WARNING SIGNS OF AN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP

Domestic violence is prevalent in every community, and affects all people regardless of age, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, gender, race, religion, or nationality. Physical violence is often accompanied by emotionally abusive and controlling behavior as part of a much larger, systematic pattern of dominance and control.

**MYTH**

Abuse is not as common as the media makes it seem.

**FACT**

Actually, in the United States, an average of 20 people are physically abused by intimate partners every minute. This equates to more than 10 million abuse victims annually.

**THE CHARACTERISTICS OF AN ABUSER?**

An abuser often denies or minimizes the seriousness of the violence, objectifies the victim, has low self-esteem and feels ineffective in the world, blames their violence on factors other than them, and may be pleasant and charming between periods of violence.

**WHAT ARE THE SIGNS?**

Red flags and warning signs of an abuser include but are not limited to: extreme jealousy, possessiveness, unpredictability, a bad temper, cruelty to animals, verbal abuse, extremely controlling behavior, antiquated beliefs about roles of women and men in relationships, forced sex, blaming the victim for anything bad that happens, sabotage or obstruction of the victim’s ability to work or attend school, controls the finances, abuse of other family members, children or pets, accusations of the victim flirting or having an affair, control of what the victim wears and how they act, demeaning the victim either privately or publicly, embarrassment or humiliation of the victim in front of others.

**UNRIGHTHEOUS DOMINION**

"Unrighteous dominion is often accompanied by constant criticism and the withholding of approval or love. We lose our right to the Lord's Spirit and to whatever authority we have from God when we exercise control over another person in an unrighteous manner."

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

rainn.org  
domesticshelters.org  
wadvocates.org  
newhopeforwomen.org  
helpguide.org  
ncadv.org

1085 Wilkinson Student Center  
titleix@byu.edu  
(801) 422-8692  
TITLEIX.BYU.EDU