

Apply the TVI Principles



Case example: Meet Maria

Maria's son moved in with her when he lost his job. Over time, he has taken control of her pension, restricts her spending, and is pressuring her to sign over the house. Maria feels trapped. This form of economic violence leaves her vulnerable, isolated, and without the means to make independent choices.

1. Recognizing Financial Abuse as a Form of GBV and Trauma

- Staff understand the financial abuse is GBV - power, control, and dependency.
- They acknowledge that Maria may have internalized messages that she must rely on male family members and that seeking help could feel like a betrayal.
- They frame her experience within systemic inequalities, reinforcing that this is not her fault—it is part of a larger issue of GBV against older women.

2. Create cultural safety in emotionally and physically safe environments

- Staff take time to be present. Maria feels heard, respected.
- They understand that financial abuse is often overlooked in older populations.
- They acknowledge the intersection of ageism, gender inequality, and trauma history in Maria's situation, providing services that recognize and affirm her lived experience.

3. Foster opportunities for choice, collaboration, and connection

- Staff talk with her about options that are realistic for her situation.
- Maria makes decisions. She is not treated as incapable due to age.
- Peer support is an option: connection with other older women survivors helps break her isolation and reinforces that she is not alone.

4. Provide a strengths-based and capacity-building approach to support Maria

- Recognizing Maria's lifelong contributions and strengths, the approach focuses on rebuilding her independence and self-worth.
- Not framing her solely as a victim, helps Maria rebuild confidence in her ability to make choices for herself.

Impact: By integrating TVI principles, services move beyond a crisis-response model to restoring Maria's autonomy and dignity, she is supported and empowered to reclaim control over her life.