

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AFFECTING THE CITY!



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### Domestic violence

What is domestic violence in Brooklyn ? How can this affect our community? How is this problem taking its toll on the community? Domestic violence is a common event in New York. In Brooklyn there is a lot of stress from different issues dating back to even a century ago. A cause for domestic violence can be anger issues, alcohol abuse and violence in countries like Bangladesh. How this can be a cause is because some people can't contain themselves with how they feel and can take it out on their loved ones. The explanation for this would be for instance instead of people talking about how angry they are they can possibly take a more physical approach. Anger issues can Create problems in families and destroy communities. Evidence that helps support my thesis is "Evidence shows that abusive men who complete anger management programs do not stop abusing. They merely choose another tool to reach the same end."( Kholly) what this is basically saying is how people who abuse others out of anger don't help them, it can possibly make them just use another way to control their victim. Another piece of evidence that shows how anger and mental illness can lead to domestic violence is "Abusers may feel this need to control their partner because of low self-esteem, extreme jealousy, difficulties in regulating anger and other strong emotions, or when they feel inferior to the other partner in education and socioeconomic background"(Kholly). What this quote is trying to say is that in some cases people believe that it is ok to hurt someone in such a way, they feel it is right to always be in control and also they were taught that this type of behaviour is accepted. Another piece of evidence that shows

that domestic violence is connected to anger issues, “ Some people with very traditional beliefs may think they have the right to control their partner, and that women aren’t equal to men. Others may have an undiagnosed personality disorder or psychological disorder.” What this quote is saying is that people who might be the abuser in the situation could possibly be dealing with other issues other than anger issues. In my neighbourhood there are a lot of incidents and I constantly see men, women and children being affected by this everyday, if you do the maths more than a quarter of new yorkers are in domestic violence situations.

Anger issues are or can drive people to act out in some cases. People hear and think it’s normal they might think oh it will stop and go back to normal. This is a problem because of the amount of cases people have hurt their loved ones because of an illness, New Yorkers deserve to feel safe, protected, and secure. Therefore to support this claim the following quote states “ almost a third of people polled ( 32% ) say they have a close friend or family member controlling their anger, more than one in ten ( 12% ) say they have trouble controlling their own anger”. This quote supports my claim because it shows the percentage of people who either know people or experience anger issues first hand. This affects me and my community because even I experience anger problems. I can sometimes say things or do things I don't mean and it reflects badly on who I am as a person. Also I can kind of know how people with these problems feel. It's hard to control my emotions when I feel strongly about a certain problem or topic. This happens to me because of the environment and how it makes me feel and also I just am so passionate about certain things and I will take it too far.

In some marriages people experience domestic violence. In supposed to be the happiest stage in a relationship, but for a woman named Roia her happiness was cut short by her controlling husband when he tried to set her on fire. The following quote tells us that people can physically and mentally abuse someone because of their personal traits “ almost

20 years ago Roia was hospitalised for months after her husband doused her with turpentine and set her on fire ( direct quote )" We were married for about 5 years. He was quite controlling from the moment we met, but the abuse really started after I had my first child, and it just escalated from there and got worse" This connects to my thesis and community because domestic violence can come from places where the abusers personal and mental traits can reflect on how their spouse/lover is treated, therefore anger issues can very much be a cause to this issues. Another way how abuse can take that extra mile to support my claim is in this case a woman's husband didn't allow her to even use the bathroom and socialise. The following quote states " Initially, it was things like we'd travel to Sydney but for the whole trip I was not allowed to use the toilet"(Davey). Violence and abuse is a form of control. He actually would not hide the abuse from the children, sometimes he would have outbursts in front of them" how this connects to my argument is her husband tried to control her needs which he is basically dehumanising her and taking away her right as a person to do something simply as using the facilities. In addition to this he seemed to not hide the abuse from his children and basically encouraged the thought that they should see him abusing her". This quote shows how domestic violence impacts children and humiliates the victim in front of their own children. This whole argument relates to problems in my community because the violence I can so often see on the streets and in my building like for example children witness abuse, fighting ,etc in bushwick and men can dehumanise their spouse/lover in any way shape or form. My opinion on this is that humiliating people is completely inhumane and violates human rights. Human rights is something everyone is born with and to let someone degrade you as a human being is by far the most evil thing I can describe. My reasoning for this is people in this world like dictators, politicians, and even some form of a government will try to take away your voice. But it is essential to not let people oppress you in such a way.

