



TIP SHEET 2

What is Domestic & Family Violence?

Domestic and Family Violence is:

Any behaviour (either physical or non-physical) in an intimate or family relationship, that is intended to coerce or control another person, or that causes another person to be intimidated or live in fear. This includes physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, verbal, financial or stalking behaviour (see the 'Power and Control Wheel' below for other typical types of abusive tactics).

Power and Control Wheel

Used with permission by Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs, Duluth, Minnesota.

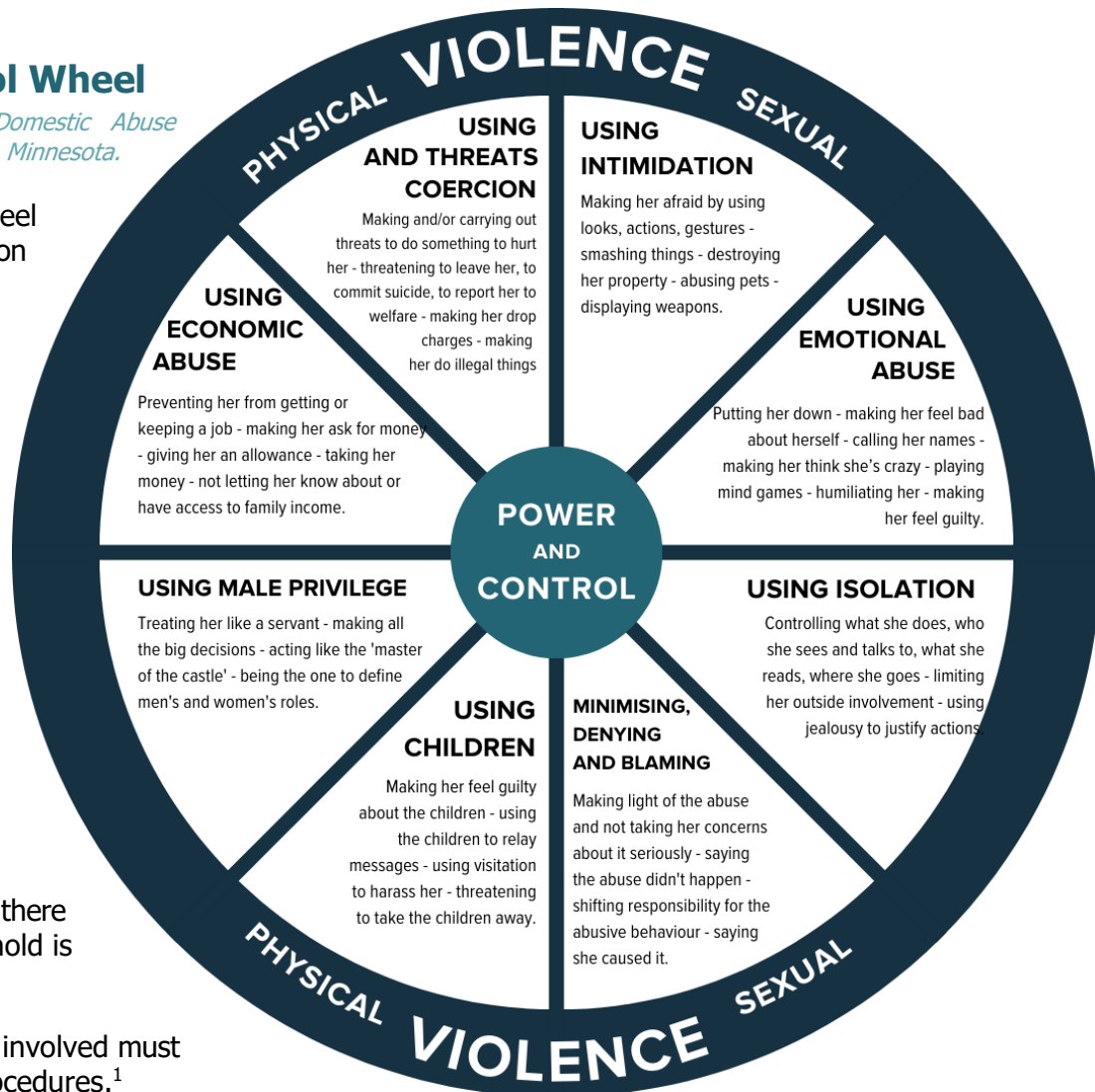
The power and control wheel demonstrates how a person using violence often uses physical and sexual violence to assert and wield control.

