

Hope for Healing. Org Domestic Violence Resource Sheet

How the church can help:

Talk about it!

- Preach it! Domestic violence is never ok.
- Pray for victims and abusers during your worship prayer time.
- Display the Hope Quilt or educational materials in a high traffic area in your church.
- Regularly publish the local hotline phone number in the church bulletin.
- Ask an advocate from your local center or from Hope for Healing.Org to come speak at worship or to a group meeting.
- Put Hope for Healing.Org in your church budget.
- Collect items (such as used cell phones) on an ongoing basis.
- Get involved! Encourage your church group to volunteer with Hope for Healing.Org or your local domestic violence program.
- Get training for yourself or your church. Host an Oasis training program by Hope for Healing.Org for your district or for your church.

Create an atmosphere of safety.

- Never counsel an abuser and a victim together.
- Be open and willing to talk.
- Check your church's Safe Sanctuary policy. Be sure everyone would know what to do and where to go in the unlikely event of an emergency.
- Make sure a land line telephone is within easy reach of the sanctuary and not just locked away in the pastor's office. Put the church address on all church telephones.
- Put up posters and resource displays.
- Place safety cards in the bathroom.
- Host a self-defense class.

Local resources:

- Domestic violence does not have to be reported. Encourage the victim but do not force the victim to make a report.
- Do not try to assign blame or take sides.
- Avoid putting the pastor in the middle.
- Know your local resources and make appropriate referrals.
- Borrow books or videos from the Hope for Healing.Org lending library.

Be Real:

- Acknowledge that domestic violence is a problem that isn't going to "just go away".
- Pray with the victim and offer appropriate, helpful, scriptures.
- Be supportive and nonjudgemental.
- Provide Christian friendship.
- Allow the victim to express pain and concerns.
- Help the victim create a safety plan.
- Encourage and help the victim to seek out local resources.

For more information please contact:

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