

# Emily Trader\_Bradley University\_Done\_Persuasive

Fri, 3/13 1:44PM 9:59

## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

deaf, victims, abuser, shelter, domestic violence, hearing, asl, face, abuse, explains, interpreters, packet, survivor, communicate, dawn, sought, narratives, perfect, september, police

## SPEAKERS

Emily Trader

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**E** Emily Trader 00:02  
Dawn's relationship with her boyfriend was perfect. He charmed her with his sports car and his sense of humor.

**E** Emily Trader 00:09  
And his good looks probably didn't hurt either.

**E** Emily Trader 00:12  
But as she explains it a personal interview on September 24, 2018, "after only a year, seemingly small arguments spiraled into significant fights," And those fights into two years of domestic violence, he isolated her from friends and family beat her and nearly broke her jaw on a coffee table before she sought help. So Dawn contacted the police on two different occasions and both times they couldn't understand her, so they provided no help.

**E** Emily Trader 00:46  
Dawn is deaf and communicates exclusively with American Sign Language. ASL, while used by 2 million Americans is virtually absent from domestic violence resources. For victims, the only way to get help is to hear.

**E** Emily Trader 01:06  
The National Association of the Deaf of July 25, 2018 elaborates, abusers, usually hearing are in the perfect position to limit access to cell phones Wi Fi and face to face interactions, leaving their victim completely isolated. And resources like police, shelters, financial aid programs, meant to help victims escape violence

isolated. And resources like police, shelters, financial aid programs, meant to help victims escape violence are ineffective because they don't consider the unique challenges posed to deaf victims. Sadly, hearing impairment isn't just a communicative barrier. It's a weapon wielded by abusers for a morbidly painful and traumatizing experience. So it's not surprising. The National Domestic Violence Hotline reports the deaf and hard of hearing community is 150% more likely to experience domestic violence than their hearing counterparts.

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Emily Trader 01:57

And considering one in six deaf men and one in two deaf women will be victims of domestic violence in their lifetime it is crucial we uncover causes and effects before committing to solutions.

E

Emily Trader 02:11

Because for my community, domestic violence programs don't give us a voice. They only muffle our cries for help.

E

Emily Trader 02:23

After a history of discrimination, the deaf community struggled to trust the hearing. For this reason, I won't broadcast survivors narratives to a hearing audience without the survivors explicit consent. Every story I share was recounted by courageous and resilient individuals who remain in control of how their narrative is used in my speech, narratives that exist for two reasons, communication barriers, and financial abuse. Initially, law enforcement and shelters are unable and often unwilling to communicate with deaf victims. The Atlantic of September 26, 2018 explains, "when the Police respond to a deaf domestic violence call, they rarely if ever call an interpreter to the scene." Instead, they let the spouse, usually the abuser, interpret so they can distort victim testimony to convince police it was just a misunderstanding, not a life threatening attack and victims seeking shelter care face the same negligence, the Domestic Shelter Organization of March 3, 2018 notes, "ASL is the third most common language used in domestic violence shelters." But only 5% of shelters across the country have access to ASL interpreters. These victims just fled isolation, only to find it again from the same institutions promising them safety.

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Emily Trader 03:49

Next, deaf victims cannot afford to leave their abusers. While most domestic violence victims face this obstacle the Communication Service for the Deaf of June 21, 2018 reports "50% of deaf people are unemployed and depend on Social Security checks as their main source of income."

E

Emily Trader 04:06

So in most deaf domestic violence cases, the abuser controls the victim's finances to trap and extort them. So while staying means enduring, painful abuse, leaving is worse. A deaf survivor, Rose explained to me on October 9, 2018, her abuser took her social security checks every month and only gave her enough to survive. She desperately wanted to leave, but doing so many living on the streets.

E Emily Trader 04:37  
And our abuser knew it.