How domestic violence affects a community such as Brooklyn ,New York is it can affect things like it significantly impedes economic growth and development, etc. But it also affects people in the community such as children and teens. This affects the younger people in our community because we are more vulnerable to things we see and experience in our day to day lives. Domestic violence can affect our economy this claim can be proven is stated in the following quote, “A 2003 study by the CDC estimated that domestic violence cost the US economy more than \$ 5.8 million in a single year, other studies have estimated the annual cost of domestic violence in the united states to be as high as \$ 12.6m.” This tells us that over five million dollars were spent on domestic violence cases. This cost in my opinion is barely effective because the government is using all this money, but are they using it properly. In this world it’s not only about money it is what you do with the money that counts as well. The government can give however much amount to a cause but is it going to be used in the best way possible is the question. Lastly, to support my claim, having all this money does not mean a thing. It's about whether they are using what they have in the right way to decrease statistics.

How domestic violence affects kids,infants, teens/young adults in my community is we will think that this type of behaviour is ok, and it will become a learned trait that they will carry with them later in life. This can cause numerous problems for them later in life , for example instead of using their words to solve a problem they will instead go to physical altercations because they were taught when they were young that physically hurting someone was ok. For example “ studies show that children who have witnessed domestic violence are most likely to: show aggressive behaviour, develop phobias and insomnia, experience anxiety, show symptoms of depression, have diminished self esteem, demonstrate poor academic performance and problem solving skills’. This is telling you the reader that young

citizens in this community affect us in school, on the streets, it creates aggressive behaviour patterns, and they can even experience things such as anxiety. My point is if we let things like this happen in our streets and homes how will this help prepare the next generation of people in life. How will they be able to manage themselves?

Domestic violence is leaving single mothers to be led into poverty, and are discriminated against. Domestic violence leaves people out of work because of stress, bad job performance and in some cases gets them fired. Can domestic violence affect us at work? The answer is yes it can and it's real, it is another problem that people who experience abuse go through. In the following states “ domestic violence is a main cause of homelessness for women and families, either when women are forced to flee a relationship or when they are evicted from their homes because of the abuse perpetrated against them. This is even for poor women due to a lack of safe and affordable housing options and housing assistance as well as discrimination against survivor”(Lecia Imbery) This is trying to tell us the issues women go through when they are being abused and how it leads them to poverty or to be homeless. Another problem is women and their families can even receive less help than they do now with cuts being made to domestic violence acts. Therefore they are being treated poorly even though they are dealing with major problematic issues for everyone in their families. How I can support my claim is by the following quote“. Poor women and their families are facing a superstorm of grim outcomes. Not only will the severe cuts to critical domestic violence, sexual- assault, and human needs services devastate low- income victims and the provides that serve them and their families, but the reauthorization of the violence against women act also remains held up in congress after it expiration a year ago . How would you feel if you reported abuse and later fired from your position would you think it's fair judgement? Or would you fight for your job? In my community I feel like domestic violence victims don't

receive a lot of help and with the cuts that are happening now their chances of success are going to be at an all time low.

In recent reports people have stated that they have lost their jobs because the abuse has interfered with their lives, but in my opinion i feel like they don't deserve to lose their jobs if it was reported. Should domestic violence victims be fired from their jobs if it interferes with their work ethic? “victims of domestic violence have reported that the abuse interfered with their job performance and undermined their livelihoods. A significant fraction- as high as around 50 percent in some studies- reported having lost their jobs or being forced to quit at least partly as a result of the situation”. What this quote is saying is people do get discriminated against by being fired from their position, or being pressured to quit. The significance of this is that people are being discriminated against because of their personal lives. That's like being told you can't do a job because of the way you live.

