

**Legacy of Healing Advocacy Center & Safe House**  
**7720 Waterworks Road**  
**Tulalip, Washington 98271**  
**Phone: (360) 716-4100**

## **Domestic Violence and Gender:**

Most acts of domestic violence (more than 95%) are committed by men against their female partners. Domestic violence can also occur in same-sex relationships. Studies show that the majority of women who abuse male partners have been previously abused by these male partners and have resorted to violence in an effort to get them to stop. The next largest group of female batterers is women who have been abused by some other male partner in their past and now want to insure that no one will ever physically harm them again. The smallest group of female batterers is those who batter for the same reason males batter – in order to gain power and control over their partner.

Abusers utilize various tactics, including emotional, physical and sexual violence, to exert power and control over their victims.

When domestic violence is present, it is impossible to have an equal relationship. He will assume the power in the relationship, leaving his partner powerless, and dependent upon him. She will be compliant, or use force herself to get her needs met.

Domestic violence perpetrators believe themselves entitled to victimize their partners.

This notion of entitlement is held primarily by men. Women who use violence do not have a sense of entitlement, and often say “they’d better get away from him fast” afterwards because they fear being beaten. When a woman who has used violence in her relationship is asked, “Would you stop using violence today if he would?” she will most often answer yes. Males continue using violence in their relationships whether their partners fight back or not.

Many women don’t want to leave their violent relationship – they just want to violence to stop. When women do leave, they are more likely to be injured or killed by their violent partner.

The community has to hold the abuser accountable or domestic violence won’t end.