

UNDERSTANDING

DOMESTIC

VIOLENCE

I raise up my voice - not so
that I can shout, but so that
those without a voice
can be heard...

-Malala

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEFINED

WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

THE UN DEFINES DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AS "A PATTERN OF BEHAVIOR IN ANY RELATIONSHIP THAT IS USED TO GAIN OR MAINTAIN POWER AND CONTROL OVER AN INTIMATE PARTNER. ABUSE IS PHYSICAL, SEXUAL, EMOTIONAL, ECONOMIC OR PSYCHOLOGICAL ACTIONS OR THREATS OF ACTIONS THAT INFLUENCE ANOTHER PERSON. THIS INCLUDES ANY BEHAVIORS THAT FRIGHTEN, INTIMIDATE, TERRORIZE, MANIPULATE, HURT, HUMILIATE, BLAME, INJURE, OR WOUND SOMEONE. DOMESTIC ABUSE CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE OF ANY RACE, AGE, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, RELIGION, OR GENDER. IT CAN OCCUR WITHIN A RANGE OF RELATIONSHIPS INCLUDING COUPLES WHO ARE MARRIED, LIVING TOGETHER OR DATING. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AFFECTS PEOPLE OF ALL SOCIOECONOMIC BACKGROUNDS AND EDUCATION LEVELS"

WHEEL OF POWER AND CONTROL



RELATIONSHIP DYNAMICS

"THE STRUGGLE IS
REAL"



UNDERSTANDING THE VICTIM

IN MOST CASES, THE VICTIM IS CARRYING A LARGE WEIGHT OF RESPONSIBILITY PLACED ON THEM FROM THE ABUSER. -LET'S REMEMBER, **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS DEFINED AS A PATTERN** OF BEHAVIOR. IT IS ALMOST CERTAINLY NEVER A ONE TIME INCIDENT. YOU DO NOT KNOW HOW MANY TIMES THIS HAS HAPPENED TO THE VICTIM. THIS IS JUST THE TIME THEY HAD THE STRENGTH TO REACH OUT FOR HELP,

CLOSER LOOK: ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS INVOLVE A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF RESPONSIBILITY PROJECTED ONTO THE VICTIM. THEY BECOME SO INTERTWINED IN THE ABUSER'S PAIN, AND THEY FEEL IT IS THEIR JOB TO FIX AND HEAL THEM. SOMETIMES THIS IS REFERRED TO AS THE SAVIOR COMPLEX.

WHY DON'T THEY JUST LEAVE?

*VICTIM SHAMING

THE STRUGGLE OF LEAVING

*THE HOLD OF THE RELATIONSHIP

*WHAT'S FAMILIAR

*FINANCIAL DEPENDANCE

*FEAR-THREATS

*THE SAVIOR COMPLEX

*GUILT

*RESPONSIBILITY

*EMBARRASSMENT

*LEGAL HURDLES

WHY DON'T THEY LEAVE?

*3 common myths about
domestic violence victims*



IN ADDITION TO INDIVIDUAL OBSTACLES VICTIMS FACE WHEN ESCAPING VIOLENT RELATIONSHIPS, SOCIETY IN GENERAL PRESENTS BARRIERS. THESE INCLUDE:

- A VICTIM'S FEAR OF BEING CHARGED WITH DESERTION, LOSING CUSTODY OF CHILDREN, OR JOINT ASSETS.
- ANXIETY ABOUT A DECLINE IN LIVING STANDARDS FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR CHILDREN
- REINFORCEMENT OF CLERGY AND SECULAR COUNSELORS OF "SAVING" A COUPLE'S RELATIONSHIP AT ALL COSTS, RATHER THAN THE GOAL OF STOPPING THE VIOLENCE.
- LACK OF SUPPORT TO VICTIMS BY POLICE OFFICERS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT WHO MAY TREAT VIOLENCE AS A "DOMESTIC DISPUTE," INSTEAD OF A CRIME WHERE ONE PERSON IS PHYSICALLY ATTACKING ANOTHER PERSON. OFTEN, VICTIMS OF ABUSE ARE ARRESTED AND CHARGED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT EVEN IF THEY ARE ONLY DEFENDING THEMSELVES AGAINST THE BATTERER.

