

Domestic Violence can have long term effects on CHILDREN.

1. Research has indicated that an estimated one million children worldwide are affected by domestic violence.
2. Children who witness domestic violence can have long term psychological and emotional effects.
3. In domestic violent households, where children are exposed to a parent being abused, it can cause children to experience many symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder such as despression, self-harm and suicidal tendencies. other problems include developmental delays and physical injuries. Studies have shown that developmental problems caused by domestic violence can also affect unborn children. To help participants accept responsibility for their behaviour and to choose new behaviours that are free of violence.



Emergency Contacts and Support Services for GBV

Royal Virgin Islands Police Force (RVIPF)

- Emergency: 911
- Domestic Violence Unit: 1 (284) 368-9705

Social Development Department

To report abuse or access psychosocial support:

- Office Line: 1 (284) 468-3650/3636 or
- Emergency Number: 1 (284) 468-9371

Office of Gender Affairs

For information, referrals, and advocacy support:

- Office Line: 1 (284) 468-2235
- Email: gaffairs@gov.vg

Family Support Network (FSN)

(Non-Governmental Organisation)

- 24/7 Crisis Hotline: 1 (284) 499-0999
- Office Line 1 (284) 494-7622



Domestic Violence Facts



*Zero Tolerance on Gender-Based
Violence in the BVI*

What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic Violence or intimate partner violence (ipv) is a pattern of abusive behaviours by one of both partners in an intimate relationship. This occurs in marriages, dating, families, friends or cohabitation.

Types of Abuse

Physical Abuse

- Hitting, slapping, punching
- Pushing, grabbing
- Choking, kicking
- Pulling of hair
- Destroying belongings
- Throwing objects

Physical abuse is often the easiest abuse to recognise. It is important to remember other forms of abuse have just as much of a devastating effect on a victim.

Emotional/Verbal/Psychological Abuse

- Name calling or cursing at you
- Making fun of your ideas, religion, goals and values
- Withholding affection as punishment
- Threatening to hurt themselves or you



Sexual Abuse

- Rape or forced sexual intercourse
- Unwanted sexual practices
- Unwillingness to use protection

Financial Abuse

- Preventing you from working or going to school
- Controlling your money or refusing to work and or making you feel responsible for providing for them financially
- Manipulation



Did you know that many men suffer silently at the hands of abusive partners? Men who are abused often try to hide the abuse because they are embarrassed.

The most common form of abuse among male victims are emotional, verbal and psychological.



How to Detect Domestic Violence?

How can you detect if someone you know is being abused? Here are the signs:

1. Isolation - Abusive partners prefer that their victim remains isolated and unable to turn to others. In addition, victims isolate themselves from friends and family.
2. Increasing anxiety and depression - Domestic Violence victims show signs of anxiety, depression, agitation, sadness, withdrawal and mood swings.
3. Avoiding the truth - Persons being abused tend to normalize the actions of the abusive partner and make excuses for the abuser.
4. Social Shedding - Victims of emotional or sexual abuse by a partner seem to shed their former relationships. They Stop responding to others and deny that they are being abused.
5. Progressing Plan - Look for signs of increasing disconnection from others, less responsive and avoidant behaviour.



Pfp Programme Outline

1. Orientation
2. Understanding and Managing Feelings
 - Part 1: Anger Management
3. Understanding and Managing Feelings
 - Part 2: Managing Life's Transitions
4. Effective Communication
5. Conflict Resolution
6. Family History
7. Manhood
8. Womanhood
9. Power and Control in Relationships
10. Sexuality, STIs and HIV Prevention
11. Fatherhood and the Effects of Violence on Children
12. Stress Management and Trauma Recovery
13. Substance Abuse Prevention
14. DOMestiv Violence and the Law
15. Spirituality
16. Relapse Prevention and Personal Development



Our Mission

We are charged with developing and implementing policies and programmes that promote gender equality and equity.

Our Mandate

The OGA is charged with prompting the integration of a gender perspective into mainstream activities of government at the policy, programme and project levels.

