

Pastoral Care in Response to Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence is a behavior by a spouse, intimate partner, or ex-partner that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviors.

The victim of abuse is not responsible for that abuse. Each of us is responsible for our own actions. It is not the responsibility of the victim to help regulate or “fix” the abuser’s mood or actions. Many victims believe that if they change, the violence will change, but this is most often not the case, unless the abuse is mutual.

Both women and men can be victims of domestic abuse. According to the [National Domestic Violence Hotline](#) statistics, approximately 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men over the age of 18 have been the victim of physical domestic violence, and almost 50% of both sexes have experienced some form of domestic psychological aggression.

What is Included in the Toolkit:

- The different types of domestic violence
- The Do’s & Don’ts for working with a survivors of domestic violence
- The Do’s & Don’ts for working with an abusive partner
- Men who are victims of domestic violence
- Why do people stay
- Understanding the Cycle of Violence
- Power and Control Wheel
- A sample Safety Plan

“The matrimonial union requires respect for and a perfecting of the true personal subjectivity of both (spouses).”

St. John Paul II, Familiaris Consortio, no.11

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What is domestic violence?

Domestic violence is behavior by a spouse, intimate partner, or ex-partner that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviors.

Types of domestic violence:

Physical abuse: hitting, punching, slapping, kicking, scratching, use of a weapon, etc.

Sexual abuse: violent rape, coerced sexual relations, any unwanted sexual behavior.

Emotional abuse: insults, name-calling, mind-games, putdowns.

Economic abuse: denying access and information regarding finances, taking property and money spouse earns, spending household money on alcohol and drugs and depriving the family.

Controlling Behaviors and Social Isolation: not allowing the spouse (or children) to be in contact with family, friends, and associates; not allowing spouse to work or better family situation. Keeping spouse in the house against their will; imprisonment.

Intimidation: threats to hurt or kill the spouse, to kill oneself if spouse tries to leave, to report her/him to authorities if undocumented; threats against the children.

Religious abuse: misusing Catholic teaching or Scripture to justify domination and abuse; forcing the spouse to practice your faith, or denying her/him the freedom to practice her/his own faith.

Male privilege: speaking and acting with expressions of male superiority and failure to accept the equality of men and women before God; treating the spouse like a servant and an object (including for sex).

Child abuse: In this case, the intention is to hurt the child, or sometimes stepchild, in order to hurt the spouse. It can include threats to take the child away from the other parent or actual abduction of the child.

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When A Person Discloses Domestic Violence:

REMEMBER:

- Never counsel a victim and abuser together.
- Never go to the scene of an incident in progress.
- Assist the person to get medical, legal or social services.
- Listen. She/he needs the affirmation of listening.
- Allow the person to make their own decisions.
- Be cautious about giving advice.
- Be patient: the first disclosure may be confused or partial.
- Look for and appreciate the inner strength of each person.

What you can say:

- I believe you.
- You are not alone.
- You have good reason to be afraid.
- What can I do to help you right now?
- What do you see as the next step?

What you do not say:

- This is God's will.
- We all have burdens.
- You must forgive and take your partner back.

If there is an immediate threat of violence call 9-1-1!

If the violence occurred in the past, ask the individual if the police have been called, if she/he would like to contact police or file for a protective order. If the person doesn't want to contact the police or obtain a protective order, respect that choice. Survivors know their situation best.

Assess safety:

Many people suffer psychological, emotional, and economic abuse and need counseling and support. Individuals living with intimate partner abuse may not realize that some situations are very dangerous. Guns, threats of murder or suicide, a recent or planned separation indicate high risk for lethal violence.