How this affects our community is it falls onto the kids, infants, and teens. How this falls on them is from the stress of domestic violence affects their brain in negative ways like damaging their behaviour patterns, and general health. Young people in this community have a big effect on how the future will look and how they will be shaped as a person in the future. Domestic violence can do damage to their behaviour if they will resort to violence thinking it's ok to solve all of their problems. Since domestic violence creates stress in young people because they see their parents fighting verbally and physically, this leads to health issues in their bodies. There is even research that proves domestic violence affects stress. According to Harvard University, they state, “ The future of any society depends on its ability to foster the healthy development of the next generation. Extensive research on the biology of stress now shows that healthy development can be derailed by excessive or prolonged activation of stress response systems in the body and brain. Such toxic stress can have damaging effects on

learning, behaviour, and health across the lifespan” (Harvard, Web). How I can prove this to be true is whenever i'm in school and i feel stressed out i feel sick, or just that i'm not good enough for the position i'm in and i feel like giving up. Another way this is proven to be true is my best friend Samantha Singleton whenever she feels stressed she can have anxiety attacks , also she can become frustrated and snappy ,but most importantly depressed. What this quote is trying to tell anyone reading this is that young people in this community are greatly affected and our community can be affected by this. In addition to this information another way how young people's health can be at risk is “When a young child’s stress response systems are activated within an environment of supportive relationships with adults, these physiological effects are buffered and brought back down to baseline. The result is the development of healthy stress response systems. However, if the stress response is extreme and long-lasting, and buffering relationships are unavailable to the child, the result can be damaged, weakened systems and brain architecture, with lifelong repercussions”. Why this quote is important is because it talks about how stress can affect the brain and the lifespan of a young person ,and also this can hurt their livelihood in the long run. Environment affects the way children are affected. Good supporting relationships make them feel safe,and secure in their own environment which will be at home. A good environment affects how people behave because they can possibly carry the stress and behaviour they see in their home to places they go to and this is a bad effect on their lives./

The above states how stress can affect our communities in a violent way but stress is not the only factor in how domestic violence occurs. How Alcohol abuse relates to my issue is because people in my community are being affected by alcohol abuse because it’s so easy to just go to the store that is just a block away making it easier for people to get addicted and when in some cases people become addicted they lose control of their emotions and what

they physically and this is a dangerous thing for their loved ones if they are put into a certain position where they need to be defend and protected. : “ In 2012, there were 42,946 alcohol-related hospitalizations in NYC. Males made up the majority at 29,932. The dominating age group was 45 to 54, followed by 55 to 64. The majority of these hospitalised patients were black (32 percent), followed by Hispanic (25 percent), white (22 percent), and another (21 percent). These statistics show us the amount of alcohol related hospitalizations in Brooklyn New York in 2012, this relates to the quote because people under the influence can not only hurt other people but even more to themselves.

Alcohol and domestic violence are related because as a kid I have witnessed people hurting their loved ones when intoxicated. Then to come to find out they were under the influence and didn't even remember what they did. Alcohol can cause many problems in my community because it damages the body far beyond just what we see when someone is being abused. For example drinking can harm the body from the inside as well as on the outside. “ Drinking too much can result in cancer. Cancer of the throat, larynx, liver, colon, kidneys, rectum, and oesophagus. Other health conditions excessive alcohol consumption can cause are immune system irregularities, brain damage, foetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) and alcoholic cirrhosis. Here is a scary statistic- 1 in 5 alcoholics who try to stop drinking without medical help die due to alcohol withdrawal symptoms”. The connection to alcohol and domestic violence is I know first hand people who have abused their spouse, or lover because they were drunk. This is a common problem in Brooklyn in the area of Bushwick. The convenience of going to buy a bottle at a liquor store. In my opinion alcohol consumption should be watched because in my community there is a liquor store every two blocks.

From danger on the block is to dangers in another country. Bangladesh is a country where women, men, children possibly everyday are violated and are treated less than their

oppressor and some cases people are even killed because they were in a situation where domestic violence has taken place ,how this connects to the U.S in nyc is we also have a high rate of crime and a high rate of domestic violence cases and calls being made almost everyday. The amount of women who get abused by their partner in this part of the world is almost more than 60% of women. “ Dhaka (Sumon Corraya) - About 87 percent of Bangladeshi married women are abused by their husband, according to a nationwide study conducted by the government that involved a sample of 12,600 women. Only eight percent of respondents said that they were never abused by their partner”. This quote tells the readers that only very few women in Bangladesh reported they have not been harmed by their partner, another fact about this shows that over 12,000 women were involved and only 8% of women reported back false that would mean 92% of the women have been abused before. Do you think that these numbers are ok? Compared to our community this is very high but no matter the region, location, or area they are from the world domestic violence is very much a problem. Another sad story in Bangladesh is even in some cases young girls can even be abused starting from ages 14+, how this compares to domestic violence in new york is when i was in middle school I have even had friends who were in a relationship and their boyfriend would rip all of their clothes, scream, and push them vigorously. “I was too young and didn’t know what it is like to be a bride. He used to beat me during the day and assaulted me sexually at night, said Nirmola, a Catholic from Natore district in northeastern Bangladesh. She said her husband was an alcoholic and beat her up when he got drunk. Within two months, Nirmola became pregnant. But that didn’t stop the abuse “ Nirmola was forced into a marriage with a man twice her age; she was 16 at the time”. This connects to my community because in my family I have witnessed pregnant women being abused and it can result in serious pregnancy problems. Besides domestic violence just like New York Bangladesh has

