HIV POWER & CONTROL

PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

Coercion & Threats
Badgering and begging for sex at an unwanted time, in an unwanted place or in a way not wanted by the victim. Threatening to “out” the victim’s HIV status. Threatening to harm the victim, harm pets, or destroy property.

Psychological
Playing mind games. Always changing the ‘rules.’ Bringing up past behaviors to place blame or guilt. Blaming the violence on the victim of the abuser’s own HIV status. Giving misinformation about HIV: telling victim that they infect plates, silverware, toilets, etc.

Technology Abuse
Monitoring internet activities. Restricting or prohibiting use of technology to seek information or services. Harassing, manipulating or threatening victim over social media in regards to HIV status.

Economic Abuse
Refusing to pay for medical care or medication. Using his/her (the abuser’s) HIV status or other excuses to keep the victim from working. Not allowing access to money. Using disability money for other things instead of the victim’s health needs.

Isolation
Moving the victim away from friends and family. Threatening to tell people the victim’s HIV status without permission. Not allowing the victim to attend support groups, doctor’s appointments, or use social media.

Using Children
Threatening to take the children. Threatening to use HIV status of victim with the court or CPS to try show victim as an unfit parent. Using children to keep tabs on the victim. Blaming victim for child’s potential HIV+ status.

Medical Abuse
Not allowing the victim to attend medical appointments. Interfering with medication and health routines/schedules. Withholding or disposing medicine. Not allowing the use of protection during sex. Coercing or forcing use of drugs.

Emotional Abuse
Using degrading names and humiliating the victim in public. Not keeping an HIV positive status confidential. Shaming the victim because of HIV status. Telling the victim that nobody else will want them because of an HIV+ status. Perpetuating the idea that an abusive relationship is the best they (victims) can do.

Privilege
Using their (the abuser’s) health status to guilt the victim into staying (how could you not stay or help someone who is sick) or to order the victim around and claim authority over decisions. (You’re sick, I’ll take care of this.)

Spiritual Abuse
Use of scripture (of any faith) as a control tactic. Imposing shame and stigma with respect to sexual behaviors/HIV status. Using the identity of an entire religion as a tool of abuse: “if you contact the police, you’re exposing our entire community.”

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