Connect her/him to:

The National Domestic Violence hotline:

1 (800) 799-SAFE (7233)

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The DO'S & DON'TS for working with SURVIVORS of Domestic Violence:

- **DO** reassure her that this is not her fault, she doesn't deserve this treatment, and it is not God's will for her.
- **DO** give her referral information; primary resources are battered women's services or shelters and National Hotline. 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) / 1-800-787-3224 (TTY) or www.domesticshelters.org
- **DO** support and respect her choices. Even if she is aware of the risks and chooses initially to return to the abuser, it is her choice. She has the most information about how to survive.
- **DO** encourage her to think about a safety plan. This might include setting aside some money, copies of important papers for her and her children, a change of clothes hidden or in care of friends. It could also include a plan about how to exit the house the next time the abuser is violent, as well as considerations of what to do about the children if they are at school, if they are asleep, etc. Safety planning is an ongoing process that offers practical assistance and also helps her stay in touch with the reality of the abuser's violence.
- **DO** protect her confidentiality. DO NOT give information about her or her whereabouts to the abuser or to others who might pass information on to the abuser. Do not discuss with the parish council/session/elders who might inadvertently pass information on to the abuser. Do not add her name to a prayer chain for any reason.
- **DO** help her with any religious concerns.
- **DO** assure her of God's love and presence, of your commitment to walk with her through this valley of the shadow of death.
- **DO** help her see that her partner's violence has broken the marriage covenant and that God does not want her to remain in a situation where her life and the lives of her children are in danger.
- If she decides to separate and divorce, **DO** support her and help her to mourn the loss to herself and her children.

"Doubly poor are those women who endure situations of exclusion, mistreatment and violence, since they are frequently less able to defend their rights. Even so, we constantly witness among them impressive examples of daily heroism in defending and protecting their vulnerable families"

(Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel, 2013, no. 212).

Continued:

The DO'S & DON'TS for working with SURVIVORS of Domestic Violence:

- **DO** pray with her. Ask God to give her the strength and courage she needs.
- **DON'T** minimize the danger to her. You can be a reality check. "From what you have told me, I am very much concerned for your safety . . ."
- **DON'T** tell her what to do. Give information and support.
- **DON'T** react with disbelief, disgust, or anger at what she tells you. But don't react passively, either. Let her know that you are concerned and that what the abuser has done to her is wrong and is not deserved by her.
- **DON'T** blame her for his violence. If she is blaming herself, try to reframe: "I don't care if you did have supper late or forgot to water the lawn, that is no reason for him to be violent with you. This is his problem."
- **DON'T** recommend couples' counseling or approach her husband and ask for "his side of the story." These actions will endanger her.
- **DON'T** recommend "marriage enrichment," "mediation," or a "communications workshop." None of these will address the goals listed above.
- **DON'T** send her home with just a prayer and directive to submit to her husband, bring him to church, or be a better Christian wife.
- **DON'T** encourage her to forgive him and take him back.
- **DO NOT** encourage her dependence on you or become emotionally or sexually involved with her.
- **DON'T** do nothing.
- **DO** familiarize yourself with your local resources so that you have specific referrals to give to congregants. Meet with their representatives and know what services they are able to provide. Chief of these is the battered women's hotline and shelter or safe home network. National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or 1-800-787-3224 (TTY) or www.domesticshelters.org
- **DO** consult with colleagues in the wider community who may have expertise and be able to assist you in your response.

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The DO'S & DON'TS for working with an ABUSIVE Partner:

- If he has been arrested, **DO** approach him and express your concern and support for him to be accountable and to deal with his violence.
- **DON'T** meet with him alone and in private. Meet in a public place or in the church with several other people around.
- **DON'T** approach him or let him know that you know about his violence unless a) you have the survivor's permission, b) she is aware that you plan to talk to him and c) you are certain that she is safely separated from him.
- If the survivor has separated from him, stress the importance of his respecting her decision and observing any no-contact orders.
- **DO** address any religious rationalizations he may offer or questions he may have. **DON'T** allow him to use religious excuses for his behavior.
- **DO** name the violence as his problem, not hers. Tell him that only he can stop it, and that you are willing to help.
- **DO** refer to a state-certified domestic violence perpetrator intervention program.
- **DO** assess him for suicide or threats of homicide. **DO** warn the survivor if he makes specific threats towards her.
- **DON'T** pursue couples' counseling with him and his partner.
- **DON'T** go to him to confirm the survivor's story.