- RELUCTANCE BY PROSECUTORS TO PROSECUTE CASES. SOME MAY CONVINCED THE ABUSER TO PLEA TO A LESSER CHARGE, THUS FURTHER ENDANGERING VICTIMS. ADDITIONALLY, JUDGES RARELY IMPOSE THE MAXIMUM SENTENCE UPON CONVICTED ABUSERS. PROBATION OR A FINE IS MUCH MORE COMMON.
- DESPITE THE ISSUING OF A RESTRAINING ORDER, THERE IS LITTLE TO PREVENT A RELEASED ABUSER FROM RETURNING AND REPEATING ABUSE.
- DESPITE GREATER PUBLIC AWARENESS AND THE INCREASED AVAILABILITY OF HOUSING FOR VICTIMS FLEEING VIOLENT PARTNERS, THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH SHELTERS TO KEEP VICTIMS SAFE.
- SOME RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL PRACTICES THAT STRESS THAT DIVORCE IS FORBIDDEN.
- THE SOCIALIZATION OF SOME MADE TO BELIEVE THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING THEIR RELATIONSHIP WORK. FAILURE TO MAINTAIN THE RELATIONSHIP EQUALS FAILURE AS A PERSON.

- DISSUASION BY POLICE OF THE VICTIM FILING CHARGES. SOME DISMISS OR DOWNPLAY THE ABUSE, SIDE WITH THE ABUSER, OR DO NOT TAKE THE VICTIMS ACCOUNT OF THE ABUSE SERIOUSLY.

ISOLATION FROM FRIENDS AND FAMILIES, EITHER BY THE JEALOUS AND POSSESSIVE ABUSER, OR BECAUSE THEY FEEL "ASHAMED" OF THE ABUSE AND TRY TO HIDE SIGNS OF IT FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD. THE ISOLATION CONTRIBUTES TO A SENSE THAT THERE IS NOWHERE TO TURN.

- THE RATIONALIZATION OF THE VICTIM THAT THEIR ABUSER'S BEHAVIOR IS CAUSED BY STRESS, ALCOHOL, PROBLEMS AT WORK, UNEMPLOYMENT, OR OTHER FACTORS.
- SOCIETAL FACTORS THAT TEACH WOMEN TO BELIEVE THEIR IDENTITIES AND FEELINGS OF SELF-WORTH ARE CONTINGENT UPON GETTING AND KEEPING A MAN.
- INCONSISTENCY OF ABUSE; DURING NON-VIOLENT PHASES, THE ABUSER MAY FULFILL THE VICTIM'S DREAM OF ROMANTIC LOVE. THE VICTIM MAY ALSO RATIONALIZE THE ABUSER IS BASICALLY GOOD UNTIL SOMETHING BAD HAPPENS AND THEY HAVE TO "LET OFF STEAM."



The Narcissistic web

It is *crazy* how they condition you to *accept* the horrible things they do and say. You become *desensitized* to the things they do. Things that you would *never accept* from a person, they *groom* you to *normalize* it. It is literally *scary* how much you learn to *tolerate*.

-Maria Consiligo

STATISTICS

"IT'S ALL IN THE NUMBERS"

VIRGINIA

- MORE THAN 30% OF VIRGINIA'S HOMICIDES ARE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RELATED.
- ABOUT 56% OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDES INVOLVE FIREARMS.
- ABOUT 80% OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDES HAPPEN IN PEOPLE'S HOMES.
- ABOUT 40% OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDES HAPPEN DURING OR AFTER A RELATIONSHIP BREAKUP.
- MORE THAN 20% OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDES INVOLVE A HOMICIDE-SUICIDE.
- WOMEN MAKE UP 51% OF VIRGINIA'S POPULATION BUT ACCOUNT FOR 63% OF THE PEOPLE KILLED BY FIREARMS IN INTIMATE PARTNER-RELATED HOMICIDES.

A 2019 VA DATA REPORT OFFERS ADDITIONAL INSIGHTS

ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN VIRGINIA:

- IN 2019, MORE THAN 22,000 ADULTS AND NEARLY 5,300 CHILDREN RECEIVED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCACY SERVICES.
- A TOTAL OF 20% OF THE PEOPLE WHO RECEIVED THESE SERVICES HAD TO RELOCATE OR EXPERIENCED HOMELESSNESS AS A RESULT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.
- IN 2019, 87% OF THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PERPETRATORS IN VIRGINIA WERE MEN, AND 13% WERE WOMEN.

