

## Who Will Help Me?

### Domestic Violence Survivors Speak Out About Law Enforcement Responses

#### Victims Who Have Not Previously Involved the Police

##### *Personal Barriers to Calling the Police*



**60%** did not want to involve the police due to a desire for privacy



**44%** feared retaliation from the abuser or the abuser's friends and family



**22%** wanted to protect their children

##### *Fears About How the Police Would Respond*

**80%** of victims who had not previously called the police were **somewhat or extremely afraid** to call them.

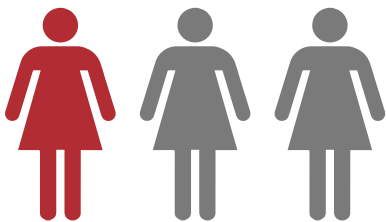
"[I am afraid] of making the situation worse. They might arrest my abuser, and **when he is out, he will hurt me like he has threatened.**"

"The police removed the weapons from the home but **didn't take the rapes and injuries to me and my animals seriously.**"

"I am afraid that they will take him to jail, **and once he gets out, he would try to obtain sole custody of my son.**"

#### Victims Who Have Contacted the Police

##### *Among Victims That Had Involved the Police After a Domestic Violence Incident*



**1 in 3**  
victims felt less safe

**1 in 2** victims felt there was no difference in safety

**1 in 5** victims felt safer

"I am a black female so I felt like **they automatically saw me as dumb, poor and ignorant...** I didn't have any marks besides a swollen lip, so I felt like they didn't take it as an immediate threat."

"Between the police and the criminal, **I'm dead already.**"

"**If I call the police, he will kill me.** He made that very clear while shoving a gun in my mouth."