### BROUGHT TO YOU BY STUDENT DEVELOPMENT AND COUNSELLING DEPARTMENT

## ABUSE, TRAUMA AND MENTAL HEALTH

Brought to you by:



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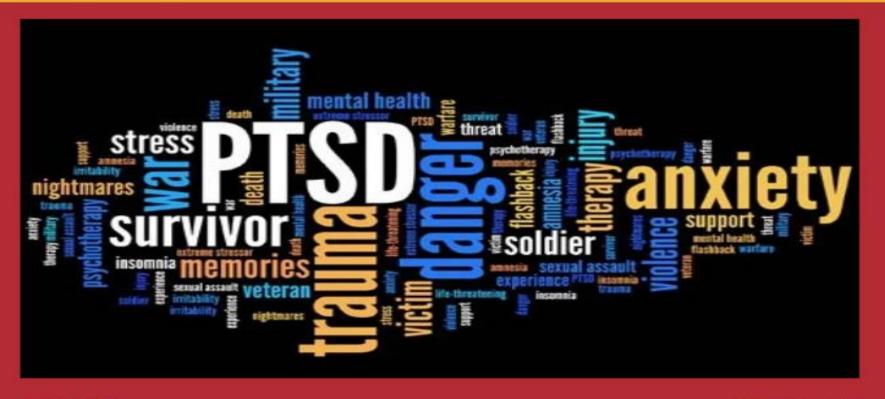


# TRAUMA AND ABUSE ARE NEVER YOUR FAULT!!!

ABUSE, WHETHER PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, VERBAL OR SEXUAL CAN HAVE LONG-TERM EFFECTS ON YOUR MENTAL HEALTH. TRAUMA CAN AFFECT HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT YOURSELF AND HOW YOU RELATE TO OTHERS.

Individuals who have gone through abuse or other trauma have a higher risk of developing a mental health condition. You can get help to heal the physical, mental and emotional scars of trauma and abuse.

#### HOW ARE ABUSE AND TRAUMA RELATED TO MENTAL HEALTH?



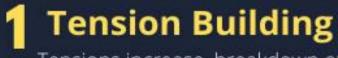
ABUSE TRAUMA

Emotional, verbal, physical or sexual abuse may have happened during childhood or adulthood. Trauma can happen after you experience an event that hurts you physically or emotionally. Trauma can have lasting effects on your mental, physical and emotional health.

Experiencing abuse or other trauma puts people at risk of developing mental health conditions, such as:

- Anxiety Disorders
- Depression
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Substance Abuse
- Borderline Personality Disorder

### Cycle of Abuse



Tensions increase, breakdown of communication, victim becomes fearful and feels the need to placate the abuser.



#### 2 Incident

Verbal, emotional and physical abuse. Anger, blaming, arguing, threats and intimidation.



Incident is "forgotten", no abuse is taking place. The "honeymoon" phase.



#### 3 Reconciliation

Abuser apologises, gives excuses, blames the victim, denies the abuse occurred or says that it wasn't as bad as the victim claims.



#### HOW DO I KNOW IF MY MENTAL HEALTH IS AFFECTED BY PAST ABUSE OR TRAUMA?

It can be difficult to tell whether or how much your mental health is affected by past abuse or trauma.

Sometimes the symptoms of trauma or abuse don't start to affect your life for many months or years after the event took place. If you have any of the following symptoms, talk to your doctor or mental health practitioners or reach out for help:

- Severe anxiety, stress or fear
- Trouble sleeping
- Anger
- Depression
- Changes in mood or appetite
- Substance abuse
- Self-Injury or Self-Harm
- Suicide



#### WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I'VE BEEN ABUSED OR TRAUMATISED?

THE SOONER YOU CAN GET PROFESSIONAL HELP FOR ABUSE OR TRAUMA, THE SOONER YOU CAN BEGIN TO GET BETTER.



If you have been physically hurt, visit a hospital or doctor right away.

- 1. You may also need to call the police.
- The doctor and the police can help to document what has happened to you.
- This documentation may be important later if you decide to press charges against someone who attacked you.

If you are experiencing changes in how you think, feel or behave that are interfering with your ability to work or live your life normally, reach out to a mental health professional.

- Find a mental health professional near you.
- 2.A mental health professional can help to identify any symptoms you may be having that are related to your abuse or trauma.
- The professional can help you find the best treatment to manage symptoms of the abuse or trauma.



#### IF YOU'RE IN IMMEDIATE DANGER, CALL 999.

#### YOU CAN ALSO CALL HELPLINES BELOW TO TALK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU OR GET GUIDANCE ABOUT WHAT TO DO:

Talian Nur 15999 Bukit Aman Malaysia Control Centre

03-2266 3333/ 2266 3344

Women's Aid Organisations (WAO)

03-7957 5636 / 0636

All Women's Action Society (AWAM)

03-7877 4221/ 016-237 4221 (Telenita Helpline)

Sisters in Islam

03-7960 3357/ 7960 5121/ 7960 6733

Befrienders Kuala Lumpur

03-7627 2929

#### **HOW ARE ABUSE AND TRAUMA TREATED?**

Symptoms caused by abuse or trauma can usually be treated with different types of talk therapy, medicine, or both. A therapy with a professional counsellor can help you work through your feelings and learn healthy ways to cope. Medicines might include antidepressants or anti-anxiety medicine.

Today, complementary mind and body therapies, such as mindfulness and yoga, may be offered along with traditional treatments such as medicines and therapy.

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# Thank you!