**Rutabikangwa and Nyirakamana: A Story About Domestic Violence**

Nyirakamana lives with her husband, Rutabikangwa, and her three children in a small house near the market in Nyamitirimo. When they got married, Rutabikangwa paid a dowry to Nyirakamana’s family. He expects his wife to work hard to repay him for that dowry. He often reminds her how many cows he gave her family, in the hopes that she will work hard and be a good wife.

Nyirakamana works from early in the morning until late in the evening, selling vegetables in the market. She is tired when she gets home, but she still has to cook dinner, fetch water, wash clothes, and look after their young children.

Rutabikangwa often takes the money that Nyirakamana has earned and goes out in the evening. He does not come home until late. He often returns drunk and starts shouting at Nyirakamana. He beats her in front of the children. Sometimes, he makes her sleep outside to punish her if his food is not cooked to his liking.

When he is still sober enough, he asks his wife for sex. Nyirakamana often feels too tired from the housework and the market, and begs him to leave her alone. When this happens, Rutabikangwa forces his wife to have sex with him, and Nyirakamana usually cries afterwards.

Many of their neighbours are afraid of Rutabikangwa, and they ignore Nyirakamana. Nyirakamana is too ashamed to talk to her friends and neighbours about Rutabikangwa’s behaviour. Although people often see Nyirakamana’s bruised face, they just keep quiet.

Adapted from [Raising Voices](http://raisingvoices.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/downloads/Innovation/Creating_Methodologies/RethinkingDomesticViolenceTrainingGuide/Section_2.pdf), page 58, and the [MIGEPROF training manual](http://www.migeprof.gov.rw/fileadmin/_migrated/content_uploads/GBV_Training_MODULE_English_Version.pdf), page 19.