Muslim Wheel of Domestic Violence
by Sharifa Alkahteeb

Using Coercion and Threats
- Threatening to marry another wife. Threatening "God-ordained" wife-beating (4:34). Threatening to leave her without money. Threatening to spread the word she is an adulteress. Making her drop charges to preserve extended family's reputation.

Using Economic Abuse
- Refusing to allow wife to get education or training. Refusing to let her get a job. Demanding she quit a job. Taking her entire paycheck while Islam allows her to keep it all. Hiding family income.

Using Male Privilege
- Husband dominance and inflexibility extolled as Qu'ranically mandated requiring obedience in all matters. Wife's opinions, aspirations, plans considered as "Western" and un-Islamic. Children verbally/physically abused as "right" of Muslim father. Wife encouraged to fear husband. Repeats bogus Hadith (religious text) about women bowing to men.

Using Children
- Children told they are being beaten to prevent becoming too "American." Father threatens to get custody from Islamic court, send children overseas, marry them off young or kidnap them. Children's trauma symptoms used as excuse to batter wife. Father encourages children to insult, disrespect mother. Husband says he has to abuse mother to stop child abuse.

Using Emotional Abuse
- Belittling/calling wife unfit Muslim mother. Making fun of her inadequate Islamic knowledge. Calling her names/calling her crazy. Making her believe she is incapable of directing her own life. Telling abused women they must be quiet, docile, obedient to uphold family honor. Lying to her extended family in letters. Saying her lovemaking is inferior to Americans.

Using Isolation
- Husband says that, as the "qawwamun" (manager) of his wife, he has the God-given right to control her every movement, who she sees and talks to, what she thinks, what she reads. Women are made to get permission to use the telephone, go grocery shopping, visit parents. Even if marriage contract gives her full mobility, husband ignores it.

Minimizing, Denying and Blaming
- Directing children to lie about/trivializing the abuse. Denying the abuse by calling it "discipline." Saying the wife caused the abuse. Tells wife that divulging episodes of abuse equals violation of her Islamic responsibility to respect her husband's privacy and God will condemn her for it.

PHYSICAL VIOLENCE
- Pushing, showing, hitting, punching, kicking, grabbing

POWER AND CONTROL
- Using Male Privilege
- Using Economic Abuse
- Using Children
- Using Coercion and Threats

SEXUAL VIOLENCE
- Using Isolation
- Minimizing, Denying and Blaming
- Using Emotional Abuse

ECONOMIC VIOLENCE
- Using Coercion and Threats
- Using Economic Abuse
- Using Isolation
- Minimizing, Denying and Blaming
- Using Emotional Abuse

Isolation
- Using Isolation
- Minimizing, Denying and Blaming
- Using Economic Abuse
- Using Coercion and Threats
- Using Emotional Abuse

Minimizing, Denying and Blaming
- Using Coercion and Threats
- Using Economic Abuse
- Using Isolation
- Using Emotional Abuse