

Assess immediate risk of violence

Women who answer “yes” to at least 3 of the following questions may be at especially high immediate risk of violence.

- Has the physical violence happened more often or gotten worse over the past 6 months?
- Has he ever used a weapon or threatened you with a weapon?
- Has he ever tried to strangle you?
- Do you believe he could kill you?
- Has he ever beaten you when you were pregnant?
- Is he violently and constantly jealous of you?

If it is **not safe for the woman to return home**, make a safety plan together with the survivor.

Making a safety plan

Even survivors who are not facing immediate serious risk could benefit from having a safety plan. If there is a plan, survivors will be better able to deal with the situation if violence suddenly occurs.

The following are questions you can ask her to help her make a safety plan.

Safety planning	
Safe place to go	If you need to leave your home in a hurry, where could you go?
Planning for children	Would you go alone or take your children with you?
Transport	How will you get there?
Items to take with you	Do you need to take any documents, keys, money, clothes, or other things with you when you leave? What is essential?
	Can you put together items in a safe place or leave them with someone, just in case?
Financial	Do you have access to money if you need to leave? Where is it kept? Can you get it in an emergency?
Support of someone close by	Is there a neighbour you can tell about the violence who can call the police or come with assistance for you if they hear sounds of violence coming from your home?

Offer referrals for shelter, safe housing, or work together to identify a safe place to go to (such as a friend’s home or church).

If she has decided that leaving is the best option, discuss making plans and leaving for a safe place before letting her partner know. Otherwise, she may put herself and her children at more risk of violence.

How to stay safer at home

If she cannot avoid discussions that may escalate with her partner, advise her to try to have the discussions in a room or an area that she can leave easily.

Advise her to stay away from any room where there might be weapons.