Getting out of an abusive marriage takes courage

Commentary
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Almost four years ago, I made the decision to leave a bad marriage. After years of emotional abuse that eventually turned physical, I mustered the courage to leave. With two small children in tow and working in a position that did not provide job security or a substantial salary, I moved out to be on my own again.

My notions of a happy, loving, two-parent family crumbled when I walked out the door. never wanted to be a single mother, spouseless, or a divorcee. I never thought I would divorce, let alone raise two children without a father. The first year was the hardest as I struggled to make my way. Without my husband's salary, life became tougher. Day care for a 2- and 4-year-old is expensive, and most day care is offered only during business hours, not during evenings when some of us are still on the job.

I must note that my spouse has not paid one cent toward child support, and forcing him to pay is complicated. It was my choice to marry foreigner, and it was a decision that has had several drawbacks, most of them legal.

What took me so long to get out of a bad situation? I believe it's because I wanted the person I married to miraculously change into better person. Unfortunately, I have come to find out the only way an abusive situation changes is from bad to worse.

After I had left, it took me almost a year before I could answer a question like "What does your husband do?" without my eyes welling up with tears. Then, after saying separated, hearing the response, "Oh, I felt like a brick hitting me in the head. eventually, after many tears and sleepless nights, I found that the peace and harmony our new family situation was worth more than the husband and the money not have.

This year, my divorce will be final, know I'm not alone. One of every two marriages ends in divorce. My children will up in a single-parent household, but should never feel they come from a broken home.

What does "broken" mean to me? Does refer to my heart that "broke" while trying to do everything possible to save marriage? Or does it come from " broke," having less money in the family

budget. I don't think of my family as "broken" at all. I think we are "on the mend," and doing our best to help each other. I'm writing this to hopefully help someone who may living in a bad domestic situation. I want tell people to get help and end abusive relationships.

I would also like to express a wish: Married couples should include single parents in group of friends. For the past few years, children and I have been living pretty isolated, and many times I wished more married friends would invite us to share in their family activities. Loving couples are examples children - and to me - of what is possible future relationships. We need the care support of our friends and our military communities to feel connected and again.