



# How to Address Domestic Abuse Amidst Multicultural Beliefs and Practices

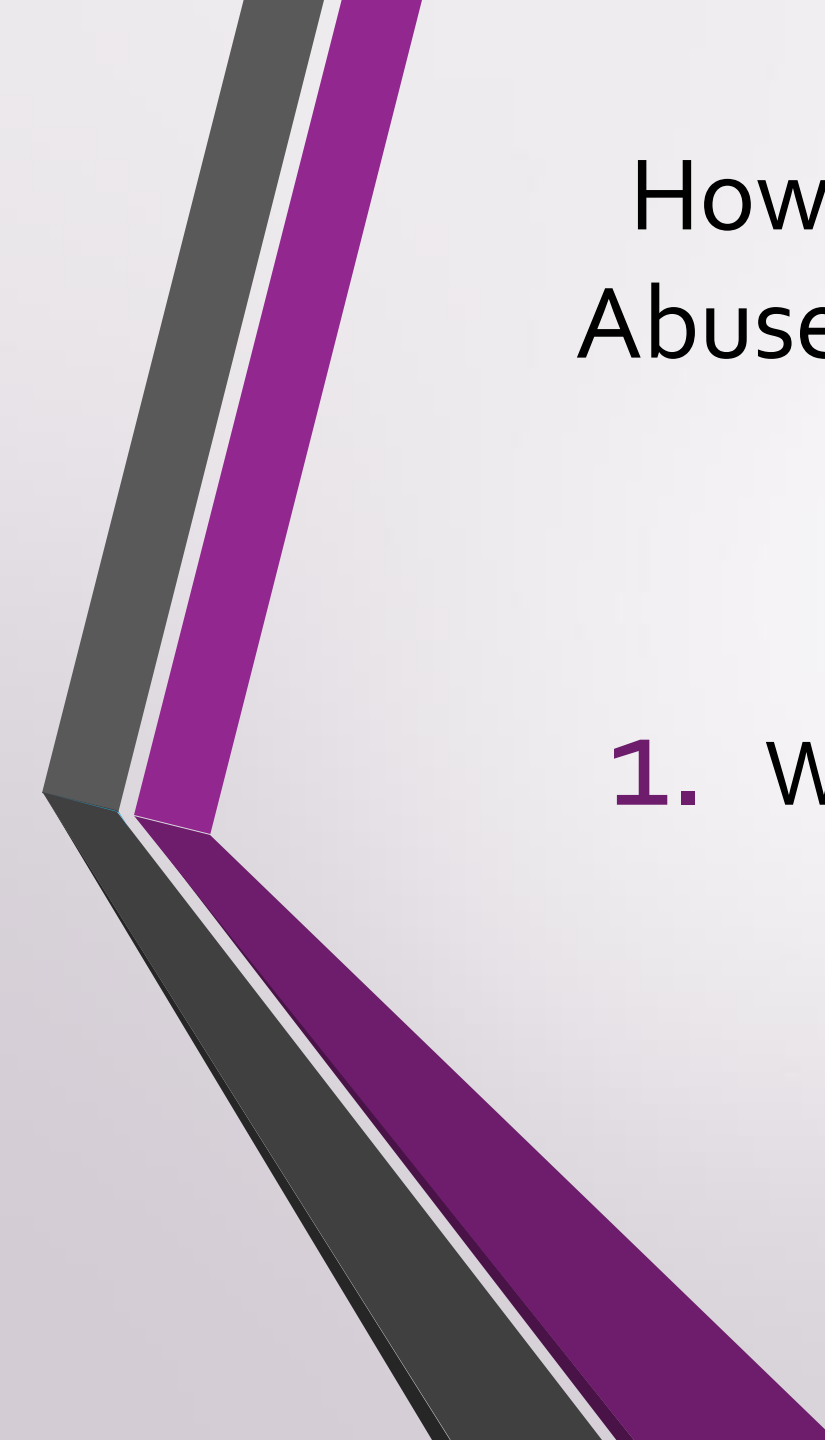
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# How to Address Domestic Abuse Amidst Multicultural Beliefs and Practices

