

The background is a solid teal color. There are six circles of varying shades of teal scattered across the slide. Three circles are in the upper half, and three are in the lower half. The circles are of different sizes and some are solid while others are outlined.

# Why Do Women Stay?

Presented By: Marlin Mousseau

The background is a solid teal color. There are five circles of varying shades of teal scattered across the slide. One circle is partially behind the first line of text, and another is partially behind the second line of text. The other three circles are in the lower half of the slide, behind the second line of text.

Why do women stay in abusive,  
controlling relationships?


Why do men abuse women?

The background is a solid teal color. There are five circles of varying shades of teal scattered across the slide. Two are solid and three are outlined.

Stages of relationships when  
control and abuse are  
involved.

# 1-Attraction

- Maximize similarities
- Minimize differences
- Task: See potential
- Danger: Superficial-"Bull Shit"-Like A Crooked Politician On A Campaign

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- Then it gets serious, talk of going out or going steady.
  - Abusers starts set a boundary around the relationship.
  - Makes up rules as relationship progresses. (usually double standards)
  - Isolation becomes reinforced with jealous behaviors.

## 2-Power Struggle (Conflict)

- Maximize Differences
- Minimize Similarities
- Tactics of control in the form of Physical, Psychological, Spiritual and Sexual.
- Task: Individuate (look at self and see what needs to change)
- Danger: Scar (something has already been said or done that can't be forgotten)

# Power Struggle (Conflict), cont.

- Women at this point have 3 options;

1-Leave (avg. 7 times)

2-Fight Back (women who use violence)

3-Stay for a variety of reasons each different based on their own personal situation.

Lets take a look at “Why Indian Women Stay: Barriers To Escaping”

# 3-Differentiation

- Moratorium
- Task: Accept Difference
- Danger: Drift

## 4-Love Connection (Commitment)

- Co-Creation
- Intimacy
- Task: Value difference – Value similarities

# Why Indian Women Stay: Barriers To Escaping Violence

1. Fear of another beating or being murdered
2. Can't stop the threats, stalking, or harassment
3. No where safe to go
4. No money, food, or transportation
5. Fear of losing children
6. Retaliation by his family and friends
7. Can't get protection orders or custody orders enforced
8. The "System" believes him or doesn't hold him accountable
9. Would lose job, home, family, and community
10. Negative response from community, police, court, or social service
11. Afraid of impact on children; "they need their father"
12. Fear of partner doing something to get me in trouble with the law or social services
13. Need time to prepare and plan to leave
14. Advice of spiritual person/ritual abuse
15. Guilt about what I did; I'm responsible for the violence

# Why Indian Women Stay: Barriers To Escaping Violence

- 16. Cultural beliefs
- 17. Can't use resources because of how they're provided
- 18. Believed things would get better after the arrest
- 19. If I stayed I know what to expect
- 20. Fear of being alone. This is the best I can do
- 21. I still care about him
- 22. Too exhausted-Not healed from the beating

## Women who Use Violence

If women stop being violent to men, men will not stop being violent to women. However, if men stop being violent to women, women will stop being violent to men

# Fight Back—Retaliation

- Context
- Violence is often reactionary
  - Self defense
  - Defense of the children/family or others
  - Trying to escape
  - Tolerance Break

# Why Women Leave



- 7-11 times on the average
- Resources/services
- Advocacy
- Education
- Support
- Children
- Choose to live and be well
- Injured and impaired
- Just had enough

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