

30 Ways Religious Leaders Can Respond to Sexual and Domestic Violence

30 years working for change (1977 - 2007)

1. Work to change the conditions that perpetuate violence against women
2. Give a sermon, a *dvar torah*, a *khtubah*, or spiritual teaching
3. Create an environment of awareness by displaying posters, books, and brochures
4. Host a 30th anniversary party to support the efforts of FaithTrust Institute
5. Arrange for a guest speaker for your congregation or organization
6. Implement a healthy relationships curriculum in your religious school and with your youth groups
7. Develop a policy for your congregation on sexual and domestic violence
8. Participate in clergy ethics and healthy boundaries training
9. Support the safety and wellbeing of survivors
10. Hold abusers accountable for their behavior
11. Screen for domestic violence during premarital counseling
12. Collaborate with advocates
13. Observe national stalking awareness month in January
14. Observe national child abuse awareness month and national sexual assault awareness month in April
15. Observe national domestic violence awareness month in October
16. Ask your local domestic violence, sexual assault, or child abuse program for their wish list and do a collection drive
17. Sign the National Declaration by Religious & Spiritual Leaders to Address Violence Against Women
18. Participate in your local domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions
19. Work for justice, practice peace
20. Encourage parents and child caregivers to participate in parenting classes
21. Create opportunities for the elderly to stay connected to the congregation
22. Host a community education event
23. Familiarize yourself with child protective services and adult protective services
24. Invest in change, give generously
25. Get to know your local domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse and child abuse service providers
26. Provide training for staff and volunteers on how to recognize and respond to signs of abuse
27. Refuse to participate in conversations/activities that belittle, degrade, objectify or disrespect females
28. Utilize the texts, traditions, and values of your religion as resources for addressing violence
29. Model power *with* rather than power *over*
30. Continue to educate yourself

30 Resources from FaithTrust Institute for Responding to Sexual and Domestic Violence

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1. www.faithtrustinstitute.org
2. Brochures about child abuse, clergy misconduct, domestic violence, and sexual violence
3. Camera-ready art for customizing the brochures
4. [Religious Roadblocks and Resource to Ending Domestic Violence training](#)
5. *Working Together*, an informative newsletter published 3 times per year
6. Clergy Ethics training
7. Consultation with FaithTrust Institute's multifaith team
8. [National Declaration by Religious & Spiritual Leaders to Address Violence Against Women](#)
9. *Monthly Reflections* on sexual and domestic violence available via email
10. *Domestic Violence and Jewish Values: Ideas for Action* handout
11. Asian and Pacific Islander Program
12. [Responding to Domestic Violence: Guidelines for Clergy](#)
13. [Responding to Domestic Violence: Guidelines for Secular Advocates](#)
14. Books for survivors of domestic violence: *Keeping the Faith: Guidance for Christian Women Facing Abuse; You Are Not Alone: Solace and Inspiration for Domestic Violence Survivors, Based on Jewish Wisdom*; and *What Islam Says about Domestic Violence*
15. Curricula for healthy relationships: *Love – All That and More*; *Yad B'Yad: Working Hand in Hand to Create Healthy Relationships*
16. Videos about domestic violence: *Broken Vows*; and in production: *Pastoral Care for Domestic Violence: Case Studies for Clergy*; *Ending Domestic Violence in the Muslim Community*; and The 10th Anniversary Edition of *To Save a Life: Ending Domestic Violence in Jewish Families*
17. Video/DVD series, *A Sacred Trust: Boundary Issues for Clergy and Spiritual Teachers*
18. Christian premarital counseling guide: *Opening the Door*
19. Videos about sexual abuse by clergy: *Not in My Church, Not in My Congregation*
20. Resources about child abuse: *Hear Their Cries; Shine the Light*
21. *A Journey Towards Freedom: A Haggadah for Women Who Have Experienced Domestic Violence*
22. For advocates: *Walking Together: Working with Women from Diverse Religious and Spiritual Traditions*
23. Regarding sexual ethics: *Love Does No Harm, Sexual Ethics for the Rest of Us*
24. For pastors: *God's Reconciling Love*
25. Sample sermons
26. Materials in Chinese, Korean, Laotian, Spanish, and Vietnamese
27. About sexual violence: *Sexual Violence, the Sin Revisited*
28. A true story: *Is Nothing Sacred? When Sex Invades the Pastoral Relationship*
29. Training for seminarians
30. *Journal of Religion & Abuse: Advocacy, Pastoral Care & Prevention*