

A Comparison of Domestic Violence Advocacy Models

The following chart compares domestic violence advocacy models. Casa de Esperanza hopes that your organization can carefully consider how your advocates work with battered women and specifically with battered Latinas. This document also serves as a reference for your continued exploration into effective advocacy for Latinas.

"Typical" domestic violence advocacy	Effective main-stream advocacy	"Basic" Latina ad-vocacy	Effective Latina advocacy
Emphasis is on what the woman in crisis needs to succeed.	Believing in the strength of women.	Believing in the strength of women.	Believing in the strength of women within the context of family and community.
Making decisions for battered women: what time to go to bed, what to do for fun, how to raise their children, etc.	Treating battered women the way that we would want to be treated.	Understanding basic cultural differences. Speaking Spanish.	Possessing an understanding (and deep appreciation) of Latino cultures, histories, religions, and oppression in the USA. This knowledge informs the entire advocacy approach with women.
Supporting women when they make "appropriate" decisions, e.g., leaving the abuser for good.	Not making assumptions or judgments about her decisions. Listening to what the battered woman is saying.	Not making assumptions or judgments about her decisions. Listening to what the battered woman is saying.	Supporting the decisions of the woman. Understanding that decisions are often based on cultural norms and practices, e.g., family unity or religion.
Being knowledgeable about support services, transitional housing, therapy, and parenting groups.	Being knowledgeable about resources; solving problems; thinking that is level-headed and creative.	Being knowledgeable about Latino resources in the community.	Being knowledgeable about Latino resources and main-stream resources. Working with women to "navigate" the mainstream systems and access nontraditional resources.
Supporting women to leave; sometimes supporting women when they decide to go back to abusers.	Truly supporting women in their decisions—even if the advocate doesn't "agree" with it.	Truly supporting women in their decisions—even if the advocate doesn't "agree" with it.	Truly supporting women in their decisions—even if the advocate doesn't "agree" with it.

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Framework for service: individual needs of woman.	Framework for service: family-centered.	Framework for service: family-centered.	Framework for service: family-centered and collective orientation.
Service Approach: needs-based, individualized case planning.	Service-Approach: self-identified goal planning.	Service-Approach: self-identified goal planning.	Service-Approach: warmth, connection, "me siento en casa cuando estoy contigo."