

Tears in Heaven



INTRODUCTION- 'Tears In Heaven'

- I am Kasia Szyszka, founder and president of the non-for profit charity founded in August of 2017.
- At Tears in Heaven our mission broadly speaking is to “Gather resources to provide support and help families in the immediate aftermath of fatal domestic violence tragedies”.

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WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

- Violent or other aggressive behavior and abuse by one person against another in a domestic setting such as in a marriage, relationship or cohabitation in order to establish and maintain

POWER AND CONTROL.

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WHO ARE VICTIMS?

- VICTIMS ARE PEOPLE:
- All genders (men, women.)
- Kids.
- Heterosexual, gay, lesbian.
- Elderly.
- Any race, any age, any religion.

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KINDS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & ABUSE

- PHYSICAL

- Hitting, slapping, punching, shoving, biting, cutting, kicking, burning, spitting.
- Destruction of property, throwing objects.
- Abandonment in unsafe, unknown and distant location.
- Neglect, restraint of movement, drowning, strangulation.
- Infliction of pain or injury with an object (gun, knife, bat, brick, chain, hammer, scissors, rope, belt buckle, extension cord, branch, bottle.)

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KINDS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & ABUSE

- EMOTIONAL/ PSYCHOLOGICAL
- Yelling, name-calling, screaming, raging, criticism, silent treatment, ridicule, “crazy making”.
- Isolation, public or private humiliation, accusations of infidelity.
- Display of weapons, abuse of pets.
- Threat of injury, murder, harm, suicide, deportation.
- Minimizing or denying the abuse, blaming the victim for the abuse.

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KINDS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & ABUSE

- SEXUAL
- Force victim to have sex against their will, force unwanted sexual acts.
- Force to watch others, have sex with others or commit sadistic sexual acts.
- Force sex after beating, when they're sick, when pregnant, or when danger to their health.
- Criticize sexual performance, blaming of sexual intercourse with others, acting jealous and angry.
- Criticize or insist victims clothing preferences.
- Reproduction.

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KINDS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & ABUSE

- FINANCIAL
- Prohibiting employment, harassing victim at work.
- Not allowing victim access to bank accounts, controlling money, forcing victim to write bad checks.
- Monitoring spending, withholding food or money for food, withholding money for transportation.
- Putting credit cards, bank accounts and cars under perpetrator's name only.
- Refusing to file tax returns / Forcing victim to file false tax returns.
- Stealing victims identity, property or inheritance.

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KINDS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & ABUSE

- SPIRITUAL
- Imposing theology on partner / victim.
- Destruction of religious objects or icons.
- Prohibiting or restricting religious practices.
- Use of religious text or verses (out of context) to control or manipulate.
- Excessive criticism of or making fun of another's religious beliefs or practices.

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HOW DOES IT START?

- It IS NOT evident, seen, noticed at the beginning of a relationship.
- It IS NOT an isolated, single event during the relationship.
- It is TO MUCH, TOO FAST in the beginning of the relationship.
- JEALOUSY & POSSESIVENESS is NOT noticed or considered care & love.
- Is a PATTERN of behavior for a purpose of establishing
POWER & CONTROL.

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THE PROGRESSION & ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE & ABUSE

- TEMPER is raised, VERBAL ABUSE escalates.
- OBJECTS are involved.
- VIOLENCE becomes MORE FREQUENT and MORE SEVERE.
- Eventually the act of violence IS NOT EVEN NECESSARY.
- Simple THREAT is ENOUGH to reinforce the POWER & CONTROL dynamic.
- FEAR GROWS & the ABUSE GROWS.

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CYCLE OF VIOLENCE & ABUSE AT VICTIMS PROSPECTIVE

- **#1 TENSION BUILDING PHASE**

- Tension is in the air. The abusive partner is irritable and easily “set off”.
- The abused person feels like they are “walking on glass” and works hard to keep the peace.

- **#2 EXPLOSION PHASE**

- The abusive partner can no longer control their rage and the tension erupts into a violent episode
- (verbal, physical or sexual.)

- **#3 HONEYMOON PHASE**

- The abusive partner is apologetic, making promises of change.
- For the abused person, this phase restores hope and keeps the relationship intact.

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WHY DO VICTIMS STAY?

- VICTIMS MINIMIZE THE IMPACT OF ABUSE.
- VICTIMS DON'T TAKE THE CONCERNS OF ABUSE SERIOUSLY.
- VICTIMS SAY THE ABUSE DIDN'T HAPPEN.
- VICTIMS BLAME THE ABUSIVE BEHAVIOR ON STRESS, ALCOHOL, DRUGS OR JEALOUSY.
- VICTIMS SAY THEY ARE THE ONES THAT CAUSED THE ABUSE.
- VICTIMS ARE AFRAID.
- VICTIMS LOST SELF ESTEEM.
- VICTIMS GOT NO HOPE AND NO HELP FROM ANYONE.
- VICTIMS ARE INSECURE.

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DID YOU KNOW?

- IN THE U.S., AN AVERAGE OF **20 PEOPLE** ARE PHYSICALLY ABUSED BY INTIMATE PARTNERS **EVERY MINUTE.**
- **1 IN 15** CHILDREN ARE EXPOSED TO AN INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE EACH YEAR, AND **90%** OF THESE CHILDREN ARE EYEWITNESSES TO THIS VIOLENCE.
- 30 TO 60% OF PERPETRATORS OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE ALSO ABUSE KIDS.
- **20%** VICTIMS OF **HOMICIDES** WERE FAMILY MEMBERS, FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS OR BYSTANDERS.
- IN 2017 **MEN** DIED BY SUICIDE **3.54X** MORE THAN **WOMEN.**
- BETWEEN **JAN. 1ST** AND **DEC.31ST** 2018 CHICAGO REPORTED **561 HOMICIDES.**