

“We should approach it as a human rights problem and not as one that affects women. After all, men are also victims of violence and men find themselves in many of the same situations that you have described. There are male prostitutes who are abused, men who are raped by other men, and even men who are battered and/or verbally abused by their wives,” a participant of the UN seminar said.

Others consider violence against women an issue in itself.

True, not enough studies have been made on the relationship between violence against women and violence in societies in general.

Worse, few women’s groups address the problem of violence against women. The government and the community as a whole have yet to recognize the issue as a real and serious social problem.

source: *Voices of Thai Women*, No. 9, June 1993; Foundation for Women, P.O. Box 47, Bangkok 10700

Forms of Violence Against Women

PSYCHOLOGICAL isolation, restricting freedom, threats, humiliation, abuse of privilege, denial of love and attention, denial of support, threat or act of abandonment, threat of harm

ECONOMIC destruction or snatching of property, forced dependency, neglect of other person’s needs

SEXUAL incest, molestation, forced sexual activity, inappropriate sexual attention, unwanted touching or intercourse after assault

PHYSICAL pushing; shoving; punching; slapping; the use of arms, feet, objects or weapons for discipline’ personal controls on clothing, behavior, association and action.

(Taken from Gladys Gwashure, Program Director, Musasa Project, at the Seminar on Violence Against Women, 31 August-3 September 1993, in Harare, Zimbabwe)

source: *Speak Out/Taurai/Khulumani*, No.27, 1994; Women’s Action Group, P.O. Box 135, Harare, Zimbabwe

Why, pray tell?

Reasons why women remain in abusive relationships

Emotional

- lack of inner strength
- fear of the future
- hope for change
- loving him even though he hurts her
- belief in the myth “I asked for it”

Economic

- unemployment
- no family to go to
- the children’s economic well-being

Social

- advice from family, friends and the church to stay
- lack of support from the community
- poor response from the police

source: *Speak Out/Taurai/Khulumani* No. 27, 1994