



Economic Security for Survivors of Domestic Violence

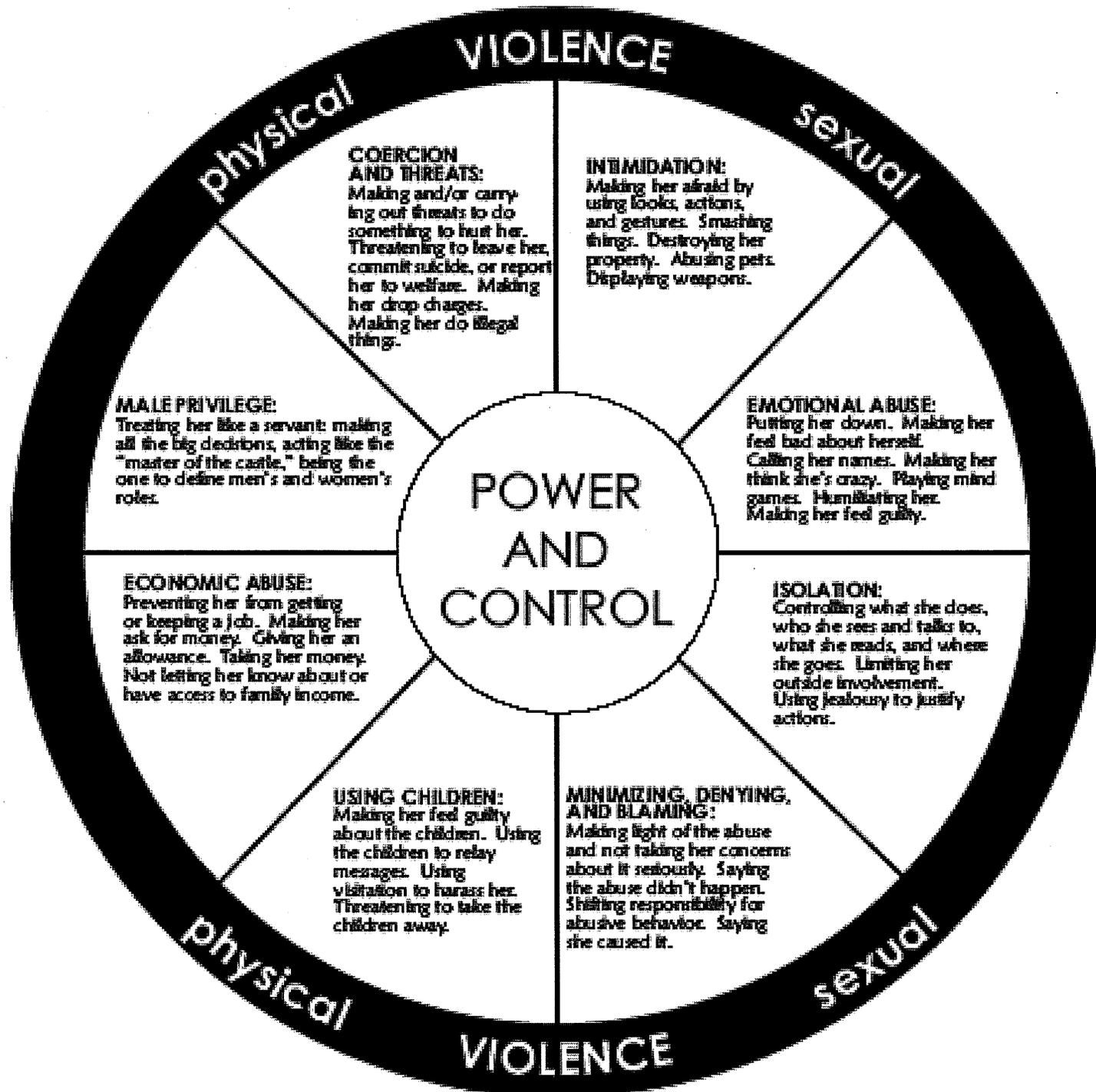
Region X Tribal TANF Conference
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Agenda

- Domestic violence dynamics
- What's money got to do with it?
- TANF and DV
- The Family Violence Option
- Tribal TANF and the FVO

