

Facilitator Resource: Character Statements

My name is Betty. I am married to Benja. We used to be okay, but nowadays Benja shouts at me a lot and even sometimes hits me. It's especially bad when he's been drinking. I fear him and so do my children. But my mother endured the same fate as well.

My name is Benja. I am married to Betty. For some time now, things at home have not been so good. My wife annoys me, and I have no choice but to shout at her. Sometimes I even beat her. I guess this is what happens in marriage.

Level: R

I am a relative of Benja's. We were raised knowing that men can discipline women. This is how things should be.

Level: R

I am a friend of Benja's. We go to the drinking joint together. I see how you drink and then go home angry. But it is normal for men.

Level: R

I am a friend of Betty's. You and I discuss everything. My relationship is similar to yours—men are head of the house, and we have to endure.

Level: R

I am Betty's mother-in-law. If you didn't disrespect my son so much, he wouldn't hit you. You are to blame for the violence!

Level: R

I am Betty's mother. Your father and I care very much for you, but it would be a disgrace to the family if you were to leave your husband. As a woman, it is important to be patient and tolerant.

Level: R

I am Benja's brother. After seeing the way your wife spoke back to you the last time I came to visit, it is no wonder you punish her. My wife would never speak to me that way!

Level: C

I am an elder. You respect me and follow my advice. Men have to make all the decisions for a family.

Level: C

I am your neighbor. I hear your fights at night but say nothing. It isn't my business.

Level: C

I am an adolescent. I keep silent when I see the violence happening. What can I do?

Level: C

I am a priest/imam. I keep silent about violence. God/Allah will take care of things.

Level: C

I am a health care provider. I take care of your injuries but don't ask anything. It is not my business.

Level: C

I am a food seller. I see her bruises but keep silent.

Level: C

I am a police officer. Men sometimes can't avoid using some small violence at home. It is a domestic issue.

Level: C

I am a farmer. I think a woman is not equal to a man. A woman should obey her husband.

Level: C

I am a taxi driver. I think violence should be used against a woman once in a while. Otherwise women start thinking they can do anything.

Level: C

I am a market seller. Women and men are not equal. If a man wants to show that he has more power, then that is a woman's fate.

Level: C

I am a local leader. Violence in relationships is a domestic issue. I don't have time for it!

Level: C

I am a pharmacist. You buy things from me, and ask for my advice. I think women must be patient and endure.

Level: C

I am a teacher. Making jokes about girls is just for fun; it doesn't do any harm.

Level: C

I am your doctor. I advise you on many issues but don't see how violence and HIV/AIDS are connected.

Level: C

I am a social welfare officer. I see violence in the community but I mostly focus on children, as violence between women and men is pretty normal.

Level: S

I am a judge. Sometimes women file cases just for simple violence. I dismiss the cases.

Level: S

I am a parliamentarian. There are no laws in my country specifically about domestic violence. That's a private matter!

Level: S

I am a donor. I fund AIDS prevention programs in Africa. I only fund ABC programs. They're the best!

Level: S

I am a radio announcer. You hear my messages every day. We joke about women and violence. What's the harm?!

Level: S

I am a United Nations official. I monitor countries' progress on international conventions, but I don't see the connection between violence against women and HIV/AIDS.

Level: S

I am a minister of health. I decide which services are available at the health centers. Women's rights issues don't belong in clinics. We prescribe drugs!

Level: S

I am a newspaper editor. I show promiscuous photos of women in my paper, because it sells!
