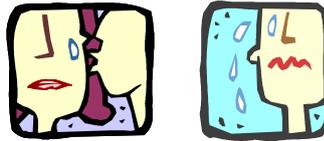


Date Violence



Date violence refers to any attack or overly-controlled behavior between an intimate couple, such as verbal, physical, psychological or in sexual relationship.

Date violence is on rise particularly among teenagers. Some people use physical or verbal sexual abuse as a tool to control or to maintain relationship with the partner. It does not necessarily lead to physical wound, but victims might be threatened or feel shameful when being abused. Date violence also includes sexual acts by forcing partner or ex-partner to have sexual intercourse, or threatening to spread around victims' naked photos, etc.

Many teenagers believe that love is a kind of possession, or a partner should oblige to sexual relationship, which is indeed an idea misled by the popular culture. People who do not know how to respect and accept a partner do not really know what love is. Gender stereotype also reinforces the above beliefs, e.g., males can possess females, while females should be submissive to males. When partners were found not fulfilling these roles or duties, date violence would eventually take place. Besides, for teens who had suffered from abuse when they were children, or those who do not have guidelines on effective communication, or those who have lower self-esteem, tend to resolve problems by taking violence in intimate relationship.

Teenagers need to build up a critical mind, and able to analyze any issues or popular culture that is emerged by gender inequity. Realization of love needs expression of respect and acceptance, and allowing time and spaces for self-development. A person who is being loved should feel sense of warmth and harmony, but not being controlled or hurt.

When you are dating someone, you both are recommended to set a boundary of intimacy. However, different individuals have different definitions of intimacy, some allow hands-holding and hugging only, but some look forward to sexual relationship. You both should really talk and come up with a consensual boundary. Do respect the decision, and do not hesitate to decline if your partner requests any act you do not feel comfortable to comply with.

If you were unfortunately being abused, you should never find an excuse for your partner. Remember, there is no tolerance to date violence. Do protect yourself

and tell him how you feel in heart. Seek help and support from your friends, parents, relatives, social workers, counselors or teachers. If necessary, you may choose to end the relationship given you are in safe environment; or you should call up the police if your partner threatened to hurt you or your family.

Resources in Community

- **Youth Health Care Centre of the Family Planning Association of Hong Kong**
 Service Hotline : 2572-2222
 Website : www.famplan.org.hk
- **Harmony House**
 24 Hour Woman Hotline 2522 0434
 Man Hotline 2295 1386
 Community Education and Resource Centre
 Website : www.harmonyhousehk.org
- **Association Concerning Sexual Violence to Women**
 Website : www.rapecrisiscentre.org.hk
 Hotline of Rain Lily 2375 5322
 Anti480 -Anti Sexual Violence Resource Centre
 Website : www.anti480.org.hk