***So many times my loved ones told me to get out...
People were scared that something serious
would happen to me,
but me, I loved him.
He told me I was the problem
and I believed it.
– Domestic Victim Survivor***

Continued:

The DO'S & DON'TS for working with an ABUSIVE Partner:

- **DON'T** give him any information about his partner or her whereabouts.
- **DON'T** be taken in by his minimization, denial or lying about his violence.
- **DON'T** confuse his remorse with true repentance. DON'T forgive him quickly or easily. Doing so could endanger her and the children and keep him from facing what he has to face and doing the hard work he has to do to become a person of integrity again.
- **DON'T** accept his blaming her or other rationalizations for his behavior.
- **DON'T** be taken in by his “conversion” experience. If it is genuine, it will be a tremendous resource as he proceeds with accountability. If it is phony, it is only another way to manipulate you and the system and maintain control of the process to avoid accountability.
- **DON'T** advocate for the abuser to avoid the legal consequences of his violence. DON'T provide a character witness for this purpose in any legal proceedings.
- **DON'T** send him home with just a prayer. Work with others in the community to hold him accountable.
- **DO** pray with him. Ask God to help him stop his violence, repent and find a new way. DO assure him of your support in this endeavor.
- **DO** find ways to collaborate with community agencies and law enforcement to hold him accountable.

“If either of the spouses causes grave mental or physical danger to the other spouse or to the offspring or otherwise renders common life too difficult, that spouse gives the other a legitimate cause for leaving [i.e. separation]”
(Code of Canon Law, 1153.1).

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Men Can Be Victims of Abuse Too

According to the CDC, one in seven men age 18+ in the U.S. has been the victim of severe physical violence by an intimate partner in his lifetime. One in 10 men has experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner.

Although men make up a smaller percentage of callers to The National Domestic Hotline, there are likely many more men who do not report or seek help for their abuse, for a variety of reasons:



Men are socialized not to express their feelings or see themselves as victims.

Our culture still clings to narrow definitions of gender (although there are signs that this is slowly shifting). Young boys are taught not to express their emotions, to “suck it up” and “be a man.” Tony Porter calls this the “man box” in his well-known TED talk. This can be extremely detrimental to boys as they age, especially if they find themselves in an abusive relationship. Men may feel discouraged to talk about what’s going on in their personal lives, or they feel like no one will believe them. They may not even realize that they are being abused, or they might assume they should just deal with the abuse on their own.



Pervading beliefs or stereotypes about men being abusers, women being victims.

The majority of domestic violence stories covered by the media are about male perpetrators and female victims who are typically in heterosexual relationships. While we certainly don’t want to minimize this violence, focusing on only one type of situation renders invisible the many scenarios that do not fit this definition, including abusive relationships among homosexual, bisexual, and trans* men. This might make many victims feel like they don’t have the space or the support to speak out about their own experiences and seek help.



The abuse of men is often treated as less serious, or a “joke.”

We’ve seen this in action in pop culture. When a man is abused, many people don’t take it as seriously (in part due to the previous two reasons we’ve mentioned). The truth is, abuse is not a joke, in any situation, between any two people. All victims deserve support and resources to help them feel safe.



Many believe there are no resources or support available for male victims.

It can seem like the majority of shelters and services for domestic violence victims are women-focused. However, services for male victims do exist. Most federal funding sources require that domestic violence services be provided to all victims of abuse. Our advocates can provide information, assist with safety planning, and/or find local resources, if available. They can also help brainstorm alternative options if local programs are not meeting the requirements for male victims, including who a caller may be able to contact if they believe they have experienced discrimination.

