



He takes me shopping
then takes my money

He takes me to the doctor
then denies me medication

He helps me to bed
then rapes me

He tells me he loves me
and that no-one else would



Gaps in Research and service for women with disabilities

Professions and survivors recognize both individual and agency limitations in making the connections between disability and domestic violence.

Background

Incidence of Violence & Women with Disabilities

- More diverse, more severe & more prolonged
- Greater number of perpetrators
- 40% more like to be victims than non-disabled women
- 70% of us are victims at some time in our lives
- 20 % forced into unwanted sexual acts
- 25% of reported rape victims
- Sexual victimization x 4 times more likely

Salthouse, S. (2016). Mainstream & targeted measures to reduce violence against women with disabilities. Presented at RI Global Word Congress, Edinburg. Retrived 16 October 2017 from <https://www.slideshare.net/MarcoMuscroft/a069-reducing-violence-against-disabled-women>

Background

Disabled Women's Experiences with Partner Violence

- In-depth interviews were conducted with a total of 30 disabled women with 1- 22 years of experiences in abuse
- Types of violence includes physical, emotional, financial and sexual
- Why disabled women do not leave home due to violence?
 - Needs for accessible accommodation and transportation
 - Assistance with personal care
 - Need support on communication (e.g. sign language)
 - Need emotional support

Hague, G., Thiara, R., Magowan, P., & Mullender, A. (). Making the links: Disabled Women and domestic violence (Final Report). UK: Women's Aid.

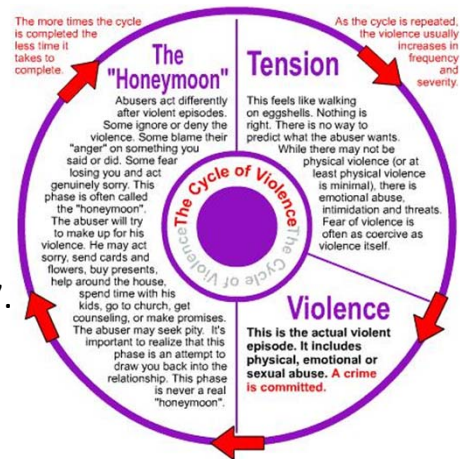
Methodology

1) Compare with Previous Research

Type and examples of Abuse: Physical, Emotional, Sexual and Financial Abuse

2) Thematic Coding & Analysis

- Selected 5 dairy records within 2003-2017.
- Conduct thematic coding under the framework of "Cycle of Violence"



Results: 1) Compare with Previous Research

Physical Abuse	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Dragged along by her hair ✗ Being pushed down stairs ✗ Stabbing and strangulation ✗ Having a hand placed on her mouth so she could not breathe while her ✗ head was banged repeatedly on floor ✗ Holding down and stamping on her body ✓ Pushed over as she was getting into her wheelchair ✓ Special equipment being thrown across room and cut up ✓ Kicking her when she was on the floor ✓ Wheelchair moved out of reach ✓ Forced onto the stairs or floor and left there, unable to move 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Hygiene Issue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ No shower for days ✚ No clean clothes and pants ✚ Menstruation is a taboo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Only change napkin once a day ✚ Hit on body for the trouble ✚ No shower until menstruation end ✚ Restriction of body <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Sleep in bright light and noise ✚ Stay in bed from 7pm – 7am ✚ Not allow to drink water/ go toileting ✚ Ignore of Medical Needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Refuse to allow use ventilation

Results: 1) Compare with Previous Research

Sexual Abuse

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Rape and sexual assaults (sometimes in front of children) ✗ Held down on the floor to have sex 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Unconsented Sex Acts as comptonization of disabilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ With sex toys ✦ Other postures/his preferences ✦ Unprotected sex ✦ Excessive and regular oral sex ✦ Acceptance of his other sex partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Rape and sexual assaults (sometimes several times a day) ✓ Forced sex when she was in pain, bruised, or when bones had been broken 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Asexual and body image <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Asexual – easy to take care is more important than your needs ✦ Negative judgement on body image and womanhood

