

WHY WOMEN STAY?

In reality, the reasons women stay in abusive relationships are complicated and vary with each individual.

Fear

Abused women are usually threatened by their abusers if they try to leave. In fact, statistically, abused women and their children are in the most danger when they try to escape.

Lack of Economic Resources

Frequently, abused women do not have the financial resources to leave, and fear they will not be able to be self-sufficient and to provide or afford adequate care for their children.

Isolation

Abusers are jealous and use intimidation and humiliation to keep their partners away from others such as family and friends.

Commitment to the Partner and Hope for Change

They are attracted to their partner's good side and the pattern of interaction when there is no abuse, hoping that with "enough love" the violence will stop. It will not. Research has shown that the abuse does not stop without the help of others.

The Process of Leaving Issues

Most abused women leave and return several times before permanently separating from their abusers. Every time women leave they gain more information about the available resources and more confidence in themselves and their abilities.

Societal Denial

Abusers are often outwardly friendly, popular, charming, professionally competent and successful. They frequently treat those in their community and work lives very differently from those with whom they live. They are skilled at keeping their controlling and abusive behavior behind closed doors.

The Cycle of Violence

Women may stay because their partner promises "it will never happen again". This is known as "the honeymoon phase", and is usually an affectionate time of apologies, tenderness and gift giving, and lasts a few hours or a few weeks. But without professional intervention and help, these "honeymoons" invariably end abruptly and violently.

"For the Children"

Some women who remain in abusive relationships for the sake of the children feel even an abusive father is better than none at all. Further, the threat of a custody battle, fear of losing their children and concern about the financial strains of raising children during separation and after divorce immobilize them.