FORMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

PHYSICAL ABUSE

PHYSICAL ABUSE involves physical harm or injury to the body, including through the use of weapons. Typically the violence is on-going and becomes progressively worse, at times resulting in death.

EMOTIONAL, VERBAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE

EMOTIONAL, VERBAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE is often subtle and survivors often don't recognise the abuse. It will wear survivors down, often over a long period of time, until they take responsibility for their abuser's actions and behaviour towards them, or simply accept it. The impact is often deeper and longer lasting than physical abuse. Known as the silent killer, often there is no physical evidence of violence. Survivors feel guilty, depressed, helpless, with low self-worth similar to when physical violence is experienced.

SEXUAL ABUSE

SEXUAL ABUSE is any situation in which someone is forced to participate in unwanted, unsafe or degrading sexual activity. Even when it's with a partner with whom one is in love, sex or any sexual acts must be consensual. If it is not consented to, it is sexual abuse. This type of violence is especially traumatic for survivors, carries an increased risk of HIV transmission and is at times preceeded by physical violence in domestic settings.

ECONOMIC ABUSE

ECONOMIC ABUSE occurs when the perpetrator denies the victim access to or knowledge about the family finances or other resources to limit decision-making power. Physical and emotional abuse may follow.

SPIRITUAL OR CULTURAL ABUSE

SPIRITUAL OR CULTURAL ABUSE occurs when the victim is denied the right to pursue religious, spiritual and cultural activities or when other forms of abuse are justified as cultural tradition or acts supported by religious beliefs.

MOSAIC
TRAINING SERVICE & HEALING CENTRE
combating abuse and gender-based violence

INFORM WOMEN, TRANSFORM LIVES

66 Ottery Road, Wynberg 7800 • PO Box 18460, Wynberg, Cape Town 7824, South Africa • Tel: +27 (0)21 761 7585 • Fax: 086 6518 662 • Email: info@mosaic.org.za

www.mosaic.org.za