1. What the Church teaches
  2. Cultural issues
  3. Intervention

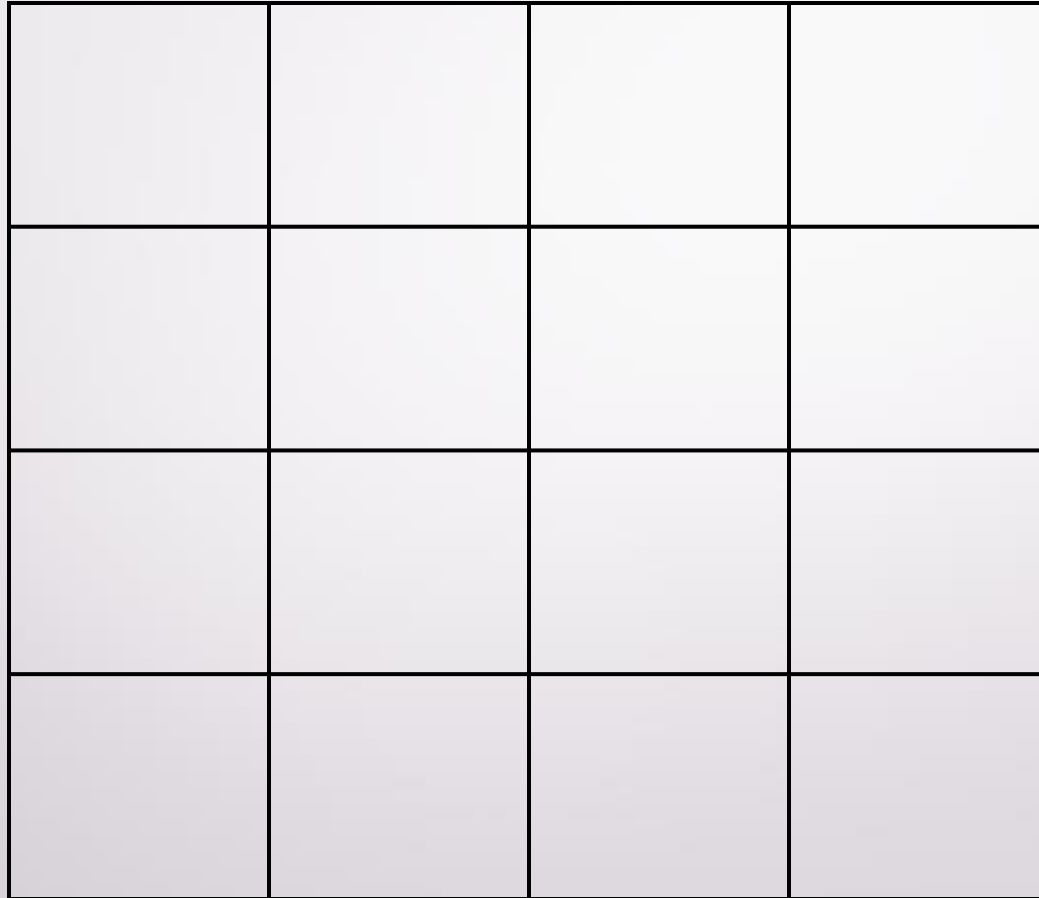
# 1. What the Church teaches

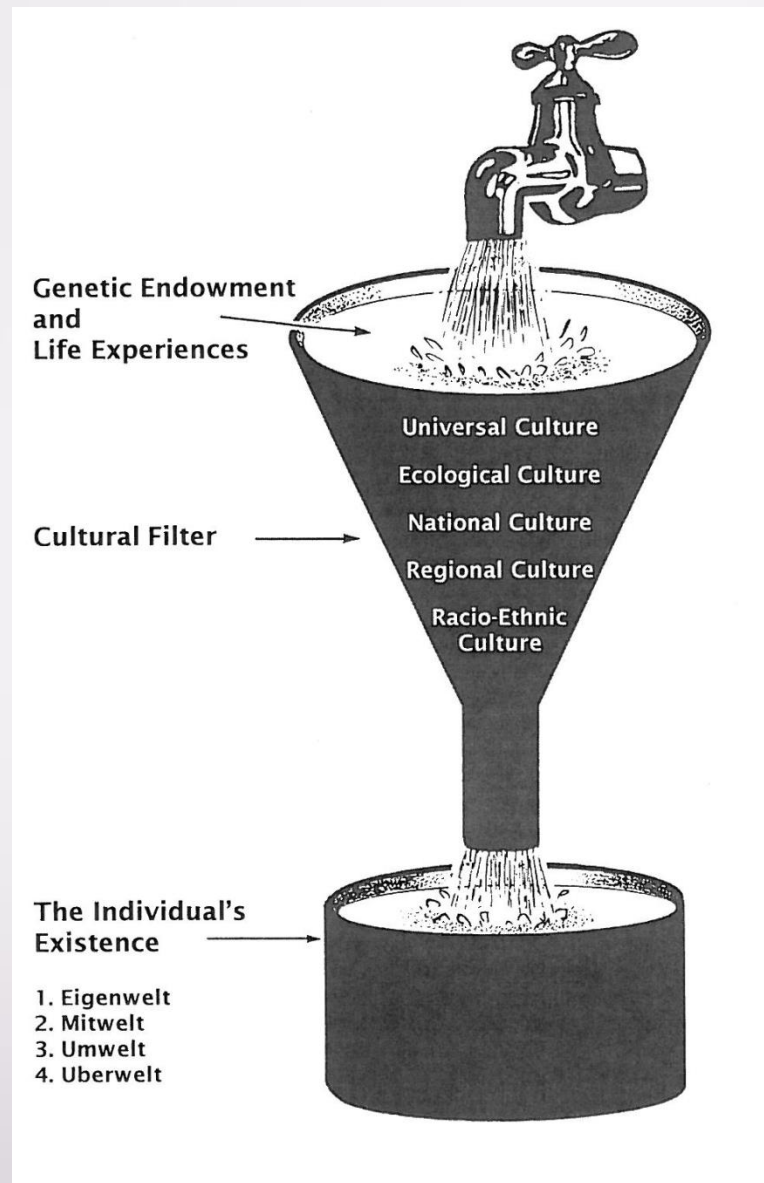
- Creation of man and woman (Gn. 1:27; 2:20-24)
  - Marriage and divorce (Malachi 2:14ss)
  - Christ's vision on women (Lk. 11:27)
- Christ's opposition to male dominance (Mk. 10:42-43).
  - Submission vs. Mutuality (Eph. 5:21; 1 Cor. 7:3-4; Gal. 3:28)
- "Violence against women, inside or outside the home, is *never* justified". (NCCB, 2002)
  - In some cases "the Church permits the physical separation of the couple and their living apart" (CCC, 1649).




