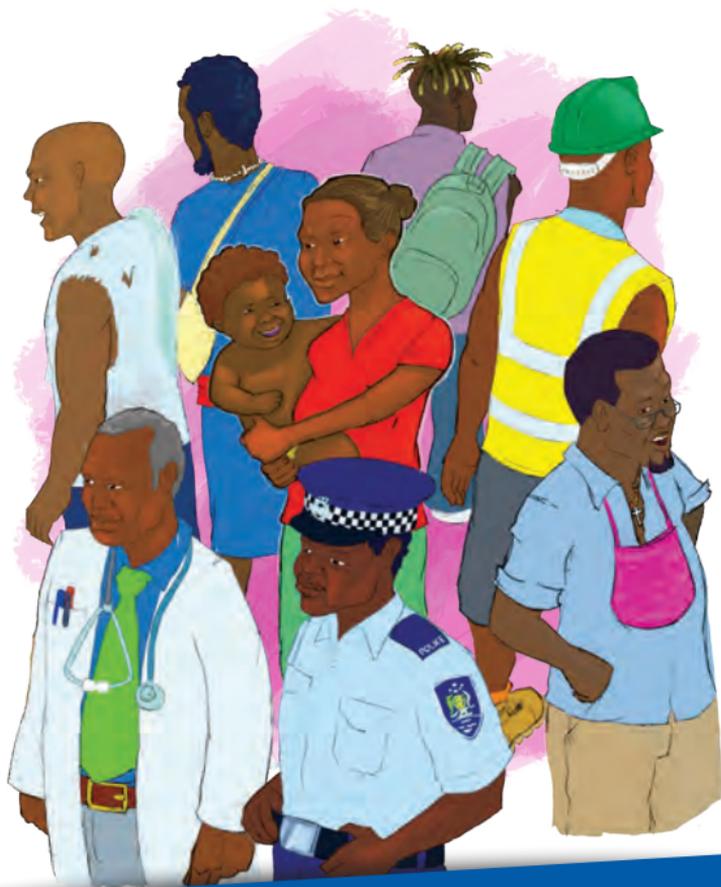


STRONG MEN

protect their families



*How we can all protect our
families from domestic violence*



WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Domestic violence is violence that **happens in the home**.

It is violence between a husband and a wife, or between other people in the family. Because domestic violence happens in the family, it is also called family violence.

KNOW THE FACTS

Domestic violence is a big problem in the Solomon Islands. The Government's research says that **2 out of 3 women** are living with domestic violence.

This means that women in **your extended family** could be suffering.

This book gives ideas about how fathers, brothers, uncles and other male relatives like you can help women and children in your extended family to live a life free from domestic violence.

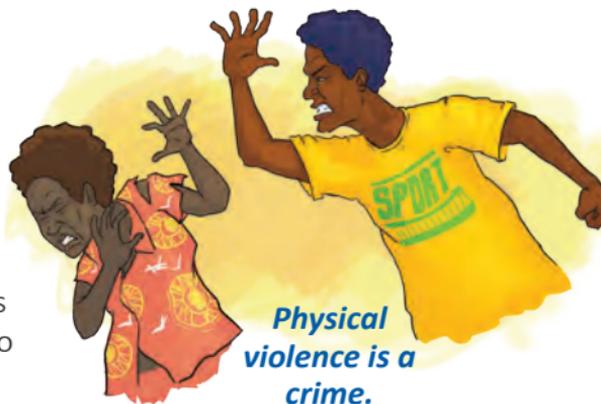


DIFFERENT KINDS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

There are different kinds of domestic violence - those that you see and others that are hidden. All the different kinds of violence cause serious harm to women and children. **All the different kinds of domestic violence are against the law.**

Physical Violence

Physical violence is when a man hits, punches, pushes, slaps, or chokes his wife, child or other family member. Burning a person or using weapons like knives or sticks to hurt them, is also physical violence.



Physical violence is a crime.



Emotional violence is a crime.

Emotional Violence

Emotional violence is when a husband shouts and swears at his wife. Or when he calls her bad names and makes her feel no good.

When a husband insults and humiliates his wife, it is emotional violence. It is also emotional violence when a man refuses to let his wife visit her family and friends.



Economic Violence

When a man controls a woman's money or when he uses family money only for himself, this is economic violence.

Economic violence is a crime.

Sexual Violence

Sexual violence is forced sex (rape) or making someone do sexual things they do not want to do.

Touching someone sexually, or forcing a child or other family member to do sexual things is also sexual violence.

If a husband forces his wife to have sex, this is rape. It is against the law for a husband to force his wife to have sex.



IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HARMING YOUR FAMILY?

Women who are victims of domestic violence cannot stay healthy. They get cuts and broken bones. They get sick from worry and stress. Some women even try to kill themselves.

Children who see domestic violence are very scared and stressed. They perform badly at school. This harms their future, and their ability to contribute to their family and community.