Continued:

Men Can Be Victims of Abuse Too

The warning signs that a man could be a victim fall into four main categories:

- Changes in behaviour or demeanour
 - Changes in physical appearance and clothing
 - Changes in contact pattern
 - Changes in work behaviour
-

Warning Signs:

★ **Warning signs of Psychological Control:**

- Seem afraid of or are anxious to please their partner
 - Go along with everything their partner says and does
 - Check in often with their partner to report where they are and what they're doing
 - Are being belittled, humiliated, and humiliated – “he is a rubbish, weak men”
 - If a father's children are persuaded by their mother to turn against him (Parental Alienation)
 - Threatened that if he leaves he will never see his children again
 - Threatened with false accusations that he is the perpetrator
 - Being convinced they are going ‘mad’ or losing their ‘mind’ (called “Gaslighting”)
 - Receive frequent, harassing phone calls from their partner
 - Talk about their partner's temper, jealousy, or possessiveness
 - Have very low self-esteem, even if they used to be confident
 - Threatened that if he leaves, he will be falsely accused of carrying out domestic abuse, sexual violence and even sexual abuse against the children
 - Show major personality changes (an outgoing person becomes withdrawn)
 - Be depressed, anxious, or suicidal
 - Take up, or, increase drink or drugs usage
 - Not taking his appearance seriously (being unkempt, unhygienic)
 - Looking unwell (including lack of sleep/insomnia)
-

★ **Warning signs of Physical Abuse:**

- Have frequent injuries, with the excuse of “accidents” (“I walked into the door again...”)
- Frequently miss work or social occasions, without explanation
- Dress in clothing designed to hide bruises or scars (wearing long sleeves in the summer or sunglasses indoors)

★ **Warning signs of Isolation:**

- Be restricted from seeing family and friends
 - Never or rarely goes out in public without their partner
 - Has no (or no longer has) access to social media
 - Not being able to go to or return from work on their own
 - Have limited access to money, credit cards, or the car
 - You may hear (in person or via the ‘grapevine’) from his partner that he now has no time for or dislikes his friends and family
-

★ **Steps for men who are being abused to take include:**

- The first step in getting help is reaching out.
- **Leave if possible.** Be aware of any signs that may trigger a violent response from your partner and be ready to leave quickly. If you need to stay to protect your children, call emergency services. The police have an obligation to protect you, just as they do for a female victim.
- Never retaliate. An abusive partner may try to provoke you into retaliating or using force to escape the situation. If you do retaliate, you're putting yourself at risk of being arrested or removed from your home.
- Document Everything. Report all incidents to the police and get a copy of each police report. Include a photographic record of your injuries and make sure your doctor or hospital also documents your injuries.
- Work with an Advocate of a domestic violence assistance program.
- Get counseling so you can start healing.

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Cycle of Abuse

Domestic violence often follows a script that survivors know very well. Many advocates attest that abusers are not impulsive or out of control, but rather rigidly in control. They carefully plan and calculate their abuse, whether it's subtle forms of control or threatening acts of violence.

In many domestic violence advocacy circles, these scripts are called the Cycle of Abuse, or Cycle of Violence. This cycle is a four-stage pattern that abusive behavior can take—sometimes hundreds of times over. An abuser might cycle through these four stages in anywhere from a few hours to a year or more.

Domestic abuse victims fall into a script of their own. They begin repeating the lines over and over to themselves, and to friends and family, until the familiar phrases begin to sound like a broken record.

