



## DAY FOUR – THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 2022 – 2:00 PM

### **Justice Begins with a Trauma-Informed Approach: Reflections and Vision**

#### **Session Description:**

Victims and survivors of sexual assault measure “justice” in many different ways. There are evolving community expectations and demands for trauma-informed approaches, including the international campaign that promotes “Start by Believing,” for victims and survivors. All of this has led to new professional standards for trauma-informed care in our response, investigation, and prosecution of sexual assault cases, and more importantly, for victims and survivors; *“Justice begins with a trauma-informed approach.”*

Chief Tom Tremblay (Ret) has conducted over 400 Trauma-Informed Sexual Assault case consultations and training projects throughout the US and Canada. He will share reflections on promising practices from his 35 years of promoting sexual assault reforms: trauma-informed – victim-centered – offender focused all in an effort to “reimagine justice” for victims and survivors.

The effects of trauma on victims and survivors, and the vicarious trauma experienced by service providers, are often misunderstood, misinterpreted, or ignored. Trauma-informed care is grounded in the understanding and responsiveness to trauma not only for victims and survivors, but also for service providers – that means all of you that do this important work. We must ask ourselves; “how can we be expected to understand someone else’s trauma – if we don’t start by understanding our own trauma.

The presenter will share his vision for utilizing trauma-informed – victim-centered – offender focused approaches throughout the administration of ***“Justice.”*** This can help build trust that can empower victims and survivors in overcoming their reluctance to engage in the criminal justice system, and it can also contribute to their immediate and long-term recovery and provide a helpful foundation for how they will measure ***Justice - and how we can reimagine justice in our continued work ahead.***

## **Learning Objectives:**

1. Examine the complex nature of sexual assault and the human condition of bias surrounding gender-based violence and its impact on the pursuit of justice.
2. Define trauma, historical trauma, vicarious trauma, and trauma-informed care in the context of gender-based violence and the importance of emphasizing physical, psychological, and emotional safety for victims / survivors, and service providers.
3. Identify promising practices for sexual assault reforms: prevention, trauma-informed and victim-centered approaches, and offender-focused investigations for greater accountability and public trust.

### **BIO:** Chief Tom Tremblay (Ret)

Throughout his distinguished thirty-year policing career as an officer, detective, special investigations unit director, supervisor, police chief, and state public safety commissioner, Tom Tremblay has been a passionate leader for the prevention of domestic and sexual violence. He is a retired Chief of Police from Burlington, VT, and the former Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Public Safety. Tom is now a national and international advisor and trainer for police, prosecutors, advocates, higher education, the military, and government / private sector.

Tom is a contracted subject matter expert on domestic violence and sexual assault for numerous organizations including the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the Police Executive Research Forum, Alliance for Hope International, End Violence Against Women International, the Rape Abuse Incest National Network, RTI Sexual Assault Kit Initiative, and the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division and Office on Violence Against Women.

Tom has been a national leader in the development and delivery of Trauma-Informed Sexual Assault Investigations Training. He also serves as an Independent Monitor / Reviewer for Department of Justice Agreements with law enforcement agencies designed to improve sexual assault and domestic violence response and investigations following reports of unlawful gender discrimination. Tom also assists the Department of Justice in promoting gender bias prevention strategies for law enforcement when responding to domestic and sexual violence crimes including addressing officer involved domestic violence and sexual misconduct.

Tom holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. He is a graduate of the 183<sup>rd</sup> Session of the FBI National Academy, the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar, the Police Executive Research Forum–Senior Management Institute for Police, and the National Law Enforcement Leadership Institute on Violence Against Women.

See also: [www.tomtremblayconsulting.com](http://www.tomtremblayconsulting.com)