

PWN



BLOCK  
PARTY



This webinar series is made possible through the Grassroots Organizing Institute (GOI), a program of the Groundswell Fund.

# About Positive Women's Network- USA

Led by our constituency: women  
and people of trans experience  
living with HIV.



## **Mission:**

**To prepare and involve women living with HIV, in all our diversity, in all levels of policy and decision-making.**



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**PWN sees the HIV epidemic, especially as Black, brown, LGBTQ, TGNC, and low income are disproportionately impacted, as a **symptom** of larger inequities and injustice.**

**We organize to build power in communities most impacted by the epidemic.**



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# Core Strategies

1. Leadership development
2. Organizing and mobilizing for strategic campaigns (issue-based & electoral)
3. Policy analysis and policy advocacy
4. Strategic communications

All center racial, economic, and gender justice



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universal  
healthcare



economic justice



sexual and reproductive  
health, rights and  
justice



ending  
criminalization



trans rights, safety &  
justice



ending violence  
against women  
living with hiv

**Our priorities**

**Read more at**

[pwn-usa.org/issues/policy-agenda/](https://pwn-usa.org/issues/policy-agenda/)



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# What's the PWN Block Party?

**A summertime web-based series designed to build skills in grassroots community organizing.**

## WHY?

- Because racial, gender, and economic injustice hurts all of us.
- Because building power for our communities is all about listening to people's real concerns so we can address them.
- Because organizing depends on relationships and rigor.
- Because we're gonna be here after 2020 no matter what happens.



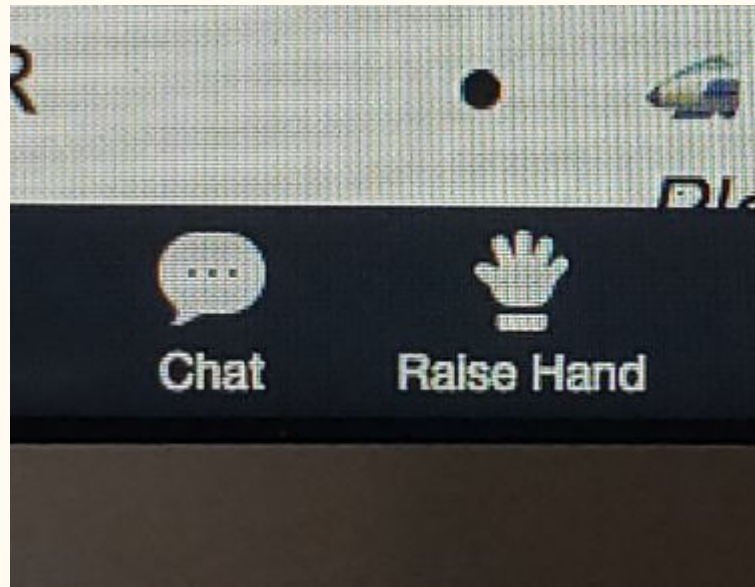
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# Ways to participate

- Chat
- Raise Hand
- Feel free to live tweet, our twitter handle is @uspwn



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## Courageous Conversations

Facilitator: Lisa María Castellanos



# Courageous Conversations Toolkit ©

## Tools for Transformation Series

Robert Gass

co-founder of the

Social Transformation Project



# Today's session is about...

## Introduction to Courageous Conversations:

- A Paradigm Shift that empowers leadership
- Step 1: Assessing when to do it.

