



# Situational Awareness: Identifying & Assisting Silent Victim



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## Identify the tools of the trade

There are many victims that organized crime, gang crime or the lone wolf predator takes advantage. There are also some that do not admit to themselves that they are victims of abuse.

## The silent victim

There could be an abused staff member, student, mother, father, brother that knows that their abuser has threatened to attack their study centre, workplace or specific person and informs no one - says nothing. If they had only had the courage to come forward, they would have been able to save lives.

Were they in denial?

Were they fearful?

Or where they simply embarrassed?

There are some countries that only have 1 rape a month or 1 murder a month, and then there are those that have a person murdered every twenty-four minutes and one person reported raped every five minutes – every day as in South Africa. The active shooter attacks in the USA, the drug related murders in Mexico or multi-cultural issues that lead to the beatings and murder besides the increasing rape rate globally dictate that there are millions of silent victims.

Staff could have issues and be silent victims regardless of their position in the company, as rest assured professionals could be just as much a victim as ground level staff. These victims could be outsourced staff or permanent staff which could attract incidents with collateral damage.

There could be people that are abused at home or work who are silent victims and could lead to collateral damage with life impacting or deadly incidents. There have been many cases of workplace violence, rape by the manager or boss, a jilted boyfriend or husband that physically attacks the company, a student that maims and kills at school or university, and far too many other incidents that could be added to the growing list.

In <sup>1</sup>'Silence Is Golden: Older Women 's Voices and The Analysis of Meaning Among Survivor 's Of Domestic Violence Virginia' (Lee Cronin 2013), it is stated that abused woman may not disclose the true nature of their abuse for many reasons. The reasoning behind such, in sync with staff that could be being bullied, blackmailed or extorted either one-on-one or manipulated by a group of people inside or outside the company by organized crime. There are instances where there is local citizens and staff that could intimidate immigrants using these above-mentioned methods simply because the immigrants are highly insecure in their new surroundings and must comply more so with criteria to obtain citizenship.

Without knowing it - people could be supporting an abusive system of locals or migrants being manipulated and abused for menial employment. No-go areas (polarized neighbourhoods) and businesses could be trafficking in woman, children, men that could have been enslaved or prostituted. They could be employed by a local citizen to clean, build, or to perform menial tasks when the citizen employs at a wage that is lower than the market price. *People are not forthcoming with information and lie or hide information* as they could be in denial about their situation or could feel embarrassed and fearful of the implications to seek assistance from the security manager.

### Example: How to identify if a person has sincere emotions – or is it abuse?

According to In Malcolm Gladwell's book "Blink" Power of thinking without thinking M Gladwell (2012), <sup>2</sup>Gottman states that there are four major emotional reactions that are destructive to a relationship: defensiveness, stonewalling, criticism, and contempt. (Four Horseman of the apocalypse). Gottman agrees and supports <sup>3</sup>Ekman that the emotional impact of abuse can be seen in facial expressions (<sup>4</sup>Posner 2005).

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<sup>1</sup> Silence Is Golden: Older Women 's Voices and The Analysis of Meaning Among Survivor 's Of Domestic Violence Virginia'' by Lee Cronin (2013) <https://surface.syr.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1029&context=etd>

<sup>2</sup>Four Horseman - Gottman

<http://www.counseling.usu.edu/services/The%20Four%20Horsemen%20of%20the%20Apocalypse.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> P Ekman <https://www.paulekman.com/micro-expressions-training-tools/>

<sup>4</sup> Posner R Blinkered Review <https://newrepublic.com/article/68000/blinkerred>

The tight-lipped expression (not sharing information) in the <sup>5</sup>HIM research is a facial expression that could be seen when the person may be hiding something on purpose (their true intentions) or stonewalling as they may just be ignoring the other. In other words, a person is simply not prepared to divulge any information and they are tight-lipped for whatever reason. It is not only in what one could see but furthermore, in what they would say.

This work pays attention to both what one would see and what one hears. It is in the language that uncovers the intentions of others.

It could also be in the chemistry, *where people are attracted to abused people* without knowing consciously why. In an intensive study Kent C. Berridge 2002 *'Pleasure of the brain'* the ingredient of neurochemistry is a vital component with regards to emotions. The region of the brain that is responsible for sexual arousal is the frontal lobe (Kolb & Wishaw, 1990). You cannot tell someone who to love. People must work it out themselves. Abused people cannot distinguish between love and lust.

When a person is abused, then they can pick up quickly certain emotions and expressions such as contempt, disgust and the flashed look just before they are verbally or physically assaulted. This immediately increases their adrenalin levels.

A person could eventually break the relationship and go out and socialize. They may be looking at some people speaking, and a person may display those expressions. Their eyes pick up the display and immediately their own adrenalin rushes. Immediately they are attracted to that person. There is a fine line between lust and love and the judgements are made based on the chemistry they feel. People can go from abusive relationships to more abusive relationships as they are adrenaline junkies. They get bored with nice people that do not give them the adrenalin rush. (Kirsten 2018)

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<sup>5</sup> HIM [www.human-investigation-management.com](http://www.human-investigation-management.com) (Critical Situational interviewing tool : how to see, hear and think)

*Solution:* The only way to assist an abused person is to provide them the appropriate skill sets, so that they can see the other person's true emotions and intentions for themselves. They then realize that the other person is not authentically in-love with them, as, the other person is in love with their own self and has their own agendas. (Kirsten 2018)

It is important to assist an abused woman as there have been cases of workplace violence leading to horrendous outcomes undertaken by a jilted lover or husband. These may be a lower rate than other reasons of homicide in the workplace, but it is a <sup>6</sup>statistic.

## Strategic and assertive threat identification and litigation

The security practitioners should have their eyes on the statistics on their location and field of interest. It is the responsibility of the security practitioner to find the crime and stop it besides protecting sites and save lives. Therefore, if the stats are escalating in a specific crime such as rape, home invasions, carjacking, etc., then they should educate not only their security team on situational awareness but all the individuals working on their sites.

The same applies to abuse whereas all staff should be educated on 'situational awareness for abuse'. In this way, people may only realize that they are truly abused, abused people may come forward, or others that doing the crime of such are then discovered. Subsequently the abusers will leave the site because they fear the implications.

These practitioners cannot afford to be misled so they need to know when someone is lying, hiding information or knowing why others are volunteering information. They should transfer these skills to their clients because their clients are the ones that could identify people of concern and work in concert with their security practitioners.

The easiest and most effective method to read people and the situation is available on [Human Investigation Management](#)

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<sup>6</sup> USA Dept of Labour