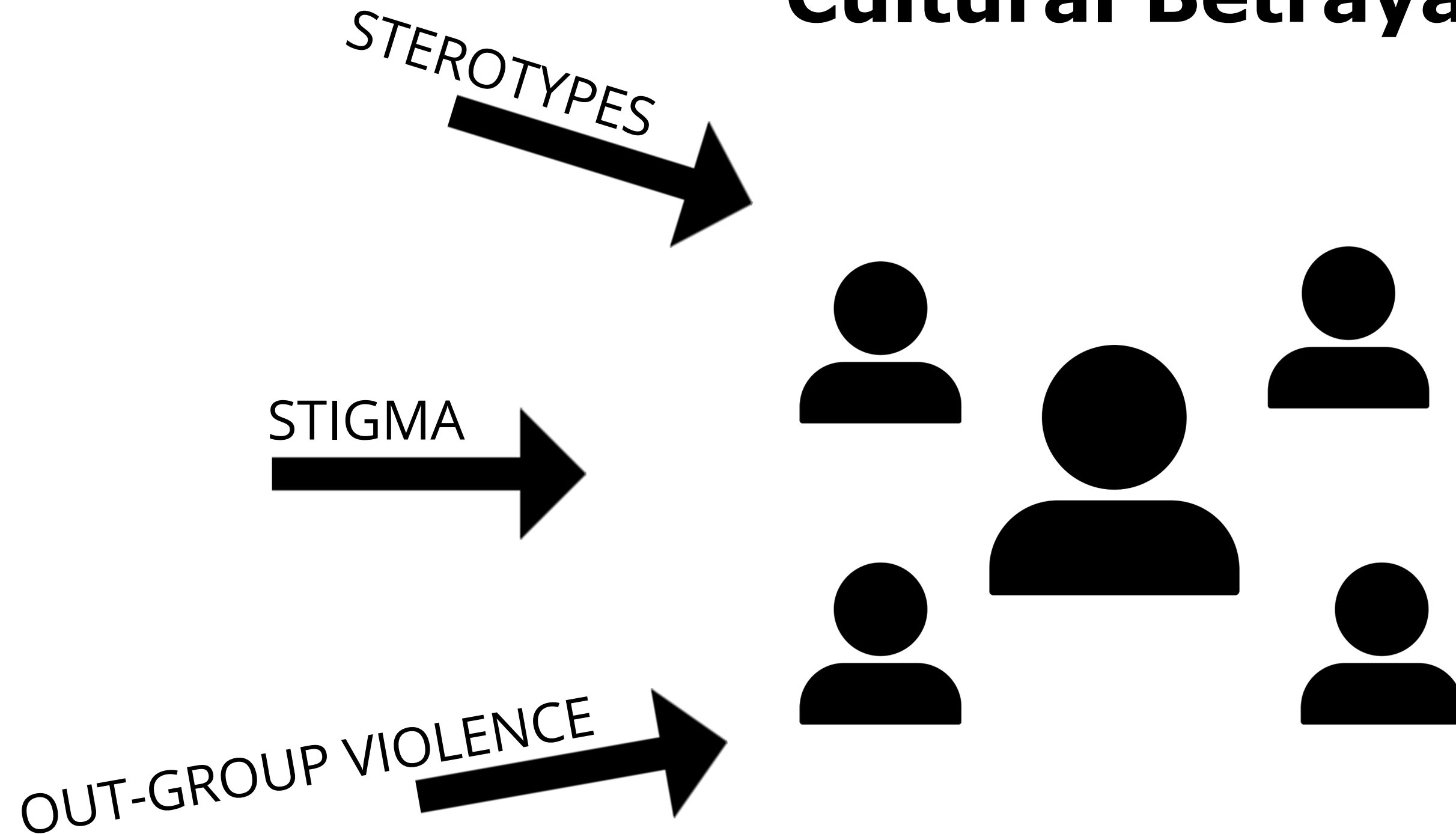
Marxist Feminist Political Activist





# **TITLE IX PRACTICES THAT ARE HARMFUL TO SURVIVORS**

# Cultural Betrayal Trauma





# IN-GROUP TRUST

STEREOTYPES



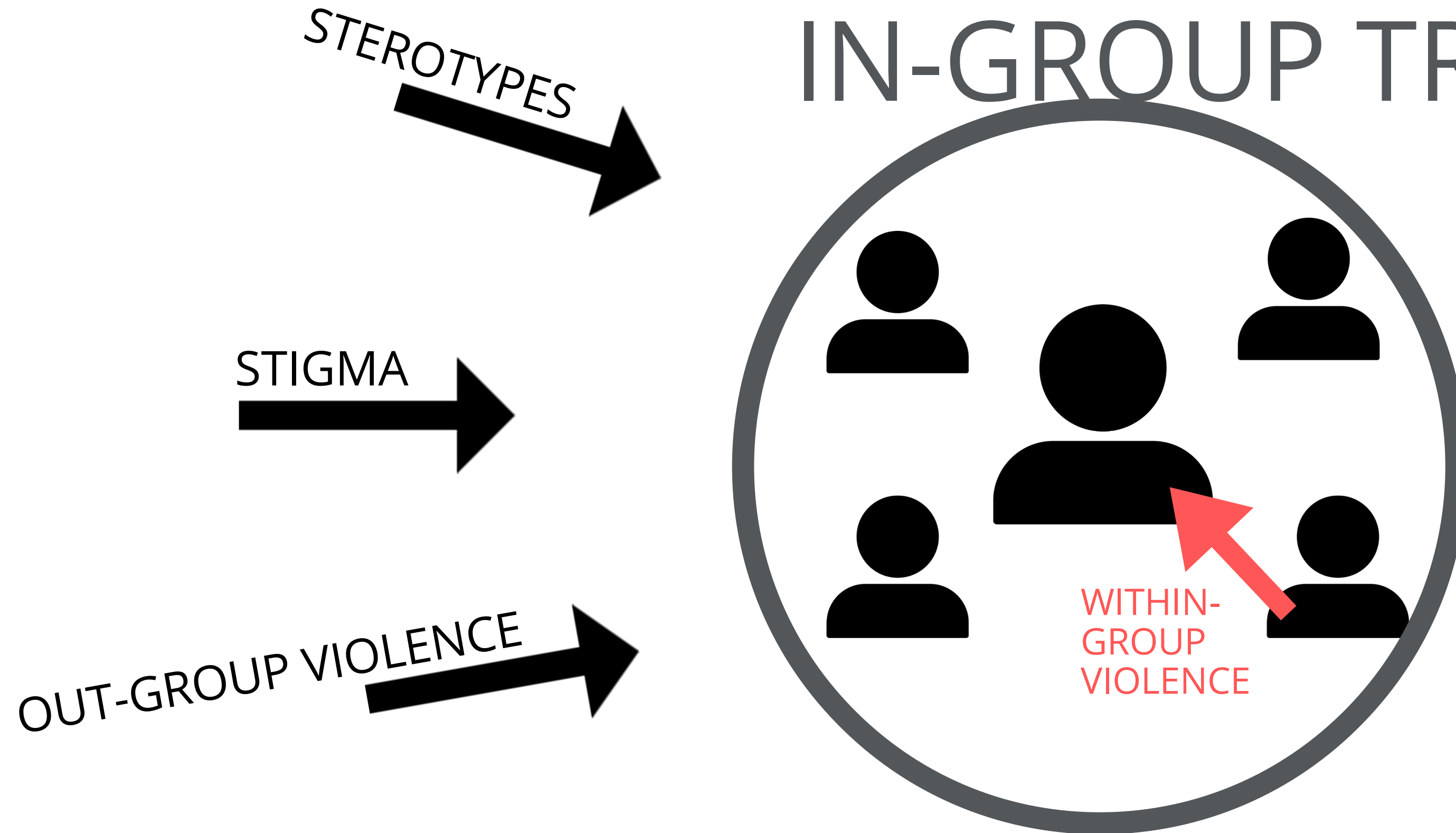
