

A Checklist for Readiness for Faith Communities

Responding to Victims of Domestic Violence

Policies

- ___ Have written policies and procedures in place on how to respond to domestic violence to include:
 - ___ Safety requirements - Clearly state in your policies that safety for victims and their children is the number one goal for intervention.
 - ___ Safety planning
 - ___ Confidentiality
 - ___ Referrals to local domestic violence/sexual assault programs and shelters, batterer intervention programs, and other local agencies as needed
 - ___ Accountability for batterers
- ___ Contact local programs and develop referral strategies in responding to domestic violence.
- ___ Encourage congregants to donate time and money to domestic violence services (e.g. adopt a room at the shelter, volunteer for crisis line, etc.).

Training

- ___ Train all staff, clergy, and key lay leaders about how to recognize and respond to domestic violence victims. Use local domestic violence experts to help with this.

Awareness

- ___ Display posters about domestic violence around your church, temple, mosque, or synagogue, including restrooms and common areas. Have materials such as brochures and business cards from local domestic violence programs available in places that congregants can take them anonymously.

- _____ Conduct one or more workshops about domestic violence for your congregation and community. Use trained domestic violence professionals to present the information. Have counselors available to talk with individuals during and after presentations.
- _____ Provide pamphlets or other information about domestic violence and services in your faith community and on your website.
- _____ Purchase a video and other resources about domestic violence that can be included in your library.
- _____ Include an article about domestic violence in your congregation's newsletter or bulletin.
- _____ Discuss bullying in your Sunday school classes.
- _____ Discuss dating violence and healthy relationships in your youth program.
- _____ Discuss abuse and violence in pre-marital counseling sessions.
- _____ Preach a sermon on domestic violence that supports victims and holds perpetrators accountable.