



WHY WOMEN STAY

1. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE-If she does not work, who will support her and the children? If she does work, she may be concerned if she can make it on her salary.
2. PARENTING-wanting a father for the children.
- ☆ 3. RELIGIOUS PRESSURE-Keep the family together, divorce is wrong.
- ☆ 4. FAMILY/CULTURAL PRESSURE-She made her choice and is bound to it. The family must stay together no matter what.
5. FEAR-Fear of being alone, fear of not making it on her own, fear that she may be in more danger if she does not know where he is, fear that he will kill her if she leaves. She may not know her legal rights and fear DCFS or INS.
6. LOYALTY-If he was sick she would stick by him.
7. PITY-she feels sorry for him.
8. RESCUE COMPLEX-If she stays she can “save” him and help him get better.
9. FEAR OF HIS SUICIDE-He says he will kill himself if she leaves.
10. DENIAL-It’s really not so bad, other women have it worse.
11. LOVE-She loves him, and he is often loving and lovable when he is not being abusive.
12. DUTY-She said she would stay married till “death do us part”
13. GUILT-He claims and she believes that the abuse is her fault. She causes the problems and difficulties.
14. RESPONSIBILITY-It is up to her to work things out and save the relationship.
15. SHAME-Embarrassment, humiliation, she does not want anyone to know.
16. SECURITY-Her belief is the dreams hopes and plans of living happily ever after with her partner.
17. IDENTITY -Some women feel they need a man in order to be complete.
18. OPTIMISM-Things will get better, he will get help.

19. LOW SELF-ESTEEM- It must be her fault, she must deserve it, she will never find anyone better, a little love is better than no love at all.

20. SEX ROLE CONDITIONING- She believes this is just the way men are.

21. SURVIVAL- She believes she does not have the skills to survive on her own. These include work skills, not having a car, no access to money, no place to stay, no support network.



22. LEARNED HELPLESSNESS-She has been taught that she is powerless and views her situation from that perspective.

23. RESOURCES-She may have no idea of what resources are available to her. She may have been let down by law enforcement, social services, and the courts previously.

24. SOCIALIZATION-She may have lived in a home where she saw or experienced abuse and views abuse as an inevitable part of the way in which men relate to women.

25. RATIONALIZATION-She believes that drugs, alcohol, his abusive childhood causes the violence.



26. ISOLATION-Often he is her only support, having systematically destroyed her relationship with her family, friends, co-workers.

27. CREDIBILITY-She believes that she will not be believed by friends, clergy, family, law enforcement, court system