Boys in violent homes can grow up to use violence against their wife, because they learn that domestic violence is acceptable.

Girls may marry violent men because they believe it is OK for their husband to beat them.

The violence continues in each generation.

You can help end the violence now, and stop it continuing to the next generation.



Domestic violence harms everyone in the family.

YOU CAN HELP STOP

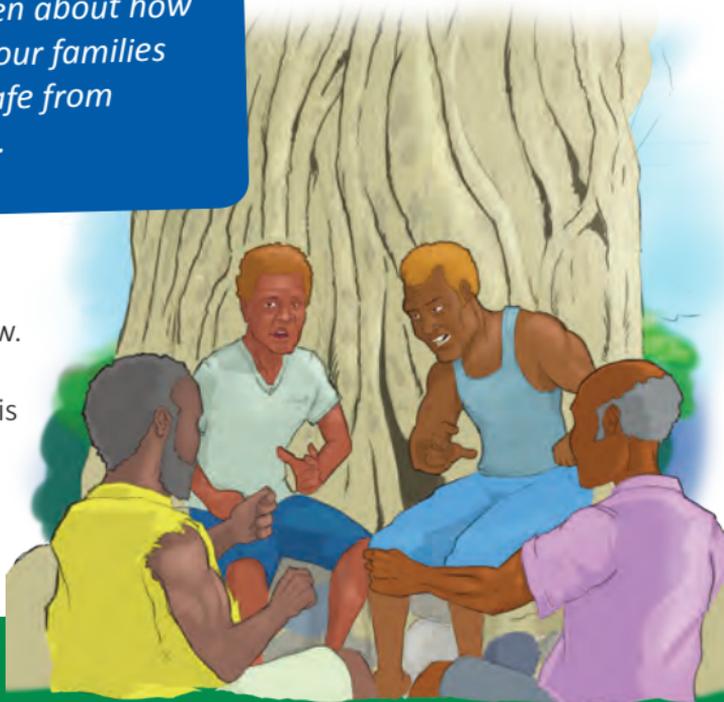
Make the decision today to protect all women and children in your extended family.

When you protect women and children in your extended family:

- You get the respect of your family and your community.
- The community sees that you are a strong leader in your family, and come to you for advice.
- Your whole family is healthy in body, mind and spirit.
- Your family is united and works together for all to succeed.
- You teach children that strong men don't hurt women.

Talk with other men about how you can all keep your families and community safe from domestic violence.

Learn about the law.
Teach others why
domestic violence is
never OK.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

There are many ways you can help a woman in your extended family who is living with domestic violence.

- Ask her if there is domestic violence in her home. Listen to her and show her that you care.
- Believe her when she tells you she has been beaten or raped. Remember, all kinds of men commit domestic violence. How a man is outside the house is not always the same as how he is inside the house.
- Say 'I care', and 'it's not your fault'. Tell her that you do not accept domestic violence in your extended family.
- Give her a safe place to stay if she must leave her house.
- Help her to leave the violent man if she wants to leave.
- Go with her to get help to stop the domestic violence.
- Take her to the clinic or hospital, the Authorised Justice, the Court, the police station or a community or church group.

There is a list of places that can help at the back of this book.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THE LAW

The Solomon Islands Family Protection Act (2014) makes all domestic violence a crime.

If the Court finds someone guilty of the crime of domestic violence, the Court can **send them to prison** or order them to **pay a fine**.

The law gives responsibility to police, **Authorised Justices** and the courts to protect families from violence.

The **Authorised Justice** is a local court member living in the community. The Authorised Justice can give a woman a **Protection Order** to make a violent man stop the violence.

A Protection Order is a legal paper from the Authorised Justice or the Court. It tells the person who is violent to stop the violence. If they do not obey the Protection Order, they can go to prison.



A Protection Order keeps a family safe.

WRONG BELIEFS ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

There are many wrong beliefs about speaking out to stop domestic violence. It is important that you know the facts.

It's none of my business.

This is not true.

It is your business if a husband in your family is using domestic violence. Your female relative is in real danger. Her husband could kill her.



I might make things worse. This is not true.

Doing nothing can make things worse. If no one stops it, domestic violence gets worse and worse.

Paying bride price allows a man to discipline his wife. This not true.

Even if bride price is paid, it does not give a man a right to hurt his wife. It is not OK to tell women to accept domestic violence because of bride price.

Some women deserve to be beaten. It is their fault. They make their partner lose control. This is not true.

Men can control their anger. A violent man chooses who he hits. He does not hit his friends or people at his work. He chooses to hit his wife.

Domestic violence is a choice.

QUESTIONS ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Are men also victims of domestic violence?

Yes. Men can be victims of domestic violence. In the Solomon Islands, most domestic violence is when a man uses his strength and power to hurt his wife, children or other family members.

Does the law give more rights to women compared to men?

No. The Family Protection Act protects everyone in the family. Everyone has the right to be safe in their house.

