Domestic Violence Fact Sheet

What is Domestic Violence?
- Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive and threatening behaviors perpetrated by an intimate partner or family member against another.
- Domestic violence involves exercising a pattern of coercive control over a victim: using acts designed to make her subordinate and/or dependent by isolating her from sources of support, regulating her everyday behaviors, and preventing her independence or escape.¹
- It affects individuals in all countries, regardless of age², economic status, educational background, race, or religion.
- Abusive behaviors may include physical violence (physical abuse, injuries), emotional violence (humiliation, threats), economic violence (preventing someone from getting or keeping a job, making funds unavailable to dependent family members), and sexual violence (sexual abuse, marital rape).

What is the Purpose of Domestic Violence?
- To reinforce the dominant belief that men have the right to control women.
- To establish and exert power and control over an intimate partner.

What is the Prevalence of Domestic Violence?
- In a study of 48 countries, 10-69% of women report being physically assaulted by an intimate male partner during their lifetime.³
- Studies show that 40-70% of all women who are murdered are killed by their current or former husbands or partners.⁴

What are the Effects of Domestic Violence?
- Women may experience severe physical and mental health problems lasting a lifetime (physical injury, chronic pain, gastrointestinal disorders, depression, and suicidal behavior).
- Women may experience reproductive health issues such as premature labor and birth, HIV/AIDS, and other sexually transmitted diseases.⁵
- Women may experience lower job earnings, problems in job performance, and difficulty in keeping employment due to domestic violence.⁶
- The cost of domestic violence is greater than $5.8 billion per year just in the United States.⁷ In the United Kingdom, a 2004 study estimated that the cost of domestic violence was £23 billion per year.⁸
- Millions of children are exposed to domestic violence each year.⁹ Studies have found that these children are more likely to run away from home, engage in substance abuse, attempt suicide, and commit sexual assault crimes.¹⁰
- Domestic violence reinforces other acts of violence and prevents women and children from reaching their full potential. Communities and nations are negatively affected by domestic violence in many ways.¹¹

Forms of Domestic Violence
The following are some common types of domestic violence:
- Dating Violence
- Stalking
- Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence
- LGBTQ Domestic Violence
- Marital rape

Visit Hot Peach Pages for organizations in your country which can help!

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⁴ Id.
⁵ Id.
⁶ Id.
⁸ UN Department of Public Information, Violence Against Women: The Situation (2009).
¹¹ UN Department of Public Information, Violence Against Women: The Situation (2009).