

# PARENTS: Take Action to End Teen Economic Abuse

67%

of nearly 3,000 teens surveyed in 2021 reported experiencing some form of employment interference from a dating partner

Despite common misconceptions, teens reported that not only would they reach out if they were experiencing economic abuse, with the majority of them indicating that parents and guardians would be who they contacted first.

Economic abuse: when an individual interferes with their partner's education, employment, or finances - is common among teens, yet few recognize these harmful behaviors.

To ensure that young people develop safe relationships, it is critical to educate teens about what healthy relationships, including financial management between partners, look like at various stages in their lives. For example, a healthy financial relationship between partnered adults includes sharing access to financial information, however this practice can be unsafe between teen dating partners. Teens should also have guidance on how to navigate when their education and career goals may conflict with their partner's vision for their future.

## Get started with these steps:

- 1** Start the conversation! Talk to your teen about respect, communication, trust, boundaries, honesty, and equality.
- 2** Discuss the signs of an unhealthy adolescent relationship and how partners may interfere with school, work, and finances.
- 3** Educate teens on the elements of a healthy financial relationship, what actions may be controlling, and how to set appropriate boundaries.
- 4** Approach any conversations empathetically, supportively, non-judgingly, and displaying curiosity to create a space in which teens are more likely to be open and share.
- 5** Develop next-steps collaboratively and respect their decision-making even when you disagree with them.

For more information visit: [www.futureswithoutviolence.org/teenDV/](http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/teenDV/)