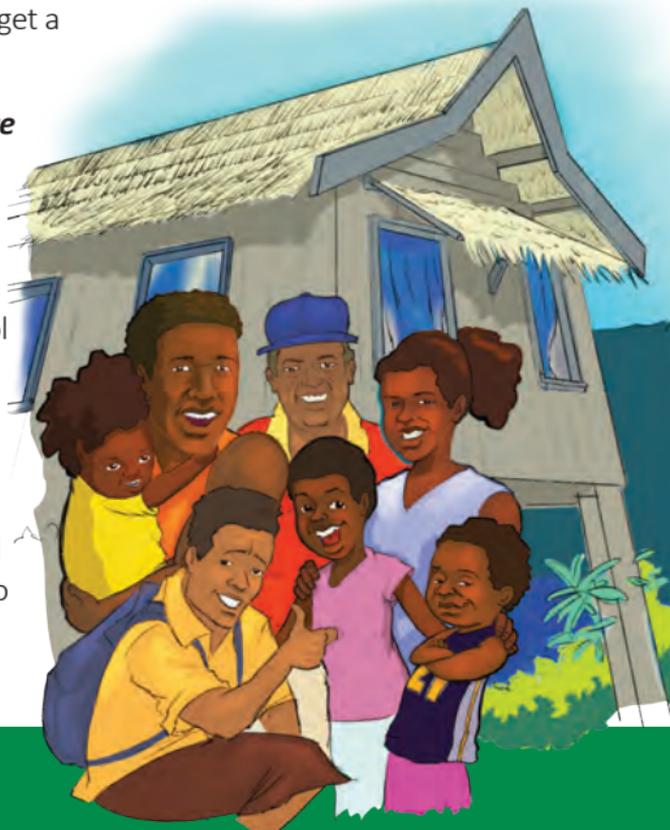
Can a man get a Protection Order?

Yes. Any person who is a victim of domestic violence can get a Protection Order.

Does domestic violence harm the man who is violent?

Yes. Domestic violence harms the man who uses violence to control his family.

He loses the respect of his family and his community. He loses the love of his wife and children. He can also go to prison.



Are some kinds of domestic violence ok?

No. Every kind of domestic violence is a crime. A man can go to prison for every kind of domestic violence. The man can go to prison for a longer time:

- If he hurts a child or hurts a family member, when a child is watching.
- If he commits domestic violence more than once.
- If he hurts his wife when she is pregnant.
- If he commits domestic violence on a person with a disability.
- If he does the crime when he is drunk or on drugs.

What can a man do if he feels angry and wants to hurt his family?

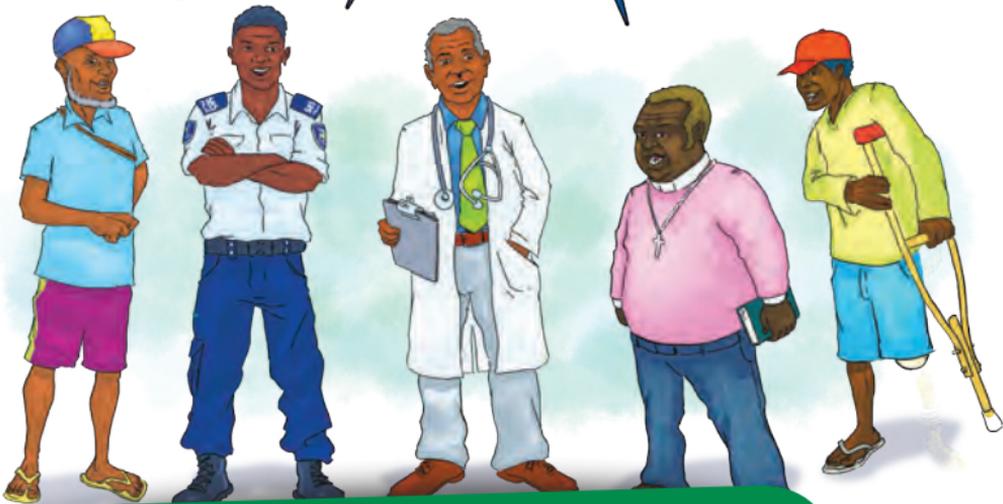
- He can go out the house and do something. He can go cut firewood.
- He can go talk to someone in the community who can help him to control his anger.
- He can choose to talk about disagreements in the house instead of using violence.



Domestic violence does not solve problems. It makes them worse.

WHERE TO GET HELP

Men can help stop domestic violence and protect all women and children in their extended family. Families who need help to stop domestic violence can contact the organisations below.



Authorised Justice living in your community.
SAFENET Emergency Helpline (free call) – 132
Family Support Centre – 20 619
Christian Care Safe House – 22 801
Seif Ples Crisis Centre – 24 677
Public Solicitor Office – 28 406
Department of Social Welfare – 20 686
Police Protection Unit – 23 666
Ambulance or Hospital Emergency – 23 600
A local community organisation or church group.



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique

