

## A friend is worried about domestic abuse – scripted role play

Two people – Nicky and Joanne - each to read a part. First, read the description of the situation.

Nicky and Joanne are friends. Joanne is going out with Leanne and Nicky is worried that there are signs of an abusive relationship.

Nicky: Hey honey, how are you?

Joanne: I'm okay thanks, how are you?

Nicky: I'm not too bad thank you, uni has been pretty hectic but that's coming to an end now. What have you been up to? I haven't seen you out since Elisha's birthday.

Joanne: I have been pretty busy with uni too, was so glad to finish last week. I'm trying not to go out as much at the moment.

Nicky: How come? Now we have all finished we should plan something to celebrate like a meal out or a few cocktails sometime soon, what do you think?

Joanne: I'm trying to spend more time with Leanne and save a bit of money. Yeah that sounds good but I need to check with Leanne first.

Nicky: Is everything okay with you guys? You didn't seem yourself at Elisha's party and I noticed Leanne left early.

Joanne: Yeah everything is fine.

Nicky: Are you sure you're okay? Did anything happen at the party? I'm always here if you ever want to talk.

Joanne: I'm okay. No, nothing really, Leanne just got annoyed as she thought I was spending too much time with the boys so after an argument she went home. The arguments aren't usually as bad as the one at the party but she did apologise for pushing me after we cleared the air.

Nicky: She pushed you? That's not good. Does that happen often? I didn't notice you spending much time with the boys

Joanne: It's happened a couple of times recently, Leanne doesn't like me spending time with my male friends.

Nicky: That must be difficult, have you talked to her about it?

Joanne: Yeah but it has just lead to arguments. So I haven't been going out much recently and that has helped so I'm feeling better about the situation.

Nicky: I'm sorry you have been having a hard time. You don't have to tell me if you don't want to, but why does Leanne have a problem with you spending time with your male friends?

Joanne: Ummm well it's because of my sexuality and the fact that I'm bisexual, she gets paranoid I will leave her for a man. It never used to be an issue but it became one whenever I went out with my uni friends without her. I'm spending more time with her now which helps.

Nicky: The whole situation must be really upsetting for you. I'm always here if you ever want to talk. You can call me anytime. There is nothing wrong with you being bisexual and you shouldn't be punished for having male friends. I'm a bit worried about the pushing – you know, I learned a bit about this on one of my courses and often it can escalate, so I'm a bit concerned that next time she might really hurt you. There are organisations that could help you as well, if you wanted, such as Broken Rainbow. I can help you get in touch if you want. Whatever you decide I will be there for you.

# The Intervention Initiative