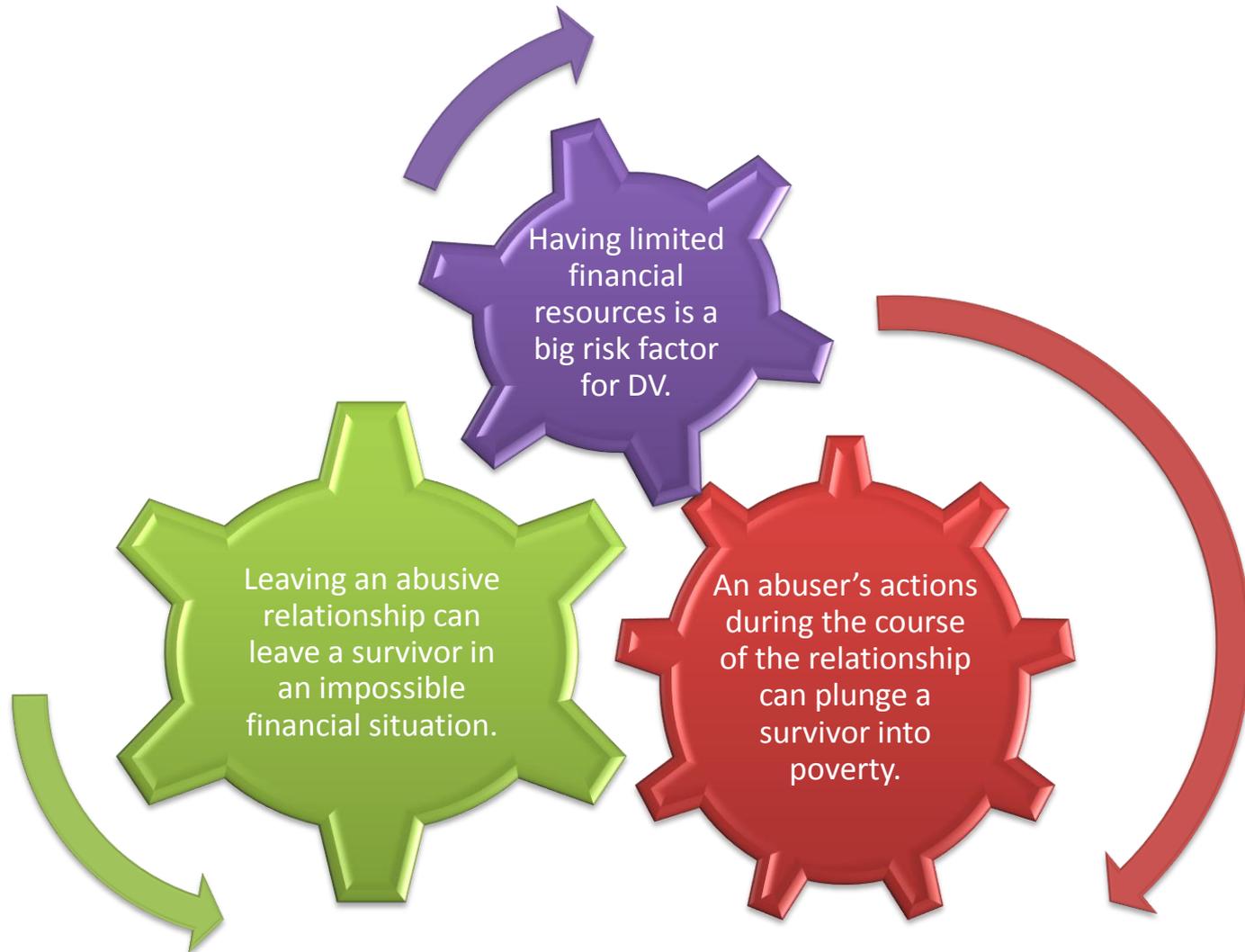




What's Money Got To Do With Domestic Violence?



Money has a lot to do with domestic violence.



- This means that when you have fewer financial resources, you have fewer good choices for staying safe.
- An abuser is able to gain more control.
- Research shows the abuse is likely to last longer and result in more severe injuries.



- This **does not** mean that those living in poverty are more violent.
- This also **does not** mean that those with plenty of financial resources are not at risk for experiencing abuse.

Leaving is always one of the most dangerous times for survivors.

For a survivor who was not living in poverty, leaving often plunges her into poverty because she will likely no longer have access to her previous financial resources.

For a survivor already struggling or living in poverty, leaving can complicate her financial stability even more.



Abusers often use economics and finances as ways to control their partners.

The tactics abusers use often set survivors up for financial ruin if they ever try to become financially independent from their abuser.

Some tactics include:

Harassing victim at work.

Identity theft/ruining credit.

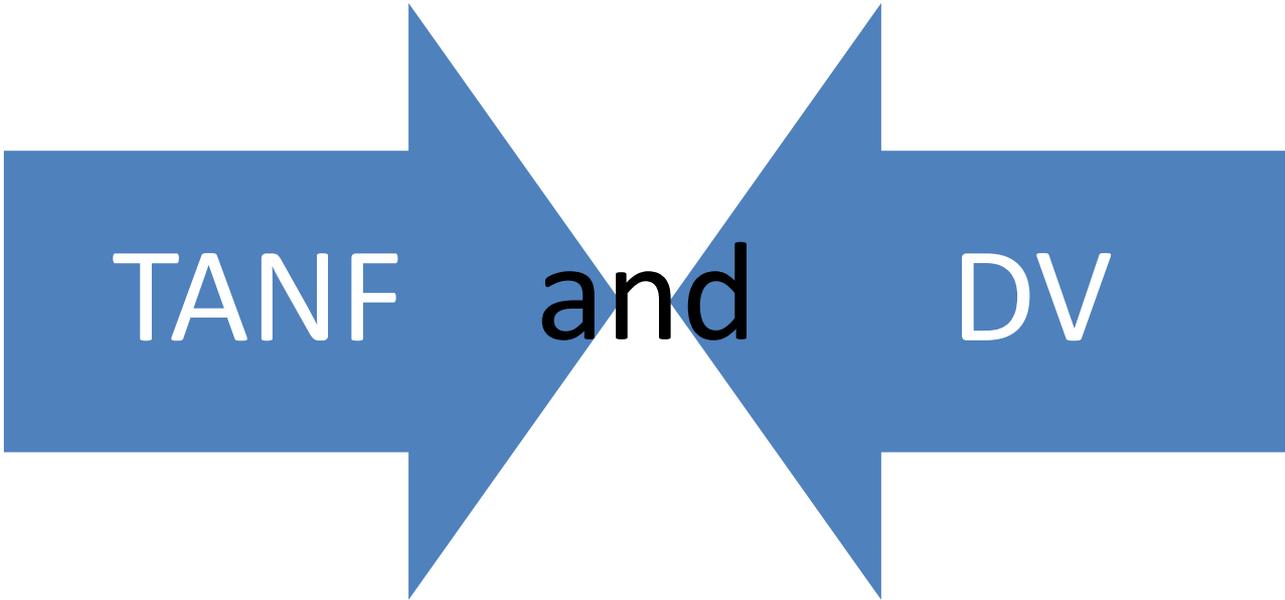
Not allowing victim to work and develop a job history and skills.

Not allowing victim's name on the bank accounts.

Forcing victim to hand over paychecks.

Doing things to get victim evicted





TANF

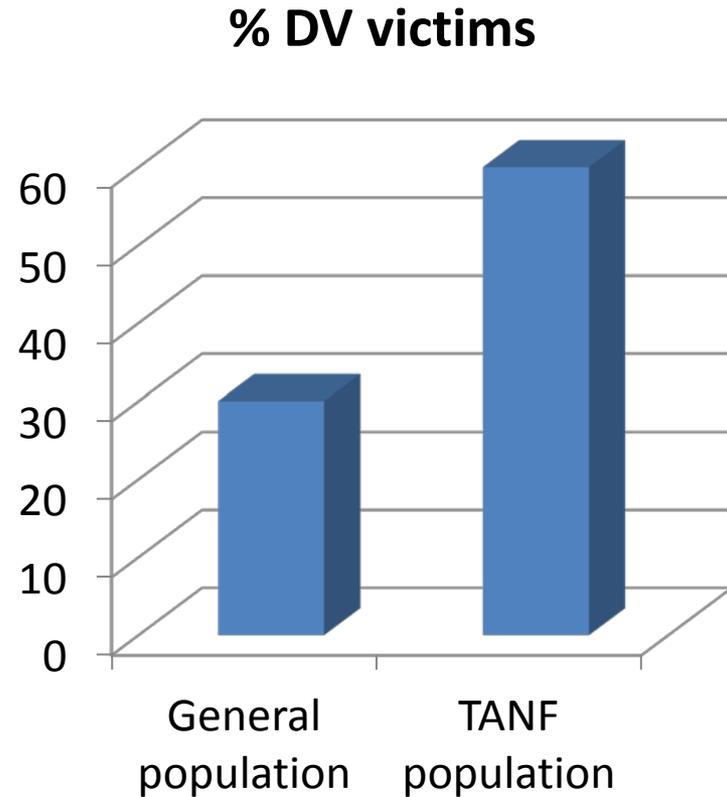
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DV

Studies show that 60% of women receiving welfare have been victims of domestic violence

→ 1/3 women in the general population experience DV in their lifetime.

