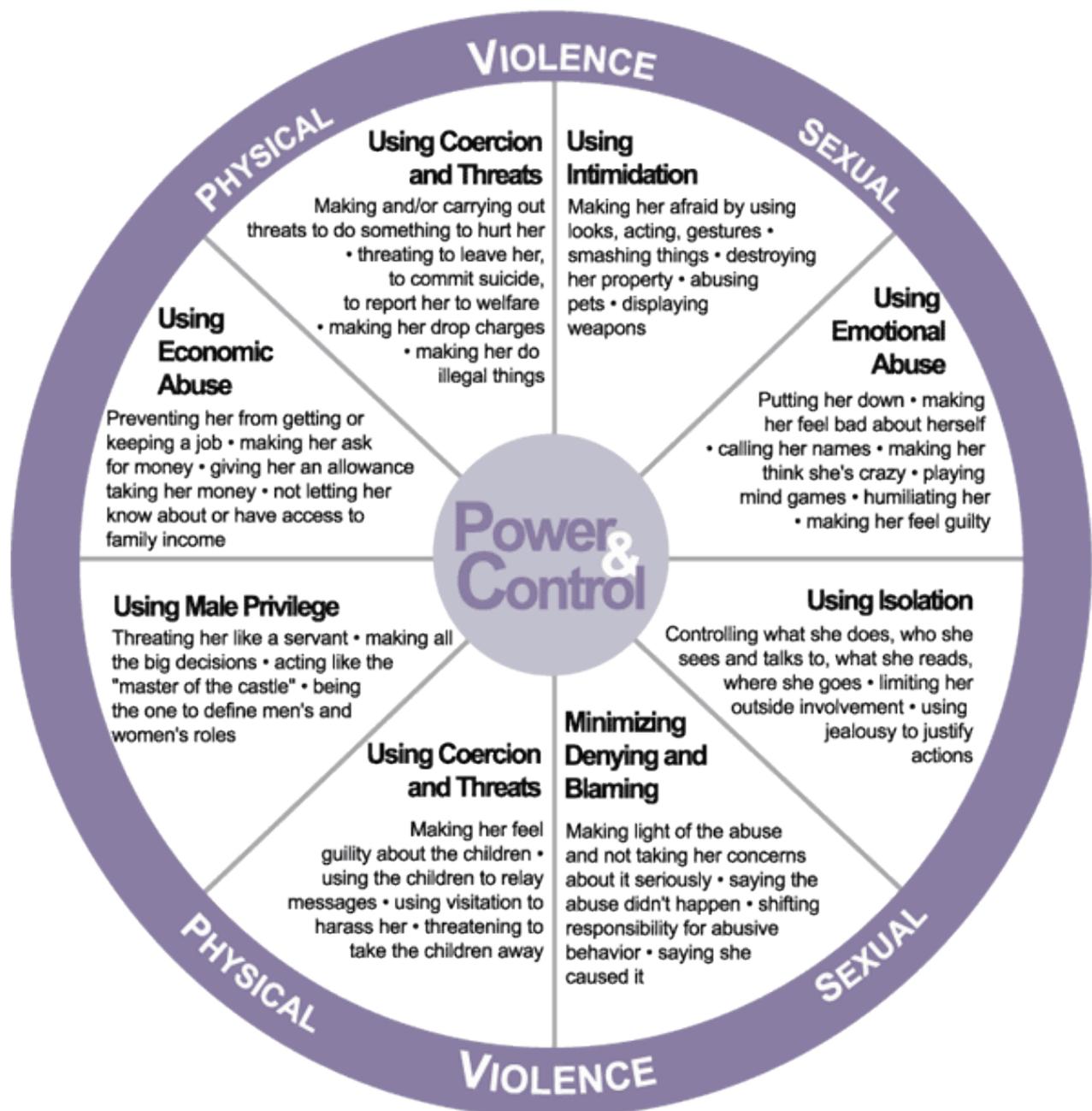


## What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence, or intimate partner violence, is a violation of human rights. It involves violent, abusive or intimidating behaviour carried out by an adult against a partner or former partner to control and dominate that person.

Domestic violence causes fear, physical and/or psychological harm. It is most often violent, abusive or intimidating behaviour by a man against a woman.

## The Power and Control Wheel shows the type of tactics used by the abuser.



Living with domestic violence has a profound effect upon children and young people and may constitute a form of child abuse. (*The NSW Domestic and Family Violence Action Plan*, June 2010)

The above definition includes violence in same sex relationships.

