

WHY DOES SHE STAY?

The question most often asked in trainings is --- "Why does **she** stay?"

Before answering that question, we must ask ourselves as a community ---
"Why aren't we forcing **him** to leave?"

Fear

- Loss of life
- Loss of life for children or family members
- Children being kidnapped
- Not knowing where to go
- No one will believe the abuse
- Being considered a 'failure' in the relationship
- No one else will want them
- Partner will hurt friends/family
- Partner will commit suicide

Love

- Hopes the batterer will change
- Believes the batterer's promise to change

Pity

- No one else can care for batterer
- Feels guilt when leaving

Economics

- May not have a job
- May not be able to support children
- May have never been allowed to deal with finances
- Fears not making it on own financially

Children

- May feel children need both parents
- May fear children will suffer financial hardships
- Feels the children aren't abused; therefore, they are okay
- Believes it is difficult for women with children to find work
- May not want to move children from school, neighborhood, and friends

Emotional & Low Self Esteem

- Devalued by partner with negative comments and accusations

- Socially isolated with no positive reinforcement from others
- Lacks information about services that can help
- Believes she is responsible for the abuse
- Believes this is the best, or all marriages are like this
- Does not believe what is happening is abusive – cultural upbringing
- Ashamed to tell
- Has poor self-image and loss of self-respect
- Feels trapped in relationship
- Social reinforcement, victim feels responsible for success or failure of marriage

Religious Belief

- May feel separation and divorce are wrong
- Some clergy attempt inappropriate marital counseling

Sexual Orientation

- Partner may threat to out him/her to family, work, friends
- May not be adequate resources for homosexual victims and survivors
- Uses cultural norms to force victim to think no one will believe him/her

Immigrants and Refugees

- Language barriers to resources
- Fears of deportation for self or batterer
- Batterer may provide support for extended family
- No where to hide in close knit community