→ The prevalence among the TANF population is much higher.



Family Violence Option

- If a state adopts the FVO, they must:

Screen

- individuals receiving assistance for domestic violence while maintaining their confidentiality.

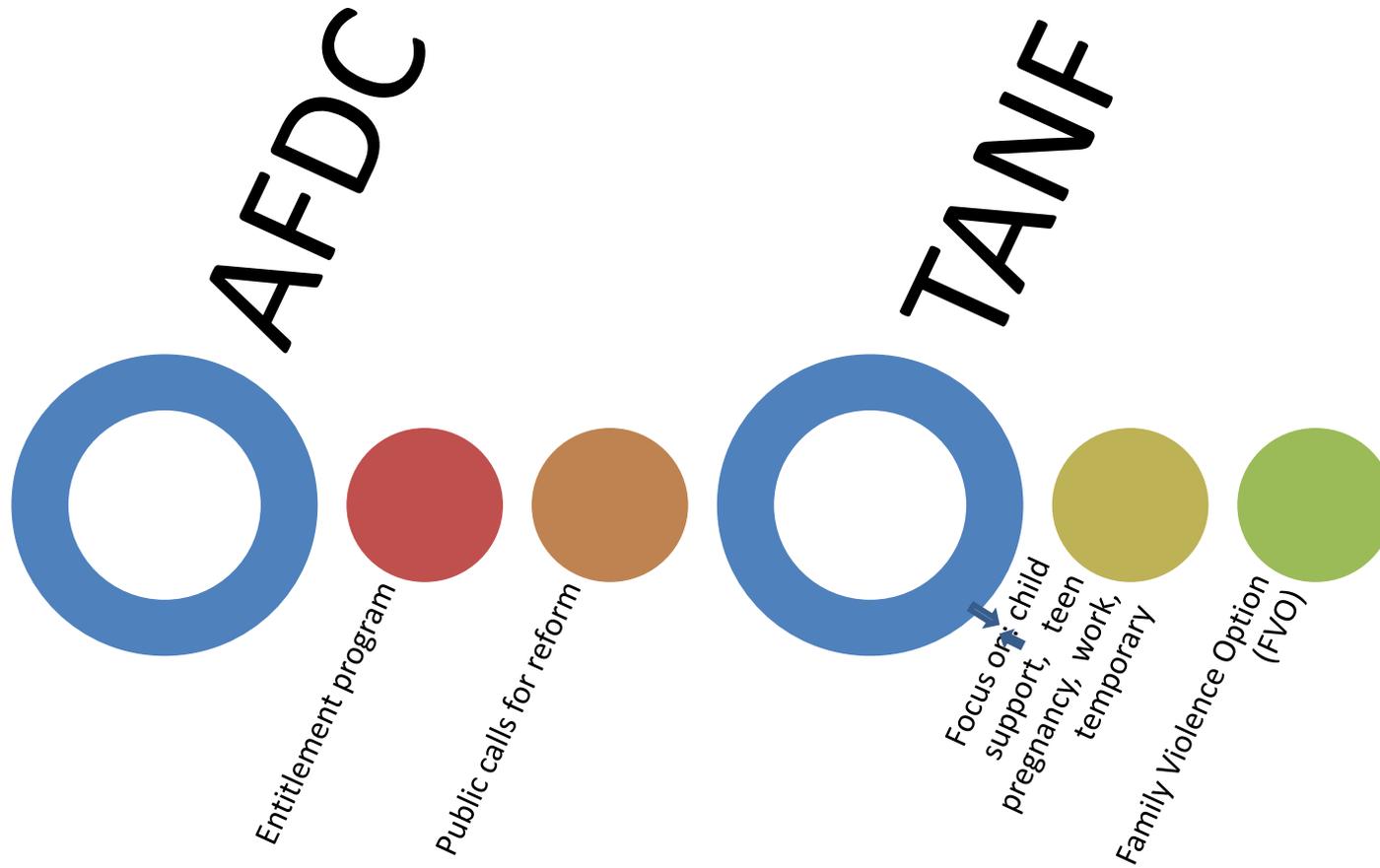
Refer

- such individuals to counseling and supportive services.

