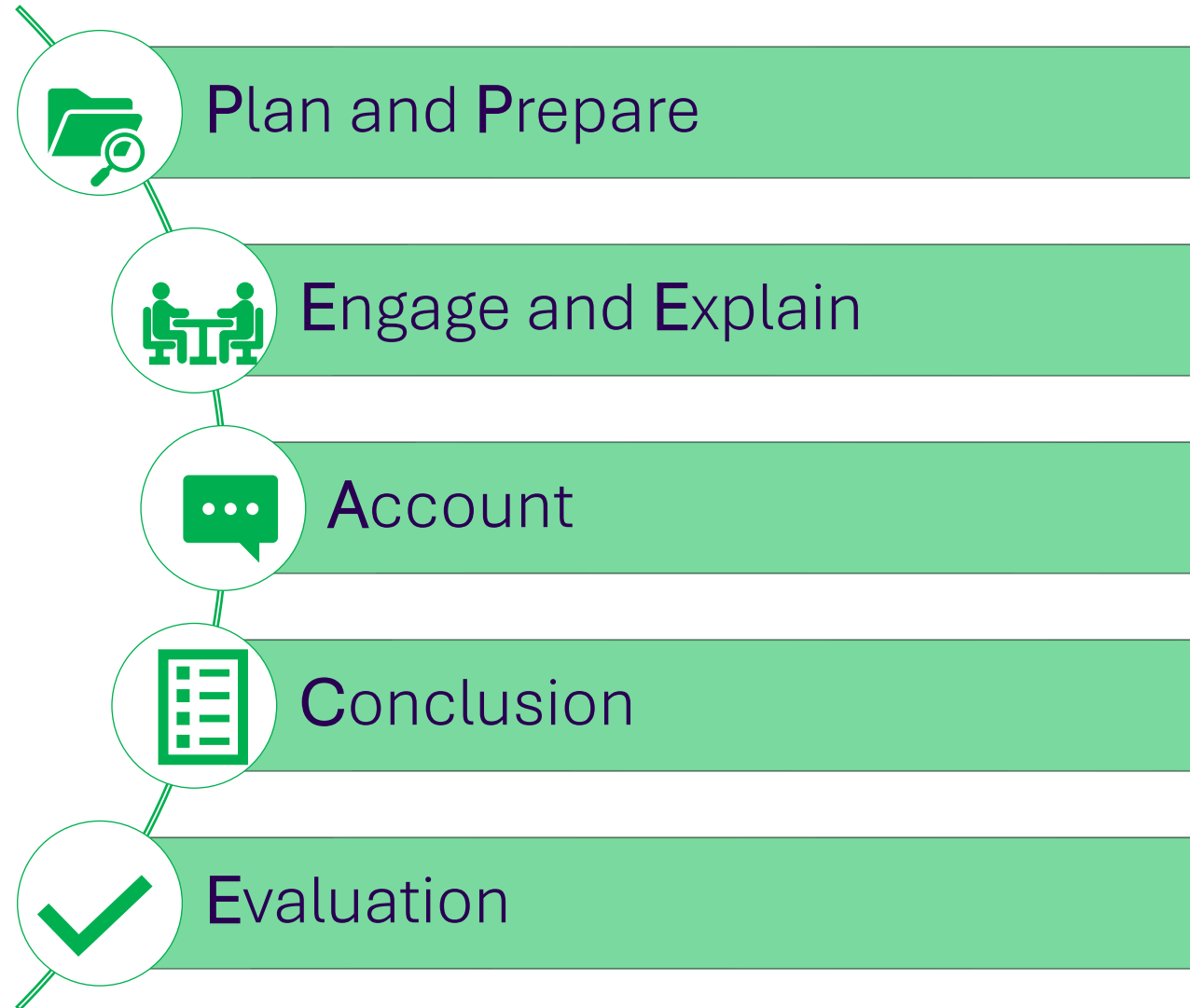


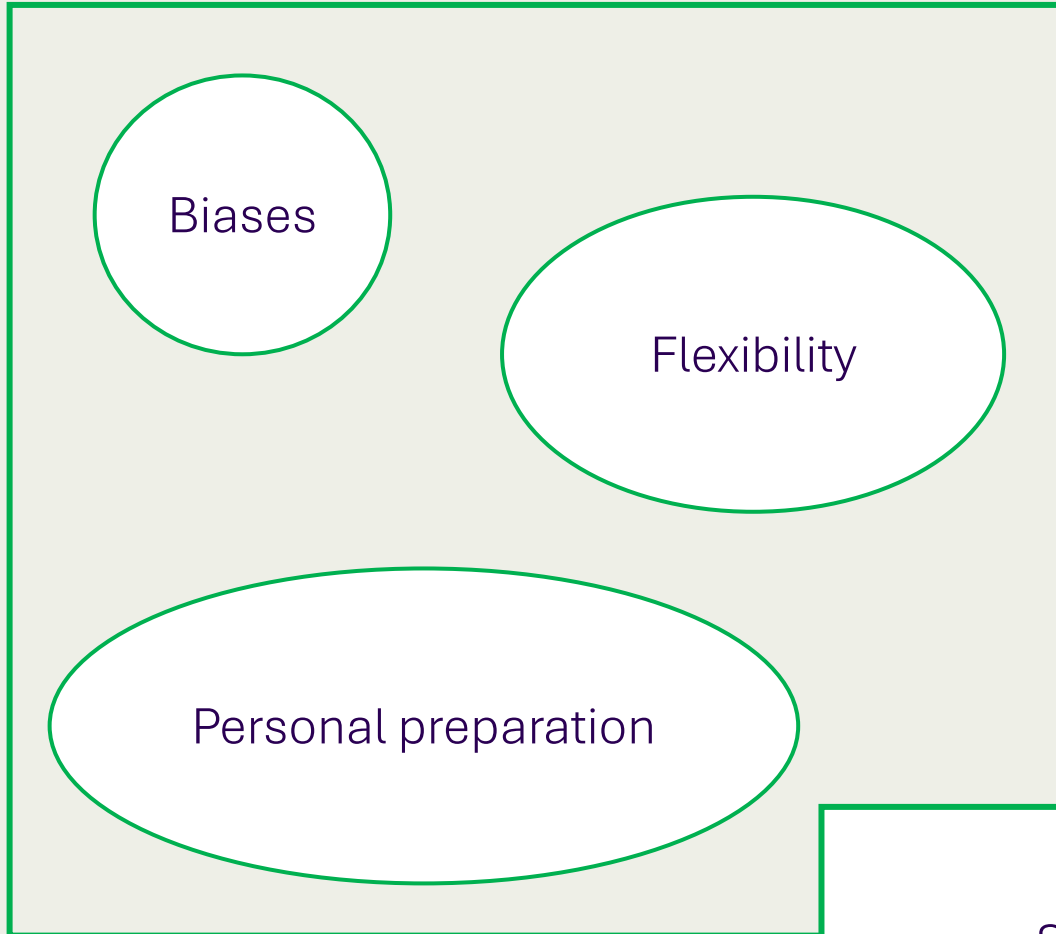
Gender-sensitive interviews in RSD and beyond: PEACE model and dialogue in interviews

