

EVERAFTER

Stories of Violence, Accountability, and Healing

Below are some suggested discussion questions to be used after viewing the Ever After videos:

Centering Survivors. What stories have we been told about who survivors are and what they want? What stories are missing? Where do your own stories fall in all of that? What might be possible if we listened to the full range of victims of crime?

Exploring Accountability. We talk often about punishment, but we don't talk much about accountability. What does meaningful accountability look like for harm? Have you ever experienced being meaningfully accountable or having someone be meaningfully accountable to you? If you did, what effect did it have on you? If not, what impact do you imagine that would have had?

Imagining Safety. Think of a time you felt truly safe, write it down, and if you're comfortable doing so, share it with the group. What were the features of that time? Where were you? Who was with you? After everyone has shared, consider: did law enforcement or prison play a role in your sense of safety? If not, what did? Beginning with the examples you've offered of what safety has felt like for you, imagine what pathways to safety might look like that don't rely primarily (or even at all, if you prefer) on police or prisons.

Fostering Racial Equity. We know that not only is safety unequally available, so too are access to healing and accountability supports. What role do you see race playing in the persistence of violence and the limitations of healing resources in the United States? What will it take to correct that inequity? What part can each of us play in doing so?

Your Ever After. What is your "ever after"? That is, if you have experienced or survived violence, what has defined your experience of coming through it? What "ever after" do you envision for yourself and others? What might make that possible and accessible?