Our Values

The Office of Gender Affairs values the public we serve, and are committed to:

- Ensuring that our staff is properly trained and well informed about gender and related issues.
- Being honest and ethical in our dealings.
- Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of our clients.

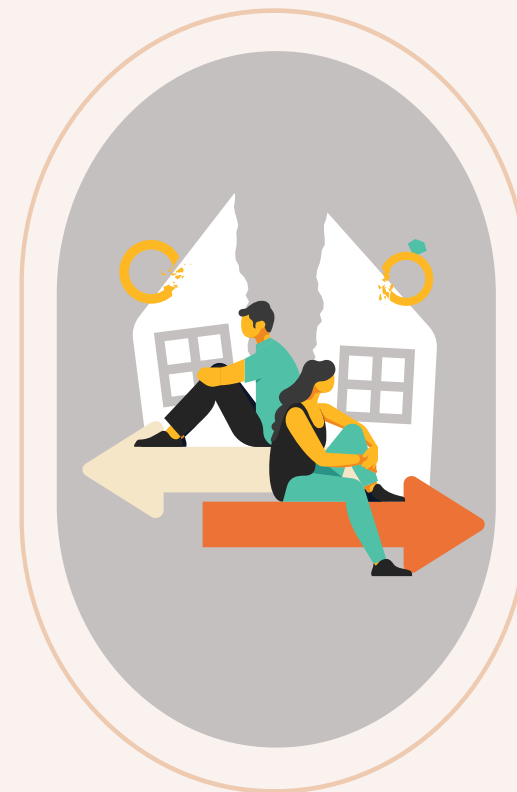


For Further Information:

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Partnership for Peace: A Violence Intervention Programme



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Partnership for Peace (PfP): A Violence Intervention Programme

The Partnership for Peace: A Violence Intervention Programme was approved by Cabinet to be implemented in the Virgin Islands on October 2, 2009 through funding from UNWoman. The Partnership for PEace programme is facilitated by the Ministry of Health and Social Development through the Office of Gender Affairs.

What is PfP?

The Partnership for Peace is a sixteen (16) weeks psycho-educational programme for male perpetrators. (The sessions are one (1) day per week for sixteen (16) weeks.) This programme helps persons accept the fact that violence is a choice and that abusive behaviours are used to maintain power and control.

What is the Admission Process?

The programme receives most of its referrals from both the criminal and civil jurisdiction of the court. Persons are given a referral from to present to the Office of Gender Affairs. When they present this form to the office they are given an appointment to complete an intake interview.



What is the Admission Process?

Self referrals or referrals from the State and non-State agencies outside of the justice system are also welcome. Persons are asked to write a letter to the PfP Programme Director, stating person's name, contact, reason for wanting to join and what will motivate them to complete the programme. When the office receives this letter, the person is contacted to schedule an appointment for the intake interview.

Who Cannot Participate in PfP?

The programme does not accept persons who have attempted murder, committed sexual offences or persons who have problems with alcohol or drug dependencies.

Who Happens After the Interview?

Once accepted, an interview will be conducted. After the interview persons are to keep in contact with the Programme Coordinator. He/She will keep the participant up to date on the PfP start date and ensure that participants are not recommitting the offence or any other abuse. The person is required to attend all 16 sessions. If a participant misses two (2) or more classes he will be barred from completing the programme and a report is sent to the court to the effect.

Objectives of the Programme

1. To help participants stop violence in their lives.
2. To help participants understand that violence is a choice.
3. To help participants accept responsibility for their behaviour and to choose new behaviours that are free of violence.
4. To help participants understand the cost of violence to themselves, their partners, their children, and society in general.
5. To teach participants skills for addressing conflict and responding to stress.
6. To establish and model an atmosphere of respect within the group and to challenge disrespectful behaviour.
7. To empower participants to take steps toward improving their lives and their relationships.
8. To encourage participants' examination of where their violent behaviour began.
9. To create a network of men who will advocate for non-violent relationships.
10. To prioritize the safety of victims.

