

**"Leave Me Alone Is  
What She Said..."**

**Sexual violence against  
women of color**



**Created by:  
Dakkariah**

# SUMMARY

The subject of my story is domestic abuse against women of color and how it affects their lives. This story is important because women of color have been through both verbal and physical abuse for hundreds of years, at the hands of many people. Abuse is a common topic, but it rarely gets resolved.

Domestic violence comes in many ways, but also can be prevented in many ways. It affects both the direct victims, as well as people connected to the victims. Filing restraining orders, seeking help, moving away, can only do so much. This issue needs to be fixed from the root. It is time for a new beginning and big change. We need to continue to protest for equal rights, and inform people of the details of this issue.

Every woman deserves the best life they can have, but the dangers on Earth prevent those things from happening. Women, especially women of color, should not have to watch their surroundings all the time, nor should they be scared to walk outside. Learning about domestic violence and how it affects one another, generationally, is very important, so we can do better for our futures.

This story will be presented through a creatively interpreted poem. The publication of the ERA affects this story because the ERA states that there should be equal rights for all American citizens, regardless of sex, or gender. The abuse these women face does not reflect equality. It can mentally destroy and hurt victims. The publication of the ERA would help to bring awareness to this issue.

# POEMS

He touched her  
She thought he was her friend  
Someone she could trust.  
Physical abuse was all she knew in the process of  
being his friend  
It got worse, at school she felt unsafe  
Is her body even hers now?  
"Why is nobody taking precautions?", she asked  
There is silence around her, she's sinking

---

"Leave me alone", is what she said.  
He won't let me go. Pushing and hitting me.  
He's a manipulative, lying bastard.  
I'm so done with him, but I love him?  
Why does he treat me this way?  
What have I done?  
I need to escape.

# INTERVIEWS

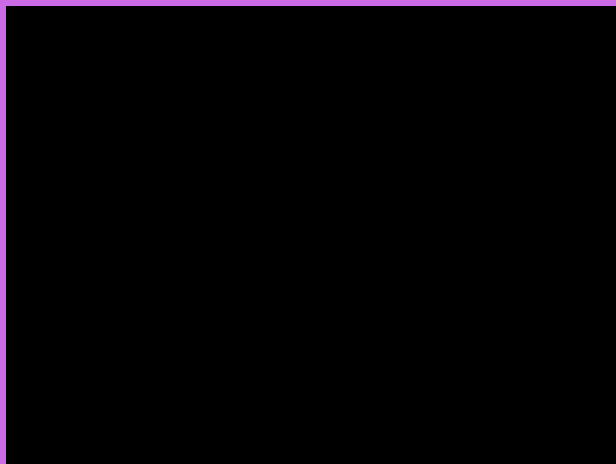


**Name: Layla**

**Age: 17**

**Likes to dance and gives good advice**

Audio Recording:





# INTERVIEWS



**Name: Shawnessa**

**Age: 51**

**A kind soul and great mother  
who helps a lot of people**

Audio Recording:



