

# Domestic Violence

By

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**Social Inequality [SOC 37]**

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# WOMEN

# VIOLENCE

# DOMESTIC ABUSE

# DOMESTIC

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## What is Domestic Violence?

- Domestic violence is a type of abuse. Involves hurting someone usually a spouse or a partner but can also be a parent, child or other relative.
- Domestic violence is an enormously widespread issue that remains underrepresented and mishandled regarding its resolution efforts.



# Types of ABUSE

Abuse comes in many forms.



**Emotional/Verbal abuse**  
Non-physical behaviors such as threats, insults, screaming, constant monitoring, or isolation.



**Physical abuse**  
Any intentional use of physical touch to cause fear, injury, or loss of control, such as hitting, shoving, & strangling.



**Sexual abuse**  
Any sexual activity that occurs without willing, active, unimpaired consent, such as unwanted sexual touch, sexual assault (rape), tampering with contraception.



**Financial abuse**  
Exerting power and control over a partner through their finances, such as taking or withholding money from a partner, or prohibiting a partner from earning.



**Stalking**  
Being repeatedly watched, followed, monitored or harassed. Occurs online or in person, & can include giving unwanted gifts.



**Digital abuse**  
Using technology to bully, harass, threaten or intimidate a partner using texting, social media, tracking, etc.

- Domestic violence is a broad term that includes a variety of forms of psychological, physical, and sexual violence in a domestic setting. Although there is a fraction of cases of female to male violence, the most common and widely spread form of domestic violence is the one involving a male hurting a female partner in heterosexual relationships.

“Domestic violence causes far more pain than the visible marks of bruises and scars. It is devastating to be abused by someone that you love and think loves you in return. It is estimated that approximately 3 million incidents of domestic violence are reported each year in the United States.”

-- Dianne Feinstein

## Causes :

- “Domestic violence may start when one partner feels the need to control and dominate the other. Abusers may feel this need to control their partner because of low self-esteem , extreme jealousy, difficulties in regulating anger and other strong emotion , or when they feel inferior to the other partner in education and socioeconomic background. Some men with very traditional beliefs may think they have the right to control women and that women are not equal to men.”



# Gender Inequality

- Gender inequality is one of the core factors that reinforce domestic violence, the issue needs to be handled systematically, involving economic, political, and medical spheres of policymaking.
- As the recent studies show, the domestic violence consists primarily from abuse toward women coming from their partners, the resolution of the issue should be enacted within that framework, including the elimination of gender inequality, reformation of the healthcare system, and introduction of more effective preventive, monitoring, and reaction policies.

## What is Gender Inequality

Gender inequality is the unequal treatment or perceptions of individuals based on their gender. It arises from differences in socially constructed gender roles



# Gender inequality

- Of course, gender inequality is not the only factor that predetermines domestic violence, as “there seems to be neither a definite risk profile nor a specific association with a psychopathological profile” (Flury et al. 1). For instance, homosexual relationships also include a variety of domestic violence cases, and there are certain differences in race and class when it comes to experiencing and reaction to domestic violence (Sokoloff, and Dupont 43).





# Economic Inequality

- Because of the existing economic inequality between men and women and institutional forms of sexism and misogyny (that prevail even in the developed Western societies, let alone more traditional patriarchal states), women suffer greater economic and cultural dependence on their partners and tend to live through the abuse of power in the domestic setting.

# The resolution of the domestic violence

- The resolution of the domestic violence issue cannot be produced through one effective policy or change. Rather, as the above studies suggest, domestic violence “is not a monolithic phenomenon,” which means that several policies and recommendations are needed to make any progress regarding the issue (Sokoloff, and Dupont 43). The first and most important step to tackle domestic violence is to “promote gender equality and women rights” (World Health Organization 22). This step includes promoting educational opportunities for women, eliminating the gender wage gap, and other policies that would make women more independent, educated, and aware of the issue and possible reactions to it. Second, healthcare initiatives need to propose a multivariate help for both women who suffer from domestic violence or related risky behavior, and men who also possess both victim and aggressor issues.

# Summary of the essay

Domestic violence remains an enormous issue even in relatively developed countries, posing a grave threat to women suffering from emotional, physical or sexual abuse from their partners. The extent of domestic violence is such enormous that approximately 10-35% women experience it in their lifetime, while three out of four acts of violence against women are produced by their domestic partners (Flury et al. 1), (Aizer 1847). Domestic violence may have different forms, victims, and settings, yet there are certain gendered patterns of domestic violence.

Still, it is women who constitute the most likely victim of domestic abuse and it is men who are the most likely offenders, which makes the gendered approach the most applicable to analyze the overall trend of the phenomenon.

Despite the gargantuan level of domestic violence and its presence in every society in the world, there is still no unified and certain action against the phenomenon. According to Aizer , as women become more economically independent, they are more likely to prevent cases of domestic abuse or react to them with more confidence.

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