



ESSENTIAL RESPONSE TOOL

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FAITH COMMUNITIES ADDRESS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

The Church cannot sit on the sidelines and turn a blind eye to domestic abuse. I believe churches & faith communities walk in ignorance because, frankly, domestic violence is hard to deal with and no one has a handbook for these types of situations. So, churches and faith leaders take the easy route - SILENCE. God says that we are called to "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute (Prov31:8-9). The church is called to defend the helpless. Throughout the Bible, it's clear that God always takes the side of the abused, hurting and oppressed. He hears their cries. It's time for the church to wake up and not only hear those cries, but respond to them.

~ **Pastor Kason Huddleson**

FOUR STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO ASSIST SURVIVORS:

Build upon the complex ways in which faith and community resources can support domestic violence survivors and their children.

1. Affirm:

Their courageous act of them speaking about the abuse should be affirmed.

You can tell them:

"I believe you"

"I care about you"

"You are not alone"

"it's not your fault"

3. Safety is the #1 Priority, always:

Assure the victim that their safety is important to you and the community.

Review your safe church policy and procedures with them. Ask for feedback, address any concerns.

2. Assess:

Support a survivor's need to implement their safety plan.

How can you and /or your faith community assist them?

Financially?

Emotionally?

With practical steps?

4. Refer:

Domestic violence advocates are experts at creating a detailed safety plan with the survivor.

Certain aspects of safety planning can be addressed by faith leaders, but most aspects must be left to the experts.

Tell them that an advocate can help them develop a plan for emotional, physical, and sexual safety for themselves and their family.



TRANSITIONAL RESOURCES & LONG TERM NEEDS

- Education

SUPPORT & PROBLEM SOLVING

- Basic Needs

- Job Training

CRISIS MANAGEMENT

- Hotlines

FAITH COMMUNITY EARLY ASSISTANCE

- Offer spiritual support

- Shelter

- Counseling & Support Groups

- Civil Justice

VICTIM / SURVIVOR

- Recognize the signs of abuse

- Emergency Medical

- Safety First: Connect with DV advocate

- Law Enforcement

- Financial Aid and/or Medical Assistance

- Affordable Housing

- Act as a trusted confidante

- DV Advocate

- Financial Aid and/or Medical Assistance

- Counseling & Support

- Trust their decisions

- Criminal Justice

- Children's Services

- Emergency Housing

- Attorney & Legal Services

- Child Care

- Legal Assistance



COMMUNITY RESOURCE MAP

FOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE & VIOLENCE

INSTRUCTIONS:

IDENTIFY YOUR LOCAL RESOURCES;
BEGIN TO DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS WITH THESE KEY CONTACTS

SERVICES	CONTACT NAME	PHONE NUMBER
C R I S I S M A N A G E M E N T R E S O U R C E S		
Domestic Violence Hotline: National 24/7		1-800-799-7233
Domestic Violence Shelters: Local		
Suicide Prevention Agency Hotline		
Sexual Assault Network/Hotline		
Teen Youth Care Center / Program		
Child Abuse Hotline: National and Local		
Emergency Feeding Program / Food Bank		
Local Police DV Unit / Victim Advocate Service		
Emergency Protection Order/Family Advocate		
Emergency / Urgent Medical Care		
S U P P O R T A N D P R O B L E M S O L V I N G		
Local Food Bank		
Mental Health Counseling		
Support Groups		
Legal Assistance / Family Law Assistance		
Child Protective Services		
T R A N S I T I O N A L R E S O U R C E S & L O N G T E R M N E E D S		
Support Group Classes		
Long Term Shelter Services		
Job Training		
Counseling		
Childcare while attending support classes		
Legal Assistance		

FAITHFUL RESPONSE CHECKLIST

Are you ready to help?

- **Do you know the facts about domestic violence and abuse in your community?**

Yes No

- **Does your team know how to assess domestic violence and abuse?**

Yes No

- **What safe church policies are in place in your faith community?**

Yes No

- **Does your team know how to respond to domestic violence and abuse?**

Yes No

If you do not have the answers, we are here to help. Check out Best Practices Responding to DV for more information.

CONNECT WITH US

469 - 307 - 8488

help@strongerwomen.com