Waive

- requirements that make it more difficult for individuals to escape DV or unfairly penalize those who are or have been victimized, or individuals who are at risk of further domestic violence.

Shift in philosophy impacted DV survivors



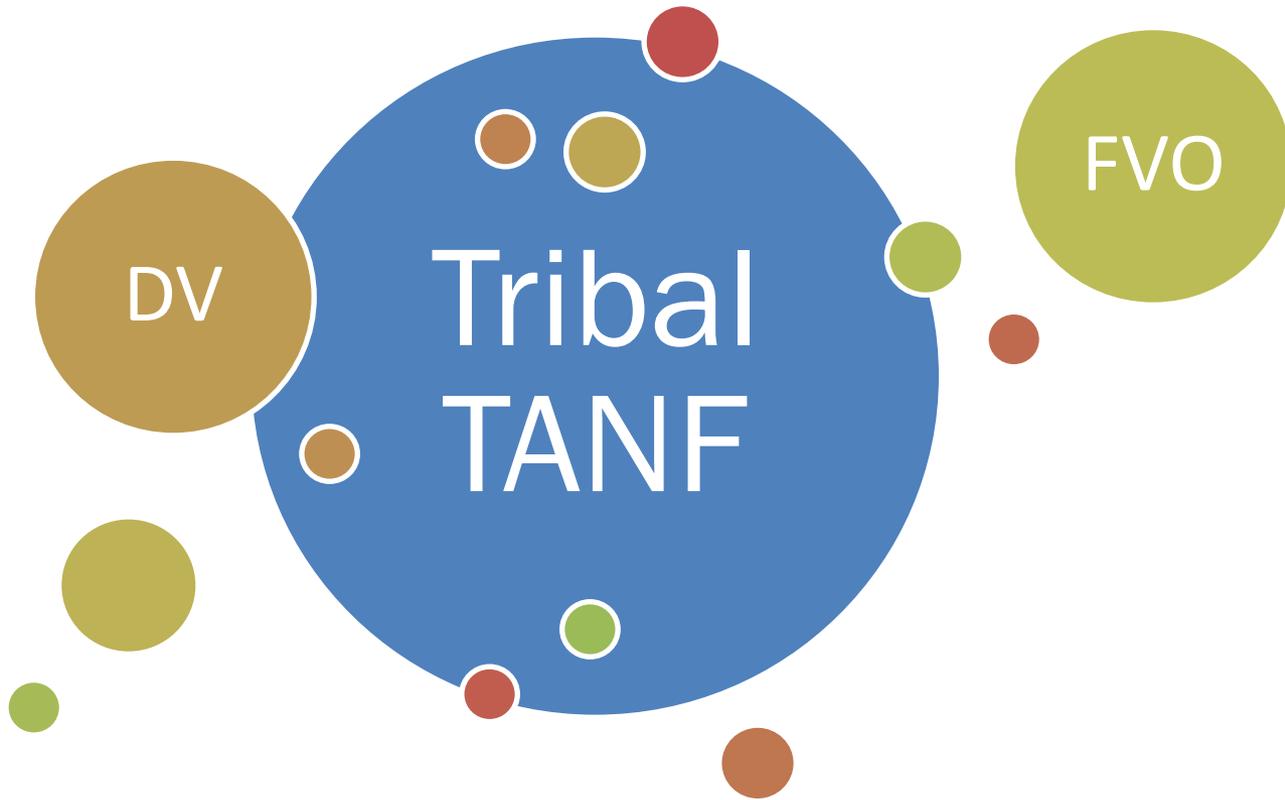
Flexibility by design

- » Gives survivors the chance to recover from violence and the creativity to establish plans that work for them and move them forward.
- » Enables support groups and other work on DV issues to be counted as work activities.



How it works





Ideas?

What opportunities exist for Tribes to support DV survivors on the caseload?



Stay connected...

- www.getmoneygetsafe.org
- Financial resources Web site for advocates and survivors.

Get Money,
Get Safe



- www.facebook.com/WSCADV
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- www.canyourelate.org
- Be part of the dialogue about violence in relationships.
- Read our posts and tell us what you think!

Blog



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Thank you!