## 2. Cultural issues

**How many squares do you see in this figure?**






An Existential Model of Culture [Vontress, C.E., Johnson, J.A, and Epp, L.R. (1999). *Cross-Cultural Counseling*. Alexandria: American Counseling Association]



# The outcome of cultural assimilation

- Eigenwelt: private realm, hard to understand by others.
  - Mitwelt: the outcome of relationships.
  - Umwelt: interaction with the Mother Nature.
- Ubervelt: spirit world (connection with those who have come and gone).



# What do we understand by “multicultural” and “cross-cultural”?

- Natural vs. Cultural
  - Culture: a web of significance
- Multicultural: the recognition of a pluralistic society
- Cross-Cultural: moving from one culture to another





# 3. Intervention

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# Cross-Cultural Competency

1. **Personal awareness:** awareness of self as a member of social groups.
  - Impact of my social identity group on myself.
  - Ability to verbalize and act on how my group impacts others.
    - Ability to articulate my values.
    - Ability to recognize areas to grow.



# Cross-Cultural Competency (Cont.)

## 2. Knowledge: information.

- Groups' histories and experiences in this country.
  - Recognize the history of oppression and discrimination.
  - Others' models, terminology and values.



# Cross-Cultural Competency (Cont.)

**3. Skills:** facilitating change in individuals and groups; strategic analysis/intervention.

- Provide feedback-direct manner; receive feedback-open manner.
  - Recognize group dynamics to include multicultural factors.
    - Address oppressive behaviors.
- Intervene in group situations and ask educational questions.



# Cross-Cultural Competency (Cont.)

4. Passion: deep personal reasons for caring about multicultural clients.
- Ability to communicate compassion and empathy.
  - Ability to communicate strong feelings of anger, fear, love etc. when appropriate.
    - Ability to lead with heart.




# Cross-Cultural Competency (Cont.)

5. Action: ability to act in a manner consistent with awareness, knowledge, skills and passion.
- Can interrupt oppression.
  - Can take proactive measures against oppression.
    - Can identify opportunities for action.



# Cross-Cultural Communication Blockers

- Blaming (victim or perpetrator)
- Dominant group members struggling with group membership
  - Only asking questions
- Focusing only on one social group identity.
  - Thinking dichotomously
- Wanting answers/actions in a hurry
  - Expecting others to teach me
- Working on multiculturalism only to help minorities



# If you got distracted, it's ok. Simply remember these few principles...

- The goal of any helper is to protect each person from further harm or death.
- Victim safety and abuser accountability are paramount.
- The journey on cross-culturalism begins inside.
- If the Scripture is authoritative, consider it in its entirety.





# References

- Catholic Church. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Retrieved from [http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc\\_css/archive/catechism/p2s2c3a7.htm](http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p2s2c3a7.htm) on July 1, 2016
- Fukuyama, M.A. and Sevig, T.D. (1999). *Integrating Spirituality Into Multicultural Counseling*. Thousand Oakes, CA: Sage
- Vontress, C.E., Johnson, J.A, and Epp, L.R. (1999). *Cross-Cultural Counseling*. Alexandria: American Counseling Association



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