Results: 1) Compare with Previous Research

Emotion Abuse

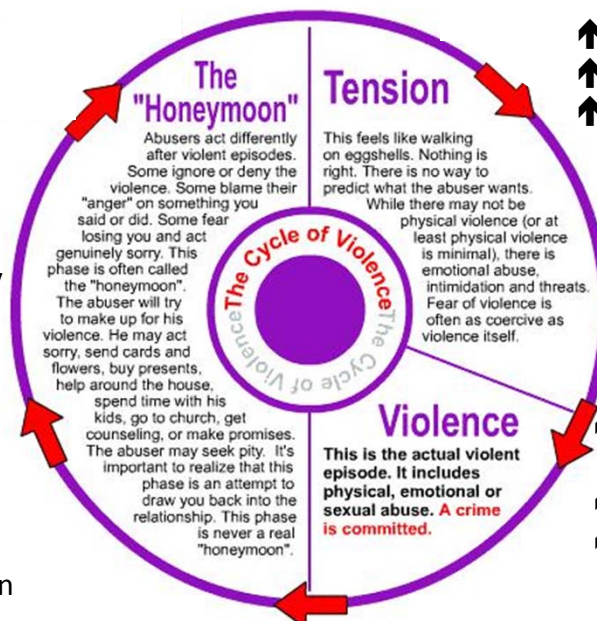
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Intrusion into every aspect of life, leaving her no privacy ✗ Domination and control of everything she did ✗ Turning the children against her: for example, saying Look at her, how pathetic she is,'etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Hurt what you care most <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Taking (or threatening to take) the pets away (Killed pets) ✦ Send your belongings to others ✦ Throw your belongings ✦ Create stressful social situation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Create absences of family gatherings ✦ Blame her in front of her family members and friends
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Isolation from other people: keeping them away, going out, or getting any help ✓ Humiliation, e.g. saying 'you're no good' or calling her insulting names ✓ Made fun of her or ridiculing her for being disabled 	

Results: 1) Compare with Previous Research

Finance Abuse	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Stealing money ✗ Taking control of her finances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Denying money for housekeeping or other essentials ✗ Not paying for necessary
	<p>+ Special Financial Arrangement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Need to give him monthly allowance to maintain his “dignity as a man” + Reserve all “government’s allowances for the disabled” for his use + Need to pay/give money for his use in celebrations or festival occasions. + Need to purchase his luxury items as “gifts” or token of appreciation of his caregiving. <p>+ Need to shoulder his expenses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Pay for his debts and gambling expenses + Borrow money from friends and banks constantly for different “reasons”

Results: 2) Thematic Coding & Analysis

- ↑ Show remorse after violence
- ↑ Show grief of partner’s health deterioration
- ↑ Compensate by continuing caregiving
- ↑ Unable to breakup due to responsibility
- ↑ Ignorance of others on the violence pattern



- ↑ Caregiving Pressure
- ↑ Financial Burden
- ↑ Struggling for Power
- ↑ Use of Alcohol or other substances
- ↑ Poor communication
- ↑ Failure of negotiation

Discussion: Disability & Gender Equality in Hong Kong

- **Lack of Understanding and Awareness of Partner Violence**
 - Helping Professionals
 - Significant Others
 - Members of disability community
- **Partner Violence in Chinese population**
 - Types of violence- diverse and complicated. Less significant/seen.
 - Bonding with partners and significant others
 - Stigmatization of abused survivors with disabilities
 - Look at the “kindness” of abuser rather than the suffering of the survivor

Recommendation: Disability & Gender Equality

- **Raising awareness of significant others**
 - Asexual Issues to make people less aware
 - Signs of partner violence
 - Support for spouse/partners
- **Raise independence and autonomy of people with disabilities**
 - Roles and responsibilities between caregiver and spouse
 - Have options for alternatives, way to go