NATIONALLY

- *1 IN 3 WOMEN AND 1 IN 4 MEN HAVE EXPERIENCED SOME FORM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BY AN INTIMATE PARTNER
- *ON AVERAGE, NEARLY 20 PEOPLE PER MINUTE ARE PHYSICALLY ABUSED BY AN INTIMATE PARTNER
- *ON AVERAGE A PERSON IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEAVES 7 TIMES BEFORE LEAVING FOR THE FINAL TIME, IF THEY SURVIVE THAT LONG
- *1 IN 15 CHILDREN ARE EXPOSED TO INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE EACH YEAR, AND 90% OF THESE CHILDREN ARE EYEWITNESSES TO THIS VIOLENCE
- *PREGNANT WOMEN ARE ALSO AT HIGHER RISK OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, WHICH CAN INCREASE THE RISK OF PREGNANCY-RELATED COMPLICATIONS, SUCH AS MISCARRIAGE, PRE-TERM LABOR AND LOW BIRTH WEIGHT IN INFANTS.

BETWEEN 2003 AND 2008, 142
WOMEN WERE MURDERED IN
THEIR WORKPLACE BY THEIR
ABUSER **LOCALLY**

**FEBRUARY 2019, A KINGPORT MAN
WENT INTO HIS WIFE'S PLACE OF
WORK- DENTIST OFFICE- AND SHOT
HER. SHE DIED AS A RESULT OF THIS ACT
OF VIOLENCE.**

THE SHOOTING TOOK PLACE BACK IN FEBRUARY AT DOCTOR
DAVID GUY DENTISTRY OFF COLONIAL HEIGHTS ROAD. HIS
WIFE, KELLY WEAVER, WAS AN EMPLOYEE AT THE PRACTICE.
HARRY WEAVER IS EXPECTED TO BE ARRAIGNED TODAY ON
ADDITIONAL CHARGES, INCLUDING ATTEMPTED SECOND-
DEGREE MURDER, ESPECIALLY AGGRAVATED KIDNAPPING,
DOMESTIC AGGRAVATED ASSAULT AND RECKLESS
ENDANGERMENT INVOLVING A DEADLY WEAPON.

NEWS

UPDATE: ACCUSED KINGSPORT DENTIST OFFICE
SHOOTER PLEADS NOT GUILTY ON ALL COUNTS

BY: NEWS CHANNEL 11 STAFF

POSTED: AUG 19, 2019 / 06:06 AM EDT

UPDATED: AUG 20, 2019 / 01:11 PM EDT

BRISTOL, TENN. (WCYB) — THE OCTOBER SHOOTING DEATHS OF A BRISTOL MOTHER AND HER TEENAGE DAUGHTER MAY LEAD TO CHANGES IN TENNESSEE LAW. POLICE SAY THEY WERE THE VICTIMS OF AN ESTRANGED HUSBAND WHO ALSO KILLED HIMSELF.

"IS THAT AN INSTANCE OF THE SYSTEM FAILING THE VICTIMS?," WE ASKED. "NO, I THINK THE SYSTEM OPERATED THE WAY IT WAS SUPPOSED TO. AND I THINK THAT THE REAL RESPONSIBILITY LIES SQUARELY WITH MR. ROBINSON. HE'S THE ONE THAT KILLED TWO INNOCENT PEOPLE," SAID STAUBUS.

"IS THERE ANY WAY TO BRING JUSTICE FOR THE MOTHER AND DAUGHTER?," NEWS 5 ASKED. "I THINK THE MOST WE CAN DO AGAIN IS REMEMBER THEM, REMEMBER THE LIVES THEY LIVED," SAID STAUBUS.

"AND I THINK THAT WE ALSO HAVE TO REMEMBER HOW SERIOUS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS AND DO WHAT WE CAN TO PREVENT IT IN OUR COMMUNITY," HE SAID. "DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS REAL. IT'S VERY PREVALENT IN OUR COMMUNITY. IT'S VERY SERIOUS, IT CAN HAPPEN ANYTIME, ANYWHERE.

IN OTHER NEWS, SAN CARLOS, CALIF. (KGO) -- LAW ENFORCEMENT SOURCES TELL THE ABC7 I-TEAM'S DAN NOYES THAT A MAN BEHEADED A YOUNG WOMAN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET IN FRONT OF WITNESSES ON THURSDAY.*THERE WAS A HISTORY OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AT THE HOME WHERE THE MOTHER WAS KILLED, SOURCES TOLD KGO.*

PANDEMIC AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

ACCORDING TO THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE,
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES INCREASED BY 25-33 PERCENT
GLOBALLY IN 2020

LOOK AT THE PAST....