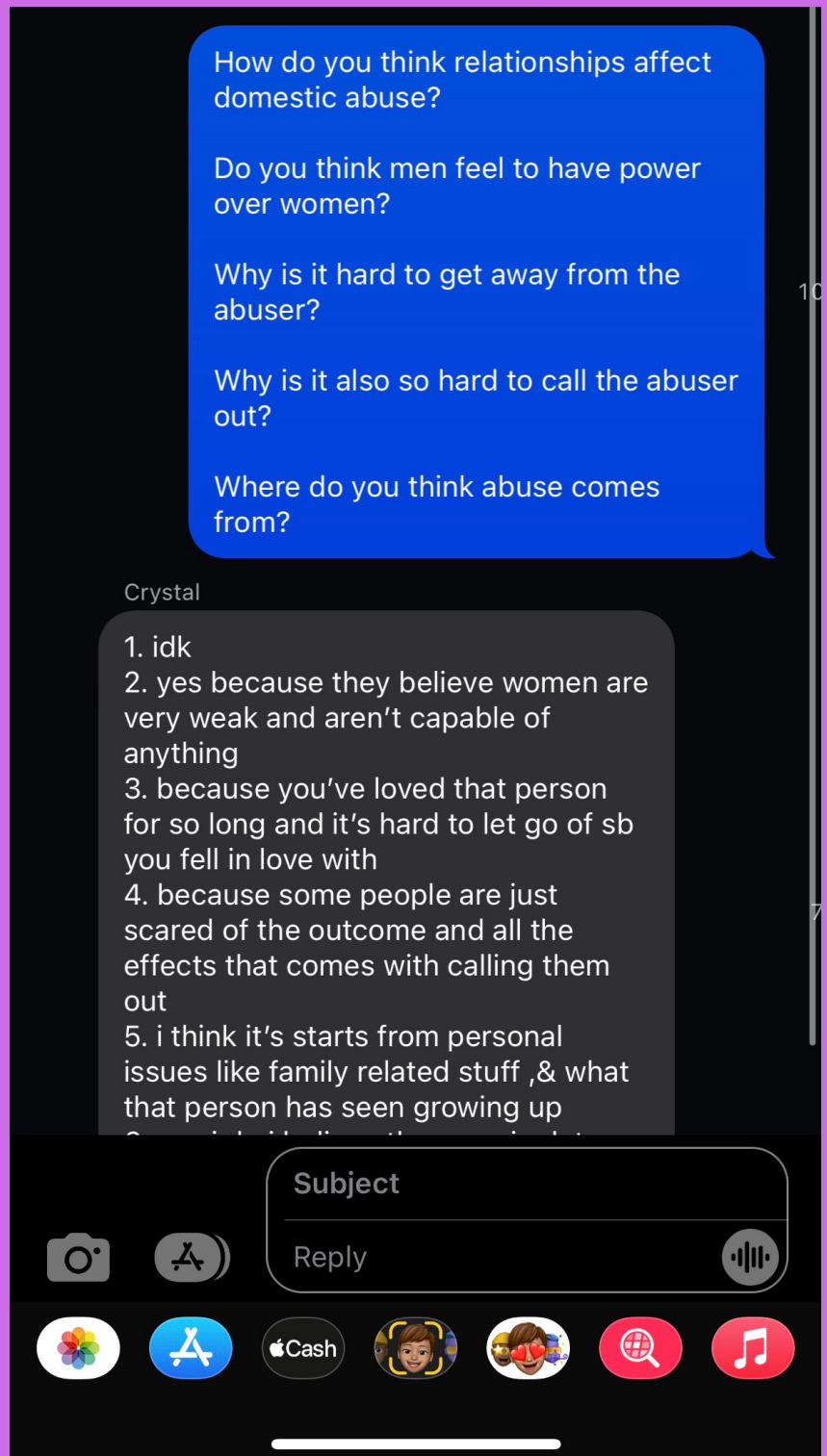
# INTERVIEWS



**Name: Crystal**

**Age: 17**

**Self inspiring and independent.**



# WORKS CITED

1. [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov › pmcAddressing Domestic Violence Against Women: An Unfinished Agenda](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmcAddressing%20Domestic%20Violence%20Against%20Women%3A%20An%20Unfinished%20Agenda) - NCBI
2. [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov › pmcDomestic Violence and Abuse in Intimate Relationship from Public ...](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmcDomestic%20Violence%20and%20Abuse%20in%20Intimate%20Relationship%20from%20Public%20Health%20Perspective)
3. [https://www.un.org › coronavirusDomestic Abuse: How to respond?](https://www.un.org/coronavirusDomestic%20Abuse%3A%20How%20to%20respond%3F) - the United Nations

This project was made in collaboration with  
Global Girl Media-Chicago, The Fund for Women's  
Equality, and the ERA Coalition

# ABOUT THE AUTHOR



My name is Dakkariah. I am 17 years old and I attend Rowe Clark Math & Science Academy. I have a lot of experience with poetry, and am learning about journalism. Living in Chicago has opened my eyes to what I want, and don't want, from life. I am a wonderful listener and talented person. In my free time, I dance, draw, and play volleyball.