

# *BREAKING THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE*



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MINISTRY FOR JUSTICE,  
EQUALITY AND GOVERNANCE

# Disabled women and domestic violence

## Info session no. 2

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Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability

# What did we do in the first session?

- Set ground rules:
  - Don't be judgmental
  - Respect confidentiality
  - Feel free to leave the room if you need to
- Introduced ourselves – why and what we would like to achieve from this training?
- What are men/women naturally good at?
- Workshop: What do you understand with violence against women?

# What are men/women naturally good at?

Men	Women
Stronger	Cooking
Sports	Cleaning
Decision-makers	Caring

Any thoughts about this?

# What are men/women naturally good at?

- Outside vs inside the house
- Meeting people therefore having a support network vs. not meeting people therefore NOT having a support network
- Paid vs unpaid work

- Society gives less power to women
- Society gives less power to disabled people
- Society is organised around non-disabled people
  - are services accessible?

# Awareness of self



Image of a woman walking on a sandy beach with cliff on the sides with words 'Self Awareness is the path to inner peace' written on the image

Accepting myself as I am – accepting my impairment gives me the power to be ME.



Image – sentences in different colours: 'I am happy to be me. I may not be perfect but I am honest, loving and happy. I never try to be anything that I'm not and I am not here to impress anyone else. I am me'. URL: [www.daveswordsofwisdom.com](http://www.daveswordsofwisdom.com)





Image of pink heart with words  
'love yourself' written on it

# Awareness of my rights

- Equal Opportunities Compliance Unit –
  - [eoac@crpd.org.mt](mailto:eoac@crpd.org.mt)
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)
  - [crpd@crpd.org.mt](mailto:crpd@crpd.org.mt)

- No-one is fully independent!
- We all have our network of support.
- Independent is about maximising the control we have over our lives.

# Reaching out to stop domestic violence

Kellimni – [kellimni.com](http://kellimni.com)

SupportLine – 179

Police Emergency Line – 112

Agenzija Sapport (Malta) – 22568000

Appoġġ – 22959000

Social Work Unit Gozo – 22156630

Victim Support Malta – 21228333

St Jeanne Antide – SOAR - 21808981

# What is Domestic Violence?

- Defined by Domestic Violence Act (Chapter 481) as any act of violence, even if only verbal perpetrated by a household member upon another household member and includes any omission which causes physical or moral harm to the other.

# Socially constructed

- “Thirty years ago, wife abuse didn’t exist; there were no ‘battered women; or abusive men. Of course that doesn’t mean that men were not violent towards women. Rather it means that the social problem.....was not yet in the public consciousness”

(Loseke, 2001: p.107)

# Forms of Violence



Image entitled 'Forms of violence' List of different forms of violence:  
Emotional abuse, financial abuse, psychological abuse, sexual abuse, physical  
abuse. URL: [www.legalaid.on.ca/DVC](http://www.legalaid.on.ca/DVC)

# Physical Abuse

- The abusive person hurts the victim physically .
- The victim lives in fear because of the perpetrator and; it can lead to death.



# Psychological Abuse

- Intimidation, offensive words, humiliation, lack of trust, victim-blaming.
- Forcing the victim to live in isolation from their family, friends and social networks

# Sexual Abuse

- Forced sexual acts
- Sexual threats
- Forced prostitution, or
- Forced to watch pornography

# Financial Abuse

- The abusive person hinders the victim from gainful employment/studies
- Limits the person's resources such as food, and/or taking away the victim's own resources

# Emotional Abuse

- Spiritual Abuse: Abuser prohibits the victim from practicing their religious beliefs (such religion is ridiculed).
- If children are involved, decisions are imposed on the choice of their children's religion.

# Emotional Abuse

- Stalking : Can also occur after the end of a relationship. The abusive person follows the victim against their will.
- Continues sending of messages or letters, telephone calls and threats.

# Domestic Violence

**It is all about power and control**



# How I can control you ?

Put you down and shame you

Ignore and pay no attention to what you say or do

Find fault in everything which you do

Blaming you for things which go wrong

Making unreasonable demands

Give you the 'silent treatment'

# How I can control you ?

Cut you off from friends and also family

Threatening you “I will leave you and cut you off financially”

Give you those ‘LOOKS’ so you will know that you are in for it

Be moody with you



Abusers control,  
manipulate and  
make you feel like  
you are the one  
with the problem.  
Stand up, speak  
out and take back  
your life. You  
are not to blame.💕

Image with  
'Abusers control,  
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problem. Stand  
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and take back  
your life. You are  
not to blame'.

# Why I am interested in this course ?

Inħossni vulnerabbli fejn jidħol is-sugġett  
Sabiex inkun aktar aware u nkun nista' ngħin lil ħaddieħor  
Inkun aktar assertiva  
Sabiex nitgħallem

# Something I want to achieve

Inżid is-self-esteem tiegħi u jkolli aktar awareness  
Inkun aktar *resilient* u *empowered to make sure my rights are respected*

Aktar *strong emotionally – not feeling guilty if needing to report an abuse*

Video clip: Leslie Morgan Steiner

Why victims of domestic violence don't leave

[https://www.ted.com/talks/leslie\\_morgan\\_steiner\\_why\\_domestic\\_violence\\_victims\\_don\\_t\\_leave#t-2822](https://www.ted.com/talks/leslie_morgan_steiner_why_domestic_violence_victims_don_t_leave#t-2822)

# Discussion