GRW met with survivors and practitioners from across the state to better understand what is and is not working in the current system of services and intervention to domestic violence.

GRW routinely includes consultation and interviews with survivors as part of data collection methods in its work around the world, believing that survivors of VAWG provide authoritative and essential insights into understanding the gap between what survivors need and what institutions provide.
Program Background

Survivors of domestic violence often face a myriad of barriers and challenges when seeking services from local domestic violence centers as well as community agencies. And sometimes local systems coordinate and stretch to meet survivors’ needs in remarkable ways.

The Needs Assessment Planning Committee (whose members include representatives from CAWS North Dakota, local domestic violence programs, the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services, and the state tribal coalition First Nations Women’s Alliance) wanted to know the gaps, challenges and barriers facing victims of domestic violence accessing services—particularly the challenges faced by survivors who are traditionally underserved. We are aware that within the scope of discussion is the need to identify what strengths victims of domestic violence use to overcome obstacles faced as they seek resources and services.

By identifying barriers, gaps, challenges as well as strengths we can then concentrate our efforts within both the current domestic violence networking system and stakeholders providing community services.

CAWS North Dakota entrusted Global Rights for Women to gather these stories.
GRW Guiding Principles

Survivor-centered:
Carefully gather insights and perspectives from survivors to inform policy or program changes.

GRW is grateful to each and every individual and organization who made it possible to hear the voices of survivors reflected in this report. May our combined efforts help to pave the way forward.

“I got married, not married a week—and I can tell you, tell you where in [the city] [he] turns to me in the car and says, "you're nothing but a liability." And I remember saying, "I am not dumb. I know what that means."–A Survivor

“So I'll just go to the very end. Because for three years, I didn't reach out. I protected him. I put on makeup, his mom would come over and help me take a shower to wash up all the blood, or, you know, she'd bring me to the hospital and I'd come up with reasons why I got a broken face or broken ribs or broken leg. Um, but at the very end when I left, I don't know what clicked...I dropped my little guy off at school and I kissed him and I told him I loved him. And I literally parked his pickup at his house. And I ran all the way to [the domestic violence services program].”–A Survivor
Project Goals

Through interviews with survivors and other stakeholders, GRW explored two key areas:

- The extent to which survivors’ needs for safety and support are being met in the current response system.
- Trends that are impacting the connection between survivors and service providers.

GRW’s report will be used to inform the planning of how services are accessed and delivered to survivors so that resources are distributed in ways that especially improve the lives of marginalized groups and those isolated in rural areas of the state.

“I sought help for the first time and I came here and they helped me and I got an apartment and just went through it all. They're very helpful. When I first moved, I didn't have anything. So they gave my kids blankets and pillows and clothes as much as what we needed.” - A Survivor

By the Numbers

- **27** survivors interviewed
- **32** advocates interviewed
- **6,128** victims served by 19 crisis intervention centers
- **30%** of victims were self-referred to DV programs
- **22%** of victims were referred to DV programs by law enforcement
Program Partners and Supporters

Organizations:

CAWS North Dakota
Global Rights for Women

GRW would also like to thank the following domestic violence service programs that connected us with survivors and hosted listening sessions with survivors:

- Community Violence Intervention Center (CVIC)
- Rape and Abuse Crisis Center (RACC)
- Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center (DVRCC)
- Abuse Resource Network (ARN)
- Family Crisis Shelter (FCS)
- Domestic Violence and Abuse Center Inc. (DVAC)
- Safe Alternatives for Abused Families (SAAF)

These professionals inspire us with their unwavering commitment to addressing domestic violence.

To learn more about Global Rights for Women, please visit our website at: www.globalrightsforwomen.org.
GRW extends its appreciation to the dedicated advocates from member programs that attended a listening session or a CAWS member meeting and shared their insights.

They include: Abused Adult Resource Center (AARC), Community Violence Intervention Center (CVIC), Domestic Violence and Abuse Center, Inc. (DVAC), Domestic Violence Crisis Center (DVCC), Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center (DVRCC), Family Crisis Shelter (FCS), McLean Family Resource, Rape and Abuse Crisis Center (RACC), Safe Alternatives for Abused Families (SAAF), Spirit Lake Victim Assistance, Three Rivers Crisis Center (TRCC), and the Women’s Action and Resource Center (WARC) who generously shared their insights, expertise, and time with us. Their perspectives have enriched GRW’s understanding and strengthened the project’s foundation.

Finally, this report would not have been possible without the dedication of the program team at GRW: Lachlan Anders-Macleod, Vayuna Gupta, Mingyu Ma, Melissa Petrangelo Scaia, Cheryl Thomas, and Laura Williams. Their work comes from the heart, and it shows.

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