Immigrant Power and Control Wheel

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PHYSICAL ABUSE

Threatening to report her to the INS to get her deported. Threatening to withdraw the petition to legalize her immigration status.

Hiding or destroying important papers (passport, ID cards, health-care cards, etc.). Destroying her only property from her country of origin.

Making and/or carrying out threats to do something to harm her. Threatening to leave, commit suicide, or report her to welfare. Making her drop charges. Making her do illegal things.


Preventing her from getting or keeping a job. Making her ask for money. Giving her an allowance. Taking her money. Not allowing her to know about or have access to the family income.


Treating her like a servant. Making all the big decisions. Acting like the “master of the castle.” Being the one to define men’s and women’s roles.

Controlling what she does, who she sees or talks to, what she reads, where she goes. Limiting your outside involvement. Using jealousy to justify actions.

Making light of the abuse and not taking her concerns about it seriously. Saying the abuse didn’t happen. Shifting responsibility for abusive behavior. Saying she caused it.

Threatening to take her children away from the U.S. Threatening to report her children to the INS.

Failing to file papers to legalize her immigration status, withdrawing or threatening to withdraw papers filed for her residency.

Using Male Privilege

Calling her a prostitute or “mail order bride.” Alleging on legal papers that she has a history of prostitution.

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Using Children

Making her feel guilty about the children. Using children to relay messages. Using visitation to harass her. Threatening to take the children away.

Making her feel bad about the children. Using children to relay messages. Using visitation to harass her. Threatening to take the children away.

Power and Control

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