



*Giving voice to the unspeakable...  
responding to domestic abuse in Jewish homes.*

## **Profile of an Abuser**

- Jekyll and Hyde personality
- Flies into a rage without provocation; anger is out of proportion to the situation
- Projects own faults onto spouse
- Grandiose sense of self-importance and entitlement
- Distorts Torah values, uses accessibility to Rabbis to wield control
- Denies responsibility for behavior; blaming other people, alcohol or drugs for his actions
- Needs validation and admiration from others in order to mask low self-esteem and boost ego
- Minimizes or denies severity of abuse; seems not to remember abusive incident or distorts truth
- Needs to control spouse in order to feel in control
- Is overwhelmingly or unreasonably jealous and possessive
- May have been abused as a child, or may have witnessed his father or mother as being abused
- Has little or no contact with parents
- May be more violent when spouse is pregnant or soon after giving birth
- Has made threats regarding safety of children, family members, friends and/or self
- Is highly critical of spouse
- Does not believe his behavior should have negative consequences and/or may have problems with the law
- Appears charming, rational and likeable in public
- Can be loving, kind, giving and a respected member of the Jewish community as well as abusive

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