



## Acts of domestic violence

In this handout acts of domestic violence are classified in four main categories, i.e. physical, sexual, psychological and economic. Some acts of violence will overlap with more than one category. All violence **always** causes psychological and emotional harm to the victim and possible witnesses.

### Physical violence such as:

Hitting, pushing, kicking, hair pulling, battering with a stick/ bamboo, biting, pinching, shaking, injuring with a tool (sickle throwing, hacking with an axe, stabbing with a knife, injuring with a weapon (gun, grenade etc), suffocating with a cushion, pushing down stairs, strangling, burning, throwing/ spraying with acid, poisoning, deprivation of sleep, attempted murder, homicide.

### Sexual violence such as:

Rape including marital rape, sexual abuses on children, forcing someone to have sex with another person, sexual harassment and sexual exposure, sexual abuse to degrade someone such as urinating on women or forcing a woman to have oral sex etcetera.

### Psychological - mental violence including:

■ **Verbal violence such as:** Shouting, constant and prolonged criticizing and insulting a person, telling s/he is ugly and/ or worthless, jealousy, refusing to talk to the person, humiliating in front of the children and others, telling a person that s/he is mad and should be in a mental hospital .

■ **Threats such as:** Threatening with a weapon or tool that can be used as weapon, threatening to take the children away, threatening to sell the children, throwing her out of the house, threatening to commit suicide, threatening to abduct or abuse the children, mutilating her, beating her, ruining the property, preventing a job opportunity, threatening to sell her (trafficking); claiming rights because of dowry payment.

■ **Deprivation of freedom (isolation) such as:** Refusing to let her see family and friends, locking a person in, preventing a person to leave the household premises or to go to work or to go to study, following the person everywhere s/he goes, controlling all aspects of family decision making.

### Economic violence such as:

Destroying valuable personal belongings or property for example breaking plates and glasses, setting fire to the house, refusing to give money, making the person beg for every Riel, forcing a person to sign a loan or take away property.

