



ROYAL SOLOMON ISLANDS
POLICE FORCE

FAMILY VIOLENCE



STOP
FAMILY VIOLENCE
IN THE
SOLOMON ISLANDS

What is domestic violence?

“Any act of abusive or violent behaviour directed towards a person in a domestic relationship”

Types:

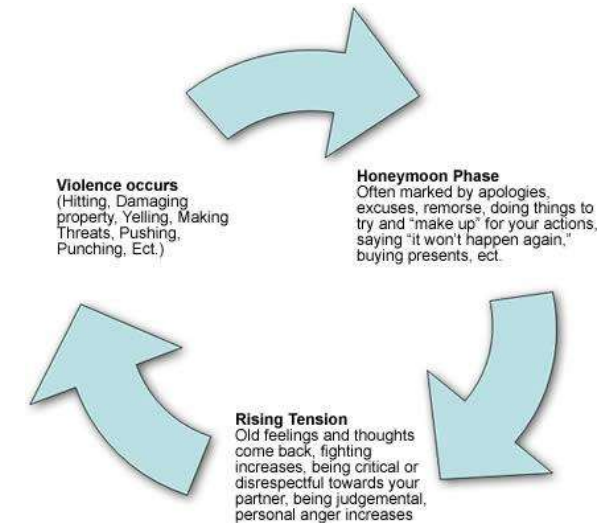
- **Assault**- Hitting, kicking, spitting, biting, emotional and/or verbal abuse
- **Sexual abuse** – Forced sexual contact
- **Rape** – Marital rape
- **Sexual harassment** - Making unwanted sexual comments
- **Forced prostitution** - Forcing wife or daughter to have sex with another when she doesn't want to
- **Trafficking Woman** – Giving wife or daughter to a man for sex in exchange for money



What is a Domestic Relationship?

Marriage or defacto, family member immediate or extended, shares the household with the other person, close relationship with the other person, e.g. Husband & wife, parent & child, sister & brother, relatives.

Cycle of Violence



1. Rising tension, tension building

Pressure and stress build up, often a small problem prompts this stage. The abuser starts to abuse the victim. He may swear at this victim, make threats to hurt them, slap them, or push them.

2. Violence / Incident Phase

When the abuser attacks, the victim cannot stop the violence. The victim feels totally helpless. They are often beaten. The victim is often told they are worthless and deserve the beating.

3. Sorry / Calm or Honeymoon Phase

After the violence has occurred the abuser may often express regret. They may act as if the violence did not happen. The ‘reason’ for the abuse is satisfied for a short period of time. A period of calm follows until the tension builds again and the violence returns.

During this phase the abuser may pay some compensation to the family of the victim.

The abuser then feels that their responsibility for the abuse/violence is gone. The victim wants to believe that the abuse will not continue after this sorry/calm period, so they stay in the relationship.

This is the Cycle of Violence. It WILL continue until:

- The abuser takes responsibility and stops, or
- The victim leaves or takes legal steps to stop or, or
- **The victim is killed.**

Effects of Family Violence:

Victim	Children
• Stress	• Bed wetting
• Depression	• Running away
• Mental illness	• Poor at school
• Suicide	• Suffer headaches
• Miscarriage	• Stomach complaints
• Isolation	• Stuttering
• Headaches	• Aggressive behaviour
• Asthma	• Withdrawn
• Permanent injuries	• Nervous
• Drug/Alcohol abuse	• Likely to become a Family Violence offender

Family Violence is NOT Solomon Islands Custom

Why do victims stay?

Some people think that victims do not leave their abusers because they like being beaten! This is not true.

Victims feel trapped by:

- **Threats of violence** – Many abusers threaten victims with worse violence if they leave.
- **Dependence** – Many victims depend on the abuser for money, food and shelter. If they leave the victims must first find a place to live and money to feed and clothe children.
- **Shame or guilt** – Many victims fear social shame of being known to be an abused wife or a divorced woman.
- **Lack of knowledge** – Many victims live at home with young children and are isolated. They do not know that there is help available to them from women's refuges or other aid agencies.
- **Duty** – Some victims are told by the priest/pastors or other in the community to go home when they try to leave. The belief that the wife must stay is **WRONG**, even if compensation has been paid to the family of the victim. No amount of money justifies family violence.
- **Love** – Some victims love their abuser. The victim wants the violence to stop, not the relationship, and keep hoping the violence will stop or the abuser will change.



Family Violence is a CRIME

Who can help?

- *Police: 999 or 23666*
- *Family Support Centre: 26999*
- *Christian Care Centre: 22801*
- *National Referral Hospital: 26300*
- *Your Church*

For more information contact:

National Community Policing Office
Royal Solomon Islands Police Force
PO Box G3
Rove Police Headquarters
Honiara.

Tel: 23800 Ext. 218 or 28275