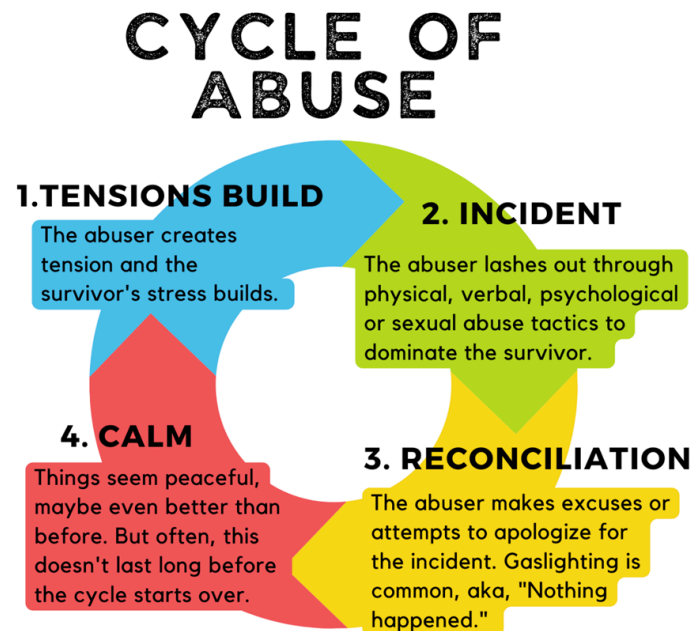
It'll never happen again.

She says she's really sorry.

It's my fault I made him angry—I should be a better partner.

She's just stressed out right now.

He's only controlling because he loves me.



Note: The Cycle of Abuse was originally created by psychologist Lenore Walker.
The Cycle does not represent all cases of domestic violence.

DomesticShelters.org

Continued: Cycle of Abuse

1. The First Phase: Tension Building

The cycle begins with tension building, creating fear in the victim. This tension might come from stress related to everyday events like work, family conflict or financial problems. It could also come from bigger events like illness and catastrophic events. It's important to note that most people can cope with stressors like these without taking it out on others—the abuser is just using these events as an excuse to justify their actions.

Victims might try to placate the abuser and avoid the next phase of violence by becoming submissive or extra helpful. Other victims might try to provoke the abuser into the violence they both know is coming; this can be a survival strategy to lessen the impact of the abuse, have control of where and when it happens or just to “get it over with.”

2. The Second Phase: Incident

Next, there is an incident. This may be the abuser lashing out with physical, verbal, emotional or psychological abuse such as hitting, slapping, strangling, belittling, name-calling, screaming or yelling and threatening.

While the entire Cycle of Abuse is a method abusers use to exert power and control over their victim, the incident phase is often a particularly frightening and dangerous time of the abuser trying to dominate the victim.

3. The Third Phase: Reconciliation

The third phase of the Cycle of Abuse is the “reconciliation” phase, though it could also be called “the excuse stage.” During this phase, the abuser might apologize for their behavior, try to excuse it (“I’m just stressed because of work.”) or blame it on the victim and falsely put the impetus on the victim to avoid it happening again (“Don’t make me so angry.”)

Gaslighting is often common during this phase, as the abuser denies that anything happened or that the incident wasn’t abuse.

4. The Fourth Phase: Calm

Finally, the final stage—calm. The incident has been forgiven and, for a while, things seem back to normal or even better than before. Survivors sometimes refer to this as “the honeymoon stage.” Sometimes abusers will use love-bombing to “make up for” the abuse, though this further manipulation is actually designed to keep the victim off-guard and remaining with the abuser. However, the calmness of this phase doesn’t last. Eventually, tension begins to build again. The abuser’s apologies and promises become insincere or vanish entirely. Before long, another abusive incident occurs.

Escalation and the Cycle of Abuse

The length of the cycle usually diminishes over time, bringing abusive incidents closer and closer together. The “reconciliation” and “calm” stages can disappear completely, leaving only tension that builds quickly into violence.

