The Duluth Power & Control Wheel

- Using Coercion & Threats
  - Making and/or carrying out threats to do something to hurt her
  - Threatening to leave her, to commit suicide, to report her to welfare
  - Making her drop charges, making her do illegal things

- Using Intimidation
  - Making her afraid by using looks, actions, gestures, smashing things
  - Destroying her property, abusing pets, displaying weapons

- Using Emotional Abuse
  - Putting her down, making her feel bad about herself
  - Calling her names, making her think she’s crazy, playing mind games
  - Humiliating her, making her feel guilty

- Using Isolation
  - Controlling what she does, who she sees and talks to
  - What she reads, where she goes
  - Limiting her outside involvement, using jealousy to justify actions

- Using Male Privilege
  - 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

- Using Children
  - Making her feel guilty about the children
  - Using the children to relay messages, using visitation to harass her
  - Threatening to take the children away

- Minimizing, Denying & Blaming
  - Making light of the abuse and not taking her concerns about it seriously
  - Saying the abuse did not happen
  - Shifting responsibility for abusive behavior

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No More
The Duluth Model

In the early 1990s Duluth — a small community in northern Minnesota — an innovative approach to holding perpetrators of abuse accountable and keeping victims safe from abuse was developed. The “Duluth Model” is an ever evolving way of thinking about how a community works as only together we can end domestic violence.

A community using the Duluth Model approach:

- Has taken the blame off the victim and placed the accountability for abuse on the offender.
- Has shared policies and procedures for holding offenders accountable and keeping victims safe across all agencies in the criminal and civil justice systems from 999 calls to the courts.
- Prioritises the voices and experiences of women who experience abuse in the creation of those policies and procedures.
- Believes that domestic abuse is a pattern of actions used to intentionally control or dominate an intimate partner and actively works to change societal conditions that support men’s use of tactics of power and control over women.
- Offers change opportunities for offenders through court-ordered and self-referrals to educational groups for perpetrators/ perpetrator programs.
- Has ongoing discussions between criminal and civil justice agencies, statutory organisations, community support services, community members and victims to close gaps and improve the community’s response to domestic abuse.

The Duluth Model

- Commitment to shift responsibility for the victims safety from the victim to the community and state
- A shared collective mission and strategy regarding intervention that is based on a number of core philosophical agreements
- A shared understanding of how interventions are to be accountable to victims safety and perpetrator accountability
- A shared understanding of how each agency’s (practitioners’) actions either support or undermine collective goals and strategy of intervention
- Shared definitions of safety, abuse, danger, risk and accountability
- Prioritises the voices and experiences of women who experience abuse in the creation of those policies and procedures

Coordinated Community Response (CCR)

- Written policies and procedures guiding each practitioner at each point of intervention that centralises victim safety and perpetrator accountability and that coordinates an interagency intervention strategy
- Protocols and procedures that link practitioners from different agencies and disciplines
- An entity (preferably independent of the court) that tracks and monitors cases and assess data
- Interagency processes that encourage practitioners at work together in a strategic manner to resolve problems
- A process that allows for dialogue and problem-solving by focussing on a systemic problems of an organisation rather than on individual workers between criminal and civil justice agencies, community support services and victims to close gaps and improve the community’s response to domestic abuse
- A central role for advocates and victims in defining and evaluating the interagency intervention model
- A commitment to support each other’s attempts to secure adequate resources to respond to these cases

The Duluth Power and Control Wheel and NO MORE

NO MORE and UK SAYS NO MORE have been given exclusive permission by The Duluth Model to adapt The Power and Control Wheel to reflect NO MORE’s unifying symbol representing zero – as in zero incidences of domestic violence and sexual assault.