25 NOVEMBER 2018- AROUND 87,000 WOMEN WERE KILLED
AROUND THE WORLD LAST YEAR, SOME 50,000 - OR 58 PER CENT -
AT THE HANDS OF INTIMATE PARTNERS OR FAMILY MEMBERS. THIS
AMOUNTS TO SOME SIX WOMEN BEING KILLED EVERY HOUR BY
PEOPLE THEY KNOW, ACCORDING TO NEW RESEARCH PUBLISHED BY
THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME (UNODC)
TODAY.

CURRENT LAWS

ANY PERSON WHO COMMITS AN ASSAULT AND BATTERY AGAINST A FAMILY OR HOUSEHOLD MEMBER IS GUILTY OF A CLASS 1 MISDEMEANOR.

CLASS 1 MISDEMEANORS IN VIRGINIA

- DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE (DUI)
- RECKLESS DRIVING
- PETIT LARCENY
- ASSAULT AND BATTERY
- DISORDERLY CONDUCT

PUNISHABLE BY UP TO 12 MONTHS IN PRISON AND \$2,500 . MOST COMMONLY THE SENTENCE ISSUED IS FIRST OFFENDER . THE VICTIM CAN RECEIVE A PROTECTIVE ORDER - BUT THAT IS ONLY A PIECE OF PAPER .

CURRENT LAWS

PUNISHABLE BY UP TO 12 MONTHS IN PRISON AND \$2,500

MOST COMMONLY THE SENTENCE ISSUED IS FIRST OFFENDER

THE VICTIM CAN RECEIVE A PROTECTIVE ORDER-BUT THAT IS ONLY A PIECE OF PAPER

SECTION 18.2-251 ALSO ESTABLISHES THE CONDITIONS OF THE FIRST OFFENDER PROGRAM. UNDER THIS SECTION, A FIRST-TIME OFFENDER MAY BE PLACED ON PROBATION INSTEAD OF RECEIVING A CONVICTION

YOUR PART

UNDERSTAND THE VICTIM, AND WHERE THEY ARE COMING FROM

PROVIDE NON-JUDGEMENTAL SUPPORT

KNOW THAT STEPPING AWAY AND LEAVING IS ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS TIMES FOR THEM

KNOW THAT LEAVING IS A HUGE STEP

KNOW YOUR LOCAL RESOURCES AND HELP DIRECT THEM TO WHAT THEY NEED

HELP THEM STAY SAFE

DO NOT BE A PART OF CONTINUING THEIR ABUSE-PROLONGING COURT HEARINGS, PRESSURING THEM TO DROP THEIR DV CHARGE

REFERENCES

SLIDE 1: UNITED NATIONS. (N.D.). *WHAT IS DOMESTIC ABUSE?* UNITED NATIONS. RETRIEVED AUGUST 4, 2022, FROM [HTTPS://WWW.UN.ORG/EN/CORONAVIRUS/WHAT-IS-DOMESTIC-ABUSE](https://www.un.org/en/coronavirus/what-is-domestic-abuse)

SLIDE 2 : SUSSEX PUBLISHERS. (N.D.). *DOMESTIC VIOLENCE*. PSYCHOLOGY TODAY. RETRIEVED AUGUST 4, 2022, FROM [HTTPS://WWW.PSYCHOLOGYTODAY.COM/US/BASICS/DOMESTIC-VIOLENCE#UNDERSTANDING-DOMESTIC-VIOLENCE](https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/basics/domestic-violence#understanding-domestic-violence)

SLIDE 4: PREVENT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PAKISTAN DURING COVID-19. GLOBALGIVING. (N.D.). RETRIEVED AUGUST 4, 2022, FROM [HTTPS://WWW.GLOBALGIVING.ORG/PROJECTS/PREVENT-DOMESTIC-VIOLENCE-PAKISTAN-DURING-COVID-19/DONATE/](https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/prevent-domestic-violence-pakistan-during-covid-19/donate/) (IMAGE SLIDE 4)

SLIDES 8-9: NCADV: NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. THE NATION'S LEADING GRASSROOTS VOICE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. (N.D.). RETRIEVED AUGUST 5, 2022, FROM [HTTPS://NCADV.ORG/WHY-DO-VICTIMS-STAY](https://ncadv.org/why-do-victims-stay) DEPOSITPHOTOS, I. (N.D.). *ROYALTY-FREE IMAGES, PHOTO STOCK, VIDEO & MUSIC*. DEPOSITPHOTOS. RETRIEVED AUGUST 7, 2022, FROM [HTTPS://DEPOSITPHOTOS.COM/](https://depositphotos.com/) (NARCISISST PIC)