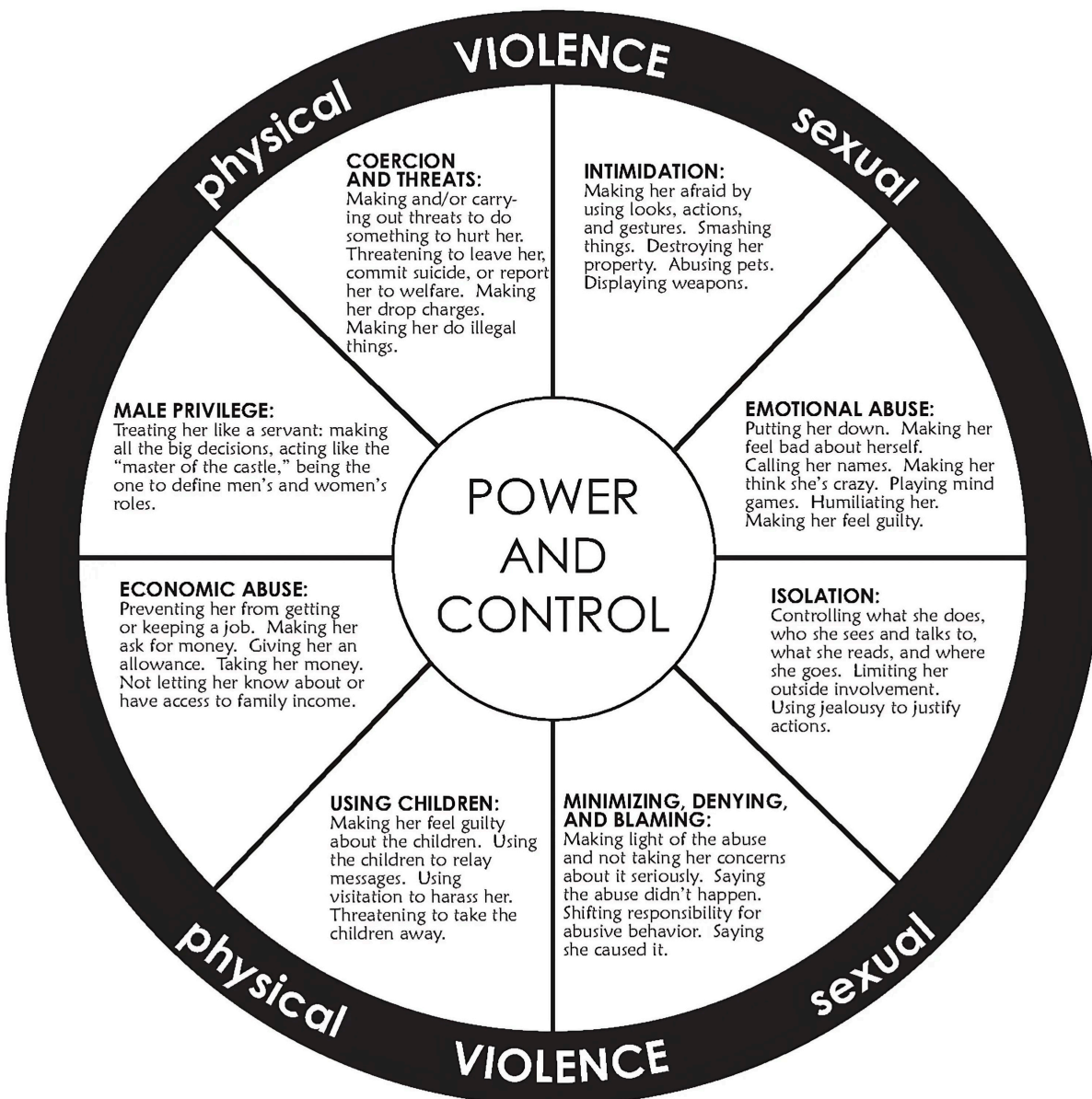
Many survivors are either too ashamed or too fearful to leave their abuser, convinced that they’ve now let it go on too long, or that it was their fault the abuse started in the first place. This, of course, isn’t true—instead, victims are actually caught in a carefully designed and planned cycle made to trap them under the power and control of their abuser.

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POWER AND CONTROL WHEEL

Physical and sexual assaults, or threats to commit them, are the most apparent forms of domestic violence and are usually the actions that allow others to become aware of the problem. However, regular use of other abusive behaviors by the batterer, when reinforced by one or more acts of physical violence, make up a larger system of abuse. Although physical assaults may occur only once or occasionally, they instill threat of future violent attacks and allow the abuser to take control of the woman's life and circumstances.

