

What is domestic violence?

Domestic violence is a pattern of gender-based intimate partner or family violence with a central dynamic of power and control.

Physical Abuse

Psychological Abuse

Economic Abuse

Legal Abuse

Technological Abuse

Sexual Abuse

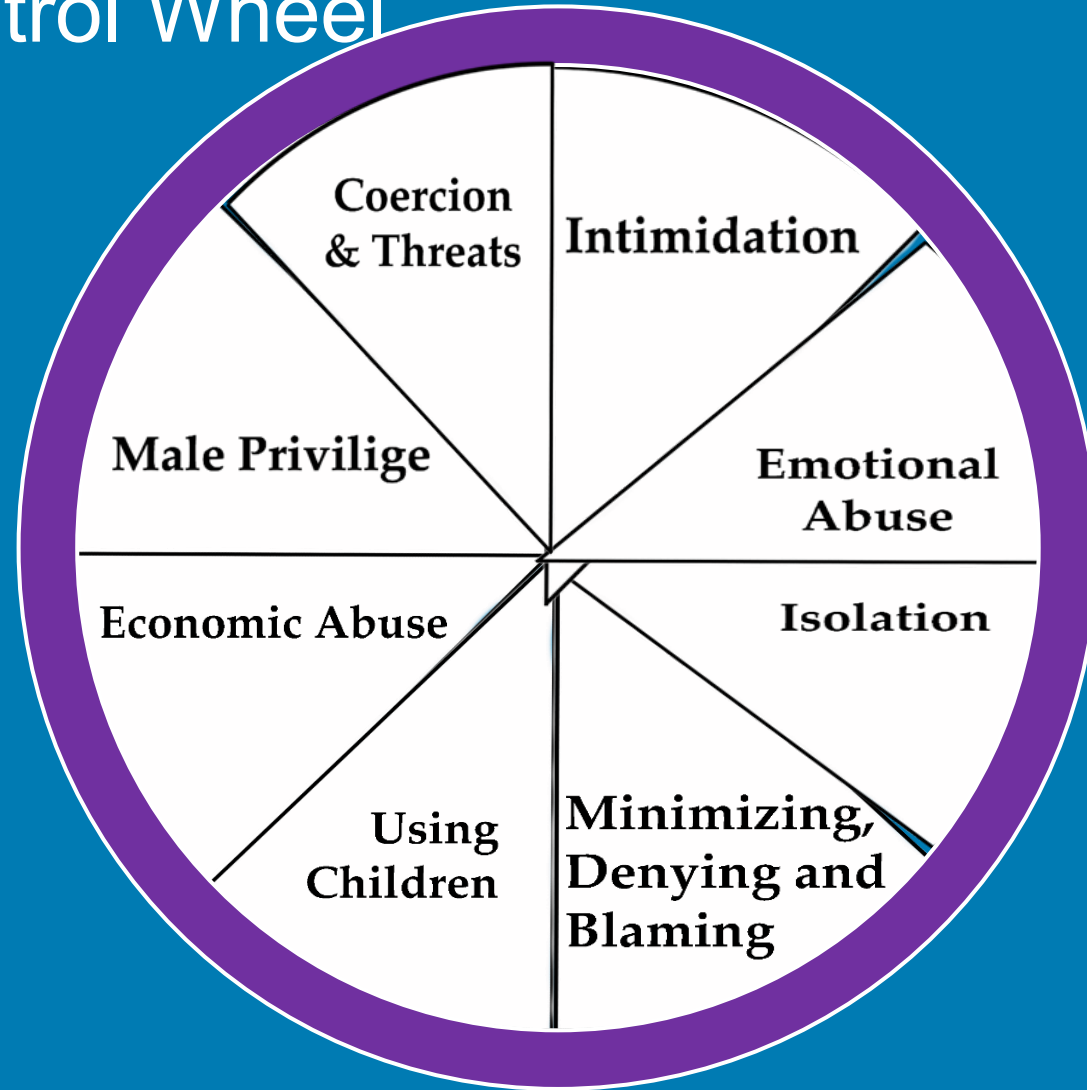


Important to note

