# WHEN LOVE HURTS 

A WOMAN'S GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING ABUSE IN RELATIONSHIPS

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Diagrams and Exercises

DIAGRAM 2.1: THE CYCLE OF ABUSE


EXPLOSION

- Intimidating body language
- Constrains me from leaving
- Throwing things
- Slamming doors
- Silent treatment
- Physical assault
- Name-calling
- Swearing
- Yelling

HONEYMOON

- Apologetic
- Promises to change
- Shows affection
- Wants to have sex
- Agrees to go for counseling
- Shows interest in communicating
- More attentive to family and me
- Helps around the house
- Gives gifts and compliments


TENSION
Insults

- Threats
- Sarcasm
- Jealousy
- Accusations
- Faultfinding
- Controls what I do
- Quick mood changes
- Emotionally distant

THE CYCLE OF ABUSE
My Experience of His Behavior

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$\qquad$
$\qquad$


EXPLOSION

- I try to protect myself

I suffer physical injuries

- I give in to him
- I feel degraded
- I feel trapped
- I feel terrified
- I yell back
- I feel guilty

HONEYMOON

- I'm hopeful
- I'm relieved
- I'm skeptical
- There's time for me to heal
- I feel confused

I know it's not genuine

- I feel reconnected with him
- I wonder how long it will last
- I enjoy a break from housework


## THE CYCLE OF ABUSE Impact on Me





DIAGRAM 6.1: REFRAMING EXERCISE
$\left.\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|}\hline \text { NEGATIVE } & \text { SAFETY } & \text { STRENGTH } & \text { IMPACT } \\ \hline \begin{array}{c}\text { SESCFIPTION } \\ \text { "You're a } \\ \text { troublemaker" }\end{array} & \begin{array}{c}\text { I need to defend } \\ \text { myself against my } \\ \text { partner's } \\ \text { accusations }\end{array} & \begin{array}{c}\text { I have my own } \\ \text { opinions and } \\ \text { ideas }\end{array} & \begin{array}{c}\text { I'm made to feel } \\ \text { responsible for } \\ \text { problems }\end{array} \\ \hline \begin{array}{c}\text { "You can't } \\ \text { handle conflict" }\end{array} & \begin{array}{c}\text { I watch out for } \\ \text { my emotional and } \\ \text { physical } \\ \text { well-being }\end{array} & \begin{array}{c}\text { I'm able to } \\ \text { negotiate and } \\ \text { compromise in } \\ \text { my relationships }\end{array} & \begin{array}{c}\text { My experiences of } \\ \text { abuse have made } \\ \text { me afraid of } \\ \text { conflict }\end{array} \\ \hline \begin{array}{c}\text { "You're too } \\ \text { dependent on } \\ \text { your partner" }\end{array} & \begin{array}{c}\text { I know my } \\ \text { independence } \\ \text { threatens my } \\ \text { partner's need to } \\ \text { control me }\end{array} & \begin{array}{c}\text { I'm interested in } \\ \text { my partner and } \\ \text { our relationship }\end{array} & \begin{array}{c}\text { My partner has } \\ \text { forced me to be } \\ \text { dependent } \\ \text { (socially, }\end{array} \\ \text { financially, etc.) }\end{array}\right]$

| NEGATIVE <br> DESCRIPTION | SAFETY <br> STRATEGY | STRENGTH | IMPACT |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

DIAGRAM 7.1: CONTRASTING BELIEF SYSTEMS

| POWER AND CONTROL |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| BELIEFSYSTEM | RELATIONSHIP |
| BELIEFSYSTEM |  |
| Central | Connected |
| Superior | Equal |
| Deserving | Mutual |

DIAGRAM 7.2: ACCOMMODATING HIS DESIRE FOR CENTRALITY

| YOUR PARTNER | YoU |
| :---: | :---: |
| Central | Peripheral |
| Superior | Inferior |
| Deserving | Serving |

## Evaluating Your Support

| POTENTIAL SOURCES OF SUPPORT | HOW HAS THIS PERSON OR SERVICE BEEN HELPFUL OR UNHELPFUL? |
| :---: | :---: |
| $\square$ Women's shelter or safe housing |  |
| $\square$ Victim services |  |
| $\square$ Women's resource center |  |
| $\square$ Group counseling for women |  |
| Counselors for you or for your children |  |
| $\square$ Family |  |
| $\square$ Friends |  |
| - Immigrant support services |  |
| $\square$ Doctor or health-care provider |  |
| $\square$ Mental health services |  |
| $\square$ Addiction services |  |
| $\square$ Lawyer |  |
| $\square$ Police |  |
| $\square$ Employment (boss/co-workers) |  |
| $\square$ Employment training |  |
| $\square$ Child care |  |
| $\square$ Children's school |  |
| $\square$ Recreation center, social or sports club |  |

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| POTENTIAL SOURCES |
| :--- | :---: |
| OF SUPPPORT |$\quad$| HOW HAS THIS PERSON OR SERVICE EEEN |
| :---: |
| HELPFULOR UNHELPFFUL? |

DIAGRAM 11.1: THE HEALING PROCESS


