

## Overcoming Hesitation: Intervening in Woman Abuse

Community facilitators may wish to address some of the points of concern listed below at community gatherings. When members of the community bring up these points, take the opportunity to fully address the concerns.

In our communities, silence has been mistaken for acceptance.

### Points of Concern

1. You feel it's none of your business.
2. You don't know what to say.
3. You might make things worse.
4. It's not serious enough to involve the police.
5. You are afraid his violence will turn to you or your family.
6. You think she doesn't really want to leave because she keeps coming back.
7. You are afraid she will become angry with you.
8. You are afraid he will become angry with you.
9. You feel that both partners are your friends.
10. You believe that if she wanted help, she would ask for help.
11. You believe that if he wanted help or wanted to stop his behaviour he would.
12. You think it is a family matter.

### Points to Consider

1. It could be a matter of life or death. Violence in the community is everyone's business.
2. Saying you care and are concerned is a good start.
3. Doing nothing could make things worse.
4. Police are trained to respond and utilize other resources.
5. Speak to her alone. Let the police know if you receive threats.
6. She may not have had the support she needed.
7. Maybe, but she will know you care.
8. Maybe, but it gives you the chance to offer your help.
9. One friend is being abused and lives in fear.
10. She may be too afraid and ashamed to ask for help.
11. He may be too ashamed to ask for help.
12. It isn't when someone is being hurt.