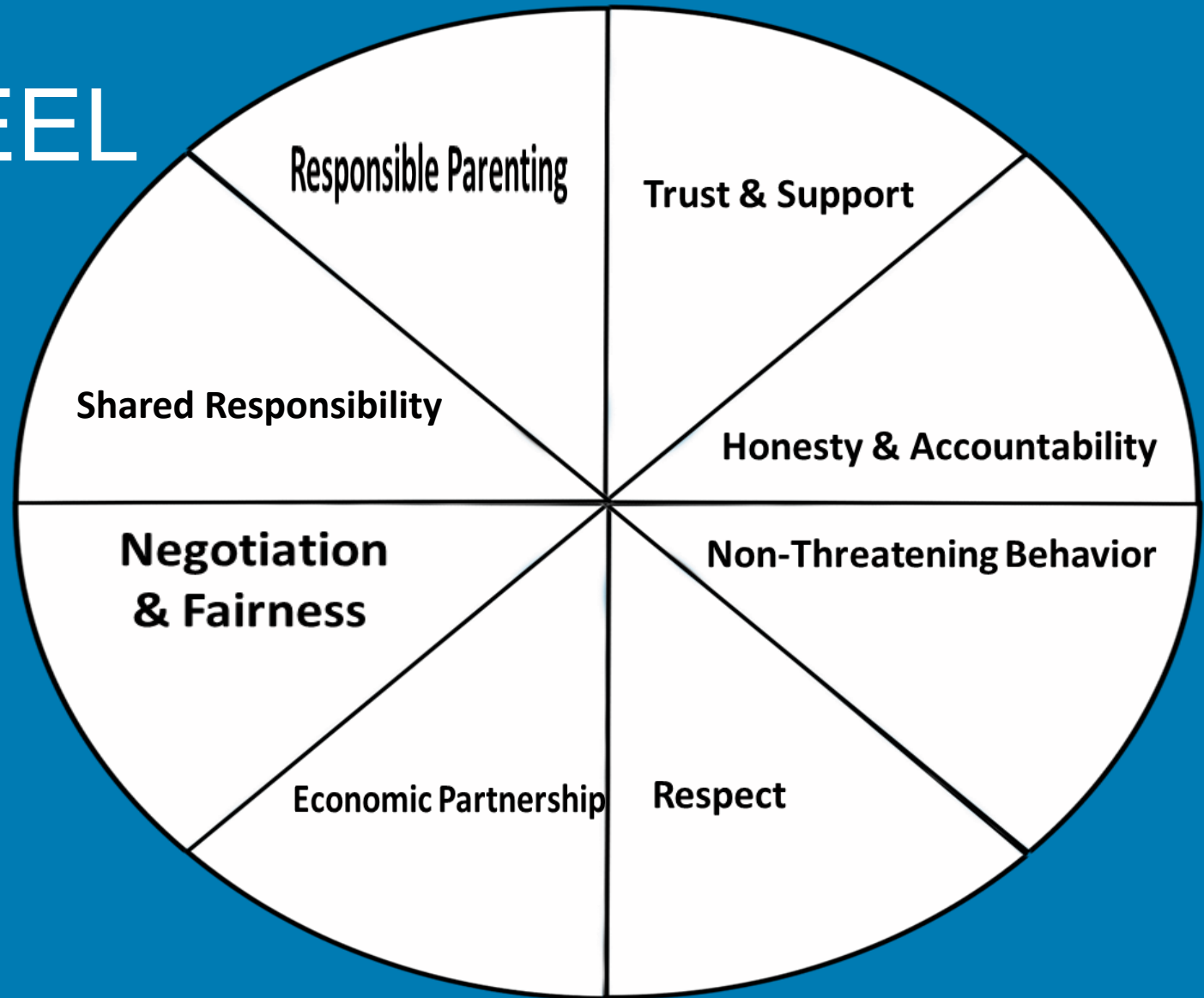
- Definitions
- Intimate Partner Violence – Specific to romantic dating, partner, or spousal abuse
- Victim or Survivor – A person being abused or experiencing abuse
- Abuser – The person who causes harm
- Sanctuary works primarily – not exclusively - with women



