



16 Days of Activism – Day 13

Facts about Domestic Violence and Economic Abuse

WHAT IS ECONOMIC ABUSE?

Economic abuse happens when an abuser takes control of or limits access to shared or individual assets or limits the current or future earning potential of the victim as a strategy of power and control. In economic abuse, the abuser separates the victim from her own resources, rights and choices, isolating the victim financially and creating a forced dependency for the victim and other family members.

ECONOMIC ABUSE TAKES MANY FORMS:

Employment-related abuse: when the abuser prevents a victim from earning money. Examples include:

- Preventing victim from attending a job.
- Demanding that the victim quits his or her job.
- Preventing the victim from looking for jobs or attending job interviews.
- Harassing the victim at work.

Coerced debt: when an abuser forces non-consensual, credit-related transactions. Examples include:

- Applying for credit cards, obtaining loans, or opening accounts in a victim's name without his or her knowledge or consent.
- Forcing the victim to obtain loans.
- Forcing the victim to sign financial documents
- Use of threats or physical force to convince victims to make credit-related transactions.
- Refinancing a home mortgage or car loan without a victim's knowledge.

Other forms of economic abuse involve the abuser *preventing a victim from accessing existing funds*. Examples include:

- Deciding when or how the victim can access or use cash, bank accounts, or credit cards.
- Forcing a victim to give the abuser money, ATM cards, or credit cards.
- Demanding that the lease or mortgage or assets be in the abuser's name.
- Using victim's checkbook, ATM card, or credit cards without the victim's knowledge.

WHY IT MATTERS:

Victims of domestic violence may be unable to leave an abusive partner or may be forced to return to an abusive partner for economic reasons.

Victims of coerced debt may face massive barriers to economic self-sufficiency, including struggling to find a job or even obtaining a place to live after leaving an abuser due to debt and its detrimental effects on their personal credit scores.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Between 94-99% of domestic violence survivors have also experienced economic abuse.
- Between 21-60% of victims of domestic violence lose their jobs due to reasons stemming from abuse.
- Victims of domestic violence lose a total of 8 million days of paid work each year.
- Between 2005 and 2006, 130,000 stalking victims were asked to leave their jobs as a result of their victimization.

"Violence against women is perhaps the most shameful human rights violation. And it is perhaps the most pervasive. It knows no boundaries of geography, culture or wealth. As long as it continues, we cannot claim to be making real progress towards equality, development, and peace."

- Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, "A World Free of Violence Against Women," United Nations Global Videoconference, 8 March 1999

SAY NO TO VIOLENCE.