The eight spokes of the wheel are examples of tactics that people who use violence may use to obtain that power and control.

Domestic violence generally occurs as a pattern of actions and behaviour rather than a single incident.

Domestic violence where there are children in the household is **child abuse**.

Abuse where children are involved must follow child protection procedures.¹



¹ For more information on child abuse and child protection procedures, see the *Breaking the Silence: Foundations Training Workbook*, Presbyterian Church NSW, Conduct Protocol Unit. Available online:



Domestic and Family Violence can happen in many relationships

- intimate partners
- older people (sometimes called 'elder abuse')
- parents and older children
- people with a disability

Abuse is an exploitation of power. It seeks to wield control over another. Statistics show us that the victims of this exploitation are usually women and children.

Most men are not violent, however 95% of all victims of violence, whether women or men, experience violence from a male perpetrator.²

"Women are over three times more likely to experience violence than men by a partner."

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It is the church's role to love and support those who are vulnerable.

(James 1:27)

Domestic and family violence is often a hidden violence. Those who use violence may seek to dismiss or condone their actions. Physical violence is easier to identify - emotional or other forms of abuse are usually less visible.

However, it is important to note that all forms of domestic and family violence are wrong and must be taken seriously. If domestic and family violence is occurring in our church communities, we need to be aware of it and do all we can do to support those experiencing violence.

For more information on how to respond well to domestic and family violence, please see DFV Tip Sheet 3 - *Responding to Domestic Violence from a Leadership Perspective*.

breakingthesilence.org.au/resources.

² Our Watch, Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) and VicHealth, 'Change the story: A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women and their children in Australia', *Our Watch*, Melbourne, 2015, p. 20.

³ Our Watch, ANROWS & VicHealth, 'Change the story', p. 12. Image adapted for use.



If you are concerned that you or someone you know is experiencing or at risk of Domestic and Family Violence, please contact the **Conduct Protocol Unit (CPU)** and inform the *Breaking the Silence* Representative or leadership of your church.

Conduct Protocol Unit, Presbyterian Church of Australia (NSW, ACT, WA, TAS)

Phone: [02 9690 9325](tel:0296909325) | Email: cpu@pcnsw.org.au | Website: breakingthesilence.org.au

SUPPORT SERVICES**1800 RESPECT - National Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence Counselling Service**

24/7 support and advice for people impacted by sexual assault, domestic or family violence or abuse.

Ph: [1800 737 732](tel:1800737732) Web: 1800respect.org.au

NSW Domestic Violence Line

24/7 information, support and referrals for women experiencing violence.

Ph: [1800 656 463](tel:1800656463)
Web: domesticviolence.nsw.gov.au/get-help

NSW Child Protection Helpline

24/7 helpline for reporting concerns for the safety of children and young people.

FURTHER RESOURCES

Conduct Protocol Unit. ***Breaking the Silence: Foundations Training Workbook***. Presbyterian Church NSW, 2023. Online: breakingthesilence.org.au/resources

Domestic Abuse intervention Programs. **"Power and Control Wheel,"** *The Duluth Model*. 202 East Superior Street, Duluth, Minnesota 55802. Online: theduluthmodel.org/wheels

1800respect.org.au

Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Program (WDVCAP) at Legal Aid NSW. ***Charmed and Dangerous: A woman's guide to reclaiming a healthy relationship***. June 2020. Online: publications.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/PublicationsResourcesService/PublicationImprints/Files/754.pdf

Ph: [132 111](tel:132111) Web: reporter.childstory.nsw.gov.au/s

No to Violence: Men's Referral Service
National service providing advice and support for men using violence.

Ph: [1300 766 491](tel:1300766491) Web: ntv.org.au

MensLine

National service supporting men experiencing violence in a relationship.

Ph: [1300 789 978](tel:1300789978) Web: mensline.org.au