Giulia Cragolini-expert on forced
migration
WILR Workshop, 11 June 2026

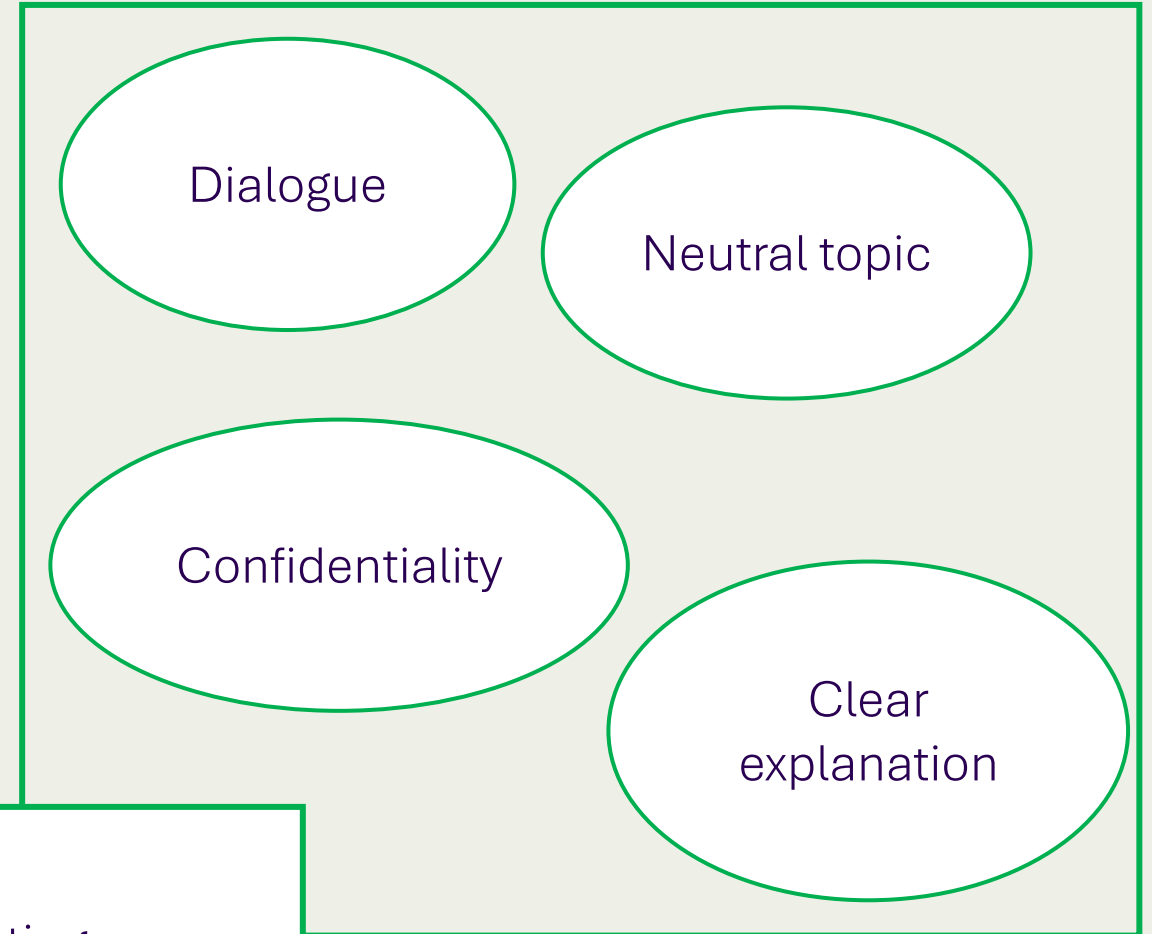
P.E.A.C.E.



