

WHY DO VICTIMS STAY IN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS?

1. To be safe – TO STAY ALIVE
2. Economic dependence – “Who will support me and the children?”
3. Parenting – “An unsafe parent is still better than no parent.”
4. Religious and family pressure to keep the family together.
5. Security – Fear of being alone or that they can’t cope with the children and manage the home by themselves.
6. Loyalty – “They are sick. If they had a broken leg or had cancer I would stay with them; this is no different.”
7. Pity – “They are so much worse off than I am.”
8. “Savior Complex” – “If I stay, I can help them get better.”
9. Fear of his suicide – “They says they will kill themselves if I leave.”
10. Denial – “It’s not really so bad.”
11. Love – “I love them. When they are not being abusive, they are quite loving and lovable.”
12. Duty – “I said I’d stay married to them ‘until death do us part’.”
13. Guilt – “They say the marital problems are my fault and that I caused their problems. I believe them.”
14. Responsibility – “Many people feel it is my responsibility to keep the marriage together emotionally, and their responsibility is financial. I believe it.”
15. Shame, embarrassment, humiliation – “I don’t want anyone to know.”
16. Identity – “I need a partner to feel complete.”
17. Optimism – “Things will get better.”