

Why do women stay?

Some of the reasons women might stay in abusive relationships:

- wants the relationship to work and hopes partner will change & abuse will end
- still loves the man - it's the abuse she doesn't want
- feels it's her duty to help the man overcome his violence
- feels guilty, embarrassed or responsible for the abuse
- has low self esteem and self confidence as a result of the abuse
- wants to keep the family together for the children's sake
- is worried about coping on her own
- wants to stay in her own community
- fears she (and her children) may have to uproot and leave the area
- is worried about what kind of home/neighbourhood she will end up in
- fears her partner will take revenge if she leaves
- doesn't know what options are available to her
- services may be inappropriate and inaccessible
- is convinced he will find her wherever she goes
- is concerned she won't be able to keep her children
- may have strong cultural or religious pressures to keep the family together
- doesn't have supportive friends or relatives, perhaps as a result of the abuser's strategies to isolate her
- if she has a drug or alcohol addiction it may be difficult to find a support organisation who can help her
- she has no financial independence so the cost of getting away might be prohibitive
- if she is a disabled woman, she may have to find the cost of a carer
- she may be being kept prisoner in her own home
- it may be the safest option available to her and her children