

GROUP 1 (SCOPE) - FOCUS GROUP GUIDE

I. List of Things to Bring to the Meeting

Flipcharts

Make sure that one page of flipchart has the definition of sexual violence

Marking pens

Check recording equipment if we are recording and make sure there are enough cassettes (if we are using a tape recorder).

Pads and pencils

Copies of the focus group questions and script

Surveys

Masking tape to hang stuff on walls

Box of tissues

Refreshments

II. Preparation before Meeting

Everyone should plan on being at the location one hour before the scheduled meeting.

Arrange the room. At least one of the focus group leaders should be close to the door so she can greet latecomers.

Set up flip charts and recording equipment.

Set up refreshments.

Be prepared to make small talk as people come into the room.

III. 5-10 MINUTES - INTRODUCTION AND SIGNING OF CONFIDENTIALITY FORM

IV. 15 MINUTES - INTRODUCTORY ICEBREAKER EXERCISE - LIST AND RANK

Thanks, _____. Our first question is this:

What do you think are the most important issues faced by immigrant women in your community?

PERHAPS WE CAN GO AROUND THE ROOM AND GET EACH PERSON'S VIEW.

OK, THANKS FOR EVERYONE'S INPUT. AS I SAID AT THE BEGINNING, WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO HERE IS TEST OUR RESEARCH TOOLS.

V. 15 MINUTES – DEBRIEF

SO NOW FARZANA WILL ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROCESS WE JUST WENT THROUGH.

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VI. - 50 MINUTES - FOCUS GROUP SESSION

OK, NOW WE ARE GOING TO ASK YOU THE QUESTIONS WE WILL BE ASKING IN OUR FOCUS GROUP. THE FIRST FEW QUESTIONS ARE ABOUT THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF IMMIGRANT WOMEN AND GIRLS IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

- 1. Are you aware of problems with the safety and security of immigrant women and girls in your community? Can you give us some specific examples?**

Probes – to get at more recent immigrants and those without legal status. (Follow terminology used by the group.) Possible probing question – do you think legal status affects rate or types of violence?

- 2. Are you aware of problems with the safety and security of immigrant women and girls in the workplace? Can you give us some specific examples?**

Probes – to get at more recent immigrants and those without legal status. (Follow terminology used by the group.) Possible probing question – do you think legal status affects rate or types of violence?

- 3. Without mentioning names, which groups of women do you think feel the least safe, or feel the most at risk?**

NOW WE ARE GOING TO MOVE INTO QUESTIONS ABOUT VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE THAT YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW MAY HAVE EXPERIENCED. WE ARE NOT ASKING ABOUT YOUR SPECIFIC PERSONAL EXPERIENCES BUT ABOUT WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT IN GENERAL. AND AGAIN, PLEASE DON'T FEEL LIKE YOU HAVE TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS IF YOU ARE UNCOMFORTABLE.

- 4. So, let's talk about specific forms of sexual violence against immigrant women and girls.**

AND LET ME STOP HERE FOR A MOMENT AND DESCRIBE WHAT WE MEAN BY SEXUAL VIOLENCE JUST SO WE HAVE A COMMON STARTING POINT. YOU MAY NOT AGREE WITH THIS DEFINITION, BUT I WOULD ASK YOU TO USE IT FOR THE PURPOSE OF OUR DISCUSSION.

Sexual violence is forced sexual intercourse or other forms of forced sex. Sexual violence occurs when someone is physically forced to have sexual intercourse when she doesn't want to, or has sexual intercourse when she does not want to because she is afraid of what her partner might do, or is forced to do something sexual that she finds degrading or humiliating. This might happen with a women's husband or partner or it could happen with someone who is not her husband or partner- maybe someone that she knows or a stranger

ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?

Without mentioning names or indicating anyone, do you know immigrant women in this community who have experienced sexual violence? If so, what types of violence have occurred?

Probes:

___raped by a stranger

___raped by a group

___kidnapped or sold against their will in order to work for people who demand that they perform sexual acts in exchange for money

___forced to provide sexual favors at work in order to keep their job

___forced to perform sexual acts by a relative when they didn't want to

___forced to perform sexual acts by a husband or partner when they didn't want to

___genital mutilation without consent

5. Which of these forms of sexual violence do you think is the biggest problem? Why? [Ranking]

6. What problems has this caused for these women? [Impact]

Prompt: emotional, financial, physical, familial, community

7. Based on what you have told us, it seems like our research should focus on the following types of violence.... Have we understood what you have said?

8. Is there anything we should have talked about but didn't?

9. **Because we plan on focusing our research on undocumented women, could you please give us some feedback on how you think these women would react to the introduction and to these questions.**

VII. 20 MINUTES – DEBRIEF

THIS COMPLETES THE PORTION OF OUR MEETING IN WHICH WE DISCUSS QUESTIONS TOGETHER. WE HAVE TWO MORE TOOLS THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO TEST WITH YOU AS WELL. ONE IS SOMETHING CALLED A DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY, IN WHICH YOU TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOURSELF AND THE OTHER TOOL RELATES TO SOME PICTURES THAT WE WILL SHOW YOU AND ASK YOU TO GIVE US YOUR REACTIONS.

VIII. 10 MINUTES PICTURES FOR SCOPE AND DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY

IX. 10 MINUTES DEFRIEF ON PICTURES AND SURVEY

X. CLOSING

Again, I would like to thank you for meeting with us and especially for being so generous with your time and your thoughts. This has been extremely helpful. As I said in the beginning, the purpose of this discussion was to help us test these questions as a research tool and you've given us some great ideas.

Please remember that we all agreed to keep this discussion confidential. Please do not share with others what was said here. People may be curious and you may have to say something- I suggest you tell them that we were asking questions about women and men and health issues, just gathering information. Please do not give details of what was said here so that we can try to preserve confidentiality and the safety of people who are exposed to violence.

How does that sound to you? Do you have questions? If any of you would like to speak privately with any of us, we will stay here for awhile after we end.

Again, thank you for your help.