



# COMPELLING reasons that keep WOMEN IN ABUSIVE relationships

## Compelling Reasons That Keep Women In Abusive Relationships

The following list is a composite of views from women in our groups over the past several years. They invited us into their lives and helped us answer the question: "What keeps women in abusive relationships?"

- He will threaten to leave me.
- He said he will, " Hunt me down and kill me."
- He will kidnap the children and disappear.
- He will spread horrible rumors about me.
- I will never be safe, I might as well live with him.
- She will "out" me at work or to my family.

### Effects of Abuse:

- Depression.
- Feelings of immobility.
- Can't face making decisions.
- "I am so used to my life being this way."
- "I have no real options or choices."

### Roles Culture Forces Upon Women:

#### *Guilt*

- I will ruin his life if I leave.
- She will lose her job if I report this.
- He will start drinking again.
- I will disappoint my family.
- I have to take care of him.

#### *Economic Dependence*

- He has all the money.
- I have never had a good job. How will I care for kids alone?
- Better to be beaten up at home that to be on the street.
- I would rather die than be on welfare.

#### *Subordination*

- I am afraid to be on my own. Who will protect me?
- I fear that I will never be in a relationship again.
- He gives me a sense of security.
- I don't want to be a divorced woman.