

Social Problem: Domestic Violence

Learning Goal:

To understand and explain the situation of domestic violence (in conjugal relationships)

Success Criteria:

I will be able to:

1. List main points from Leslie Morgan Steiner's TED Talk: CRAZY LOVE
2. Describe and explain the factors that can lead to domestic abuse
3. Know the stages of the Cycle of Violence
4. Give examples within the stages of the Cycle of Violence

CRAZY LOVE: Leslie Morgan Steiner

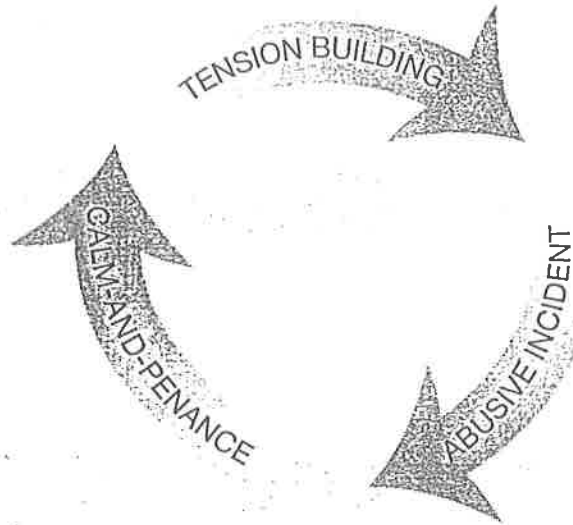
- 1st marriage at age 22
- He was severely abused by his step-father from age 6
- Abuse began 6 days before marriage, continued on the honeymoon. Choking, punching, humiliating, gun to head with threats to kill her
- 1 out of 3 women in America from age 16 will experience some type of domestic abuse in their life time
- 85% of abused are women
- Thought she could help him. They 'loved each other' so much
- He isolated her from work, friends, family by moving out of Manhattan after he quit his job because he felt so much trust with her
- She FINALLY told other people and now that so many knew she could leave

NOTES: on average women return 7 times to their abuser before finally leaving

Women don't leave because:

- Think it's their fault
- Think he will change
- Need to protect the children
- Afraid he will kill her, chances are he will