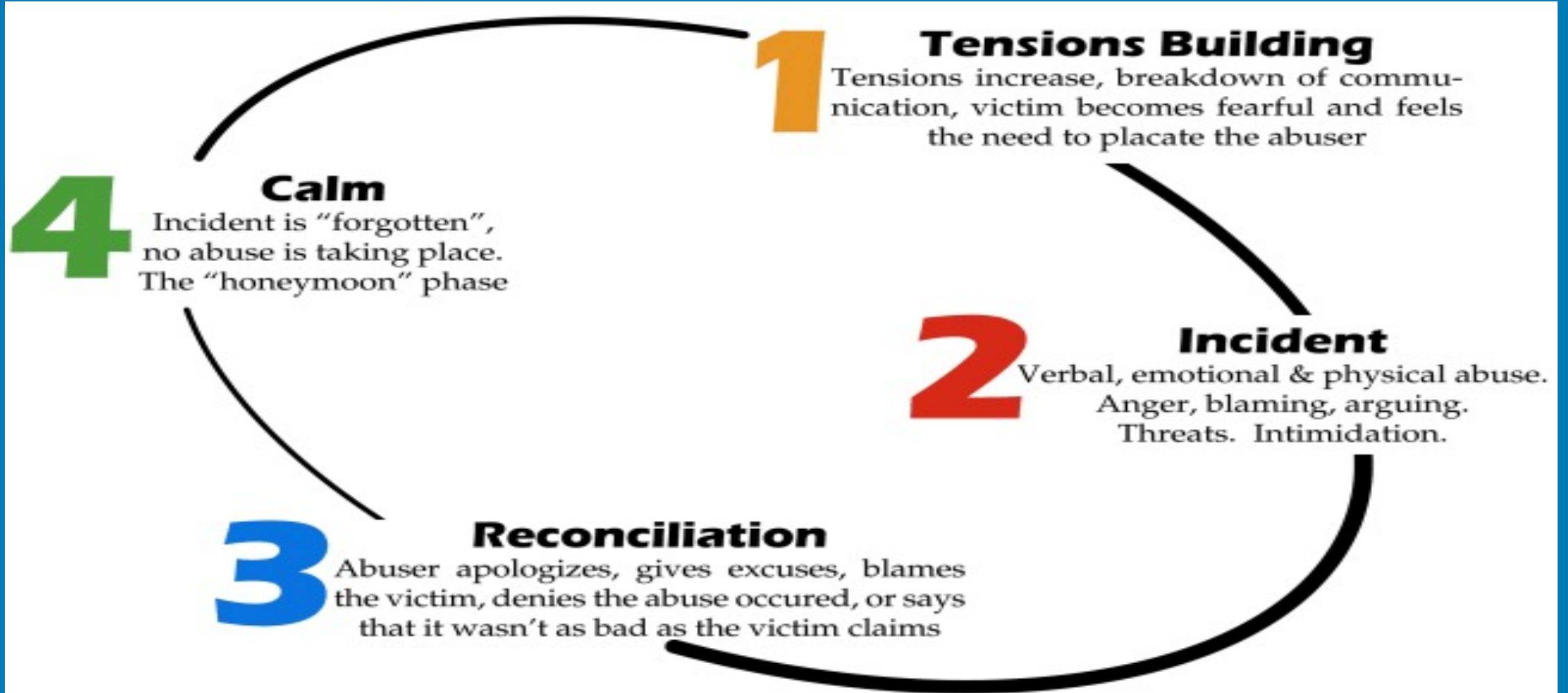
Power & Control Wheel



EQUALITY WHEEL



Cycle of Violence



About Sanctuary for Families

ABOUT SANCTUARY FOR FAMILIES



Sanctuary for Families

Our mission

- Sanctuary for Families is dedicated to the safety, healing and self-determination of victims of domestic violence and related forms of gender violence.
- Through comprehensive services for our clients and their children, and through outreach, education and advocacy, we strive to create a world in which freedom from gender violence is a basic human right.



Locations

- Sanctuary provides clinical and legal services to clients in 11 locations in 5 boroughs



About our clients

- Our clients come from 160 different countries:
- 94% are NYC residents
- 82% live in poverty
- 76% of adult clients are immigrants
- Sanctuary staff speak over 30 languages in order to communicate with our diverse community



Our Services Clinical

- 90+ staff members, including 50 masters-level social workers and support staff
- Served over 1,600 adults and children last year
- Programs include:
 - Individual and group counseling
 - Children & Family Services
 - Crisis Shelter Program
 - Continuing Care/Aftercare Programs
 - Survivor Leadership Program



Crisis shelter programs

- Five confidential shelter locations, including the Sarah Burke House transitional shelter and four emergency shelters in four boroughs
- Shelters serve 505 adults and children annually
- Locations are secure and confidential
- On-site supportive services include:
 - Childcare
 - Counseling
 - Housing and financial assistance
 - Family activities



Continuing care / aftercare programs

- Post-placement services for families who have been in our crisis or transitional shelters
- Assist families in transitioning into new communities
- Keep families independent from violence



SURVIVOR LEADER Program Overview

- From Survivor to Advocate
- Educate
- Support
- Advocate
- Empower
- Survivor-Led Programs & Policies



Legal services

- Largest legal center in the country exclusively dedicated to serving survivors of gender violence
- 85 staff members
- 1,100 pro bono attorneys
- Served over 6,000 adults and children each year
- Services include extended legal case representation, advocacy, and referrals



Legal services

Legal Center Projects Include:

- Immigration Intervention Project
- Courtroom Advocates Project
- Matrimonial/Economic Justice Project
- Family Law Project
- Anti-Trafficking Initiative



Economic Empowerment program

- Comprehensive career readiness and office technology training program
- Services include:
 - Internship placements
 - Employment referrals
 - Educational scholarships
 - Transit pass, stipends and childcare
- EEP Outcomes 2011 – 2018:
 - 726 graduates (81% completion rate)
 - Average salary of \$15.95/hour
 - Placed 423 jobs (62% placement rate)
- Over \$11 Million in aggregate payroll over the last 3 Calendar Years



Training & education

- We provide outreach, training and advocacy throughout the community to increase awareness and prevention
- Last year, we reached over 20,000 community members
- We train service providers, law enforcement, judges, court personnel, faith leaders, teachers, medical professionals and many others



Systems-change advocacy

- Staff, clients and supporters advocate for improved policies and legislation around issues affecting survivors of gender violence
- Focus on city and state-level advocacy

Current projects include:

- Cyber Sex Task force
- Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act
- End FGM



Systems-change advocacy

Advocacy victories include:

- Trafficking Victims Protection & Justice Act
- No-Fault Divorce and additional divorce reform
- Felony Strangulation
- Fair Access to Family Court
- Safe Harbor Act
- Stalking



Types of abuse

Abusers tactics of power and control

- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Psychological Abuse
- Economic Abuse
- Legal Abuse
- Technological Abuse



Sanctuary for Families

Physical abuse

- Most commonly known for of abuse
- Grabbing, choking, pushing, kicking, slapping, punching, biting, hair-pulling, burning
- Use of objects/weapons
- Forcing alcohol or drug abuse
- Withholding access to medication, medical care, and/or sleep



Physical abuse

- Direct physical injury
- Bruises, broken bones, lacerations, traumatic brain injury, vision and hearing impairment, damage to or loss of teeth
- Indirect physical injury
- Chronic headaches, pervasive body aches, feelings of dizziness
- Insomnia and disrupted or abnormal sleep
- Forced pregnancy, and childbearing



Sexual abuse

- Rape and sexual assault
- Assaults to victim's genital area or breasts
- Forcing victim to watch pornography
- Disseminating "revenge porn"
- Pressuring victim into sexual activity with another person
- Refusing to use a condom or other types of birth control
- Threatening to harm the children if victim refuses to have sex



Psychological abuse

- Threats, name-calling, constant criticism
- Blackmail
- Brandishing weapons
- Restricting access to the phone and outside world
- Sabotaging victim's relationship with her children
- Playing head games



Psychological effects

- Anxiety
- Depression
- Minimization/denial
- Numbness/flattened affect
- Memory loss
- Dissociation
- Shame, self-blame
- Self-medication
- Disrupted sleep



Economic abuse

- Preventing victim from working or attending school
- Demanding the victim turn over their earnings; forcing the victim to work longer hours or get a second job
- Not listing the victim as an owner of a car, home, or insurance policy
- Ruining the victim's credit
- Hiding marital assets
- Threats of not paying certain bills, such as rent, utilities, and etc.



