



The Wedding Dress

The wedding dress or wedding gown is clothing worn by a bride during a wedding ceremony. The wedding dress conveys up ideas of perfect love, romance and happiness ever after.

For many brides, the wedding dress embodies their childhood dreams and hopes for a fairy-tale-like wedding followed by a shared future. "It's death to us poor".

This symbolic wedding dress has two sides-

The front which represents the public image and symbolizes the hope and romantic mythology of marriage.

The back which represents the hidden side. Behind the mythology lies the reality that one in three women will experience physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, social or financial violence at the hands of their husband or intimate partner. Some will be murdered.

The Wedding Dress Project

This project was undertaken by Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence to construct a striking display piece creating awareness of intimate partner abuse. It is created from papier mache and glazed.

The plaque that accompanies the dress reads:

“The wedding dress or wedding gown is clothing worn by a bride during a wedding ceremony. The wedding dress conjures up ideas of perfect love, romance and happiness ever after. For many brides, the wedding dress embodies their childhood dreams and hopes for a fairytale-like wedding followed by a shared future – “till death do us part”.

This symbolic wedding dress has two sides; the front, which represents the public façade and symbolises the hope and romantic mythology of marriage, and the back which represents the hidden side. Behind the mythology lies the reality that one in three women will experience physical, sexual, emotional, social, psychological, or financial violence at the hands of their husband or intimate partner. Some will be murdered.

Intimate Partner Sexual Violence

Intimate Partner Sexual Violence is any form of unwanted sexual activity with a current or former intimate partner that is without consent or due to use of force, intimidation or threat (direct or implied). IPSV may be experienced with or without the presence of physical violence in the relationship.

Intimate relationships include married, unmarried, dating, heterosexual, and same-sex relationships.

Research shows that IPSV is more common than most people realise with one study of community counselling services finding that as many as 60% of women experiencing Domestic Violence are raped at least once by their partners (Howard et al. 2003).

If you are currently experiencing or have experienced Intimate Partner Sexual Violence help is available.

Contacts

National Helpline	1800 737 732
Queensland Helpline	1800 811 811
GC Centre Against Sexual Violence	07 5591 1164
Domestic Violence Prevention Centre	07 5532 9000
Website:	www.aphroditewounded.org