## **Domestic violence can include:**

- physical assault including:
  - Punching, Hitting, Kicking, Pushing
  - Slapping, Choking, Use of weapons
- sexual assault
  - being forced to have sex
  - or participate in sexual activities, either by watching or participating
- emotional abuse
  - making you feel worthless
  - criticising your personality, your looks
  - the way you dress, constantly putting you down
  - threatening to hurt you, your children or your pets
- verbal abuse
  - including yelling, shouting
  - name-calling and swearing at you
- social abuse
  - being stopped from seeing friends and family
  - isolating you socially or geographically
- damaging property such as furniture, the house or pets in order to threaten or intimidate you
- financial abuse
  - taking control of the money
  - not giving you enough money to survive on
  - forcing you to hand over your money
  - not letting you have a say in how it is spent.
- Physical and sexual assault is a crime whether it happens in the home or on the street.

## **Family Violence:**

Family violence is broader than the usual mainstream definition of domestic violence.

- Family violence involves any use of force, be it physical or non-physical, which is aimed at controlling another family or community member and which undermines that person's wellbeing. It can be directed towards an individual, family, community or particular group. (FaHCSIA 2009).

## **Signs of an abusive relationship**

It is not always easy to identify if you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence or is in an abusive relationship. Violence and abuse are experienced in

many different ways. Violence and abuse can include emotional abuse, sexual abuse and financial abuse.

Below is a list of signs of abuse. These behaviours are typical of the jealousy, possessiveness, put downs, threats and violence that occur in domestic violence and abusive relationships.

**A woman may be experiencing abuse if a man or family member in her life:**

- unfairly and regularly accuses her of flirting or being unfaithful
- controls how she spends money
- decides what she wears or eats
- humiliates her in front of other people
- monitors what she is doing, including reading her emails and text messages
- discourages or prevents her from seeing friends and family
- threatens to hurt her, the children or pets
- physically assaults her (hitting, biting, slapping, kicking, pushing)
- yells at her
- threatens to use a weapon against her
- decides what she uses for birth control
- forces her to have an abortion or to continue a pregnancy
- constantly compares her with other people
- constantly criticises her intelligence, mental health and appearance
- prevents her from practicing her religion.

## **Effects of domestic violence**

Violence and the threat of violence at home creates fear and can destroy normal family functioning. Violence in the home also affects children. Children and young people don't have to see the violence to be affected by it.

Living with domestic violence can cause physical and emotional harm to the victim, children and young people.

## **Domestic violence and children**

For optimal development, children and young people need to grow up in a secure and nurturing environment. Where domestic or family violence exists, the home is not safe or secure and children are scared about what might happen to them and the people they love.

Studies show that children who have witnessed domestic violence are more likely to:

- show aggressive behaviour
- develop phobias and insomnia
- experience anxiety and fear

- show symptoms of depression
  - have diminished self esteem
  - show emotional distress
  - have physical complaints
  - have reduced social skills
  - demonstrate poor academic performance and problem solving skills
  - have reduced social competence skills, including low levels of empathy
- (the above information is taken from NSW Community service website)

## Your Role:

- Discuss Domestic violence concerns with your Parish Safeguarding Officer or National Safeguarding Officer at the Eparchy for support and guidance. The Victim and children may benefit from early intervention programs offered in your local area.
- If the threat level is high, call 000 or your local child protection agencies on the number provided below.

<b>State and Territory</b>	<b>24 hours Reporting Lines</b>	
New South Wales	Child protection Helpline	Ph: 13 21 11 TTY 1800 212 936
	Mandatory reporters	Ph: 13 36 27
Victoria	Child Protection Crisis Line	Ph: 13 12 78
	North Division Intake	Ph: 1300 664 977
	South Division Intake	Ph: 1300 655 795
	East Division Intake	Ph: 1300 360 391
	West Division Intake Rural and regional only	Ph: 1800 075 599
	West Division Intake metropolitan only	Ph: 1300 664 977
	After hours Child Protection Emergency Service	Ph: 13 12 78
South Australia	Child Abuse Report Line	Ph: 13 14 78
	After hours crisis care	Ph: 13 16 11
Northern Territory	Child Protection Hotline	Ph: 1800 700 250
Western Australia	Child Protection Service	Ph: (08) 9222 2555 Country Free Call 1800 622 258
		Country Free call:1800 199 008
	After hours	Ph: (08) 9223 1111

	mandatory reporter line	Ph: 1800 708 704
Tasmania	Child Abuse Contact number	Ph: 1300 737 639
Australian Capital Territory	Mandatory Reporters	Ph: 1300 556 728
	General Public	Ph: 1300 556 729
Queensland	Child Safety After Hours Service Centre	Ph: 1800 177 135
local intake locations as below:		
Ipswich	Ph: 1800 316 855	
Far North Queensland	Ph: 1300 684 062	Fax: 07 4039 8320
South West	Ph: 1300 683 390	Fax: 07 4616 1796
Brisbane	Ph: 1300 682 254	Fax: 07 3259 8771
South East	Ph: 1300 679 849	Fax: 07 3884 8802
North Coast	Ph: 1300 703 921	Fax: 07 5420 9049
North Queensland	Ph: 1300 706 147	Fax: 07 4799 7273
Central Queensland	Ph: 1300 703 762	Fax: 07 4938 4697

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