



What to Say When Reaching Out to a Culturally Relevant Organization

“Hi, my name is _____ and I am calling/ emailing/ reaching out from _____. Our mission is to end sexual violence in our community (or brief statement about what your agency does). We recognize the work you do to serve the _____ community and we want to know if there’s anything we can do to support you in your efforts? We understand that to truly end sexual violence we must end all forms of violence and oppression and that means centering the experiences and the needs of those on the margins.”

Some things you may offer:

- If they have any resources they want you to put in your office (i.e. pamphlets, informational flyers)
- If they’re organizing any community events do they need help setting up, getting the word out, need volunteers
- Perhaps you have space you could offer for their use for confidential meetings or support groups
- Are there flyers/ pamphlets, etc your organization has that you could put their info on as a community partner
- Can you support them by making a social media post about their work and highlighting them

Alternative for Building Relationships:

“ Hi my name is ___ and I am the ___ at _____. Are you familiar with us? (if not briefly describe what your organization is and your service area. If so, say something like “that is great to hear!”)

I am reaching out to you today because I wanted to start the conversation about how we can best work together in providing all the tools needed to end violence and providing safe spaces for members of the _____ community to thrive. Is it possible we can set up a time to meet with some of your staff?”

- The premise here is that you want to build a relationship with the population specific organization.
- You all can meet virtually and find out any upcoming activities they are having that your agency can provide support for, and place some information for your services.
- Try to set up a time that they would be open to recurring meetings with you or your team. Be flexible!
- Understand that some communities are hesitant to engage. Be patient. Work diligently on your own cultural humility. For example, have the people of that community typically not interacted with your agency because you are located near or with law enforcement? If so, it would be important to build this relationship in other activities NOT connected to



any criminal justice entity. Attend their virtual celebrations. If there are other community events, candle light vigils, education opportunities, etc, attempt to coordinate with them to have a staff member or volunteer be present. Even if they are just observing or participating in the activity.