The Power & Control diagram is a particularly helpful tool in understanding the overall pattern of abusive and violent behaviors, which are used by a batterer to establish and maintain control over his partner. Very often, one or more violent incidents are accompanied by an array of these other types of abuse. They are less easily identified, yet firmly establish a pattern of intimidation and control in the relationship.



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Pastoral Care in Response to Domestic Violence



Why People Stay

It's not as easy as simply walking away.

Abusive relationships are extremely complex situations, and it takes a lot of courage to leave. Abuse is about power and control. When a survivor leaves their abusive relationship, they threaten the power and control their partner has established over the survivor's agency, which may cause the partner to retaliate in harmful ways.

As a result, leaving is often the most dangerous period of time for survivors of abuse.

Beyond the physical risks of leaving an abusive situation, there are countless other reasons why people stay in their relationships.

No matter the circumstances, survivors deserve to be supported in their decision-making and empowered to reclaim control over their own lives.

Common reasons why people stay in abusive relationships include:

Fear

A person will likely be afraid of the consequences if they decide to leave their relationship, either out of fear of their partner's actions or concern over their own ability to be independent.

Normalized abuse

If someone grew up in an environment where abuse was common, they may not know what healthy relationships look like. As a result, they may not recognize that their partner's behaviors are unhealthy or abusive.

Shame

It can be difficult for someone to admit that they've been or are being abused. They may feel that they've done something wrong, that they deserve the abuse, or that experiencing abuse is a sign of weakness. Remember that blame-shifting is a common tactic that their partner may use and can reinforce a sense of responsibility for their partner's abusive behaviors.

Intimidation

A survivor may be intimidated into staying in a relationship by verbal or physical threats, or threats to spread information, including secrets or confidential details (i.e. revenge porn etc).

Why People Stay

Low self-esteem

After experiencing verbal abuse or blame for physical abuse, it can be easy for survivors to believe those sentiments and believe that they're at fault for their partner's abusive behaviors.

Lack of resources

Survivors may be financially dependent on their abusive partner or have previously been denied opportunities to work, a place to sleep on their own, language assistance, or a network to turn to during moments of crisis. These factors can make it seem impossible for someone to leave an abusive situation.

Disability

If someone depends on other people for physical support, they may feel that their well-being is directly tied to their relationship; a lack of visible alternatives for support can heavily influence someone's decision to stay in an abusive relationship if they have a disability.

Immigration status

People who are undocumented may fear that reporting abuse will affect their immigration status. If they have limited English proficiency, these concerns can be amplified by a confusing and convoluted legal system and an inability to express their circumstances to others.

Cultural context

Traditional customs or beliefs may influence someone's decision to stay in an abusive situation, whether held by the survivor or by their family and community.

Children

Many survivors may feel guilty or responsible for disrupting their familial unit. Keeping the family together may not only be something that a survivor may value but may also be used as a tactic by their partner used to guilt a survivor into staying.

Love

Experiencing abuse and feeling genuine care for a partner who is causing harm are not mutually exclusive. Survivors often still have strong, intimate feelings for their abusive partner. They may have children together, want to maintain their family, or the person abusing them may simply be charming (especially at the beginning of a relationship) and the survivor may hope that their partner will return to being that person.

"My sense of self was disappearing like I was falling into a hole of nothingness. I was only something in relation to him."

-Domestic Abuse Survivor

"You can recognize survivors of abuse by their courage."

-Jeanne McElvaney, "Healing Insights: Effects of Abuse for Adults Abused as Children"

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Safety Planning

Clergy need to feel comfortable asking survivors about their safety and encouraging survivors to address safety needs. Be aware that a survivor's life may be at risk, as we know from experience that abuse can be life-threatening. Encourage her to contact a domestic violence advocate to help her strategize for her emotional, physical, and sexual safety.

A domestic violence advocate can assist the survivor in developing a safety plan. A safety plan is a fluid plan that helps survivors of domestic violence identify practical steps they can take to protect themselves, as well as strategies for dealing with specific incidents.

