

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE Resources for Spiritual Leaders in Victoria

Resources for Women & Children Impacted by Abuse

Safety First

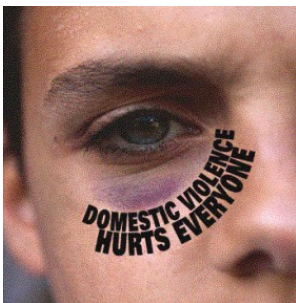
Women and children in abusive relationships are at increased risk for violence when they:

- 1) Disclose the abuse, OR
- 2) Leave the relationship

It is important to have a well-developed safety plan.

Sample Safety Plans

www.cridge.org/cthw/resources/



Help for Men who use Violence:

Family Violence Program at Pacific Centre Family Services Association

250 478 8357

www.pacificcentrefamilyservices.org/programs/family-violence-program

Transition Houses

30 day emergency shelter, support and connections to community resources

The Cridge Transition House for Women: 250- 479-3963 (24 hour line)
www.cridge.org

Victoria Women's Transition House: 250- 385-6611 (24 hour line)
www.transitionhouse.net

Annie's Place (Sooke Transition House): 250-642-2591 or pager 250-480-5461 (24 hours)

Outreach Workers

Outreach workers offer support to women who are unsure of their options, or who require help but do not want to go to a transition house

The Cridge Transition House Outreach: 250-479 3963

Counselling/Support Groups

Stopping the Violence Counselling:

Short-term individual and group counselling for women impacted by abuse

Victoria Women's Transition House: 250-592-2927

Pacific Centre Family Services Association: 250-478-8357 ext 344

Women's Drop-In Support Group : 250-478- 8357 ext 344

Support Group for Older Women Who Have Experienced Abuse: 250-592-2927 ext 223

Children's Programs

Help Line for Children (24 hours): 310-1234

Children Who Witness Abuse Counselling (individual & group): 250-592-2927 ext 11

Caught in the Middle Program: 250-386-4331

Support for children 6-12 whose parents are separating or divorcing.

Mary Manning- Child Abuse Prevention and Counselling Society: 250-385-6111

For children and youth who have experienced sexual abuse or who are at increased risk for sexual abuse.

How to Help a Victim of Domestic Violence

The Facts About Domestic Violence

- 1 in 4 Canadian women will experience relationship violence in her lifetime (bcsth.ca)
- 90% of domestic violence victims are women (mcc.org)
- Christian women are less likely to report domestic violence to a friend or helping professional than non-Christian (theraveproject.ca)
- Men who use violence are 20% more likely to complete an anti-abuse program if they have the support of their faith leaders

- Find a safe place to talk and have someone else present if this is acceptable to her
- Believe her, and listen to her without judgment, attempts to fix, or give advice
- Support her when she makes decisions about her future, even though you may not understand or agree with her choices
- Make safety the main priority for her and her children, not the immediate restoration of her marriage
- Reassure her that she is not responsible for, and did not cause, the abuser's behavior
- Let her know that what the abuser has done is wrong and unacceptable
- Offer her information regarding community resources for victims of domestic violence
- Offer to contact agencies on her behalf
- Deal with the issue of abuse in your sermons and teachings. Let it be known in the community that you are a person abused women can trust

SOURCES: Gwen Scott, "Helpful Information for Pastors & Christian Workers" Community Action on Violence Against Women, "There's No Excuse for Abuse"

It is NOT Helpful to...

- Judge, minimize or doubt her experience
- Blame her for provoking the abuse
- Ask her why she stays, or why it took her so long to disclose the abuse
- Suggest or facilitate couples counselling, family mediation, or marriage courses
- Suggest that she "forgive and try again"
- Contact her at home, unless she has indicated that it is safe to do so
- Discuss the situation with others who might inadvertently pass information to the abuser about her actions or whereabouts
- Pressure her to take action before she is ready
- React passively or do nothing
- Offer to be a character witness for the abuser in court, or provide him with a letter of support
- Believe that the crisis is over when she leaves the abusive relationship

SOURCE: Gwen Scott, "Helpful Information for Pastors & Christian Workers"

Document compiled by the staff of:



Online Resources:

RAVE- Religion and Violence E-learning (a Christian-based resource)
www.theraveproject.com

Ending the Violence Association
www.endingviolence.org

Victim Link

www.victimlinkbc.ca
(go to "Get Help" and "Domestic Violence")

Interfaith Domestic Violence Coalition Website
www.jwi.org/page.aspx?pid=416