Domestic violence remains a prevalent issue in American society and impacts individuals from every class, gender, race, culture, and sexual orientation. Over time, the once taboo subject of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) has evolved into a common conversational topic that is splashed across national headlines. When media attention is brought to the issue of IPV, it is often a celebrity or an athlete who appears in the national spotlight. Unfortunately, many of these individuals perpetrate acts of domestic violence with impunity. Rarely is jail time given. This can create the false image of IPV as a consequence free act. Both past and future legislation that offers protections and services for victims of abuse aide in working against that notion. However, there are still marginalized individuals such as those in the LGBTQ+ community who have less favorable outcomes when reporting victimization to authorities. Great work has been done to bring the issue of IPV to the forefront of social consciousness. However, even modern official definitions limit the acts that may be considered as IPV. In 2018, the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office on Violence Against Women limited the definition of domestic violence to only include acts of physical violence.

This text seeks to navigate this changing landscape by looking at domestic violence from a broader perspective in an attempt to tackle an increasingly underreported and under-recognized problem. Further, the text will explore the psychological, social, and economic burdens of domestic violence, as well as the current medical and legal approaches to managing victims and offenders. The book will be a unique contribution to the field. Existing texts focus mainly on domestic violence support and education from field workers and victims, along with psychology-based texts that are geared towards professional audiences. By including trans-disciplinary perspectives from advocacy resources, public health, forensic psychiatry, and legal sources, this book will provide a practical and useful resource with wide applicability.