STIGMA

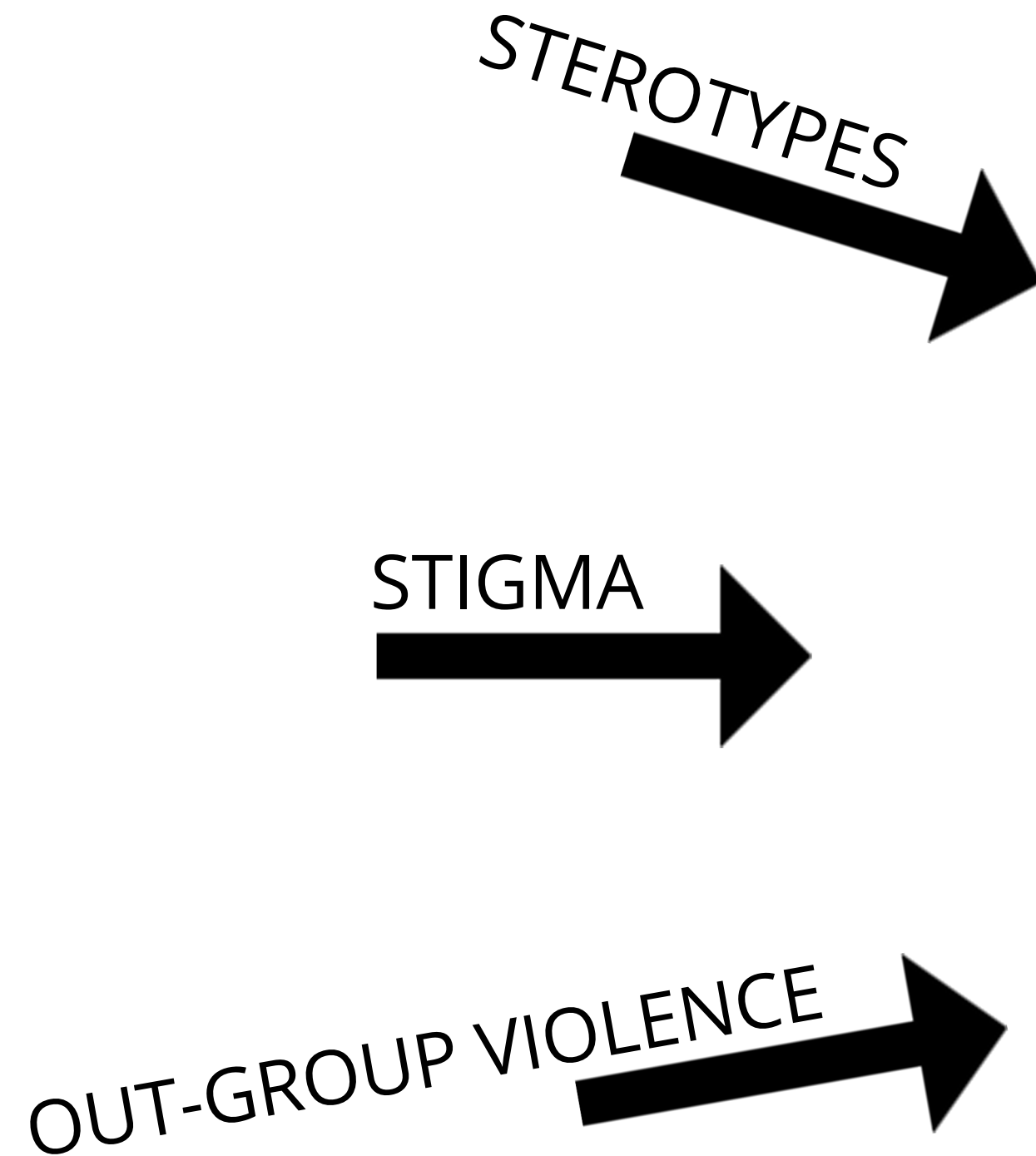


OUT-GROUP VIOLENCE



# IN-GROUP TRUST





# IN-GROUP TRUST





“(Intra)cultural pressure explains the ambivalence I’ve had to negotiate about bringing negative attention to my HBCU. Despite the abominable (in)actions of my University, HBCUs remain precious institutions that must be protected and defended, but not at the expense of individuals who are facing real injustices at the hands of these schools.”

