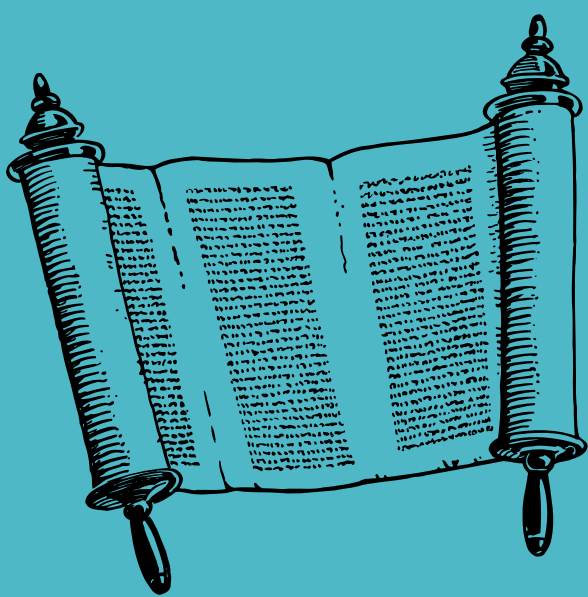
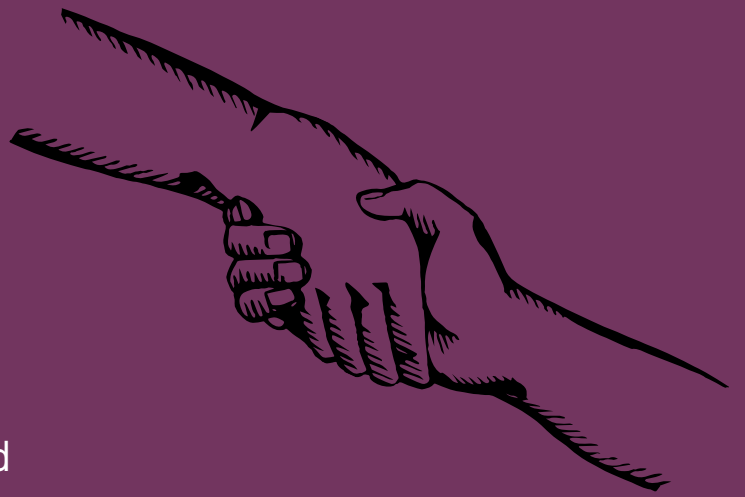


WHAT DO RESPONSIVE LEGAL & JUSTICE SYSTEMS LOOK LIKE FOR SURVIVORS AND THEIR FAMILIES?



SYSTEMS TAKE A RESTORATIVE APPROACH

Community, legal, and government groups work together to address systemic issues of gender-based violence. Early intervention happens to support high risk families. There is an understanding of the cycle of abuse and how it impacts families through generations.



PROFESSIONALS ARE TRAINED ON INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Police, judges, etc. can be taught about the barriers that prevent a woman from leaving abuse. They can play a role in de-escalating domestic violence situations. It would give law enforcement and judicial decision-makers a more compassionate approach to the topic of gender-based violence.

TRIALS ARE PRESIDED OVER DIFFERENTLY

Court cases for domestic abuse and sexual assault need to be handled sensitively. Onus to prove guilt needs to be taken off the victim. A victim should be afforded the same assumption of innocence as the accused. Potential to re-traumatize victims needs to be minimized.



KEEPING MOTHERS & CHILDREN TOGETHER IS A PRIORITY

Mothers may fear that reporting abuse will reflect poorly on their fitness to parent their children. Many abusers will use shared children as a means of control over their victims. Even if a child isn't being abused directly, witnessing abuse is a form of abuse that causes trauma. The fear of losing their children is a barrier for women leaving abusive relationships.

To learn more visit
www.intervalhouse.ca