Plan and Prepare



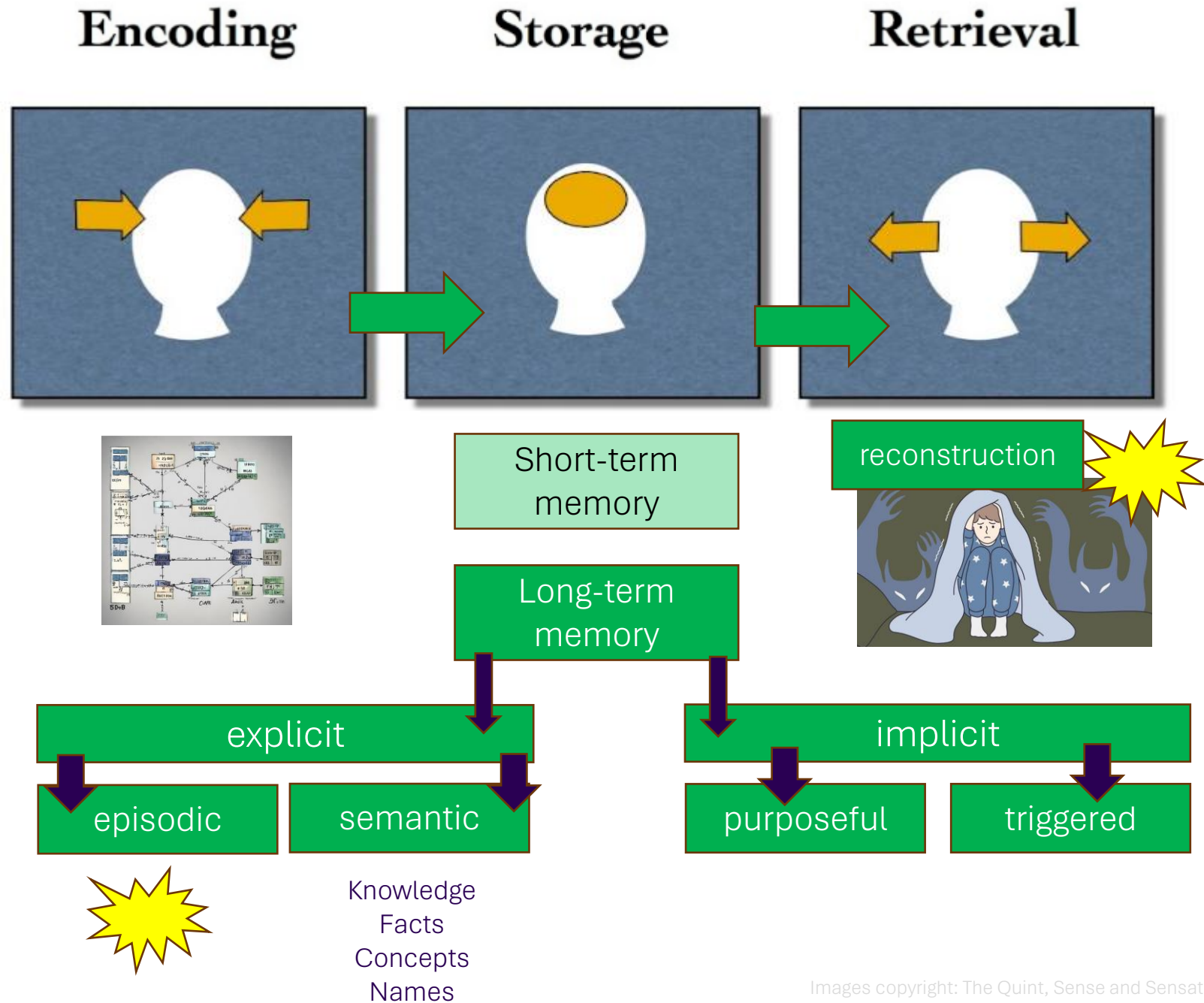
Engage and Explain



Safe setting

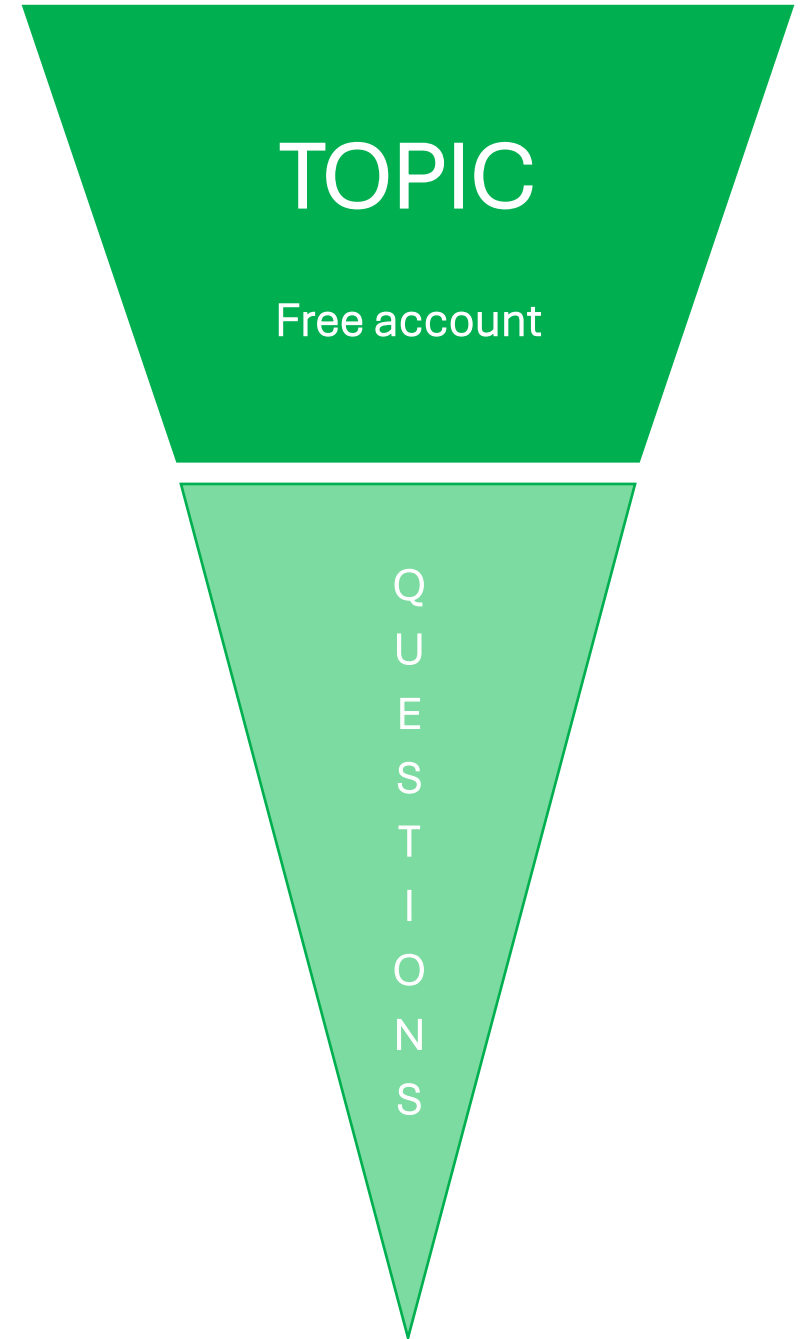
Account

- Everyone expert on their life
- Active listening
- Mirroring
- Be patient
- Memory and trauma