-Tayler Mathews  
@rapedatSpelman

# Three Harmful Title IX Practices

1. Universal mandated reporting
2. Investigation and hearing processes similar to courts
3. Punitive action for offenders

# THE BIND

Engage in a carceral system to seek safety and some semblance of accountability.

Stay silent on campus to protect others and themselves from discriminatory treatment.





# **ABOLITION APPROACHES TO ADDRESSING CAMPUS SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

“Abolition is about **presence**,  
not **absence**. It’s about building  
life-affirming institutions.”

– **Dr. Ruth Wilson Gilmore**

Abolitionist, Prison Scholar



# **DREAMSTORMING**

- Dr. Jennifer Gómez

# **ABOLISH CAMPUS SURVEILLANCE**

- Emergency police polls
- Police patrol
- Surveillance cameras

# **BUILD COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY IN VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

- Increase evidence-based primary prevention programming
  - Build skills and improve ability to make decisions and take action to reduce violence
- Promote existing anti-violence and equitable social norms and equity practices on campus



# **ABOLISH police intervention on campus**

## **BUILD COMMUNITY CARE PRACTICES**

- Provide student-led escort services and 24-hour hotlines.
- Hire unarmed, trauma-trained, mental health first responders.
- Create strong ties with grassroots community organizations that provide survivor support services.

# **ABOLISH police intervention on campus**

## **BUILD COMMUNITY CARE PRACTICES**

- Host trauma-informed survivor and community support groups.
- Invest in mutual aid and transitional funds for survivors.
- Compensate all university employees well enough that they can be financially independent.

# **ABOLISH universal mandated reporting**

## **BUILD SURVIVOR- CENTERED SUPPORT RESPONSE SERVICES**

- Require university employees to report to Title IX or law enforcement only when a survivor requests.
- Require university employees to share resources with survivors upon receipt of a disclosure.

# **ABOLISH universal mandated reporting**

## **BUILD SURVIVOR- CENTERED SUPPORT RESPONSE SERVICES**

- Provide cultural humility and trauma training for all university employees.
- Increase confidential resources on campus such as advocates, therapists, and religious leaders.



# **ABOLISH Title IX hearings and investigative processes that mirror the legal system**

## **BUILD TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE PRACTICES**

- Focus response processes on personal truth-telling rather than arguing over an objective truth.
- Acknowledge the shared role communities play in perpetuating violence. Emphasize community healing and transformation.

# INSTITUTIONAL COURAGE

“sexual violence are addressed through measurable institutional actions, including operating with transparency (e.g., policies and procedures known by all), cherishing the whistleblower (e.g., demonstrating gratefulness to those who identify problems related to Title IX and sexual violence and college campuses), and apologizing for wrongdoings (e.g., apologies from the university itself, via courageous institutional members, when they have mishandled and harmed survivors).”

# HOPE

- True abolition must work to restore individuals and communities.
- We must understand that individuals' perpetration is bred by and among all of us.
- We must move beyond responding to single instances of violence and towards transforming our communities.

# THANK YOU! and Shout out!



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**@JenniferMGmez1**

The provided recommendations are applications of theory and activism. Especially from Black, Native, Queer, and student abolitionists.

- INCITE!
- Ruth Wilson Gilmore
- Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy (CSSDP)
- GEO Working Group for Workplace Free of Harassment and Discrimination
- Mia Mingus
- Internation Institute for Restorative Practices



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