

MYTH

“SHE MUST
HAVE DONE
SOMETHING
TO DESERVE IT”

TRUTH

“NO WOMAN
EVER
DESERVES
ABUSE”

16 Days of Action 25 Nov - 10 Dec 2017

#CHANGETHECONVERSATION

The sort of abuse disclosed to Women's Aid by women using our 24hr National Freephone Helpline is never okay. Every day we hear from women who feel trapped, alone and isolated. A common reaction to a woman speaking about her experience of domestic violence is to focus on her credibility, her actions and her behaviour. Society analyses and judges her choices. Unhelpful speculation can include suggestions that she is lying or that her actions may have provoked the abuse. This is typical of a 'victim blaming' mentality which focuses on the behaviour of the woman, rather than the perpetrator of the abuse.

Blaming is something that abusers will often do to make excuses for their behaviour. This is part of the pattern of abuse. Sometimes abusers manage to convince their victims that they are to blame for the abuse.

The challenge for society is to treat the crime of domestic abuse as seriously as it deserves and place the responsibility solely at the hands of the perpetrator. Until we do, women will remain at risk and afraid to speak up.

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WOMEN'S AID

Listening. Believing. Supporting.

24hr National Freephone Helpline

1800 341 900

www.womensaid.ie