

Domestic Violence is not OK*Intro music street sounds*

- V/O female** Abdi and Ali are old friends. Abdi is married to Fadumo. The men meet each other one afternoon on the street...
- Ali** Hello Abdi, how are you today?
- Abdi** Not so good actually Ali
- Ali (concerned)** What's the matter?
- Abdi** Fadumo is not well...something bad happened
- Ali** Well...what?
- Abdi** It is very hard to admit... but I hit her a bit too hard the other night and
- Ali** What do you mean you hit her a bit too hard?
- Abdi** Well I ...
- Ali** (*Angry*) You should not be hitting her at all Abdi. You know there is never any justification to hit your wife. Violence breaks families.
- Abdi** No...I suppose you are right..., it is just that everything has been getting too much for me
- Ali** If you got problems you can work them out. You should have come to me to talk about them I can help you. But hitting Fadumo will not solve anything, it will only cause you and your family more problems. Think of Fadumo, think of the children

Men voices fade away as Fadumo starts to talk

- Fadumo** When Abdi beats me up it is the worst thing in the world. Worse than anything. The kids and I are terrified. Do you know that wife beating is not ok in any religion? Not in the Quran, not in any religion. Abdi is a big man but he does not have to hurt me to prove that he is.
I already know. Abdi also has pain inside. But that does not make his violence okay. The kids and I should be able to feel safe in our own home, don't you think? And it is Abdi's responsibility to stop the violence and change.

Very short fade of music

- Abdi** After that time Fadumo got hurt I thought long and hard about it and about how it affected the kids. What I was doing to Fadumo was wrong. I decided I wanted to change. But I know that it will be hard and it will take some time.
I guess there are men who cannot change because they still blame their wives. Things are getting better for me and Fadumo and for the kids now. I think that maybe Fadumo is starting to respect me again for trying to change.
- Ali** I am glad that Abdi and Fadumo are doing better. But think about violence for a minute. There are many other ways to hurt someone apart from physically.
- Fadumo** There is also mental suffering where you do not have to be hit by someone to be harmed. You can get constant put downs and verbal or emotional abuse like being always told you are useless. Economic abuse means that someone denies another person the money to have a decent life.

Abdi I was doing those things too. I would smash the furniture, or drive dangerously to scare her, or never give Fadumo any money for herself and the kids. I can now see how I should not have done these things. The problem was me, Fadumo never did anything wrong.

V/O female If you want to call someone to get more information about violence at home call the Domestic Violence Line 1800 656463 or the Domestic Violence Advocacy Service for legal advice on 87456999. You can also go to your nearest Community Legal Centre or Women's Health Centre.
If you need help with English call the Translating and Interpreting Service (or TIS) on 131450. It is a free interpreting service

Music fade up

This program was produced by Immigrant Women's Speakout. Sydney. You can contact us on 02 96358022.

Music to fade out