

Why Do People Stay in Abusive Relationships?

Victims stay in an abusive relationship for a variety of reasons, including

Lack of economic resources

Fear for the children's safety

Fear the children will be taken away

Lack of awareness of the domestic violence shelters and programs available

Love for partner (but NOT for abuse)

Family members' encouragement

Religious values

Fear of the abuser—the primary reason why most stay or go back

Language barriers

Fear of deportation

Mistrust of law enforcement and the judicial system

Fear the abuser will follow through with threats

Fear of being alone

Stigma of failure and divorce

Feeling of helplessness without him; not being able to make decisions or change how things are

Low self-esteem