



Australia's
Global
University

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS USING RECIPROCAL RESEARCH: Session 4: Story Circles



Refugee women:
Key to the
Global Compact
on Refugees



UNSW
Forced Migration
Research Network

Sharing stories

We can learn a lot by sharing stories with each other.

They can be stories of survival and bravery, of risk and violence.

They can be happy, sad or funny stories.

By listening to each other we can identify common issues for community members and service providers.

We can support one another and celebrate our strengths.



Story circles - using stories to identify issues of concern to a community

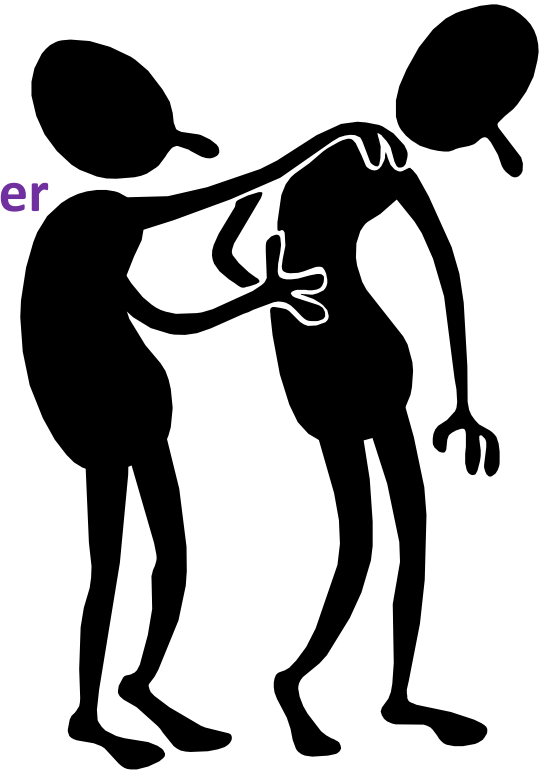
Story circles can be used:

- To identify a range of problems experienced by individuals, families and communities.
- For sharing information
- For gathering information
- As healing spaces
- To validate experiences
- For emotional support/befriending



Key things to consider in supporting Story Circles:

- Create a safe and friendly space
- Confidentiality
- Verbal / non-verbal communication
- Formulation of strategies to care for each other during and after the exercise
- Dealing with the issues that come out of the stories
- Not forcing anyone to join or speak
- Ongoing support strategies/befriending
- Peer support/worker debriefing
- Respecting participants choices, even if you dont agree with the choices

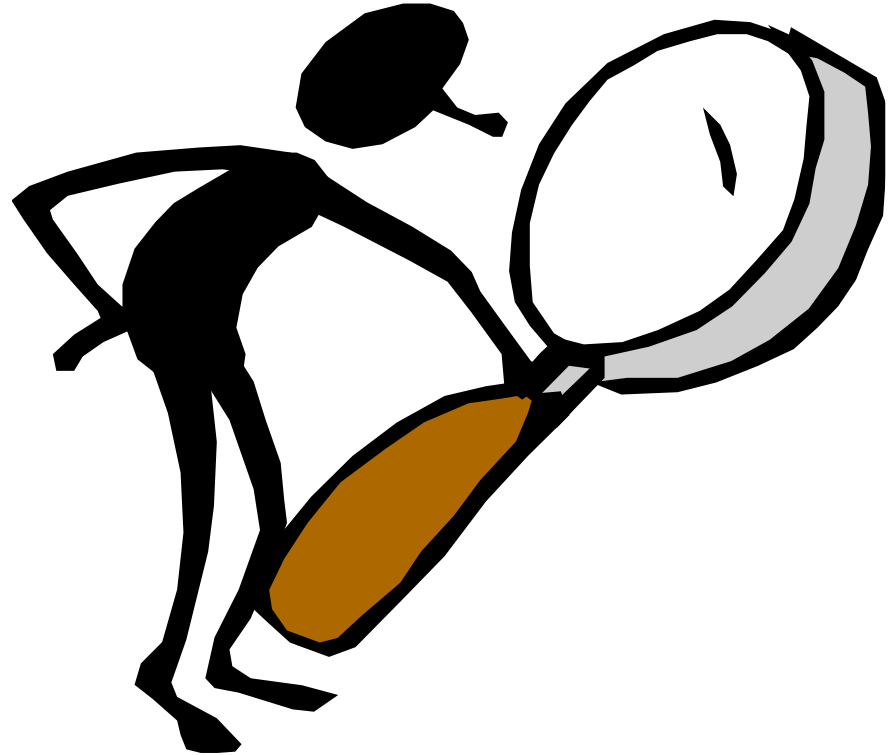


Listening, thinking and acting to help communities



Analysing the Stories

- Listening,
- checking,
- responding
- recording



Using Stories Effectively

- Are there common themes in the stories?
- What lessons can be learned from the stories?
- What are the problems which need to be addressed?

