

SYSTEMIC COERCIVE CONTROL MAP

Systemic Coercive Control (SCC) is a patterned, gendered form of intimate partner violence that involves both direct and indirect violence and abuse - which includes the perpetrators strategic use of social, institutional, and legal systems to instil control, dominate and restrict the personal agency of the victim-survivor.

SYSTEMIC INEQUITIES	<p>GENDERED: patriarchal credibility; mother-blaming; gender pay gaps.</p>	<p>RACIAL AND COLONISING: higher surveillance of Māori; Pākehā norms prioritised.</p>	<p>ECONOMIC INEQUITIES: housing scarcity; welfare barriers; legal costs.</p>	
	<p>MIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP: visa dependency; language barriers; fear of deportation.</p>	<p>NEOLIBERAL SERVICE : Marketised, fragmented systems that place responsibility on individuals, service silos; compliance demands; efficiency over safety.</p>	<p>HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH: pathologising responses to violence, misunderstanding resistance; Medicating for responses to violence, mental health stigma; limited trauma-informed services; crisis-based responses</p>	
	<p>LGBTQIA+: lack of services; misidentifying coercive control; discrimination.</p>		<p>ABLEIST: inaccessible pathways; pathologising trauma; communication mismatches.</p>	
SYSTEMS ABUSE	<p>INSTITUTIONAL SYSTEMS ABUSE Institutional systems abuse occurs when organisations, agencies, and professionals become complicit in SCC through their policies, procedures, processes, and practices – or when perpetrators manipulate these systems (PAM) to secure institutional support for their tactics.</p> <p>PAM - PREDOMINANT AGGRESSOR MANIPULATION (INSTITUTIONAL): selective information; rehearsed calm persona; distorting her distress; exploiting agency gaps; shaping practitioner interpretation</p> <p>4P'S: incident-only frameworks; inadequate CC assessments; inconsistent PO enforcement; siloed systems; rigid compliance steps; cultural insensitivity; pathologising her; mother-blaming; downplaying disclosures.</p>		<p>LEGAL SYSTEMS ABUSE Using legal processes, court mechanisms, and parenting pathways to intimidate, exhaust, or further control.</p> <p>Cross-applications; repeated filings; misuse of parenting orders; parental alienation claims; manufactured non-compliance allegations; strategic delays; vexatious appeals; weaponising psychological reports; selective evidence disclosure; manipulating bail or protection order conditions; exploiting shared-care frameworks; credibility performances in court; using lawyers to harass or intimidate, pre-emptive Protection Order application.</p>	
	<p>PHYSICAL VIOLENCE: Striking them with hands, objects, or weapons Choking or restricting their breathing Pushing, shoving, or restraining them to assert control Hurling objects or engaging in symbolic aggression.</p>		<p>COERCIVE CONTROL: Isolating them from friends, family, and support networks Monitoring their movements, communication, and daily activities Dictating what they can wear, eat, or how they spend time Depriving them of basic needs like food, healthcare, or rest.</p>	
VIOLENCE & ABUSE	<p>USING PETS: Threatening to harm or kill pets to instil fear Physically harming or neglecting pets as punishment Using pets as emotional leverage to manipulate them Denying access to pets to create distress Threatening or abandoning pets as a form of control.</p>		<p>STALKING AND TECHNOLOGY ABUSE: Tracking their location through GPS, spyware, or apps Accessing or hacking their social media, email, or banking accounts Persistently contacting them via calls, texts, or emails to harass Spreading defamatory content online, including revenge porn or cyberbullying.</p>	
	<p>SEXUAL VIOLENCE: Forcing or coercing them into sexual acts Making them watch or participate in pornography against their will Engaging in sexual acts while they are unconscious or unable to consent Using sex as punishment or manipulation Denying contraception or forcing reproductive decisions.</p>		<p>PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE: Gaslighting to distort their reality and instil self-doubt Constant criticism, putdowns, or emotional manipulation Blaming them for the abuse or shifting responsibility Minimising or denying the abuse to undermine their feelings.</p>	
	<p>ECONOMIC ABUSE: Controlling or denying access to bank accounts and financial resources Forcing them to justify spending or withholding funds for essentials Coercing them into debt or using their credit without consent Preventing them from working or sabotaging employment .</p>		<p>USING CHILDREN: Using children to pass on abusive or manipulative messages Threatening to take children away or gain custody to control them Turning children against them through badmouthing or manipulation.</p>	