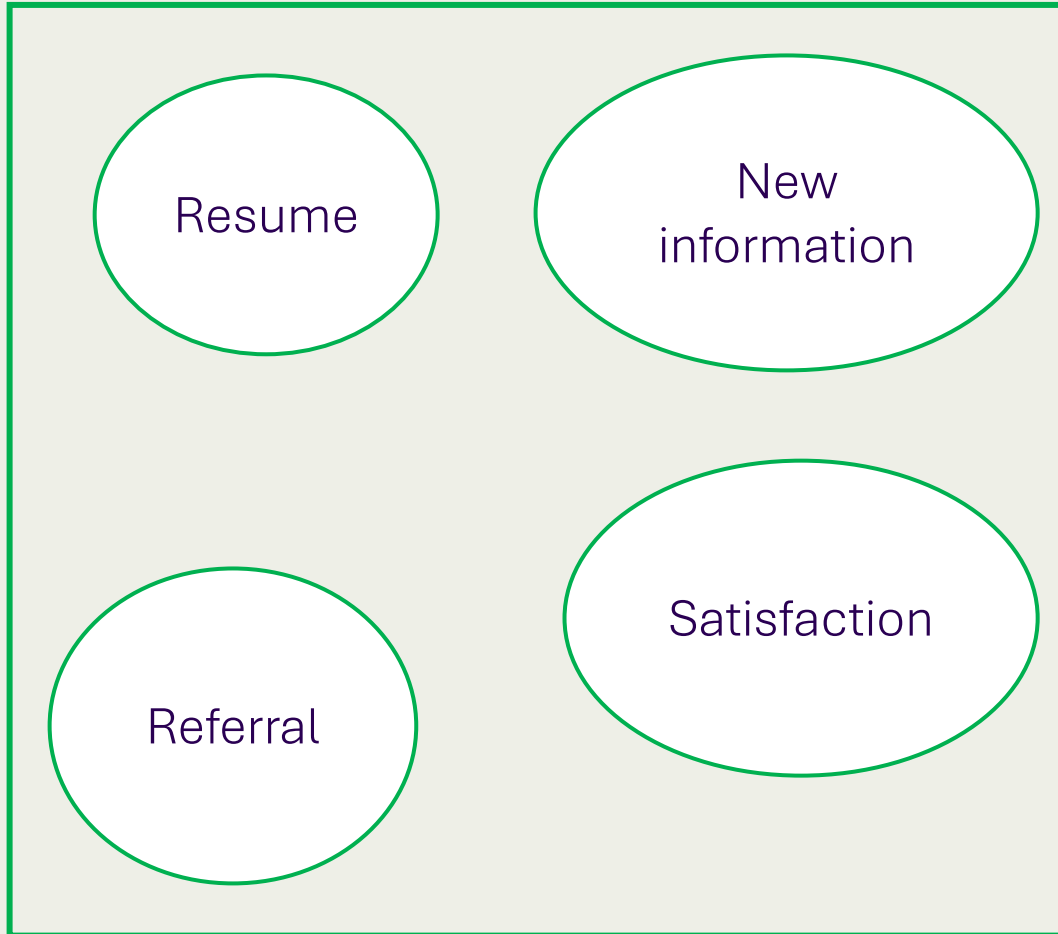


Types of questions

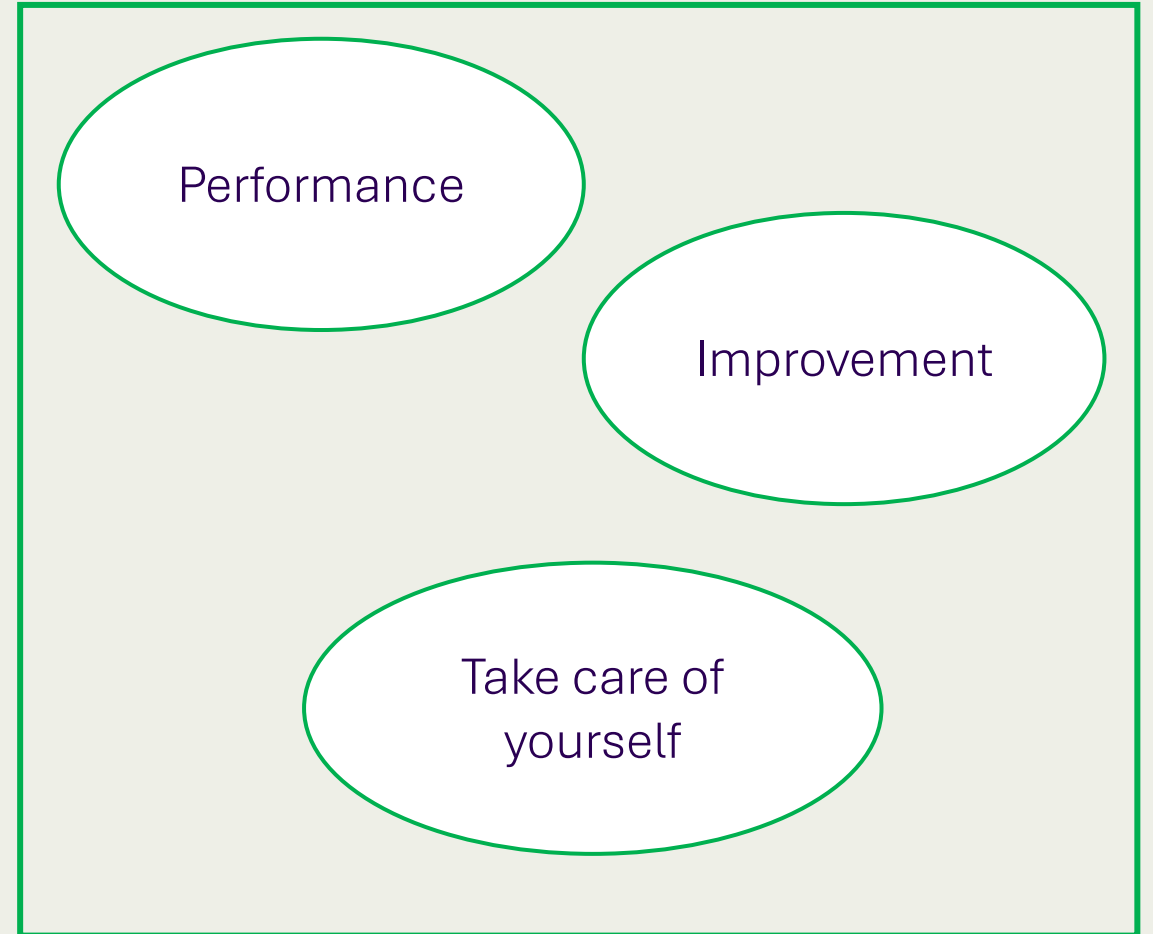
- TED questions (Tell, Explain, Describe)
- Probing questions (what, when, where, who, why, how)
- !! Avoid leading questions



