Social Factors and Domestic Violence

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Domestic Violence

A pattern of behavior in which one person uses, or threatens to use, physical, sexual, verbal or emotional abuse or violence to obtain and maintain power and control over his or her intimate partner.
Violence Against Women
Historical Perspective

“A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.”

~Marcus Garvey
1769

- American colonies base their laws on English Common Law
- Blackstone Commentaries – “By marriage, the husband and wife are one person in the law. The very being and legal existence of the woman is suspended during the marriage, or at least incorporated into that of her husband whose wing and protection she performs everything.”
1824

- Mississippi’s Supreme Court allows a husband to administer “moderate chastisement in case of emergencies.” (Bradley v State)
1871

- Alabama is the first state to rescind the legal right of men to beat their wives.
1886

- North Carolina courts declare that a criminal indictment cannot be brought against a husband unless the battery is so great as to result in permanent injury, endanger the life or is malicious beyond all reasonable bounds.
1966

- Beating as cruel and inhumane treatment becomes grounds for divorce in New York State.
- The plaintiff must establish that a “sufficient” number of beatings have taken place.
1977

• A law was passed in New York State allowing married victims of domestic violence to file criminal charges against a spouse.
1984

- People v Liberta – New York’s highest court made marital rape a crime, striking down the marital rape exemption on the grounds that it denied equal protection of the laws to married women.
• The Domestic Violence Prevention Act permanently funded emergency shelters for victims through local Departments of Social Services.
1988

• The Victims of Crime Act is amended to make awards available to victims of domestic violence.
1994

- Congress passes the Violence Against Women Act which provides funding for domestic violence services and creates the full faith and credit provision regarding protection orders.
1994

- The Family Protection and Domestic Violence Intervention Act brought development of the Order of Protection Registry, DIR system, Victims Rights Notification system, mandatory arrest policy and several revisions to crimes under the New York Penal Law.
1999

- A law making stalking a felony in New York State was passed.
True or False?

Domestic violence victims want the abuse to continue.
## Staying vs. Leaving

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Leaving the Relationship</th>
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<td>Loss of control over information</td>
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<td>Loss of transportation</td>
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<td>Fear that children will be threatened or harmed</td>
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<td>Fear that she will lose custody of her children</td>
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<td>Fear of pets being harmed</td>
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<td>Loss of financial support</td>
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<td>Fear of being deported from the country</td>
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<td>Fear the abuse will escalate if abuser’s power and control is threatened</td>
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Leaving the Relationship

• 75% of women who are killed by their intimate partners are killed when they are in the act of leaving or when they have left the relationship.

• Murder-suicides, stalking-murders, murders of mothers and their children are frequently committed by men retaliating against women who have left them.

_Battered Mothers’ Testimony Project: A Human Rights Approach to Child Custody and Domestic Violence._ Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence
True or False?

Witnessing domestic violence can have long term negative effects on children.
True

• The National Survey of Children’s Exposure to Violence found that 25% of children are exposed to some form of family violence over their entire childhood (0-17 years).

• The Adverse Childhood Experiences Study of 8,629 adults found that living in a home where domestic violence was occurring doubled the likelihood that a child would be a victim or a perpetrator of domestic violence in adulthood.
True or False?

Domestic violence is not a common occurrence.
False

• According to the National Violence Against Women Survey, about 1.5 million women are raped and/or physically assaulted by an intimate partner annually.

• In 2008, there were over 34,000 reported domestic incidents to the Suffolk County Police Department.

• In 2009, Brighter Tomorrows, Inc. received over 700 hotline calls, housed 137 women and children in shelter and made 2,400 court advocacy contacts.
How Can Power and Control be Exerted?
Coercion & Threats

• Making and/or carrying out threats to do something to hurt her
• Threatening to leave her, to commit suicide, to report her to welfare agency
• Making her drop criminal charges
• Making her do illegal things
Intimidation

• Making her afraid by using looks, actions, gestures
• Smashing things
• Destroying property
• Abusing pets
• Displaying weapons
Emotional Abuse

- Putting her down
- Making her feel bad about herself
- Calling her names
- Making her think she’s crazy
- Playing mind games
- Humiliating her
- Making her feel guilty
Using Isolation

• Controlling what she does, who she sees and talks to
• Limiting her outside involvement
• Using jealousy to justify actions
Minimizing, Denying & Blaming

- Making light of the abuse and not taking her concerns about it seriously
- Saying the abuse didn’t happen
- Shifting responsibility for abusive behavior
- Saying she caused the abuse
Using Children

• Making her feel guilty about the children
• Using the children to relay messages
• Using visitation to harass her
• Threatening to take the children away
Using Male Privilege

• Treating her like a servant
• Making all the big decisions
• Acting like the “master of the castle”
• Being the one to define men’s and women’s roles
Using Economic Abuse

- Preventing her from getting or keeping a job
- Making her ask for money
- Giving her an allowance
- Taking her money
- Not letting her know about or have access to family income
Prevalence of Violence Against Women in the Media
Family Guy Clips

- **Family Guy - Peter Beats Up Connie DeMico**
  "Hey, you see that fire extinguisher there?"

- **family guy peter kills lois**
Positive Media Campaigns
DOVE Campaign for Real Beauty

• The DOVE Campaign for Real Beauty is a global effort launched in 2004 to serve as a starting point for societal change and act as a catalyst for widening the definition and discussion of beauty.

• The campaign supports the DOVE mission: to make more women feel beautiful every day by widening stereotypical views of beauty.
Coaching Boys Into Men

- New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence
- Year-long multi-media campaign
- Goal is to engage men in the fight against domestic violence
Eat your vegetables.
Finish your homework.
Respect women.

opdv.state.ny.us

NYS Hotline
1-800-942-6906
In NYC call 311
Eat your vegetables.
Don’t play with matches.
Finish your homework.
Respect women.
Men Can Stop Rape

- Men Can Stop Rape (MCSR) is an international organization that mobilizes men to use their strength for creating cultures free from violence, especially men’s violence against women. Since its inception in 1997, MCSR has led the call to redefine masculinity and male strength as part of preventing men’s violence against women.
MY STRENGTH
IS NOT FOR HURTING.

So when I paid for our date, she didn’t
OWE ME.

Men can stop rape. MyStrength.org
So when she wanted me to stop, I STOPPED.

Men can stop rape. MyStrength.org
My strength is not for hurting.

So when she was too drunk to decide, I decided

WE SHOULDN'T.

Men can stop rape. MyStrength.org
MY STRENGTH IS NOT FOR HURTING.

So when she said no, I said OK.

Men can stop rape.

MyStrength.org
NONVIOLENCE

NEGO T I AT I ON AND FAIRNESS
Seeking mutually satisfying resolutions to conflict • accepting change • being willing to compromise.

NON-THREATENING BEHAVIOR
Talking and acting so that she feels safe and comfortable expressing herself and doing things.

ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP
Making money decisions together • making sure both partners benefit from financial arrangements.

RESPECT
Listening to her non-judgmentally • being emotionally affirming and understanding • valuing opinions.

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY
Mutually agreeing on a fair distribution of work • making family decisions together.

TRUST AND SUPPORT
Supporting her goals in life • respecting her right to her own feelings, friends, activities and opinions.

RESPONSIBLE PARENTING
Sharing parental responsibilities • being a positive non-violent role model for the children.

HONESTY AND ACCOUNTABILITY
Accepting responsibility for self • acknowledging past use of violence • admitting being wrong • communicating openly and truthfully.
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