Communication skills and pathway

**Raise the subject**

Many women experience problems with their husband or partner, or someone else they live with.

**Direct questions**

Are you afraid of your husband or partner?
Has your husband or partner or someone else at home threatened to hurt you or physically harm you?
Has your husband or partner forced you into sex or forced you to have sexual contact you did not want?

**Listen**

Make eye contact
Reflect how she is feeling
Respect her dignity
Be gentle. Don’t rush her

**Inquire**

Ask open-ended questions
Ask for clarification or detail
Reflect back her feelings
Help her identify needs or concerns
Summarize what she said

**Validation**

It’s not your fault. You are not to blame
You are not alone
Everybody deserves to feel safe at home
I am concerned this may be affecting your health

**Enhance Safety**

Has physical violence increased over past 6 months?
Is he violently and constantly jealous of you?
Has he ever beaten you when you were pregnant?
Has he ever used or threatened you with a weapon?
Do you believe he could kill you?

**Support**

Ask her “What would help the most if we could do it right away?”

Help her to identify and consider her options
Discuss her social support