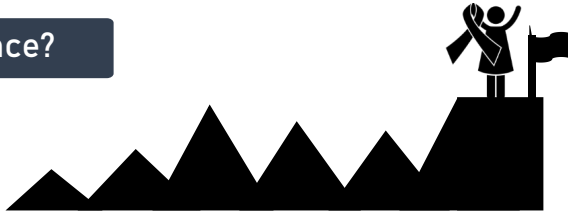


## From Relapse to Desistance: The Process of Desistance for Female Drug Offenders

### What is desistance?



For offenders, Desistance is a journey filled with **ups and downs**, that involves **multiple relapses** before one successfully stays **crime-free**.

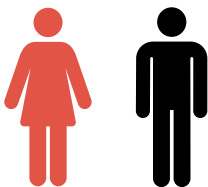
### How can we identify 'successful desisters'?

What desisters have that drug reoffenders don't:



### Gender-responsive needs

Compared to MALE drug desisters,



**FEMALE** drug desisters emphasise more **relational factors** for change, such as:



Motivation to change for **family & children**



Emotional connectedness with **significant others**



Willingness to receive supervision provided by **significant others**

### How can we help?

When working with female repeat drug abusers,



Use a **strength-based** approach



**Tailor** interventions that meet an individual's **multiple needs**



Help them build a strong **social support** system



Change is difficult - set **realistic** goals and be encouraging!