

Faith communities can be catalysts for programs and ministries that will bring the darkness of abuse to light and justice.

The Center for Family Safety and Healing offers free training and program development. We use the Three Rs: **Recognize, Respond, Refer** to help faith communities guide and protect those in need.

GOALS FOR FAITH COMMUNITIES:

- Increase safety of victims/survivors
- Decrease isolation of victims/survivors
- Hold perpetrators accountable
- Stand with local family violence service providers to create change in the lives of survivors and in our communities.



RESOURCES FOR VICTIMS/SURVIVORS

CHOICES 24 hr. Crisis/Shelter
614-224-4663
www.choicescolumbus.org

Buckeye Regional Anti-Violence Organization
(LGBTQI Services)
866-862-7286
www.bravo-ohio.org

Capital University Family Advocacy Clinic
614-236-6779
www.law.capital.edu

Franklin County Children Services
614-229-7000
www.franklincountyohio.gov/children_services

National Domestic Violence Hotline
800-799-7233
www.thehotline.org

Ohio Domestic Violence Network
800-934-9840
www.odvn.org

The Center for Family Safety and Healing: Intake
614-722-8293
www.familysafetyandhealing.org

RESOURCES FOR ABUSERS
Africentric Personal Development Shop
614-253-4448
www.apdsinc.org

Christian Accountability Network
614-439-5375
www.thecanetwork.com

Crossroads
614-445-0352
www.crossroadscounselinggroup.com

STOP, Inc.
614-461-7867



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www.FamilySafetyandHealing.org
f www.facebook.com/familysafetyandhealing
t @TCFSH_



Restoring Hope:
**Faith Communities' Role
in Breaking the Cycle
of Family Violence**



“NO [ONE] SHOULD EVER BE FORCED TO CHOOSE BETWEEN SAFETY AND [THEIR] RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY OR TRADITION.”

– Dr. Marie M. Fortune, Faith Trust Institute

Victims and survivors of abuse will often first disclose to their faith leader as they look for guidance, strength and restoration. Faith leaders and communities in central Ohio have made great strides in responding to these survivors and families.

Family violence is a term that encompasses child abuse and neglect, teen dating abuse, domestic violence and elder abuse.

Abusive behaviors include coercive control, physical, sexual, psychological, verbal and economic abuse. Domestic violence is a pattern of behaviors used by an intimate partner to obtain and maintain power and control of their partner.

- One in four women and one in seven men will be victims of domestic violence.
- One in four children are exposed to at least one type of family violence in their lifetime.
- One in three teen girls and one in five teen boys will be victims of teen relationship abuse.

Faith and religious traditions can provide relief and sanctuary to survivors; however, abusers can use faith traditions to harm their families.

Spiritual abuse is:

- Misusing sacred texts to demand decision-making power in the relationship
- Using religion and faith to excuse abuse of partner and/or children
- Not allowing their partner to read their sacred texts, practice their faith, or participate in religious events
- Telling their partner that they aren't worthy of their Divinity/Deity

RECOGNIZE:

An abuser may say:

- I always seem to let things build up. I go off on my partner and children.
- I do not know how to make my partner understand me. My partner does not respect me.
- I am worried that I am like my dad. I need help.

A victim may say:

- My partner is so angry when our children misbehave. How can I help my partner with their anger?
- I do not think I can be the partner my spouse expects me to be.
- I am not a good parent, I feel like I'm unable to parent my children well.
- I need to bring religion into my marriage.

RESPOND:

To Abusers:

- Tell the abuser that the abuse must stop immediately.
- Clarify that the faith community does not tolerate abusive behavior.
- Do not agree with any statements suggesting the victim is to blame.
- Be conscious of the safety issues involved. Never confront an abuser without first getting victim/survivor's full permission.
- Involve a faith leader and refer the abuser to a batterer intervention program.

To Victims/Survivors:

- Believe what the victim/survivor is saying.
- Provide support.
- Be non-judgmental. Affirm the survivor's faith no matter where they stand.
- Avoid blaming attitudes or statements.
- Support their decision no matter if you agree with them or not.
- Help them to remain in their faith community.

Faith communities are beacons of hope for families torn apart by family violence.

Faith Communities Can:

RESTORE hope to victims and survivors

REVIVE faith communities' commitment to intervention

IGNITE faith communities to be a catalyst for change