numerous problems listed in the following quote “Some main acts of violence committed against women include dowry killings, rape, sexual harassment and stalking, acid attacks, physical and mental abuse and sex trafficking. Nearly two out of every three women in Bangladesh are victims of some form of violence”. Bangladesh and new york are connected by these issues because of the crime against women mainly rape, stalking, and sexual harassment

Issues in the middle east connect to my community in many ways like how people are punished and treated by their family, partner and even government. New york domestic violence and domestic violence in the middle east relate in many aspects.“ The rate of domestic violence against women was highest in Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia, where 37% of women experienced physical or sexual violence from a partner at some point in their lifetime. The rate was 30% in Latin and South America and 23% in North America. In Europe and Asia, it was 25%”. These statistics show us the amount of women who are abused around the world, and we are the third highest region for domestic violence abuse in the world. Domestic violence worldwide there are millions of reports, incidents and even calls. To support this claim I have found this quote “On a typical day, there are more than 20,000 phone calls placed to domestic violence hotlines nationwide”. This shows us how many people daily are being abused and if you count that number daily it will total up to 7,300,000 calls a year. Think about over 7m calls a year from men,women and children. The trend of domestic violence even with hotlines is still a problem. In my opinion I feel that people in Bangladesh should have equal rights. By this I mean that in my opinion they are taking away people’s human rights by doing inhumane acts. Women have come too far to be knocked down from the pedestal we have fairly and rightfully earned.

Domestic violence and poverty intersect in many ways because let's say for example some women who are domestic violence survivors are lead into poverty along with anyone else in their household, this is because the person with the most income in the home leaves the house they take their income with them leaving the victim struggling to make ends meet. Poverty connects to my community because of the neighbourhood situations like how the buildings are made, how they are run, and protection that people need. “ We know that poverty disproportionately affects women and single moms. In 2013, nearly 16% of women and nearly 40% of families with children headed by a woman lived in poverty, higher than their male counterparts. We know that women who are poor are more likely to suffer from health problems and are more likely to be survivors of domestic violence”. In addition to my claim this quote is saying that women who are survivors of domestic violence are most likely in poverty rather than males counterparts who take care of their family. Poverty and domestic violence connect in ways like when a partner can withhold money from another. This is a form of abuse because they are trying to control the person's finances and use this as leverage to get what they want. “The connection between intimate partner violence (IPV) and poverty isn't obvious. In fact, it took me the majority of the summer to understand it. To an extent, intimate partner violence is about control. Abusers feel the need to control their partners in any way they can. They will withhold financial information, use guilt and threats to get what they want and isolate their partners from their support systems. In many cases, this need for control manifests in physical abuse. Intimate partner and domestic violence stretches across all income brackets”. This quote is telling the reader that the abusers will try and control the victim anyway they can at any cost, this includes holding money that isn't theirs. Poverty and domestic violence connect because this quote is showing us in some cases people with old money from the other and doing this can cause a pile up of debt for the person and put them

in a state of bankruptcy.