SLIDE 11-14: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN VIRGINIA: STATISTICS AND RESOURCES. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN VIRGINIA: STATISTICS & RESOURCES | VCU ONLINE. (N.D.). RETRIEVED AUGUST 7, 2022, FROM [HTTPS://ONLINESOCIALWORK.VCU.EDU/BLOG/DOMESTIC-VIOLENCE-VIRGINIA/](https://onlinesocialwork.vcu.edu/blog/domestic-violence-virginia/)

SLIDE 15: JONES, A. (2021, OCTOBER 26). *THE PANDEMIC IS INCREASING INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE. HERE IS HOW HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS CAN HELP*. UAB NEWS. RETRIEVED AUGUST 8, 2022, FROM [HTTPS://WWW.UAB.EDU/NEWS/HEALTH/ITEM/12390-THE-PANDEMIC-IS-INCREASING-INTIMATE-PARTNER-VIOLENCE-HERE-IS-HOW-HEALTH-CARE-PROVIDERS-CAN-HELP](https://www.uab.edu/news/health/item/12390-the-pandemic-is-increasing-intimate-partner-violence-here-is-how-health-care-providers-can-help)

REFERENCES

Slide 13: Staff, N. C. 11. (2019, August 20). *Update: Accused Kingsport dentist office shooter pleads not guilty on all counts*. WJHL. Retrieved September 16, 2022, from <https://www.wjhl.com/news/man-accused-of-fatally-shooting-wife-at-kingsport-dentist-office-due-in-court-today/>

Slide 14: Arintok, A. (2020, October 21). *Law enforcement: Bristol homicide shows domestic violence is prevalent in our community*

Slide 14: KATIE CAVINESS | The National Desk. (2022, September 9). *Man uses sword to behead young mother in front of neighbors, police say*. WTVC. Retrieved September 16, 2022, from <https://newschannel9.com/news/nation-world/man-uses-sword-to-behead-young-mother-in-front-of-neighbors-police-say-san-carlos-california-san-mateo-county-sheriffs-office-stabbing-instrument-witnesses-counselors-assault-domestic-violence>

Slide 14: Arintok, A. (2020, October 21). *Law enforcement: Bristol homicide shows domestic violence is prevalent in our community*

Slide 14: WCYB. Retrieved September 16, 2022, from <https://wcyb.com/news/local/law-enforcement-bristol-homicide-shows-domestic-violence-is-prevalent-in-our-community> (slide 16)

Slide 15: *Home, the most dangerous place for women, with majority of female homicide victims worldwide killed by partners or family, UNODC study says*. United Nations : Office on Drugs and Crime. (n.d.). Retrieved August 8, 2022, from <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/press/releases/2018/November/home--the-most-dangerous-place-for-women--with-majority-of-female-homicide-victims-worldwide-killed-by-partners-or-family--unodc-study-says.html> (pandemic slide)

REFERENCES

Slide 15: *Home, the most dangerous place for women, with majority of female homicide victims worldwide killed by partners or family, UNODC study says.* United Nations : Office on Drugs and Crime. (n.d.). Retrieved August 8, 2022, from <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/press/releases/2018/November/home--the-most-dangerous-place-for-women--with-majority-of-female-homicide-victims-worldwide-killed-by-partners-or-family--unodc-study-says.html> (pandemic slide)

Slide 16: *Title 18.2. crimes and offenses generally. § 18.2-57.2. Assault and battery against a family or household member; penalty.* (n.d.). Retrieved August 8, 2022, from <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title18.2/chapter4/section18.2-57.2/>

Slide 16: WCYB. Retrieved September 16, 2022, from <https://wcyb.com/news/local/law-enforcement-bristol-homicide-shows-domestic-violence-is-prevalent-in-our-community>

Slide 16: *Title 18.2. crimes and offenses generally. § 18.2-57.2. Assault and battery against a family or household member; penalty.* (n.d.). Retrieved August 8, 2022, from <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title18.2/chapter4/section18.2-57.2/>

Slide 16: WCYB. Retrieved September 16, 2022, from <https://wcyb.com/news/local/law-enforcement-bristol-homicide-shows-domestic-violence-is-prevalent-in-our-community>