



Stop Domestic Violence

WE ARE NEW YORK
Magazine



ENGLISH

Learn English on TV with our stories



Success



Community



Hope

Love



Family

Friendship

WE ARE NEW YORK

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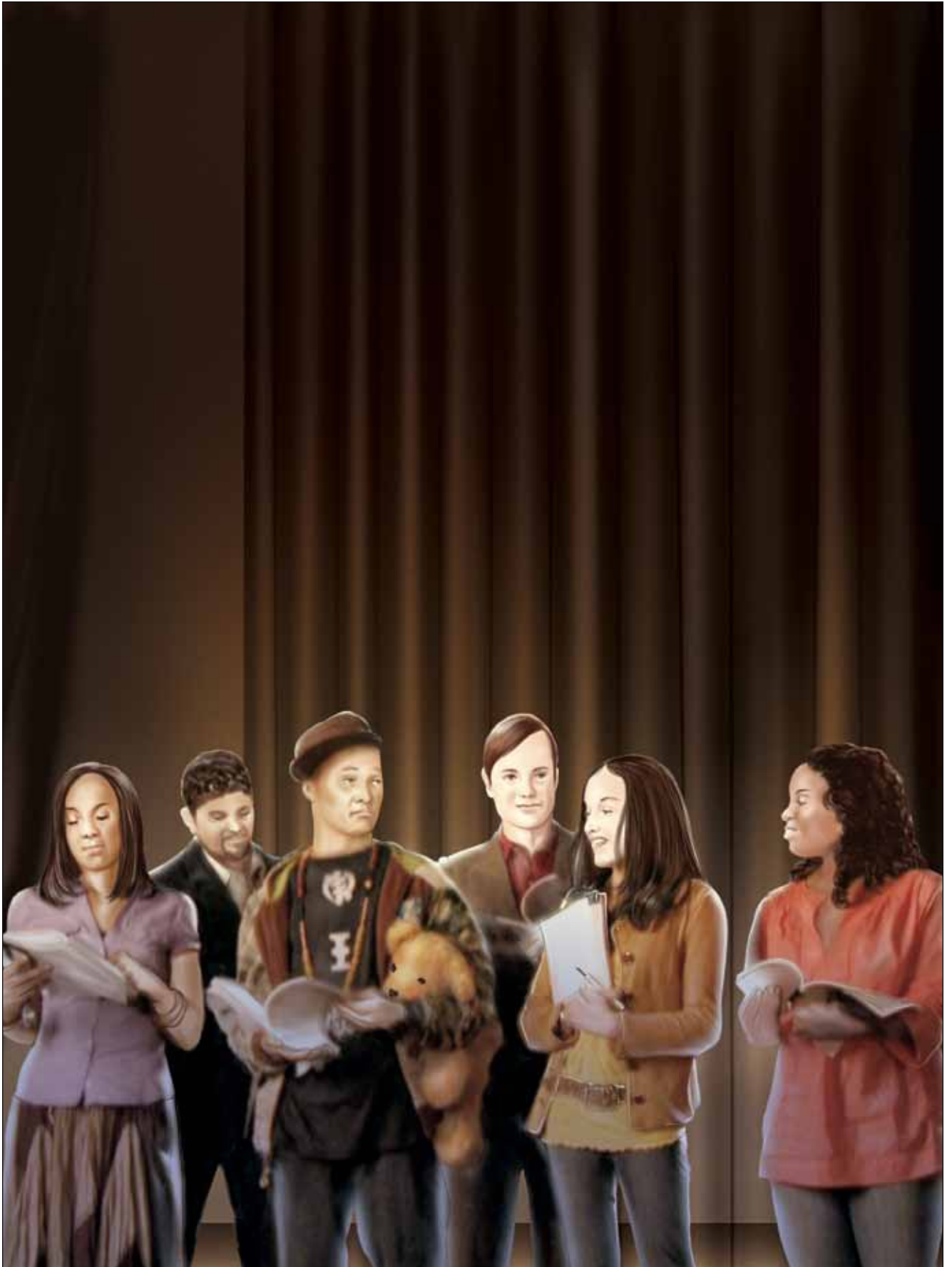
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THE STORY

Stop Domestic Violence

A group of actors are putting on a play in a community theater. The actors are from different countries. They are practicing a very important play. The play is about a difficult subject – domestic violence.

Domestic Violence is when someone is being hurt or abused by a family member, boyfriend, or girlfriend.





Later That Night



I am worried. Today Billy said, "Daddy hits Mommy." Should I say something to Erica?

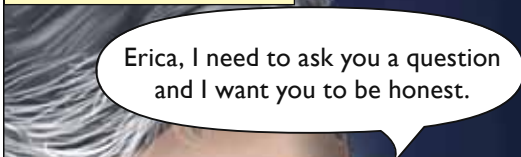
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The Next Day



Oh, Dad. He probably saw it on TV. You know how boys are. It's none of our business.

6



Erica, I need to ask you a question and I want you to be honest.