Legal abuse

- Not as recognized as physical and psychological abuse
- Filing legal cases without basis
- Threatening to file custody cases against victim to take away the child
- Taking advantage of victim's economic status and filing a case in family court knowing victim has no financial resources to hire an attorney
- Falsely reporting victim to child welfare agency
- Filing retaliatory order of protection and/or custody cases
- Threatening deportation



Legal abuse

- Falsely reporting victim to law enforcement
- Threatening deportation
- Making false reports to child welfare agencies
- Filing retaliatory order of protection and/or custody cases
- Instituting frivolous legal proceedings that the victim cannot afford to fight



Stalking

- Surveillance – Follow, watch, obtain information, show up unexpectedly
- Life Invasion – Unwanted contact, property invasion, public humiliation
- Intimidation – Threats, property damage, threaten or harm self, forced confrontations
- Interference – Financial and work sabotage, ruining reputation



Stalking through technology

- Sending defamatory messages through email or social networks
- Tracking through GPS locator service or apps
- Installing spyware to intercept communications and personal information
- Spoofing (setting up a false online profile or using a false telephone number)



Technological abuse

- Restricting and monitoring phone and internet access
- Threatening to take away electronics
- Hacking into the victim's email and personal accounts
- Online stalking
- Using social media to retaliate
- Social media bullying
- Using the purchase of electronics to put children against parents
- Using social media to target children



Isolation

- Controlling who the victim interacts with
- Dictating what the victim reads, activities s/he engages in and where s/he goes
- Keeping the victim inside the home as much as possible
- Disapproving of family members and friends
- Using jealousy to justify actions



Denial, Blame, and minimization

- Making fun of the abuse and not taking her/his concerns seriously
- Saying the abuse never happened
- Shifting the responsibility for the behavior
- Saying the victim caused it



Coercion and threats

- Making and/or carrying out threats to do something to hurt the partner
- Threatening to leave the partner or report the person to authorities
- Threatening to make a false allegation



Use of children

- Threatening to take children away
- Making her/him feel like an unfit parent
- Using the children to induce guilt
- Relaying messages through the children
- Using visitation as a forum to harass victim
- Dictating parental responsibilities
- Isolating children from victim/intentionally creating a divide



Intergenerational trauma

- Trauma has a way of repeating itself from one generation to another
- Recreate this experience in adulthood
- Choose violent partners
- Recreate the dysfunctional home or childhood that one grew up in



Effects on Children

- Children who witness domestic violence are more likely to exhibit behavioral and health problems. (Family Violence Prevention Fund, 2005)
- Exposure to domestic violence can cause neurological damage in children.
- Exposure can lower a child's IQ, lead to premature aging, and influence the functioning of emotional systems.



Gender-based violence and immigration status

- It started after the birth of our son. I suffered a whole year in silence. He threatened to call immigration and have me deported if I called the police. I couldn't even tell my mother.” – Sanctuary client
- Lack of family or community support
- Language barriers
- Lack of information about the legal system
- Economic hardship due to lack of work authorization
- Abuser may be victim's immigration sponsor
- Forced immigration sponsorship of abuser if victim is U.S. citizen or green card holder



Immigrant Victims Face Special Challenges

- Lack of family or community support
- Language barriers
- Lack of information about the legal system
- Fear of deportation
- Divorce may be highly stigmatized in their culture
- Economic hardship due to lack of work authorization
- Abuser may be her immigration sponsor



A commonly Asked question

- If domestic violence has all of these negative effects on the victim and her children, why doesn't she just leave?

What's wrong with this question?

- Blames the victim for the abusive partner's behavior.
- Assumes that leaving is a safe option!



Leaving an Abuser

- Victims typically try 6 to 8 times to end an abusive relationship before they finally succeed.
- (Nat'l Domestic Violence Hotline)



Barriers to leaving & getting help

- Love: Abuser is intimate partner or family member.
- Hope: “Things will get better.”
- Loyalty: Victim is committed to stay with her partner or family.
- Identity: Victim feels that she needs the relationship to be “whole.”
- Security: Societal pressure for individuals to be in relationships.
- Fear of being alone: Having to cope with life and children alone.
- Parenting: Wanting children to grow up with a father.
- Social isolation: Abuser prevents victim from connecting with anyone outside the home.



- Coercion: Abusive partner threatens the victim, if she leaves.
- Fear for victim's survival: Fear that the abusive partner will find the victim and kill/harm her or her children.
- Fear of partner's suicidal threats
- Lack of support: Pressure by family, friends, and society to stay together. Lack of knowledge of available resources.
- Cultural pressure: Belief in marital roles and respect for elders' decisions. Shame brought by divorce or leaving family.
- Sex role socialization: Women are expected to be submissive and men are expected to be more dominant.



Obstacles to Leaving

- Fear of retaliation
- Economic dependence
- Lack of support system
- Desire to keep the family together
- Fear that the children will lose their father
- Psychological effects, including traumatic bonding
- Family and/or community pressure



