

Care Frame: True Crime

Sparking Care-Centered Storytelling

Expert GBV
Analysis

Have you included GBV expertise, or lived experience?

Are the experts you are speaking to reflective of the specifics of the case?

Storytelling includes
GBV expertise

Storyteller
Identity

Community or
experience-based

Who are you as a storyteller?
What are your privileges?

What is your power relationship with the story and those within it?

How are you respecting a survivor/victim in the story?

What is your call to action?

Purpose

Social-justice driven

Refined and
non-gratuitous

How is gendered violence described?

Have you consulted with GBV experts about which details are necessary to include?

Narrative
Style

Using The Care Frame: True Crime

Sparkling Care-Centered Storytelling



Foundational Principles

Intersectionality: The Care Frame requires storytellers to recognize their identities in the telling of the story, including an understanding of where their identities situate them in these power frameworks.

Recognition of power in gender-based violence: GBV exists because of unequal power. Understanding and recognizing this power framework is crucial to telling the story care-fully.

“Cultivating caring relations” (Held, 2006): The storyteller should seek to develop caring relations with survivors or victims’ families in the stories they are telling, recognizing the critical aspects of trust and narrative nuance that shape this.

It’s never a survivor/victim’s fault: People who cause gendered harm are responsible for their own actions.

What is this Care Frame?

Within the Care Frame, true crime narratives become meaningful steps towards a safer world. This tool helps creators build stories that honor the lives affected by these cases while still engaging audiences with skillful storytelling, just like a painter working within the edges of a canvas. The Care Frame doesn't limit the art; it elevates it.

Resources:

This tool is an addition to in-depth guides on trauma-informed journalism, not a replacement. We encourage you to read the following guides to broaden your knowledge further:

- [Reclaiming Power and Place](#) (Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, 2019)
- [Use The Right Words](#) (Possibility Seeds, 2022)
- [DART Center for Reporting on Sexual Violence](#)
- [Taking Care](#) (Canadian Journalism Forum on Violence and Trauma, 2022)

The Care Frame model was inspired by Max Liboiron’s work and their Civic Library for Environmental Action Research (2018), and Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha’s Care Webs: Experiments in Collective Access (2018).