PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS
What is Domestic Abuse?

Domestic abuse is any act which occurs within a close personal or family relationship which is used to exercise power and control over another person. Acts of domestic abuse, or battering, cause not only physical injury, but also the loss of trust, loss of personal safety in one’s own home and loss of control over one’s life. Domestic abuse is usually a pattern of behavior taking place over a period of time rather than an isolated incident.

Simply put, domestic abuse is “any act that causes the victim to do something she does not want to do, prevents her from doing something she wants to do, or causes her to be afraid.” Emerge (Batterer’s Program), Boston MA

There are five categories of domestic abuse:

**Physical Abuse**

slapping, shaking, beating, biting, pushing, pulling hair, shoving, pinching, kicking, restraining, tickling excessively and all other behaviors that hurt physically

**Verbal and/or Emotional Abuse**

driving recklessly, stalking, denying medical care, name calling, threats, accusations of sexual infidelity, humiliating privately or publicly, ignoring thoughts and feelings, isolating from family and friends and all other behaviors that hurt emotionally or make the victim afraid

**Sexual Abuse**

any forced or unwanted sexual contact

**Destruction of Property or Pets**

destruction or torture a pet or destruction of something of value to the victim

**Economic (Financial) Abuse**

not allowing equal access to financial information and/or resources, denying the opportunity to take part in financial decisions, preventing the victim from seeking employment or if employed taking or controlling the paycheck
CHILDREN COPING WITH FAMILY VIOLENCE

Children Living in Violent Homes

- Truancy
- New Generations of Violent Families
- Runaways
- Violence on Our Streets
- Substance Abuse
- Food Addictions
- Teen Pregnancy
- Use of Pornography
- Sexual Harassment
- Date Rape
- Sexual Assaults

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Produced and distributed by:
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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 their 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.
¿Está su relación basada en la igualdad?

**SIN VIOLENCIA**

**NEGOCIACION JUSTA:**
Ante un conflicto, buscar soluciones convenientes para ambo partes. Aceptar cambios. Estar dispuesto a llegar a un acuerdo.

**CONDUCTA NO AMENAZANTE:**
Actuar y hablar de tal forma para que ella se sienta segura y cómoda al hacer sus cosas y al expresarse.

**ECONOMIA COMPARTIDA:**
Tomar juntos las decisiones económicas. Asegurar que los acuerdos económicos beneficien a los dos.

**RESPETO:**

**RESPONSABILIDAD COMPARTIDA:**
Llegar a un acuerdo para una justa distribución de las tareas. Tomar juntos las decisiones familiares.

**CONFIANZA Y APOYO:**
Apoyarla en sus proyectos. Respetarle sus sentimientos, amigo(a)s. actividades y opiniones.

**ASUMIR LA RESPONSABILIDAD MATERNA:**
Compartir las responsabilidades paternas. Ser un modelo de conducta para sus hijo(a)s, actuando positivamente y sin violencia.

**HONESTIDAD Y RESPONSABILIDAD:**
Aceptar responsabilidad por sus acciones. Reconocer y aceptar que actuó violentamente en el pasado. Reconocer que estaba equivocado. Comunicarse abiertamente y con la verdad.