HANDOUT 12.1 PRE-ASSESSMENT

**Background and Script for the “Caseworker”**

A woman named Mariama comes to your office and says her friend, who is with her, is in need of help. You sit down with Mariama and her friend, who tells you her name is Salima. Mariama tells you that Salima is her neighbor and came to her home last night because her husband beat her and locked her out of the house. Mariama says it is not the first time and that she is concerned for Salima because she sees the abuse is getting worse. You see signs of recent abuse on Salima and that she is in physical pain, and she appears scared and withdrawn. You ask her to tell you about herself. Slowly, Salima begins telling you about her life at home. After Salima tells you her story, you understand that Salima is scared to return home but not sure where else to go, is in pain, and afraid to lose her children.

Questions:

1. Do you feel safe here? Does your husband know that you are here?
2. Are you still in a lot of pain?
3. You should go to the hospital as it is the only way to get medical assistance and document your injuries. Hospital visits are confidential so no one will tell your husband you were there. Tell her you can go with her if she would like you to.
4. (omit asking about the other clinic she visited)

**Background for “Survivor”**

You are a 35-year-old woman, Salima, and have been living with your physically abusive husband, Magomed, for 10 years. You are reluctant to go to the center for assistance, but your neighbor Mariama urges you to get help and offers to go with you. When you get to the center, you are overwhelmed and afraid you are just going to make things even worse. You and Magomed have 4 children, ages 2 to 8. When Magomed comes home drunk at night, he beats you in front of your children. He often mocks you and tells your children that you are stupid and worthless, and sometimes when the children are angry at you, they use the same words to insult you. Last year, Magomed locked you out in the middle of the night and you had to spend the night at your neighbor’s. The next day, you took the children and went to your father’s house, but your father and brothers told you that you had to go back to your husband. Since then things have gotten worse. Magomed has beaten you and locked you out of the house multiple times, knowing you have no family to turn to.

Last night, Magomed beat you badly and kicked you out of the house. You went to your neighbor Mariama’s home, where you had gone before when you were locked out. Mariama asked if you went to the hospital since she could see you were in pain, but you told her you did not want to go to the hospital since Magomed has friends who work there and you are afraid if they see you they will tell Magomed and it will make things worse. When you tried to go home this morning, Magomed asked where you had been and accused you of cheating on him and threatened to kill you. You are afraid to return home but feel you have nowhere else to go. You were able to get your children to your sister’s home, but you are not sure where to go from here and deeply afraid that if you try to leave or divorce Magomed he will get custody of your children and you will be left alone and with nothing.

Last time Magomed kicked you out you went to a clinic and told them your whole story but they insisted you go to the hospital, so you were hesitant to go back, and also hesitant to do it all over again at the new center. You are still in pain and extremely distraught about where to go and what will happen to your children.

**Background for “Mariama”**

Your neighbor Salima has been having problems with her husband, who locked her out of their house last night, so she came to stay at your house. This has happened once before. You don’t know all the details but you do know that Salima’s husband doesn’t treat her well.

You take Salima to see someone who you have heard will help women in her situation.