

# PRIVATE VIOLENCE

## Screening Guide

### PREMIERES

October 20th, 2014 at 9p/8c on HBO | HBOGO | HBO ON-DEMAND

For more information, go to:

[HBO.com](http://HBO.com) | [Privateviolence.com](http://Privateviolence.com)

**Invite your friends, family, colleagues and neighbors. Consider inviting a domestic violence advocate from a local organization. Watch the film together and then discuss how we can change the conversation around domestic violence to help make everyone safer in their own homes.**

*All of the following information has been provided by the Private Violence film and impact outreach team.*

## WHAT'S THE FILM ABOUT?

PRIVATE VIOLENCE explores a simple but deeply disturbing fact of American life: the most dangerous place for a woman in America is in her own home. Through the eyes of two survivors - Deanna Walters, a mother who seeks justice for the crimes committed against her at the hands of her estranged husband, and Kit Gruelle, an advocate who seeks justice for all women - we bear witness to the complicated and complex realities of intimate partner violence. PRIVATE VIOLENCE begins to shape powerful, new questions that hold the potential to change our society: Why does he abuse? Why do we turn away? How do we begin to build a future without domestic violence?

## DETAILS ON THE ISSUE

- On average more than three women a day are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in the United States.
- Nearly one in four women in the United States reports experiencing violence by a current or former spouse or boyfriend at some point in her life.
- Women are much more likely than men to be victimized by a current or former intimate partner. Women are 84 percent of spouse abuse victims and 86 percent of victims of abuse at the hands of a boyfriend or girlfriend. About three-fourths of the persons who commit family violence are male.
- Women ages 20 to 24 are at the greatest risk of experiencing nonfatal intimate partner violence.

\*\* US statistics supplied by Futures Without Violence

<http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/resources-events/get-the-facts/>

# HOW TO HOST A SCREENING?

Invite your group to a gathering spot (anywhere from your living room to a more formal space) to watch the film together.

Here are some tips for hosting a great screening:

## 1. Bring your group together.

Use our MeetUp.com page to register your Private Violence event:

- Go to: <http://www.meetup.com/privateviolence/>
- Enter your city and state in the search box at the top right-hand side of the page.
- Under "Private Violence Documentary communities" all events in your city will be listed.
- Click on the "+" icon to the left of "Start a New Community" in (your city).
- Enter the name of your neighborhood or city in the text box.
- Click "yes."
- Enter all event details for your screening, including full address and start time. (Any parking details and other specifics can be entered and saved under "details" of the event.)
- Share your event on Facebook and Twitter to gather RSVPs!

**2. Introduce the film.** Ask everyone "What do you know about domestic violence?" or "Why are you interested in seeing this film?" As you introduce the film, please remember that there may be people in your group who are or have experienced domestic violence themselves or is close to someone who has. Please try to create an atmosphere where people don't feel pressured to share their personal experiences. Let your group know that the film includes some difficult scenes and people are welcome to leave the room at any time.

## 3. Watch the film.

**4. Begin a conversation about the film.** Go over your responses and talk about what surprised people the most. What have you learned? Did the film make you think differently about this issue? If so, how? See below for more detailed discussion questions.

## 5. Think about what you or your group can do to help change the conversation.

Invite guests to go to [another site?] and [PrivateViolence.com](http://PrivateViolence.com) to learn more about the issues raised in the film. Encourage your guests to talk to people they know about the film and to join the conversation through our social media (Facebook/Twitter [@PrivateViolence](https://twitter.com/PrivateViolence)). Please use the tag [#PrivateViolence](https://twitter.com/PrivateViolence) to let people know about your screening and the tags [#WhyIStayed](https://twitter.com/PrivateViolence) [#WhyILeft](https://twitter.com/PrivateViolence) to participate in the online conversation about Domestic Violence (DV).

## 6. Thank your guests.

Show your gratitude to your guests for their time and participation by sending a thank you email the next day. Include some follow-up comments on the discussion. You can include the links to the resources below.

7. Send your guests home with resources! Share our 5 Things to Say/Not to Say cards and the names and numbers of other organizations and help lines in your local area that can be contacted for supported. If you need any help locating these resources, we recommend this listing here: <http://www.justice.gov/ovw/local-resources>  
Or you can write to us for additional guidance at: [privateviolence@gmail.com](mailto:privateviolence@gmail.com)

## LET'S TALK. HOW TO JUMP START DISCUSSION

The goal of the Private Violence team is to make women and children safer in their own homes by shifting how we think and act around domestic violence. **Our model is that personal awareness + collective action = lasting change.** Here are some discussion prompts to get you started.

### Breaking the Silence, Ending the Stigma.

Neither Deanna nor Kit felt safe telling others about their abusive spouses. Both express feeling shame and responsibility for the abuse they suffered. What are some of the reasons that may prevent someone from speaking up about DV?

DV is so pervasive but it remains taboo and hidden in our society. What sorts of problems does this lead to for people experiencing violence in their homes?

How can we shift from passing judgment to lending support?

### Asking the Right Questions

Questions like "why doesn't she just leave?" continues the myth that women are responsible for their batterer's abuse. It puts the responsibility to end the violence on the shoulders of the woman suffering the abuse. What instances of victim blaming did Deanna experience?

