



**Department of Human Services with the  
Human Services Institute**

*Presents:*

***“Audacious Resistance Strategies: What Survivors Can Teach Us About Dynamic Resistance, Intentional Adaptation, and Transformative Advocacy in Anti-Violence Movements”***

**DATE:** Wednesday, January 22, 2025

**PLACE:** One Bergen County Plaza,  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor Learning Center  
Hackensack, NJ 07601

**TIME:** 9:30AM to 12:45PM

*3 Clinical Continuing Education Credits are pending approval from the ASWB.*

**About the Course:**

This course is intended to honor and to reclaim the profound resilience and wisdom of survivors by exploring the interwoven themes of intentional adaptation, consciousness-raising, interconnectedness, and nonlinear transformation present in many survivor resistance stories. We will critically examine the practice implications for advocates to better align themselves with survivor resistance efforts, to justly legitimize this resistance within power structures, and to capitalize on opportunities for more decolonized language, consciousness meaning-making in healing work, and survivor-centered agency practices. We will also create a compassionate, humanizing space for advocates and practitioners to communally reflect on what parallel lessons we can learn from survivor teachers on dynamic resistance, intentional adaptation, interdependence and functional accountability in our collective journeys towards achieving safety, transformative change, and liberation in our anti-violence movements.

**About the Instructors:**

**Laura Melendez, MSW, LCSW** (she/her) Laura is a Survivor Advocate & Training Technician for Alternatives to Domestic Violence (ADV) in Bergen County. Laura has over 10 years' experience working and advocating on behalf of youth, families, and survivors of interpersonal and systemic violence as an educator, activist and counselor. Laura provides direct services to survivors of domestic violence, develops community programming, oversees its 40-Hour Training Program for Victim Advocates, coordinates the Youth Empowerment programs for teens, and currently serves on Bergen County' Coordinated Community Response to Domestic and Sexual Violence (CCR-DS) multi-disciplinary team. Laura holds a bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences from Cornell University and a master's degree in social work from Rutgers University. Laura is currently pursuing her Doctorate in Social Work.

**Sophia Traphagen, MSW** (she/her) Sophia is an advocate, and educator with a profound passion for primary violence prevention and community education. She currently serves survivors as a Community Educator and Survivor Advocate at Alternatives to Domestic Violence (ADV) in Bergen County. Sophia implements educational workshops; conducts focus group research and program evaluation. Sophia holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Marist College and a master's degree in social work from Fordham University.

**Who Should Attend:**

This intermediate workshop is designed for Social Workers seeking continuing education in the field of domestic violence and victim advocacy with a special interest in anti-violent resistance strategies.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To adopt working definitions of domestic violence and coercive control that expands to include recognition of how survivors experience compound harm across the continuum of intrapersonal, interpersonal, institutional, and systemic violence.
2. To identify and operationalize how the intersectionality of a domestic violence survivor's personal, social, and institutional location can impact or shape how they experience and resist interpersonal and systemic violence in their healing journeys.
3. To utilize trauma-informed frameworks, intersectional feminist theory, and emergent strategy to identify and describe recurring themes and markers of dynamic resistance strategies exhibited in survivor resistance narratives.
4. To identify and evaluate the possible benefits, drawbacks, and adaptive purpose of dynamic resistance strategies in survivors' healing journeys.
5. To identify and apply possible practice recommendations to their area of work that validate and strategically support domestic violence survivors' efforts to seek safety, education, allyship, healing, and leadership.
6. To identify and apply possible resistance strategies of intentional adaptation, interdependence, and functional accountability that advocates and practitioners can implement in their area of work to promote systemic change, practice active allyship, or strategically resist structural inequalities.

**Timed Agenda:**

9:30AM-10:00AM – Introduction to Audacious Resistance Strategies

10:00-10:30AM- The Systematic Entrapment of Domestic Violence/Coercive Control and its collusion with intersecting, interlocking systems of oppression impacting survivor liberty and wellness.

10:30-11:00AM- Survivor stories of dynamic resistance and intentional adaptation

11:00AM - 11:15AM -Break

11:15AM-11:45AM – Integrating Survivor-Teacher Lessons on Resistance into our Anti-Violence Advocacy Movements and Social Justice Practice Frameworks

11:45AM-12:15PM- Critical reflection on survivor resistance and practice implications for advocates operating within victim services, mental health, education, academic, social services, law enforcement, legal systems, and policy advocacy settings.

12:15PM-12:45PM – Q and A

The cost of the workshop is \$45.00. Free for county employees. There are no refunds. If workshop is cancelled, registrants will be offered another workshop of equal value.

Payment can be mailed to: One Bergen County Plaza, Department of Human Services, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Hackensack, NJ 07601  
Attn: Terry Cannon

To pay online use **QR CODE BELOW**

**To receive a certificate (for CEs):**

Participants must attend entire workshop, sign in, sign out, *and* complete an evaluation.

Certificates will be emailed within a week of the workshop.

***Audacious Resistance Strategies: What Survivors Can Teach Us About Dynamic Resistance, Intentional Adaptation, and Transformative Advocacy in Anti-Violence Movements*** [course number], is pending approval by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program to be offered by The Department of Human Services, Human services Institute as an individual course. Individual courses, not providers, are approved at the course level. State and provincial regulatory boards have the final authority to determine whether an individual course may be accepted for continuing education credit. ACE course approval period: [dates]. Social workers completing this course receive 3 Clinical Credits

***If you have any questions or concerns, or need special accommodations, please call (201) 336-7425.***