

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE FAMILY (OBUTABANGUKO MU MAKI)

WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

A pattern of behaviour in any relationship that is used to maintain or gain power and control over an intimate partner.(UN)

It is any action or omission done by one person against another person within a domestic setting using violence

HOW IS IT MANIFESTED?

- Physical – Assaults, burning, injuring using tools like knives, e.t.c
- Economical – denial of economic rights, forcefully taking another's economic benefit e.g payment, business e.t.c, denial of women's rights to own land
- Emotional – words, actions intended to annoy another,
- Sexual – actions of a sexual nature that violate the dignity of another

WHAT ARE SOME CAUSES?

- Failure to amicably resolve conflicts;
- Ignorance of human rights and the law – by both the victims and perpetrators
- Poverty
- Underlying all this is unequal power relations between men and women, founded in our patriarchal society.

WHAT IS THE PREVALENCE?

- Uganda Police Report – one of most high ranking crimes
- One of the most common crimes in the magistrates courts in Uganda
- Exists in our neighbourhoods
- Exists even among Christians

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

- Dysfunctional families
- Children drop out of school, some become street children
- Trauma, extreme stress
- Mental health disorders
- Single parenting
- Divorce and separation
- Personal permanent injuries
- Death e.g Nigerian gospel singer, Osinachi Nwachukwu (2022) by husband, Ugandan athlete Rebecca Chemtai (2024) by former boyfriend
- Committal of suicide

BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

- **Genesis 1:26-27** ²⁶Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the

sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, ^[a] and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” ²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

- **At creation God created man and woman with equal worth and both shared the mandate to have dominion over the earth.**
- **Malachi 2:16** ¹⁶ *“The man who hates and divorces his wife,” says the LORD, the God of Israel, “does violence to the one he should protect,”^[a] says the LORD Almighty. So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful.*
- **If we aim at faithfulness in marriage, we can reduce the chances of domestic violence**
- **James 3** – Control our tongue
- **1 Corinthians 13** – Love

POSITIVE ACTIONS TO PREVENT AND FIGHT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Mutual respect and support
- Applying Christian values in our homes
- Protection of children
 - i. Protecting the girl child
 - ii. Intentional raising of the Boy child
- Note: Majority of Uganda’s population is below 18 years
- Resolving conflict at the earliest
- Protection of children by all adults responsible for them – protect and don’t abuse them;
- Emulating good examples of successful married couples

Victims

- Speak Up
 - i. Women
 - ii. Men – do not die in silence
- Find help – Church, family, trusted friends
- Seek Counselling
- Report to lawful authorities – LC. Police e.t.c
- SAUTI 116

Believers

- Reconcile warring parties
- Support victims e.g shelter, food and other basics
- Support those that must report to criminal process
- Speak against injustice
- **Isaiah 1:17** *Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed.^[a] Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.*
- **Micah 6:8** *And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly^[a] with your God.*

- Do not defend perpetrators

Church Leaders

- Listen to the victim's first without judging e.g asking the question what caused it
- Start with the abuse before looking at the relationship between the victim and perpetrator (e.g cohabitees; married people)
- Determine cases that need pastoral counselling and those that need the law to take its course
- Speak against injustice at the pulpit
- **Psalm 89:14** – justice and righteousness is the foundation of God's throne.

CONCLUSION

1 Peter 3:8-9 (NIV) says:

"Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

- *Acts of domestic violence do not glorify God*
- *They do not lead to righteousness*
- *They are crimes in our laws of Uganda*
- *Let us prevent domestic violence in our families*
- *Let us respond quickly when it occurs*

Qn. Are you a perpetrator of violence? God can forgive you.

- **Turn to God**
- *Stop your actions*
- *Seek forgiveness from those you have hurt*
- *Let us have families that live in peace and harmony and that glorify God*