A safety plan should change as the needs and circumstances change. It should be regularly reviewed and updated.

A domestic violence advocate can help the survivor identify:

- How her partner undermines her emotional, physical, and/or sexual safety.
- Strategies that have helped her be safer in the past.
- Strategies that might increase her safety.
- Supportive persons who can assist her with her safety plans.
- The pros and cons of involving law enforcement, obtaining a protective order, and involving the criminal and civil legal systems.

It is helpful to acknowledge that the burden of staying safe does fall unfairly upon the survivor. The abuser is the one who is behaving inappropriately and yet the survivor is the one who has to alter her life. Offering to assist her with the process of implementing her safety plan can alleviate a piece of that burden.

Here are steps you can take:

1. Affirm

Her courageous act of speaking about the abuse should be affirmed.

You can tell her:

- I believe you.
- I care about you.
- I'm glad you told me.
- You are not alone.
- It's not your fault.
- You have good reason to be afraid.
- I'm glad you survived. You deserve a nonviolent life.

Continued: Safety Planning

2. Assess

- What support does she need to implement her safety plan?
- How can you and/or your congregation assist her – financially, emotionally and with practical steps?

3. Address safety issues related to her contact with you and with the church

- How will she tell her partner about her time spent with you?
- What will she do if her partner is at the church when she is there?
- What if he becomes abusive at the church?
- If the survivor wants you to talk with the abuser, explore how this will impact her safety.
- How will it impact her safety if you or others start to hold him accountable?

4. Refer

Domestic violence advocates are experts at doing a detailed safety plan with the survivor. Certain aspects of safety planning can be addressed by clergy, but certain aspects must be left to the experts. Tell the survivor that an advocate can help her develop a plan for emotional, physical, and sexual safety for herself and her children. If you are familiar with local domestic violence programs, give her a local hotline number and let her know about the services they provide. If you are not yet familiar with your local resources, refer her to the National Domestic Violence Hotline [1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or 1-800-787-3224 (TTY)].

5. Explain

Part of safety issues is explaining why it isn't the survivor's fault. The survivor may think, "If only I could do something to change it." But she can't.

- Explain that what she has experienced is abusive behavior.
- Abusive behavior is about power and control. That is why the survivor cannot change the abuser's behavior. His first commitment is to power and control over her.
- A controlling partner will always find something "wrong." The reasons her partner "explodes" are not the same as the reasons she believes he explodes.
- Changing herself or correcting what he has said were her mistakes will not stop the abuse.
- Her partner needs to demonstrate that he is in control. His abusive behavior is his way of showing his power over her.
- She can't change him and she can't win. That is the point of power and control. And that is why her safety must be the primary concern.

6. The Pastoral issue

Clergy need to ask "How does what I do help her become safe or keep her safe?" Ask yourself, "If I put this _____ [fill in the blank] first, does this help her be safe?" If in my pastoral care, I put this _____ [fill in the blank] first, does this help her be safe?" "Do her faith issues arise because of her lack of safety?"

Pastoral Care in Response to Domestic Violence



Resources:

National Domestic Violence Hotline

Call: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

Text: "START" to 88788

<https://www.thehotline.org/>

Find a Domestic Violence Shelter or Program

Domesticshelters.org

St. Elizabeth - Catholic Charities

New Albany

Domestic Violence Transitional Program

<https://www.stecharities.org/domestic-violence-transitional/>

812-949-7305

Catholic Charities - Holy Family Shelter

Indianapolis

<https://www.archindy.org/cc/holyfamily/index.html>

317-635-7830

Catholic Charities - Bethany House

Terre Haute

<https://www.ccthin.org/bethany-house>

812-232-1447

Educational Resources:

Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Office of Marriage and Family Life

<https://marriageandfamily.archindy.org/domesticviolence>

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

<https://www.usccb.org/topics/marriage-and-family-life-ministries/domestic-violence>