

Gender Roles & Domestic Violence

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Domestic Violence Workshop
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Ice Breaker



Gender Roles and Stereotypes



What are Gender Stereotypes?

- The World Health Organization defines sex as “the biological and physiological characteristics that define men and women.”
- Gender is defined as the “socially constructed roles, behaviors, activities, and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for men and women.”
- Gender is not “predetermined”, it is constructed by societies.
- Gender inequality and stereotypes occurs when men have a higher status over women and have the ability to control women in different spheres of life.

The Correlation Between Gender Stereotypes & Domestic Violence

Gender stereotypes have a strong relationship with a range of types of violence, especially sexual and domestic violence.

Today We Will:

- Explore gender stereotypes between both women and men
- Understand how the power and control wheel intertwines with gender stereotypes
- Learn how to combat gender stereotypes

The Good Wife or Stereotype?

- Women are expected to be submissive, passive, and accommodating.
- These beliefs can encourage women to stay in abusive relationships due to perceived societal expectations or fear of stigma.
- **Examples of Phrases:** "Women are natural caregivers," "Good women are obedient."

The Good Wife???



Will call you at night

Power and Control Dynamics

- Gender stereotypes reinforce power dynamics in abusive relationships, where one partner (often male) feels entitled to control or dominate the other (often female).

Power and Control Wheel



Gender Stereotypes Creates Barriers to Safety

Women have fewer life options prompting their dependence on abusive partners.

Abusive men use economic abuse to intensify their control over women and children by controlling family finances, jeopardizing employment or education

Lack of economic resources being a major barrier to leaving violent relationships and seeking safety

Women return to abusive partners because the economic hardship they face after leaving makes it impossible to remain free from violence

Boys will be Boys???

Stereotypes About Masculinity (Toxic Masculinity)

- Men must be aggressive, in control, and unemotional.
- Pressure to conform to these norms may lead men to use violence to assert dominance.

- **Examples of Phrases:** "Boys will be boys," "Man up."

Do Boys Cry?

A photograph showing a woman with long dark hair, wearing a purple tank top, shouting and pointing her finger at a man with long brown hair who is sitting at a desk, looking down with a distressed expression. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

HALF of domestic violence victims are men.

NO domestic violence shelters are dedicated to us.

#LetsTalkMen

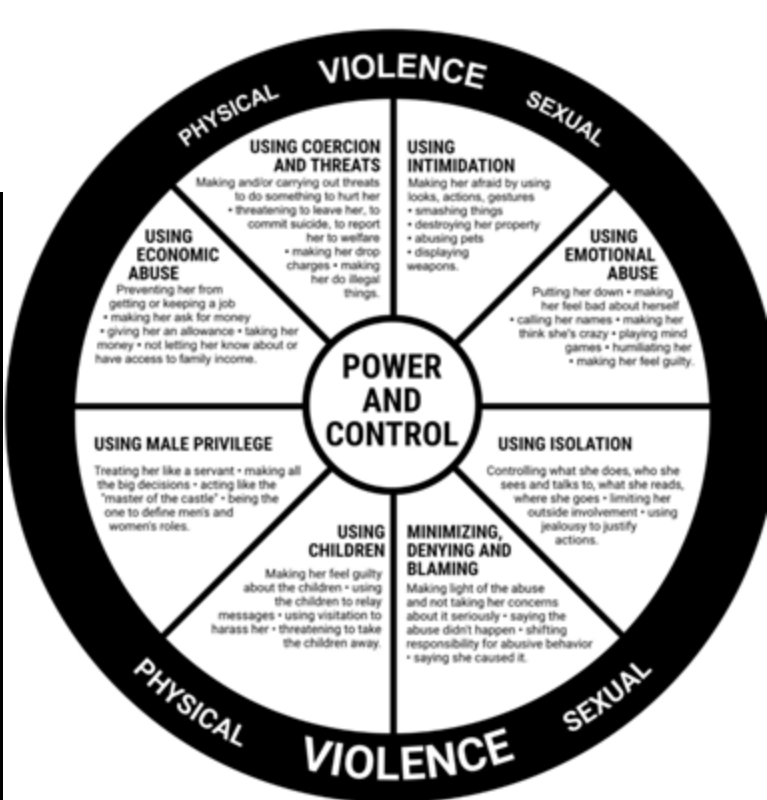
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Power and Control Dynamics

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Power and Control Wheel & Stereotypes



Gender Stereotypes Creates Barriers to Safety

Men feel as though they cannot seek help because they are supposed to be tough and strong.

Whenever men leave their abusive partners, it seems as if they are abandoning their family.

Law enforcement are less likely to believe men when they say a woman is abusing them.

How Do We Combat Gender Stereotypes In An Attempt to Prevent Domestic Violence?



Education & Awareness

Early Education: Introduce gender equality and anti-violence education in school curriculums to teach children about respect, consent, healthy relationships, and gender roles.

Media Representation: Promote media content that challenges harmful gender stereotypes, including toxic masculinity, and portrays diverse, respectful, and non-violent relationships.

Public Campaigns: Launch nationwide public awareness campaigns that address domestic violence and its root causes, emphasizing the importance of gender equality.

Shifting Cultural Norms

- **Redefining Masculinity:** Encourage new models of masculinity that focus on emotional intelligence, empathy, and non-violence, rather than domination or control.
- **Empower Women:** Support women's leadership, autonomy, and decision-making in both public and private spheres, including campaigns to dismantle misogyny and the objectification of women.

Legal & Policy Reforms

Strengthening Legal Protections: Ensure laws on domestic violence are strong, gender-inclusive, and properly enforced. This includes criminalizing all forms of abuse (physical, emotional, financial) and providing protective services for survivors.

Gender-Responsive Training for Law Enforcement: Train police, judges, and legal professionals to handle domestic violence cases sensitively and without bias, promoting fair treatment for all survivors regardless of gender.

Mandatory Reporting and Intervention: Implement policies requiring professionals (like teachers, doctors, etc.) to report suspected domestic violence and intervene early when risk factors are identified.

Intersectional Approaches

- **Addressing Multiple Layers of Discrimination:** Recognize that domestic violence affects people differently based on intersecting factors like race, class, sexual orientation, and disability. Tailor solutions to address the specific vulnerabilities of marginalized groups.
- **Supporting Vulnerable Populations:** Ensure that programs to combat domestic violence provide culturally sensitive and trauma-informed care, particularly for Indigenous communities, people of color, and immigrants.

Global Initiatives

Global Advocacy: Support international movements and frameworks, such as the United Nations' efforts to promote gender equality and eradicate violence against women (e.g., the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women - CEDAW).

Cultural Sensitivity: Work with local communities globally to change norms in ways that respect cultural differences while promoting gender equity and non-violence.