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Why Should I Care About Elder Abuse?

The topic of elder abuse is something that society should really grasp in today's world. Sadly, not many people are familiar with the topic of elder abuse. As children, we are taught to "respect our elders"; but how many people carry out the respect in the real world? Respecting your elders shouldn't just be a concept, it should be an action. Violent acts against our elders is a reality that the world has to face. This is a horrible truth, and if we don't begin to care it will only continue, and the number of victims will only increase. Imagine if it was your family member, acquaintance, or friend suffering from elder abuse, still as the topic goes unknown. This is why we should care about elder abuse. Unfortunately, some members of today's society highly disrespect and abuse elderly people. That is why we, as a community of comrades, must raise awareness and help to prevent elder

abuse. Over the course of history, we can see that the world cannot stop things on it's own, the world needs good people, and a good society, and someone to stand up with a voice to stop.

This is a dire time to learn about elder abuse. So, what is elder abuse? Elder abuse is exactly how it sounds, abusing elders. There are different types of elder abuse: emotional abuse, physical abuse, financial abuse, and neglect. Elder abuse can occur at any place, at any given time. Usually, the abuse that is happening goes unheard of. In fact, 1 out of every 10 Americans that are 60 and over have experienced some form of elder abuse. Also, 60% of that number are abused by their family members. (Gonzalez)

Emotional abuse is where someone hurts them in their mental states. For example, making them feel bad, guilty, etc.. You can tell when someone has been mentally abused because they may have a sudden change in behavior and regular actions. Emotional abuse can show just as much, or more damage than physical abuse. Emotional abuse can harm someone into thinking horribly towards themselves. It can make someone self-conscious, and depressed. It can make them crumble in horrible ways.

You can tell when someone has been mentally abused they may have a sudden change in behavior and regular actions. If they seem sad or depressed, they may have been emotionally abused. If you can tell that they feel guilty, and they act more carefully, they could have been abused. If they suddenly stop doing, or going to, regular activities, that could be a sign that they were emotionally abused. If they act differently, and have sudden change in behavior, they might have been abused.

Physical abuse is where the elderly person has been physically harmed or injured. Physical abuse is probably one of the most noticeable types of abuse. The elderly person could have been physically abused in a number of ways. They could have been handled uncarefully. The elder could have been hit, slapped, or a different type of hurtful physical contact. They could have been shaken up, as well. The elders could have been tied down. Since they are more feeble than younger people (but still quite

capable) they can get injured more easily, and some caretakers disregard this fact. But, it's always better to be safe than sorry.

Financial abuse is where people trick elderly people into giving them money, or seemingly no reason. Those people could be professional scam artists, or they could even be a really close family member. An example of financial abuse is that an elderly person might get a call about some money that they owe. The person on the other line may even threaten to take away their home or possessions if the money is not presented. So, they might get tricked out of their money.

If an elderly person is being financially abused, they might have been tricked into giving their money to someone else. They might have been guilted into putting someone into their will. If an elderly person has a sudden loss of money, or you can see that something in their finances has changed without any context, they may have been financially abused.

The type of abuse that we refer to as neglect is where the person is ignored, or denied of basic necessities because of the lack of attention people are giving them. This could be very dangerous to anyone. If someone is being neglected they could get injured, and no one should be neglected or ignored for any reason whatsoever. People could also be isolated for various reasons. One reason is that the caretaker of the person had abused them, and doesn't want his/her family, friends, or anyone else to find out for fear of losing their job. Neglect is a horrible form of abuse that no one should have to endure or suffer.

You can tell that someone is being neglected because they won't have proper hygiene. Their caretakers may be neglecting, or ignoring them. They may need certain things for their every day lives. They might need to be changed, or maybe they are being denied of seeing their families. They may even be denied of food.

If you suspect potential abuse to an elderly person, you should call your local police number or the elder number listed below. Make sure to contact someone immediately if you do suspect abuse. Then, someone will come to investigate to find signs of abuse, and find the suspect of the abusing. When the investigator finds the problem, you can then help stop it. The contact number is 1-877-767-2385.

You could prevent elder abuse by raising the awareness and reporting suspected abuse. Elder abuse is a form of abuse that many people don't know of. Sometimes, we don't know what happens behind the scenes. If you see anyone, even if it's someone you don't know, who you think might be being abused, talk to them. Don't be afraid stand up. Just remember, one day, we'll be elders too.