Conclusion



Evaluation





CASE STUDY
ANALYSIS
&
DISCUSSION

Saman's case

Saman is a **young woman from Country A**. She is married to Abir and they have no children.

The first years of their marriage were good but then Abir forced her to leave her job as a primary school teacher. He also accused her of cheating and of being a bad woman because "*she had not been able to give him a child*". He prohibited her from leaving the house and used to lock her in a room when he was away. Saman started being very afraid of Abir, who also started beating her severely.

Saman tried to talk about her situation with her mother, but she was told to be silent and respect her husband.

Meanwhile, **the security situation in Country A deteriorated** after the Army overthrew the government in a coup.

Abir and Saman fled and **sought asylum in Country B**. They were accommodated together in a small apartment Abir continued to exert constant control over Saman. He also remained aggressive and rude towards her, telling her she was stupid and a burden to him. He persisted in physically abusing her, often inflicting injuries with signs not immediately visible.

When the reception centre's social workers requested to speak to Saman alone, Abir insisted that it was unnecessary, claiming that Saman was too unintelligent to comprehend, and insisted that they only speak to him as only he knew what was best for his wife.

When the day of Saman's **asylum interview** arrived, Abir insisted on attending the interview with her. However, the case officer explained that it was not possible. Thus, Saman attended her interview alone.

1	<p>Case Officer: Why did you leave Country A? Saman: Because of the war.</p>
2	<p>Case Officer: There is no civil war in Country A, just some clashes between the Army and the Government. Saman: I am afraid.</p>
3	<p>Case Officer: Afraid of what? Are there any other reasons why you are afraid of going back to your country? Saman: My husband... he is aggressive with me.</p>
4	<p>Case Officer: Could you please tell me why? What is he doing to you? Saman: I cannot tell you. He will know, and he will become even more aggressive. It is better I don't say anything, or he will punish me.</p>
5	<p>Case Officer: Why haven't you gone to the police? Saman: I could not leave the house, and the police would not have done anything.</p>
6	<p>Case Officer: I know you are a primary school teacher, and now you are telling me you could not leave the house? This does not make sense. You are an educated woman; you could have told the police. Saman: I could not go to work.</p>
7	<p>Case Officer: Have you talked about your situation to the social workers? Saman: No.</p>
8	<p>Case Officer: You should, they can help you. Saman: My husband is always with me.</p>
9	<p>Case Officer: You can tell the social workers you want to speak alone with them, as we are doing today. It is not that difficult; today, as you can see, it was possible.</p>

Some time after the interview, **Saman's asylum request is rejected.**

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

- 1. Try to put yourself in Saman's shoes: how would you feel if you were posed these questions?**
 - 2. In your view, what is the most problematic aspect in this interview?**
 - 3. How would you approach the interview when:**
 - A) Saman replied that her husband is aggressive**
 - B) when she replied that she has not talked about her situation with the social workers?**
- Could you rephrase those questions?**



**KEY
MESSAGES**

Dialogic communication in interviews is paramount.

Prepare yourself and the environment before the interview.

Be conscious on how you frame your questions.

Trauma can impair memory.

Active listening is key.

Reflect: can you improve?