



Vulnerability & Attachment

Why doesn't she leave?

The most common question when dealing with victims of domestic abuse is "why doesn't she just leave?" Domestic abuse has more repeat victims than any other crime, on average there are 35 assaults before a victim calls the police. The following is a list of the most common reasons why someone may stay in an abusive relationship.

01



Fear

Fearing what the abuser will do (and with good reason) but also fearing the unknown, what will happen with the house, money and being alone.

02



Anger

Angry that she has to move because of his behaviour or that she will leave with nothing and he will get to keep everything.

03



Guilt & Denial

Feeling sorry for him, blaming herself, not wanting to separate him from his children or minimising how bad his behaviour is.

04



Attachment

She may remember the good times, still love him and be invested in the relationship so the years are not 'wasted'.

05



Housing

Having nowhere to go or lack of suitable housing for herself and children and also implications for her job, studies or child care.

06



Finance

She may depend upon him for finance or have no money to get away.

07



Support

Having no support to deal with emotional or practical difficulties of leaving. She may also be pressured by others to stay.

08



Pressure

There may be cultural or family pressures to stay in the relationship. Her religious beliefs may stop her from leaving a marriage.

09



Children

How the move will affect the children disrupting their education and their lives. She may feel the children will blame her or not want to go.

10



Abuse

The effects of the abuse can leave her feeling powerless, confused, down and also feeling unimportant, undeserving and worthless.

11



Him

He may be pressuring her to stay and threatening to hurt her, the children or pets if she leaves. He may also threaten suicide.



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