7



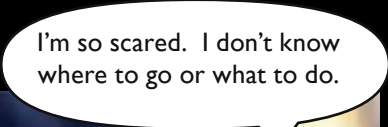
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Please tell me what's going on.
I want to hear.



I'm so scared. I don't know
where to go or what to do.



And... I don't have my "papers".
Who will help me?



Let's call 311. There are
people who will help you –
people who will listen to you.
You are not alone.

At The Police Station



14



15

Well... we have a "friend" and we think her husband is abusing her.



16

But she doesn't have her papers. And she doesn't know what to do. She is scared.



17

In New York City, we help everyone. Tell your "friend" to come see me. It's my job to help her.

WHO WE ARE



ERICA (Billy's Mother)

I was afraid to tell anyone that my husband was abusing me. I don't have my "papers", and I thought there was nothing I could do. But Grandpa and Julie listened to me and let me know that I wasn't alone. They helped me find professionals to speak to. Now I feel stronger and safer. I found out that domestic violence affects people of every nationality, in every community. Now, I want to help other women who are like me.



GRANDPA (Billy's Grandfather)

I care about my family. I was happy when my son married Erica. When I thought that Erica was being abused, I had a hard decision to make. People said I should be quiet, but I didn't want to see my family in pain. It was difficult to admit that my son had a problem, and that he needed help. But first, Erica needed a plan for her safety. I asked my daughter, Julie, to help. Then, I talked to my son.

BILLY (Erica's Son)

I saw my father hit my mother and yell at her. It made me scared and sad, but I couldn't do anything. When I was at my grandpa's house, I pretended to be my father and I hit my bear! My grandpa knew it was important to listen to me, and I felt better talking to him. I don't want to be scared anymore. I need grownups to help me.



JULIE (Grandpa's Daughter)

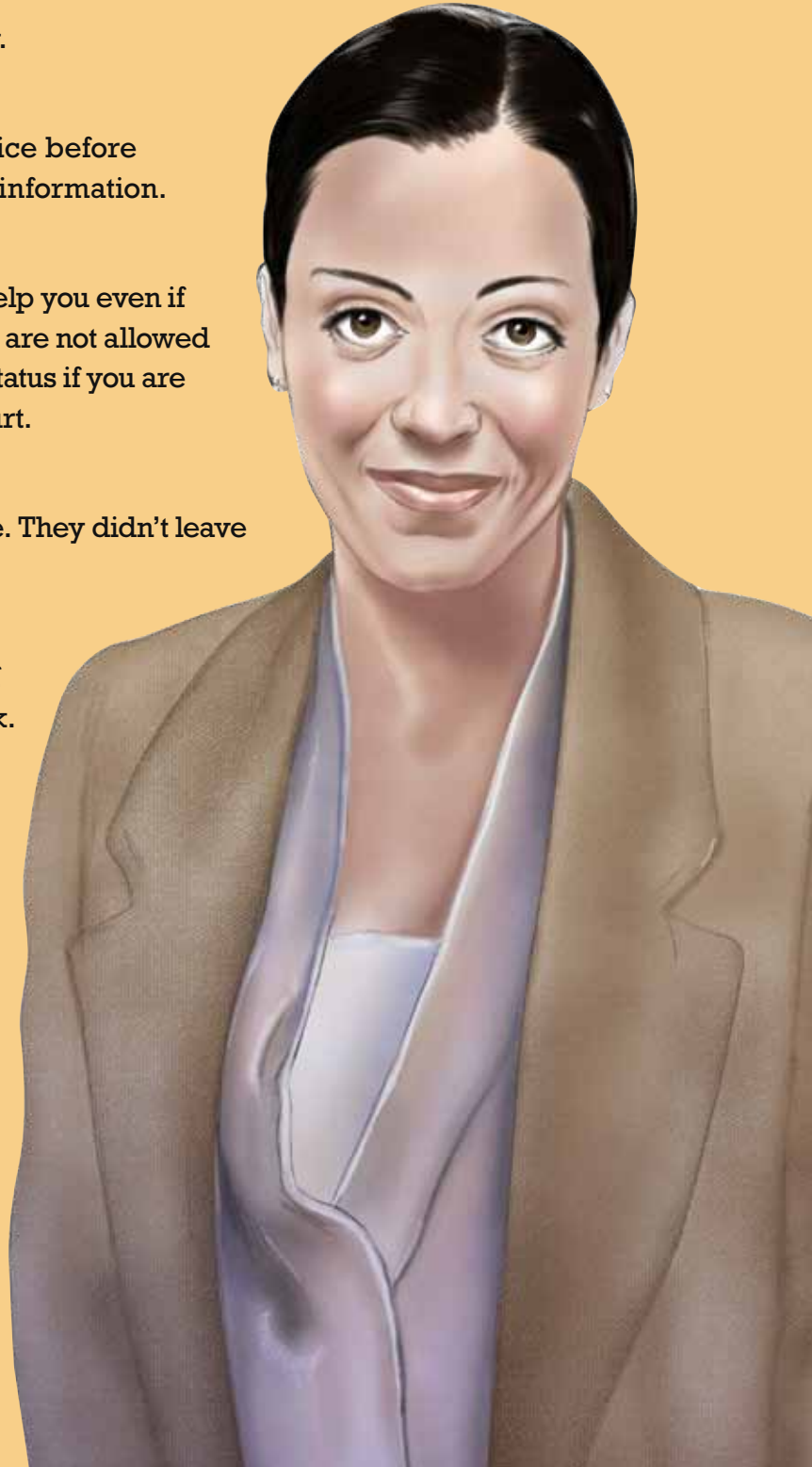
When my father first told me what Billy said, I didn't want to believe him. I didn't want to admit that my brother would hurt his wife. But I know that abuse is serious, and I wanted to help Erica. Erica needed to talk to people who have experience with domestic violence, not only my father or me. I found out where to get professional advice, and now Erica has good information. It feels good to see her healthy and happy.