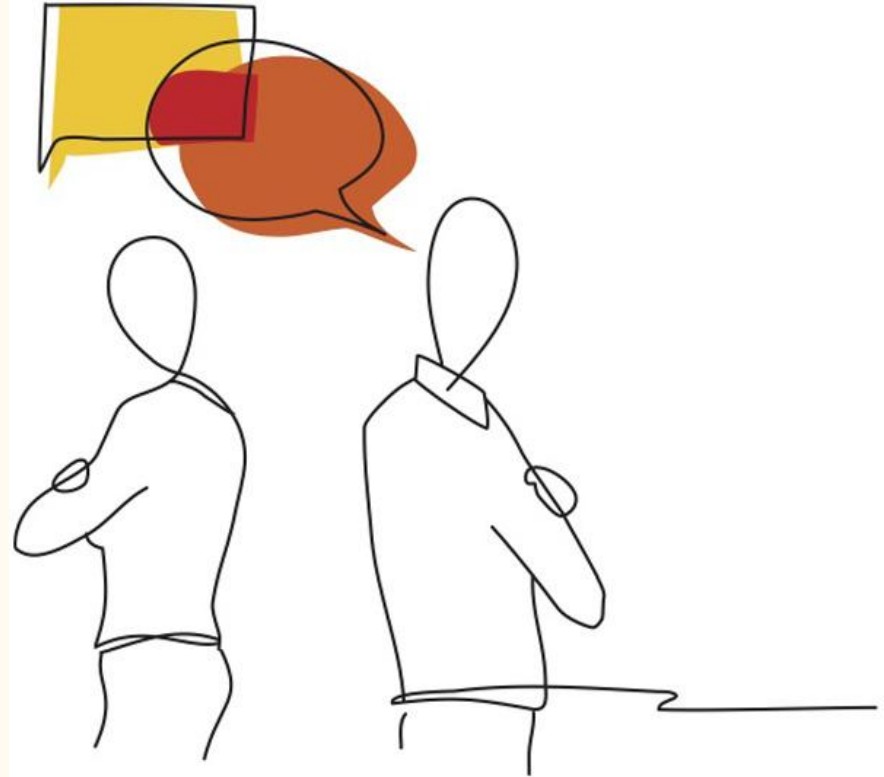


# **Courageous** **Conversation**

# **Our lives are filled with challenging conversations.**

What are some examples within social justice & movement?

What do we risk when we ignore them?



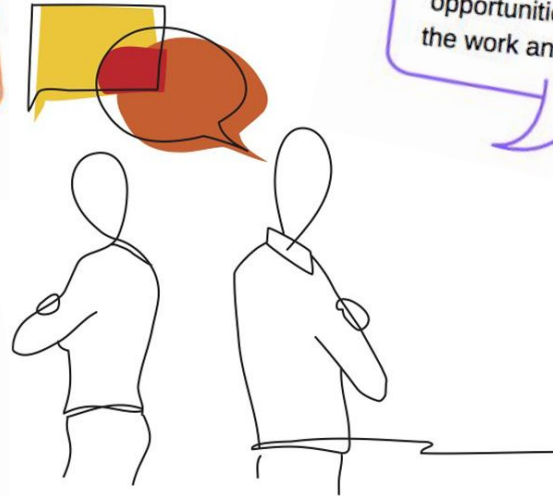
# Courageous Conversations, Tool for Transformation ©

invite us to a paradigm shift:

These messy conversations are necessary evils or distractions from the important work.

These Courageous Conversations are critical opportunities to advance the work and the mission.

I avoid these difficult conversations when possible.



Every morning I scan my world and look for potential opportunities for Courageous Conversations that build partnership, deal proactively with potential disturbances and breakdowns, and further our goals...

# When to do it: balancing risk-reward assessments

Step 1. Risks of Inaction

Step 2. Rewards of  
Courageous Conversation

Step 3. Risks of Courageous  
Conversation

Step 4. Assess Risks and Rewards

Step 5. Make a Clear and Committed Choice.



# Four possible tactics to choose from:

**Option #1: Have a Courageous Conversation**

**Option #2: Have a Courageous Conversation with help**

**Option #3: Make peace with what is**

**Option #4: Restructure the relationship**



# In review...

- Avoidance & discomfort leads to further conflict, so why not talk about it!
- Each situation is an opportunity to practice & model leadership.
- Base decisions on strategic thinking vs. your comfort/discomfort in dealing with the situation.
- Four options vs default option (avoidance)
- Practice, practice, practice!

# Open Forum

Questions, Comments?

# Courageous Conversations Toolkit © Tools for Transformation Series

For more information on  
“How to prepare” and “Best practices” go to:

[bit.ly/courageous-conversations2019](https://bit.ly/courageous-conversations2019)

# For more information

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Join us for our last webinar “Turning outreach lists into smart contacts” on September 14th.