

WHY DOESN'T SHE JUST LEAVE?

Barriers to leaving an abusive relationship

Many people ask “Why don't they just leave? Why do they stay?” But it's not that simple.

THERE ARE SO MANY EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL BARRIERS TO SAFETY

SHELTERS ARE FULL



and there is nowhere to safely go

The abusive partner may control the finances or be the sole source of finances for the family; the abused partner may have bad credit or forced joint accounts so starting over financially is not feasible.

ECONOMIC NECESSITY

Shame or belief that the abuse is their fault, largely because of societal victim blaming.

SHAME

RACISM, SEXISM & HOMOPHOBIA

in the criminal justice system that results in a fear of turning to resources such as the police or courts

RELIGION & FAMILY



Pressures to stay together, and worrying about other people's judgements and expectations.

No or limited access to internet, transportation, and community helps.

LACK OF RESOURCES OR INFORMATION

FEAR

of retaliation; of being killed; of the abuser hurting loved ones; of being stalked; of not being believed; of unsupervised visits with the abuser putting children at risk

The abusive partner may threaten to commit suicide, hurt their partner/children/pets, threaten to call Immigration Services, threaten to take the children, and more.

THREATS