

# #10687

## FACE IT! ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS HURT

AIMS MULTIMEDIA, 200  
Grade Level:  
Minutes



### CAPTIONED MEDIA PROGRAM RELATED RESOURCES

- [#3320 WHEN DATING TURNS DANGEROUS](#)
- [#3647 RED FLAGS: AVOIDING ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS](#)
- [#7676 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: VOICES FROM WITHIN](#)
- [#8804 LOVES ME LOVES ME NOT](#)
- [#8838 NO SAFE PLACE: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN](#)
- [#9290 A LOVE THAT KILLS](#)

# Face It: Abusive Relationships Hurt

## Objectives

- To examine the causes of abusive behavior
- To enumerate the warning signs exhibited by a potential abuser
- To encourage both abusers and victims to seek counseling
- To emphasize that physical violence is against the law
- To offer hope that abusive behavior can be stopped and changed



# Face It: Abusive Relationships Hurt

## Synopsis

The traits and motives of both the abuser and the victim are investigated in this hard-hitting exploration of dangerous relationships. A sympathetic young host introduces dramatizations interspersed with comments and stories from real men and women who have entered counseling to heal the damage done by the bond of violence. "Red flags" in the behavior of a potential boyfriend—such as his wanting to isolate the woman from family and friends, trying to manipulate every aspect of her life and forcing himself on her physically—are presented clearly and frankly. Abusers in counseling talk honestly about giving up the feeling of control that violence provided, and women speak of conquering low self-esteem and hopelessness. A final twist drives home the point: a jail cell door closes on none other than the sympathetic young host.

## Questions to ask before viewing

1. Have you or anyone you know ever been trapped in an abusive relationship? Why did they stay? If they left the relationship, how did they do it?
2. Why do you think men abuse women?
3. Many who abuse and suffer abuse claim they do it out of love. Why might they think this? What are some healthy ways to express love?

## Questions to ask after viewing

1. What feelings did the men say abuse gave them? (power, control)
2. What feelings did the women say abuse gave them? (shame, guilt, fear; "It's all my fault; I deserve it"; etc.)
3. In what way did the lives of the women change after they had children? (They had to take complete responsibility for the baby's care, dropped out of school and lost career opportunities; they became isolated; they became more dependent on the man in their lives and had to stay, no matter how abusive the men were, etc.)
4. In what way did the lives of the men change after they had children? (not at all; they still went out with other women; they still had school and career opportunities, etc.)
5. Why did the man in the dramatization claim that he wanted a baby? (His objective was to gain control over the woman.)
6. What were some of the "red flags" indicating that a man might be an abuser? (attempts to isolate the woman from family and friends, extreme jealousy, blaming her for the violence, mood altered by alcohol and drug abuse, etc.)
7. Think about this statement by one of the men interviewed in the video: "I had no way out. [Abuse] was my way out." What do you think he meant? How could violence be a "way out"? A way out of what? (Answers will vary.)

8. How did the people interviewed in the video say that counseling had helped them? (They learned to express their feelings honestly, to communicate, to be more comfortable around people, to learn from people who had had the same experience, to understand their own motives, etc.)
9. What did you think of the final image in the video (the closing cell door)? Was it effective? Why, or why not? (Answers will vary.)
10. Comment on the statement (referring to abuse), "He must love me to do something like that." (Answers will vary; however, abusive behavior is not a sign of love.)
11. Why did the man in the dramatization say, "Don't trust anyone but me."? (to gain total control)
12. If a man always has to win at any game, what might this behavior signify? (It may signify insecurity and a need to conquer and control others.)
13. Why do some individuals, particularly women, always apologize for everything, whether they are right or wrong? (They may behave this way out of fear of angering their partner, of getting hit, of their partner leaving them.)
14. Some men batter women and some women batter men. What are the percentages? Of reported attacks, 95% are by men against women.)
15. If you have a friend in an abusive relationship, what can you do to help her? (Get her to speak with a professional counselor.)
16. Define an abuser. (An abuser is someone who takes advantage of, exerts control over, hurts or causes fear in another person, particularly in his/her partner.)
17. What is a valid reason for a man or woman to strike (hit) someone else? (Other than in a true case of self defense, there is no valid reason.)

### **Annotation**

Dramatizations and real-life interviews introduce "red flags" in the behavior of a potential boyfriend such as his wanting to isolate the woman from family and friends and to manipulate every aspect of her life. Abusers now in counseling talk honestly about giving up the feeling of control that violence gave them, and women speak hopefully of conquering their low self-esteem.

**Length**  
15 Minutes

**Subject Areas**  
Health and Guidance, Life Skills

**Audience Level**  
Grades 9-12

**Catalog Number**  
2954-EN-VID

### **Related titles in the AIMS collection**

#8914-EN-VID: Abusive Relationships  
#8881-EN-VID: Family Violence  
#2752-EN-VID: Intervals  
#2674-EN-VID: Date Rape/Abusive Relationships  
#2709-EN-VID: Toxic Relationships



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