

Men Who Respect Women

Listen to and value their partner's opinions and feelings.

They respond in ways women never feel frightened of.

They do not believe they are more important than or better than women.

They do believe in equality



**If we acknowledge and accept
that Domestic Abuse is
about Power & Control
we need to focus on what that
Power & Control is about.**

Behavioural Patterns of the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator – from his beliefs

- * **Patriarchal Control:** As a man I am the boss, my needs come first, I must win and I am right
- * **Emotional Control:** She needs devaluing and should feel her worth through valuing me
- * **Isolation Control:** I decide who she sees, where she goes and what she does, and limit it
- * **Financial Control:** I buy what I want and keep tabs on her spending
- * **Spiritual Control:** I use religion to back up my assumed superior status
- * **Technological Control:** To keep tabs on where she goes, who she sees, what she does
- * **Sexual Control:** Take this as my religious right, conjugal right, male entitlement
- * **Physical control:** I use this if she steps out of line, provokes it, deserves it
- * **Psychological Control:** Threats to expose, threats to harm, threats to kill, create fear
- * **Coercive Control:** Use of children, use of pets, use of all of the above to disempower her

Popular Beliefs amongst men who abuse women

I'm the boss Men take charge I know best

She should obey me She should serve me first

A 'good wife' should know her place

God gave man superiority My needs come first

She should not challenge me or answer me back

Women can be punished if they step out of line

Men's supremacy, privilege, violence, abuse, power and control of women

Why does a man want power over a woman?

When did it begin?

Why did it begin?

Why does a man assume a right to power over women?

How did it become a societal norm to put women in a place second to men, subordinate and to serve man?

How did male violence of women get to be called –

“Crime of Passion”, “Women making their own bed”, “Sanctioned by God”

Negative Attitudes persist about women

Women can't - be trusted - 'Given them an inch, they'll take a mile'

Women can't do/have - men's jobs, men's sport, men's position of power, men's privileges

Women are – too emotional, hysterical, hormonal, too weak, wicked, provocative, immodest, crazy, mad, bad drivers, bad mothers ... never good enough.

If a man holds these kinds of attitudes
how will he treat women?

What are the Motives and Purpose for violence against women -

To make her obey - Stop her talking to other men / or others not approved of

To make her have sex on man's terms, when and how he wants sex

To make her wear clothes he expects her to wear

“women... do not adorn yourselves outwardly by braiding your hair and by wearing gold ornaments or fine clothing” - 1st letter of Peter 3:1-3

“Were it not for the calamity that afflicted Hawwa, the women of this world would not menstruate, would be wise, and would bear their children with ease” - *al-Tabari* (1:529)

To feel dominant, in control of her, and make her dependant on him

“Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.” - I Corinthians 14:34-35



Controlling Beliefs

I decide who she can talk to –
This is my God given right as
head of my house.

She should do as I say – she
will put shame on me if other
people from our religion see
her disobey me.

“Women can’t be trusted – Eve
was proof of that”

Men have to use a firm hand –
“a rod is for the back of one
who lacks sense” Proverb 10:13

Sex is my religious right

Controlling Intent

To stop her
talking to other men

And

To punish her if
she does talk to
another man

Controlling Behaviour

Threatens & Intimidates her

Quotes Ephesians 5.24:

“Now as the church submits
to Christ, so also wives
should submit in everything
to their husbands.”

Calls her degrading names
makes her feel she is failing as
a mother and with her Faith.

Makes sexual demands to punish
her for talking to another man



Respectful Beliefs

She has the right to talk to other men

I have no right to tell her who she can or can't talk to, despite feeling jealous from time to time.

Her happiness is important to me

Finding respectful verse and positive role models in the sacred text is important:

'Husband love your wife and never treat her harshly'

Paul's letter to the Colossians

Good Intent

To support and encourage her to have her own friends, including male friends

Loving/Caring Behaviour

Being welcoming to her friends

Being home on time to swap over the care of the children so that she can take part in her interests

Complement her, and be interested in her day

Gain positive guidance from faith leaders and sacred text about men who respect women



MEN ONLY

**ENTRY FOR WOMEN
IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN**



“God did not create women so that they could run” – USA 1967 Boston marathon



Faith Leaders at the Houses of Parliament making a commitment to support victims and challenge perpetrators of domestic abuse within their religious communities



Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh and Jewish leaders agreed that domestic abuse was a problem in their communities.

Neutrality and non-action effectively means you become an ally of the abuser

Domestic Abuse is: A pattern of controlling behaviour which increases in frequency and severity the longer it goes on.

Domestic Abuse is not: A 'One Off' incident.

Domestic Abuse is: Purposeful, intentional, has benefits for the perpetrator, and aims to get him what he wants – Power and Control.

The carnage caused by 6 men who killed as part of domestic abuse from Birmingham area

Known reports in the last 12 months

- * Women (wives / ex-partners) killed = 4
- * Young Children (son's / daughters) killed = 3
- * Parents (mother /mother in law killed) = 1
- * Children left motherless as a result of him killing wife/ex-partner = 14
- * Mother's left childless as a result of his killing young children = 2
- * Parent's left daughterless resulting from man killing partner = ?
- * Grandparents left grandchild-less = ?
- * Siblings losing siblings as a result of him killing wife/ex-partner = ?

All because these men believed women should not challenge man's authority and should not walk away from him or leave the him.

Men who do not abuse women believe in - True Love: Equal Rights, Partnership, Sharing, Being Accountable, Having Fun, Caring, Honesty, Companionship

**They need their
religious faith
and want their
faith leader to**

**Teach
Guide
Support
Promote
these Values**



Charter on Domestic Abuse:

Being responsible as Faith Leaders to help keep the Community safe from domestic abuse

- * Educate the religious community about domestic abuse, about the risks and the harm, denouncing abusive and controlling behaviour.
- * Teach and celebrate gender equality – what female/male equality means: equal importance, equal rights and opportunity.
- * Inform the religious community about local and national support and intervention services
- * Have domestic abuse specialists within your community (as well as the Faith Leader) who can monitor how your charter is working, be accountable to the religious community, and be a part of multi-agency domestic abuse forums.

Take action
against violence towards women



www.whiteribboncampaign.co.uk

Contact Respect (www.respect.uk.net) for advice about domestic abuse programmes
Contact White Ribbon Campaign for guidance on positive campaign ideas

Educate **men** to want gender equality with women
Encourage **men** to help end male violence against women
Expect **men** to be the positive role models boys need

Faith Leaders

can:

Seek training and seek guidance from experts for the skills needed to –

Promote gender equality and tackle discrimination and abuse of women and girls, and the domestic abuse



Learn from organisations with domestic abuse expertise for training and workshops for your Religious Community.

Religious Communities

can:

Develop Action Plans and Charters to guide and improve their commitment to ending Domestic Abuse and Sexual Abuse