E Emily Trader 04:41  
Survivor Ruth explains on January 31, 2019, her husband threatened to kill her after two years of physical abuse. But for her, the worst part was knowing there was nowhere to go and no one to help her. Exemplifying two effects resources traumatize victims and abuse is cyclical.

E Emily Trader 05:01  
Initially, domestic violence programs re-traumatize death victims. The Arizona Central of September 18, 2018 reports the average length of stay for a hearing person in a shelter is six days for a deaf victim is less than 24 hours. Because for them, communicating with their abuser is preferable to confinement. As Rose explains, when she sought help at a local organization in Ohio, the only person available to interpret for her was her own father.

E Emily Trader 05:37  
She asked me to imagine what it would be like to disclose every detail of my trauma to my father, simply because I had no other way to communicate.

E Emily Trader 05:49  
I couldn't.

E Emily Trader 05:52  
Finally, deaf victims can't afford to leave. So the cycle of abuse continues. In a 2017 seminal study sociologists at the Rochester Institute of Technology found of all deaf domestic violence victims; 54% endured sexual abuse, 65% physical violence, 89% emotional abuse and 90% of victims suffer at least two forms of abuse. So it's not surprising the Family Service foundation of January 13, 2018 points out. The deaf and hard of hearing community is also twice as likely to develop PTSD and anxiety than hearing people. Because even if they seek help, even if resources accommodate them, and even if they eventually live in a safe environment,

E Emily Trader 06:41  
their fear

E Emily Trader 06:44  
their pain,

**E** Emily Trader 06:45  
and the aftermath of their trauma never goes away.

**E** Emily Trader 06:53  
The topic of domestic violence is not new. But we as a community have excluded Deaf voices because we don't hear them.

**E** Emily Trader 07:01  
We can start now, with solutions on institutional and individual levels.

**E** Emily Trader 07:08  
Initially, law enforcement and shelters need to update their protocol. In collaboration with the Abused Deaf Women advocacy services, I've created a packet with detailed procedures for shelters and stations to follow when faced with a deaf or hard of hearing victim.

**E** Emily Trader 07:22  
Write down your zip code here.

**E** Emily Trader 07:25  
I will compile a list of interpreters in your area and send it with the packet to your local shelter and station.

**E** Emily Trader 07:32  
I've got all the information. All you need to do is tell me where to send it.

**E** Emily Trader 07:39  
And you have.

**E** Emily Trader 07:41  
So far this season, I've sent 63 packets and received seven responses committing to accessible protocol.



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Emily Trader 07:48

Thank you. Please continue to help me make your communities more inclusive.

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Emily Trader 07:54

Finally, it is crucial we make efforts to communicate with Deaf victims when we see them.

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Emily Trader 08:00

If you know ASL, volunteer in a local domestic violence shelter, I have a packet listing every shelter across the country and their contact information. Take a picture after the round and let them know you can interpret. And if you don't know ASL, let's learn some now. This is the sign for "Are you hurt." So points the person you're talking to. Then you go pointer fingers parallel parallel to each other or on top of the other and just twist. That was perfect. That was perfect. And even if it's not perfect, they'll still understand you. "Are you hurt." That's perfect. This is the sign for "I will help you" so pointt to yourself. One palm faces the ceiling. The other hand makes a fist, put them together and raise pointed up so I will help you I will help you. Perfect.

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Emily Trader 09:01

If you need a review or want to know more, find me anytime after the round or just grab this cheat sheet. Keep it in your wallet, your purse, the back of your phone literally anywhere.

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Emily Trader 09:12

We have the opportunity to make our communication more inclusive.

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Emily Trader 09:17

Together, we can send the deaf and hard of hearing a new message.

E

Emily Trader 09:22

You deserve safety.

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Emily Trader 09:25

We hear you,

E

Emily Trader 09:27

and we will help you.



Emily Trader 09:33

Dawn, Rose, and the Ruth are just three members of my community willing to share their stories with me and all of you. Their courage and resilience is heroic and after exploring the causes and effects we must commit to solutions to finally give them the voice they deserve.