Let's start with a Story....
75% of women murdered due to domestic violence are murdered after they have left their abuser.

Barriers to Victims Leaving
- The dynamics of domestic violence, coupled with a community's inability to help keep battered women safe and hold offenders accountable, create barriers to women leaving violent relationships.
- A victim is the best expert at determining her own level of safety. Therefore, she is the best expert at determining how to survive a violent relationship, even if that means staying in the relationship.

Barriers to Victims Leaving, cont.
- Culture
- Shame
- Self-blame
- Low self-esteem
- Immigration issues
- Batterer's persistent behavior
Barriers to Victims Leaving, cont.

- Fear of batterer's actions
- Fear for children
- Financial dependence
- Conflict with religious beliefs
- Isolation/lack of support
- Batterer has access to the victim's support system

Take Home Messages

The leeway a perpetrator feels he has depends not on the response of the victim, but on the response of the bystanders.

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