

Emerging strategic framework for understanding and responding to economic abuse

Economically abusive behaviours by perpetrators

<p>Economic restriction</p> <p>Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring spending, eg through a bank account, cash, receipts or an allowance. Controlling a victim-survivors' access to their income, savings or bank accounts. Controlling or preventing access to economic resources, such as transport or mobile phone. Denying money needed for essentials. Making a victim-survivor quit work or studies. 	<p>Economic exploitation</p> <p>Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building up debt in the victim-survivors' name, including through coercion or fraud. Spending their money as they want whilst making the victim-survivor solely responsible for essentials or joint costs. Making a victim-survivor work more (eg more hours, multiple jobs). Forced domestic or unpaid labour. Putting liabilities in the victim-survivor's name and assets in their own name. 	<p>Economic sabotage</p> <p>Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failing to pay child support in full or reliably, or manipulating how much is owed. Using court processes to economically exhaust a victim-survivor. Falsely accusing a victim-survivor of fraudulently claiming welfare benefits. Damaging or destroying the victim-survivors' property, assets or belongings. Changing financial products without the victim-survivor's knowledge or consent.
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Broad recommendations for stakeholders

<p>Financial sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promising practice needs to adopted and adapted. Responses must involve and be informed by specialist domestic and economic abuse services. Organisations should ensure responses to victim-survivors are consistent and follow the policies in place. 	<p>Researchers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scales measuring the full extent of economic abuse must be included in IPV prevalence surveys. More research with diverse communities is needed, including on the prevalence and nature of economic abuse. Longer-term research on the impacts of economic abuse. More work on how economic abuse overlaps with other forms of abuse and how it is facilitated by systems and structures. 	<p>Policy-makers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic abuse in IPV needs to be recognised at all levels (including international, national and regional) of policy. Economic abuse must be defined in a way which recognises the range and complexity of behaviours. Policy needs to be supportive of responses, including in government bodies. 	<p>Government agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agencies need the infrastructure to support any policies around economic abuse. Agencies must be able to recognise and respond appropriately to victim-survivors. Agencies must prevent perpetrators from using systems to perpetrate economic abuse, including by changing systems which facilitate abuse. Agencies must remove processes which punish victim-survivors. 	<p>Domestic abuse services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic abuse and safety must be included in approaches to intimate partner violence. Services should seek to further their awareness and understanding of economic abuse. Services should be aware that economic abuse requires specific responses which include both physical and economic safety, and seek to deliver these.
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Promising practice by and with stakeholders identified in the research

<p>Financial sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Codes of conduct for responding to financial abuse within the financial services sector. Collaboration with specialist domestic abuse services. Trained economic abuse teams responding to victim-survivors, including those with coerced debt. 	<p>Researchers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development and use of scales designed specifically for economic abuse which are developed for or adapted to local contexts. The growth of research which includes and understands economic abuse as a distinct form of IPV. 	<p>Policy-makers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic abuse is recognised in the legislation of 113 countries. Laws which allow for prosecuting perpetrators of economic abuse, such as those specifically on economic abuse, or on coercive control. Research-informed policy. 	<p>Government agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialist training on recognising economic abuse for police officers. Countries where child support payments are enforced and owed to the state, rather than directly to the victim-survivor. 	<p>Domestic abuse services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration with non-traditional stakeholders to ensure responses are safe for and informed by victim-survivors. Evaluations of jointly delivered and located services for victim-survivors, eg legal services and financial advice. Use of research-based and evaluated economic abuse screening tools with victim-survivors to inform support.
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