How anger problems in New York lead to domestic violence is for example there is a couple. Also the man has been known to have a short temper and his day was not so good and his wife comments on something that he doesn't agree with depending on his anger/mental illness is how he can react. Either the abuse can be verbal, mental, and physical. In addition to this is common in New York people are being abused due to mental illness. In my community this is an issue because the nypd has reported the amount of domestic violence calls in New York a day is about 700 calls! Domestic violence can be caused by anger problems or mental illness. Domestic violence is not because of mental illness it is a learned behaviour, Domestic violence is caused mostly by it is a learned behaviour passed down from children's parents. Domestic violence is not caused by mental illness it is caused by children in my community witnessing violence in their households, this is a common passed down behaviour from parents to child. This behaviour is just a thing that can be learned ,domestic violence can't be an effect of mental illness. Young boys who witness this don't play a role in domestic violence relationships when they are older. Domestic violence is not a serious problem in the state of New York. Mental illness is a sickness not a cause to a violent and aggressive relationship. Girls who witness domestic violence in their families of origin are more likely to be victimised by their own husbands. One can argue that domestic violence is not a major issue in New York because "Those excuses are lies. Domestic violence is not caused by alcohol or drugs, plenty of adults who grew up witnessing domestic abuse as children didn't turn into batterers" according to a study by Andrew Klein, Ph.D., for the Battered Women's Justice Project, abusive partners are no more likely to be mentally ill than the general population". What this quote is trying to tell us is that abuse can't be caused by mental illness, that people use it as an excuse to cover their lies. That is all just a lie to be in a certain

spot/space they want to be in. In addition to this people can also argue that mental illness/ anger issues cannot be a cause to domestic violence because again it is a learned behaviour a point that supports this is made in the following quote “Many experts believe psychopathology, developed by growing up in a violent and abusive household causes domestic violence to continue as a generational legacy. Witnessing abuse as the norm, or being abused, destroys the child's ability to trust others and undermines his or her ability to control emotions. This produces hostile, dependant, and emotionally insecure people with a deeply impaired”. This quote is telling the reader that some people who beat their partner don't always have mental illness.

My recommendation for domestic violence is for example making a program for people with anger issues. Why this should be a program is because anger issues are a cause for domestic violence and this can help prevent people from becoming an abuser. How this program will be set up is in two sections one will be counselling services ,this will be one on one conversation between a psychiatrist and a person who is dealing with anger management issues. The second department is a support group, instead of having a one on one discussion it will be a group of people who deal with these issues or are being abused and seek counselling on what they should do or what can be done to eliminate the problem altogether. How this is set up is that buildings that are abandoned or burned down can be rebuilt or used as the place for these programs. Who can be in charge of this is students who major in psychology or people who have gone through domestic violence issues in their lives. The program should be three times every week Monday's can be a check in day to see how people are doing, Wednesday to see how they are feeling and what is going on, and Fridays to check in on how their week is doing and if any improvements have been made. Why I believe this program should exist is for people like myself because I have witnessed domestic violence with my

father and it's hard to tell someone to seek help when you are so afraid that you're going to next, anger issues do cause domestic violence there is no doubt about it that someone can deny it when I have witnessed and tried to stop my own father from abusing my little brothers mother on a number of accounts. People do need help and people should seek help. The program should be called stop the hits for shirt S.T.H programs like this should exist so people like me don't have to deal with being afraid of witnessing these events.

Abusers needed help but what about the people who are the victims dealing with discrimination as well. People who have been through domestic violence situations are discriminated against in the workplace. My recommendations are to have organisations who are connected to the 911 operators and help women who are possibly being abused and help them find new jobs or help them file cases against their employers. Also this facility can inform women about relocation not just for them but if they have children as well.

My last recommendation is to have facilities all over the world like in places such as Bangladesh where women are given cruel treatment by their husbands like being set on fire. What this facility will be is safe houses for women, men and children, this facility will be run by their government people who have been hand selected by the people to help others escape harsh situations. This building will look like a ten story building and they will relocate women and their children to safe places like hotels, affordable housing, and possibly build apartments for people to seek refuge in. How this will be run is women will pay to be relocated or they can make payments each month due to their relocation from the service.

Domestic violence is an issue in New York because of the high statistics and reports. Women are being discriminated against. Kids are being affected because of the bad

environments. Brooklyn is being affected because this raises numbers in crime rates, poverty rates, etc. Domestic violence is an issue because more than a quarter of its residents are hospitalised due to assault injuries from unknown sources. Domestic violence can destroy families and communities. The overall idea I want the reader to walk away with after reading my essay is that people like me who live in this community who have gone through domestic violence situations are being affected. Causes for domestic violence are anger issues, alcohol abuse, and issues in other countries such as Bangladesh. These issues have affected my community Brooklyn. I have seen men who are intoxicated abusing women in front of children affecting not only the mother but as well as the children watching. Bangladesh is basically taking away people's human rights and violating them as people. In this world people think it is ok that controlling a person is a normal life to live.

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