



(289) 302-4094  
INFO@REVITALED.CA  
WWW.REVITALED.CA

## **Terms of Reference – Support Group Facilitators**

### **About the project:**

In speaking with our community partners, our team became aware of the lack of community-focused supports for victims that emphasized healing through internal, peer, and community connection. Through our research, our team has discovered the value of empathy in recovery, and how social, physical, mental, and emotional contact can propel this process further. Additionally, in our research, we also discovered lack of these services in the Clarington region.

Our project is a pilot series of dynamic support groups for women affected by intimate partner violence (IPV). These support groups will not only create a community-based, peer-oriented space for connection amongst victims, but also environments where healing can occur through discussion and activities that focus on holistic health. This project will help us determine if the approach of utilizing community connection is effective in helping victims and survivors of IPV to reconnect with oneself, achieve healing, and encourage sustainable and continuous growth.

This project will host virtual support groups that provide participants with the space to share their experiences and utilize tools, resources, and activities to foster positive mental health, growth, healing, and resilience. Each session will provide a listening circle facilitated by an individual with lived experience, and an activity focused on health and wellness that will encourage positive growth through community connection. From data collected in this project, we hope to strengthen this program to be accessible to those throughout Durham Region, and advocate for more resources to be allocated to these communities to facilitate programs such as these.

Our project will take place from August to November 2022.

**Role of our facilitators:**

Revitalized Reintegration Services has the goal to be one of the most innovative criminal justice service providers in the Durham Region. In conducting this pilot project, we hope to learn about the most effective ways to encourage and facilitate healing in vulnerable populations within our community. We hope that our facilitators can be the closest point of contact for our support group participants as we learn from their experiences and assist them in their journey.

Additionally, we hope that we can learn from our lived-experience facilitators. We want to develop a stronger understanding of the best practices and approaches to utilize with victims and survivors of IPV, as well as ways we can cultivate future programming to meet the needs of our community and fill additional gaps in services.

We hope our Support Group Facilitators can bring a strong desire to make a difference in the lives of people affected by IPV. Their empathetic approach, enthusiasm for health and wellness, and ability to facilitate discussion about issues related to IPV are key factors in ensuring that our support groups are safe spaces. We anticipate that facilitators will contribute 8 to 14 hours of work per month to this project throughout the project term. Facilitators will receive a \$100.00 honorarium for each full month that they contribute to the project.

**Responsibilities:**

- Planning support group discussion topics in tandem with project team
- Facilitating a confidential and inclusive discussion at support group meetings with participants
- Attending and reporting at virtual debriefing sessions

- Providing advisory support to the project planning and follow-up process from a lived-experience perspective
- Serving as a model of appropriate group behavior and as a resource for the group (e.g., providing referrals for services, recommending self-care strategies, etc.)
- Providing additional support as mutually agreed upon

**If you are interested in this role:**

To apply to participate as a Facilitator, please send an email to [info@revitalized.ca](mailto:info@revitalized.ca) expressing your interest in this role no later than August 2022. We will have ongoing meetings with interested participants in July/August 2022. Facilitator training will take place in mid-September before the support group launch in late September 2022.

If you are selected to participate as a Support Group Facilitator in this project, we will need a criminal background check and vulnerable sector search from you.

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**About Revitalized Reintegration Services:**

Revitalized Reintegration Services is a non-profit organization based in Durham Region that provides support programs and services to those navigating the criminal justice system across Ontario. We work with:

- Inmates that are currently incarcerated
- Those who have been incarcerated and are now on release (i.e., releasees, parolees)
- Those who have received non-imprisonment sentences (i.e., probation)
- Victims and survivors of crime
- Those who have lost someone due to criminal activity

We understand that the criminal justice system is challenging for many individuals to maneuver, especially when trying to cope with life-changing circumstances. The overarching vision for Revitalized Reintegration Services is quite simple: to build positive and healthy communities for all.

Leading with faith, awareness, and empathy, we aim to foster restoration and healing, while rebuilding healthy communities. We aim to accomplish this mission by working towards goals that focus on supporting the growth and development of individuals and communities.

*Revitalized Reintegration Services is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to diversity and inclusivity in employment. We welcome applications from all qualified individuals. We encourage all to apply who self-identify as being part of groups which are underrepresented or have additional barriers to the labour market. We are also committed to providing accommodations for persons with disabilities. If you require an accommodation, we will work with you to meet your needs.*