ABUSES ENDURED BY A WOMAN DURING HER LIFE CYCLE

Although some of these occur at a specific stage in a woman's life, most can reoccur or continue throughout her life.

**INFANT**
- Female fetuses are aborted • Infanticide
- Malnourishment; less food &/or less nutritious food • Withholding medical care

**TEENAGER**
- Rape or coerced sex, resulting pregnancy can get victim killed • Forced marriage (to parents' choice, to a much older man, to the woman's rapist) • Ignorance about sex, anatomy, sexual health • Control over sexuality and sexual orientation • Trafficking (including mail order brides) • Forced into prostitution

**YOUNG ADULT**
- Date violence, date rape • Rape, including wartime rape • Denying choice of marriage partner &/or sexual orientation • Dowry-related deaths

**ADULT**
- Domestic violence • Same-sex domestic violence • Violence &/or abuse by mother-, father-, brother-, sister-in-law, &/or by natural family members • Sexual abuse that can include marital rape, being forced to watch and imitate pornographic acts, extreme sexual neglect • Economic abuse and isolation from family and friends • Battering during pregnancy • Being coerced into criminal activity • Extreme exploitation of household labor • Sexual harassment (by employers, fellow employees, fathers- or brothers-in-law, clergy, therapists or doctors) • Victim blaming and rejection by community • Being infected with STD’s &/or HIV • Kidnapping &/or killing of children • Honor killing • Murder, also referred to as intimate homicide or femicide

**CHILD**
- No or very little schooling • Child labor • Child prostitution • Physical abuse &/or neglect • Sexual abuse - incest &/or molestation

**ELDER**
- Physical abuse by adult children or caretakers • Spouse abuse • Exploitation for household labor or child care • Withholding health care and medication • Demeaning widowhood

**EXAMPLES OF ABUSES ENDURED BY A WOMAN DURING HER LIFE CYCLE**

- Female fetuses are aborted • Infanticide
- Malnourishment; less food &/or less nutritious food • Withholding medical care
- No or very little schooling • Child labor • Child prostitution
- Physical abuse &/or neglect • Sexual abuse - incest &/or molestation
- Ignorance about sex, anatomy, sexual health • Control over sexuality and sexual orientation • Trafficking (including mail order brides)
- Forced into prostitution

- Domestic violence • Same-sex domestic violence • Violence &/or abuse by mother-, father-, brother-, sister-in-law, &/or by natural family members • Sexual abuse that can include marital rape, being forced to watch and imitate pornographic acts, extreme sexual neglect • Economic abuse and isolation from family and friends • Battering during pregnancy • Being coerced into criminal activity • Extreme exploitation of household labor • Sexual harassment (by employers, fellow employees, fathers- or brothers-in-law, clergy, therapists or doctors) • Victim blaming and rejection by community • Being infected with STD’s &/or HIV • Kidnapping &/or killing of children • Honor killing • Murder, also referred to as intimate homicide or femicide

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A LIFETIME SPIRAL OF GENDER VIOLENCE

Domestic violence is just one amongst many forms of violence against women. From the aborting of female fetuses to intimate homicide, girls and women can encounter numerous oppressions during infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and as elders. Some of these are confined to one stage in the lifecycle, some continue into subsequent stages. Violence against women is more than physical, sexual, economic and emotional abuse; it is also about living in a climate of fear, misery, loss, mistrust, humiliation and despair. The lives of abused Asian and Pacific Islander women are shadowed by the cultural burdens of shame and devaluation. These abuses are experienced in the context of additional oppressions based on race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, type of labor being performed, level of education, class position, disability, or immigration/refugee status.

We hope that advocates can use this spiral in their work with abused women, to help them identify the abuses they have been exposed to. Doing so, may lessen the burden of feeling that they are somehow to blame or responsible for causing the violence. We hope this spiral can raise awareness and stop victim-blaming.

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