Have you ever asked "why doesn't she just leave?" about a person in a domestic violence situation?

What would happen if we as individuals and as a society stopped asking this question? What new questions would open up?

### Failing Institutions

At the local and county courts, Kit meets with a prosecutor and shows her pictures of Deanna's injuries. How did you feel about the attorney's response to Deanna's abuse?

How did the legal system fail Deanna?

In what ways do laws help people in domestic violence situations?

One area where we see the system working for victims is the relationship between the victims and their advocates, like Stacy, Kit, and Jean. What does that advocacy look like?

How does it differ from how law enforcement and the legal system interact with these women?

What qualities make Kit a successful advocate?

### **Media Influence**

In one scene, Kit is posting media stories of recent domestic violence cases in a local shelter. Think about your own community. Media can have an enormous influence on how we view domestic violence. The stories of domestic abuse taken individually make them seem isolated and rare, however the experiences of women and the statistics show that domestic violence is a pervasive problem in our society. "Murder-suicides" are rarely described as domestic violence homicides. In fact, sometimes stories focus on how the perpetrator was "such a nice guy" and how surprised neighbors and co-workers are about what he has done to his family. How does this affect societies understanding of domestic violence?

How could journalists and the media report on domestic violence in a more accurate way?

### **Engaging Men**

90% of perpetrators of domestic violence are men. Are you surprised by these statistics? Why or why not?

What factors do you think account for why this type of violence in the home is gendered in this way?

Why do you think victims are disproportionately women?

Look around your event and describe the group make-up based on gender. Should men be part of the solution and how can we engage them in a meaningful way?

### **Fostering Healthy Relationships**

Oftentimes what allows domestic violence to go unseen or undetected is that many of the warning signs fall under what we think of as "romantic love." What does a healthy relationship look like?

(For help in this discussion, you may want to explore the language of the Power & Control wheel, which can be downloaded here: [www.theduluthmodel.org/pdf/PowerandControl.pdf](http://www.theduluthmodel.org/pdf/PowerandControl.pdf))

How do we model healthy relationships for young boys and girls?

In what ways do you feel like this will have an impact on how we approach domestic violence moving forward?

## Concluding Thoughts

Facing this head on is the first step, raising awareness, not turning a blind eye, participating is an important step in creating lasting social change that will help women & children be safer in their homes. By participating in this dialogue you are helping to shift the conversation around domestic violence. Here are some other ways that you can help change the conversation around domestic violence:

## LET'S ACT. WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

1. Volunteer – Domestic Violence programs need volunteers – from childcare and administrative assistance to driving needs or specialized positions of crisis line and/or court advocates. No More provides a national listing to help you find volunteer opportunities in your area: [nomore.org/organizations/](http://nomore.org/organizations/)
2. Conduct a drive- find out what's needed at your local shelter and conduct a food, clothing or household items drive. Lists of service providers can general be found on your state's coalition website. All coalitions are listed here: [www.justice.gov/ovw/local-resources](http://www.justice.gov/ovw/local-resources)
3. Work with your employer to create a Partner Violence Workplace Policy ([www.caepv.org/action/program.php](http://www.caepv.org/action/program.php))
4. Help prevent domestic violence from turning into homicide, by supporting S.1290. The National Taskforce to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women has information about the bill here: [4vawa.org/](http://4vawa.org/) or you can send a message to your Senator directly here: [act.everytown.org/act/klobuchar-bill](http://act.everytown.org/act/klobuchar-bill)
5. Change the conversation about domestic violence by sharing our What to Say/ What not to Say cards on your social media feeds by downloading the special graphic here: [www.privateviolence.com](http://www.privateviolence.com)

The Private Violence team thanks you for your participation!

## Additional Resources

National Domestic Violence Hotline  
[1-800-799-SAFE \(7233\)](tel:1-800-799-SAFE) | [TheHotline.org](http://TheHotline.org)

NO MORE  
[Nomore.org](http://Nomore.org)

Waite Institute for Violence Prevention  
[wivp.waiteinstitute.org](http://wivp.waiteinstitute.org)

Futures Without Violence  
[Futureswithoutviolence.org](http://Futureswithoutviolence.org)

Coaching Boys into Men  
[Coachescorner.org](http://Coachescorner.org)

Cut it Out Campaign  
[Probeauty.org/cutitout](http://Probeauty.org/cutitout)

Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse MINACAVA Clearing House  
[Mincava.umn.edu](http://Mincava.umn.edu)

National Network to End Domestic Violence  
[nnev.org](http://nnev.org)

National Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence  
[ncdsv.org](http://ncdsv.org)

## **WHAT TO SAY**

1. Are you afraid of your partner when he is angry?
2. You are not alone; there is help for you, your children, and him.
3. May I help you find some local resources?
4. You deserve to feel safe in your home at all times, especially when you and your partner disagree.
5. I'm not here to judge you; I'm here to listen.

## **WHAT NOT TO SAY**

1. Why don't you just leave?
2. I'd never put up with that.
3. What did you do to make him angry?
4. He/she seems nice to me.
5. It's just stress.