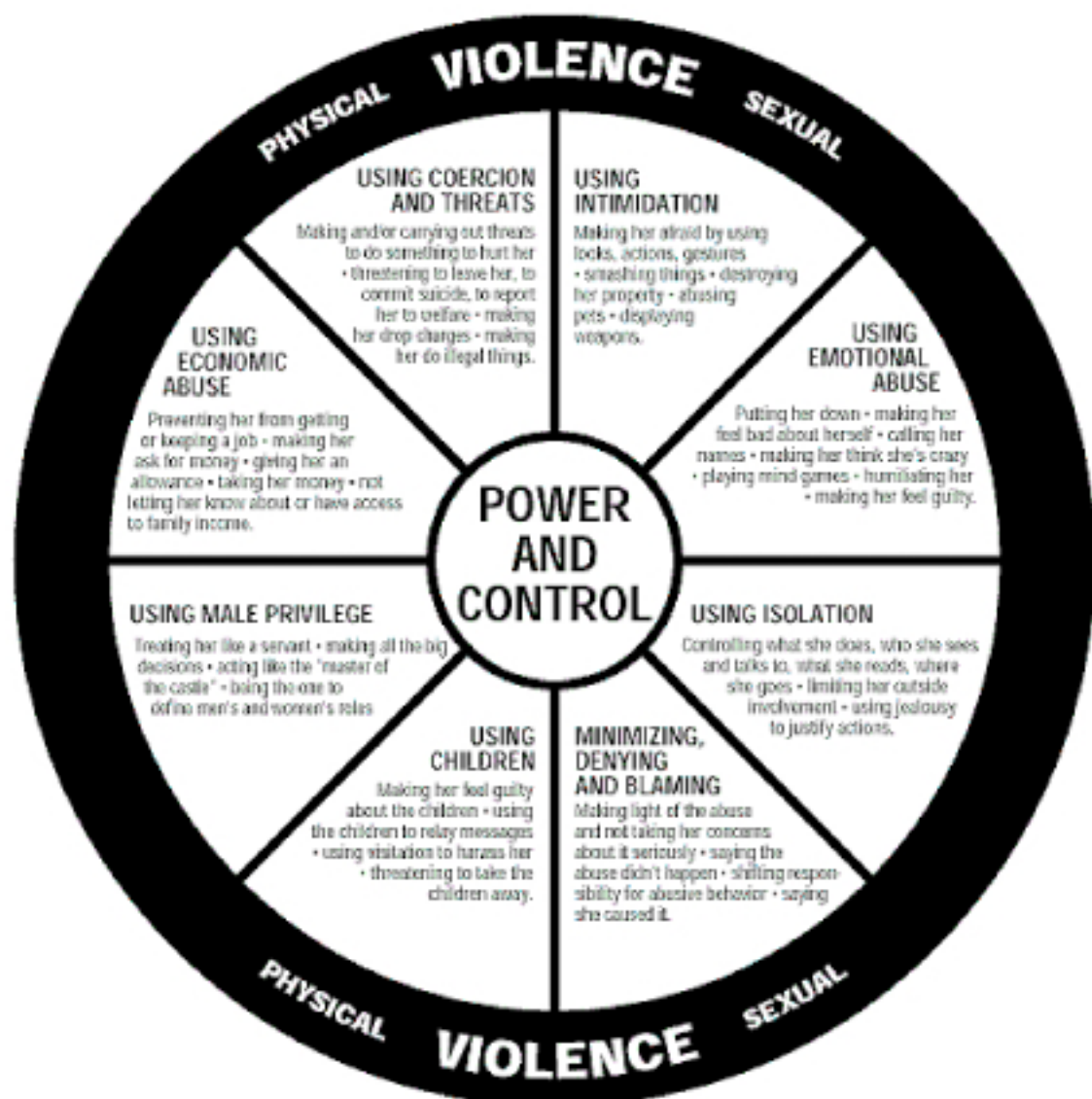


Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence is a pattern of coercive behavior that one partner in an intimate relationship uses to control the other. It is NOT just the result of one person becoming angry and "losing control", but a way a person attempts to gain control over an intimate partner. Abuse is a *human* problem, NOT a gender problem and can take many forms. Partners may be married, unmarried, heterosexual, gay, or lesbian; living together, separated or dating. **ANYONE CAN BE A VICTIM** regardless of any age, sex, race, culture, religion, education, employment or marital status.



Domestic violence *should not happen to anybody. Ever.*

But it does - and when it does, La Casa can help.

This chart uses the wheel to show the relationship of physical abuse to other forms of abuse. It will help you look at the behaviors abusers use to get and keep control in their relationships. Each part shows a way to control or gain power.

Abusive partners often use tactics described in this wheel.

The tactics used are compounded when physical violence is also involved.

Battering is a choice and is also used to gain power and control over another person.

Physical abuse is only one part of a system of abusive behaviors.

Remember! Abuse is never a one time event.