



# Older persons & Neglect

Abuse happens often by someone close to the victims which causes victims to:

- 1) be tremendously conflicted when determining how or if, to respond to the abuse
- 2) have fear of jeopardizing their relationship with their adult child and/or causing them harm.

## Different perspectives and Challenges faced:

### Elderly (Individual)



Experiences dual feelings:  
Loyalty and protectiveness vs anger and resentment

Isolated with limited social contacts

Dependent on others for care as they:  
1) Might develop a physical and mental disability as they age

2) Might have difficulties in communication

Fear of retaliation: institutionalization, shame and embarrassment

### Family/Care-giver



Unwillingness in taking up the role of a care-giver

May not have the knowledge or ability to coordinate care arrangements or make contact with services

High stress levels and inability to cope with competing responsibilities for their own children

Dysfunctional family dynamics with members manipulating others for their own benefits

### Social System



We need to think about...

- The need to admit these elderly to residential care as a solution to their neglect
- Finding a balance between client safety and client's right to self-determination
- Finding ways to support clients who choose to remain in a non-ideal situation
- Providing more services that aim to reduce isolation (i.e. befriending services for old people)

Adapted from: Letters to Social Work Students, "Older persons and Neglect", Pg 64-67, by Ang Bee Lian

<http://tinyurl.com/zethqet>

