



Why We Stay....

Why Victims May Stay

Very few individuals would become involved in a relationship they knew to be violent. Domestic violence has subtle origins. What starts out as love, courtship and concern, may turn into domination, forced adherence to rigid sex roles and obsessive jealousy. Victims are not masochists. They do not enjoy being hurt, abused, battered and controlled. Victims may stay with someone who is abusing them for various reasons which include:

**Know
Needs
Options
Warnings
Learn
Explore
Danger
Grieve
Empower**

- Fear of the abuser
- Love
- Threats to harm the victim, loved ones or pets
- Threats of suicide
- Believing the abuser will take their children
- Religious reasons
- Believing the abuser will change
- Self-blame
- Limited financial options
- Believing that violence is normal
- Believing in the sanctity of marriage and the family
- Limited housing options
- Blaming the abuse on alcohol, financial pressures, or other outside factors
- Low self-esteem
- Fear of the unknown, of change
- Isolation
- Embarrassment and shame
- Believing no one can help
- Cultural beliefs
- Denial
- Pressure from friends and family to stay

Information Taken from:

The National Center for
Victims of Crime
Domestic Violence
[http://www.ncvc.org/ncvc/
main.aspx?dbID=dash_Home](http://www.ncvc.org/ncvc/main.aspx?dbID=dash_Home)