HOW WE DID IT

Here's how our family got help for domestic violence. Maybe these ideas will help you, too.

- 1** Call 911 if you need help right away.
- 2** We found information and got advice before doing anything. We called 311 for information.
- 3** I found out that New York City will help you even if you don't have "papers." The police are not allowed to ask you about your immigration status if you are being hurt or see someone being hurt.
- 4** My family and friends supported me. They didn't leave me or Billy alone.
- 5** I found help and support for myself and my child. Don't be afraid to ask.
- 6** We all listened to each other and talked about our problems – even when the problems were hard to talk about.
- 7** Domestic violence can happen to anyone. Don't be ashamed. It's not your fault.
- 8** Men can help other men stop abusing women.



HOW WE DID IT

When children play, they often tell us important things. Listen to them, and take them seriously. Your children will not be taken away from you just because you are a victim of domestic violence.



When you call 311, they will give you information about how to get help. Everyone can get help - including people without immigration “papers.” It is important to talk to professionals.

In New York City, domestic violence is a crime. It is illegal. The police are here to help domestic violence victims. That’s our job.



Before Grandpa talked to me, I was afraid to tell anyone about my problem. I was so ashamed. But I learned that abuse can happen to anyone, in any community. There are many women like me. Maybe you know one?



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Here are some ideas for helping people with domestic violence.

Share the information in this magazine with your family and friends. You can make a difference in their lives.

Goal

You need to get help, but you are safe right now.

1. Call 311 for information. Ask about the City's **Family Justice Centers**.

Goal

You want to help a friend or family member.

1. Talk to your friend/family member. Offer to listen. Let her/him know you will be there for support. Let the victim make the decisions. Don't judge her/him.
2. Don't talk to the abuser. It can make things worse. Help the victim get professional help.

**If you need help right away, call 911 immediately.
You don't need immigration "papers" to get help.**

You will be offered help to keep you and your children safe.
Your children will not be taken away from you just
because you are a victim of domestic violence.

2. You can also call the Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-621-4673. Ask for help to make a "safety plan."

3. You can visit these websites for more information:
www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence
www.safehorizon.org
www.sanctuaryforfamilies.org

3. Call 311 for information.
You can call 311 for free, 24 hours a day.
311 speaks your language.

4. Share what you learned from this magazine.

WHAT YOU CAN SAY

If a friend or family member needs your help, you can say:

- You can talk to me anytime.
- You are not alone.
- It is not your fault.
- You can trust me.
- I know where you can get help. Let's call 311 together.

If you are being abused, you can say:

- I need help.
- Someone is hurting me.

There is help for you. You can ask for it. Call 311 or the Domestic Violence Hotline (1-800-621-4673).

If you call 311 or the Domestic Violence Hotline (1-800-621-4673), you can say:

- What services do you have for victims of domestic violence?
- I need an interpreter. I speak _____.

Write your own questions here:

HELPFUL WORDS

Abuse

To hurt someone – physically, emotionally, sexually, or even financially.

Her boyfriend was **abusing** her. She got help.

Domestic Violence

When someone is being hurt or abused by a family member, boyfriend, or girlfriend.

Domestic violence is a crime.

Domestic Violence Hotline

A phone number you can call, 24 hours a day, to get information and help for domestic violence.

Call 1-800-621-4673 for the **Domestic Violence Hotline**.

Family Justice Center

A place where victims of domestic violence can go to get many different services and help.

In New York City there are **Family Justice Centers** in Brooklyn and Queens.

Safety Plan

A set of instructions to keep you safe from the abuser.

You need a **safety plan** – where to go, what to bring, what to do.

Services

Help for you that the City provides.

The City can help you. There are many **services** available:

- housing and shelter
- medical services
- legal help
- counseling for you and your children

Victim

A person who is injured or hurt.

There is help for **victims** of domestic violence in New York City.

311

The free telephone number you can call for information about City services.

You can speak your own language when you call **311**.

WE ARE NEW YORK

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Join a group to practice your English.



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and to join a group, go to
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