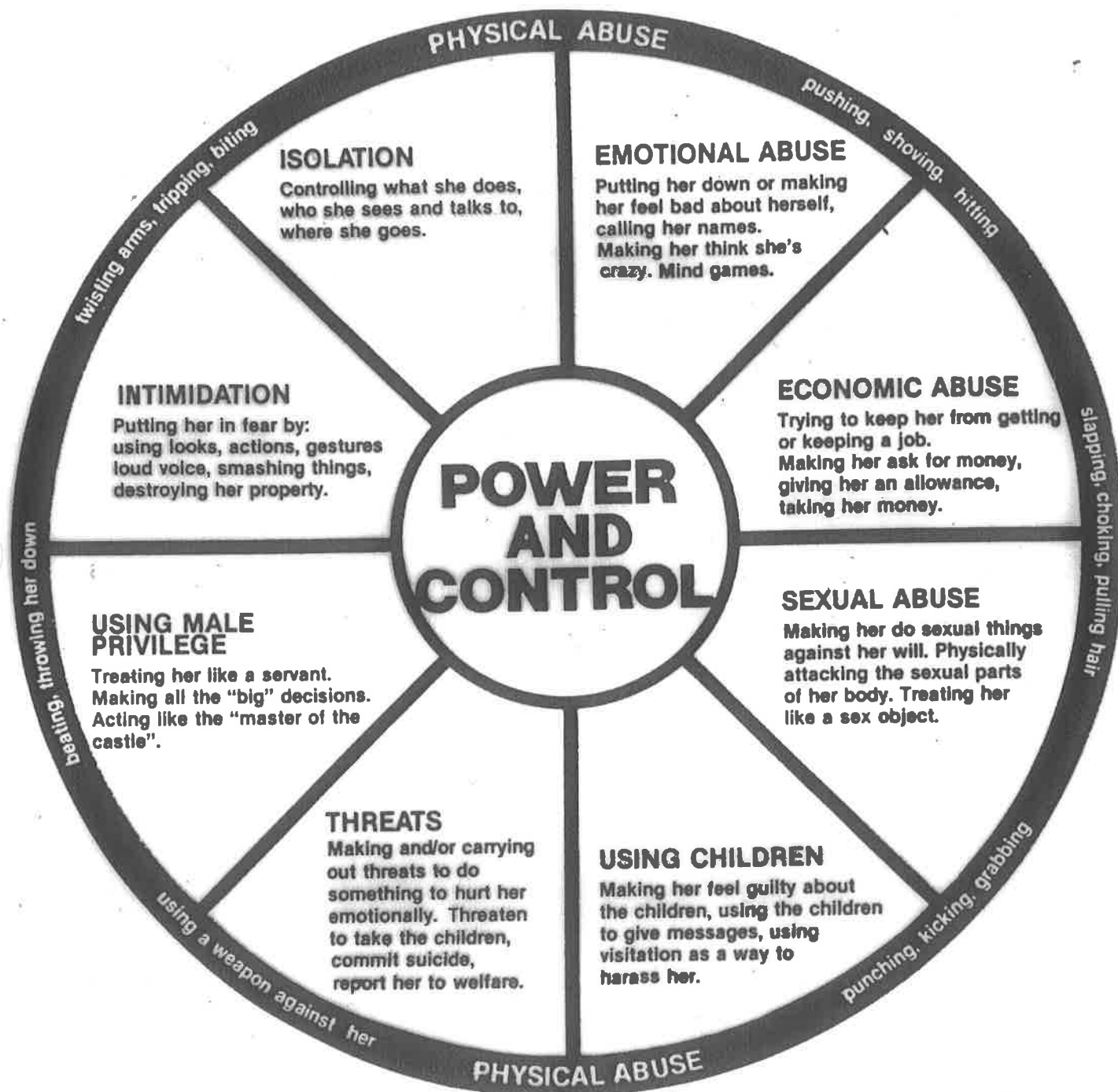
The Cycle of Violence



- **The tension-building phase** The victim attempts to maintain equilibrium by carefully acquiescing to her partner's demands. As the tension builds with any stress or conflict, the victim rationalizes minor violent outbursts and often accepts responsibility for them. This phase can last a long time.
- **The abusive incident or acute battering phase** One or more serious assaults occur, triggered by an event that is usually unpredictable. Medical treatment might be required. The victim might report the assault to the police or seek help, but she is more likely to conceal the fact that she was assaulted. As the cycle is repeated, the victim responds with anger and disbelief that the perpetrator has not kept his promise, or with relief that what she had feared would happen was finally over. This phase lasts 2 to 24 hours.
- **The calm-and-penance phase** The perpetrator becomes remorseful and apologetic and attempts to make up for the violence by affectionate or romantic acts, and promises never to do it again. The victim might withdraw her threats to leave, or refuse to give evidence against her partner. This phase may last a day or a few months, until the tension begins to build again.

Source: Timothy Jackson and Jeff Olson, *When Violence Comes Home*. Copyright 1995 by RBC Ministries, Grand Rapids, MI. Reprinted by permission. The cycle of violence was first identified by Lenore E. Walker (*The Battered Woman*, Harper Perennial, 1979).

1. Systems theory suggests that both victim and perpetrator are caught within the cycle of violence. What would motivate each of them to stay in a relationship during the tension-building phase?
2. Why might the victim stay in the relationship after the acute battering or abusive phase? What theoretical perspectives support your answer?
3. What could be done to break the cycle of violence?



NON VIOLENCE

NEGOTIATION 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.

EQUALITY

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.

NON VIOLENCE

DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERVENTION PROJECT

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