

ECONOMIC, HEALTH, AND GENDER JUSTICE

What does the Bible say?

Thus says the Lord God: Enough O princes of Israel! Put away violence and oppression, and do what is just and right. Cease your evictions of my people, says the Lord God. **(Ezekiel 45:9)**

Jesus' concern for the victim is seen in the story of the Good Samaritan **(Luke 10:25-37)**. By concluding this parable with the words, "Go and do likewise," Jesus indicates that we are to receive all people who have been violated or abused, who are weak or vulnerable, with particular compassion and caring.

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. **(John 13:34)**



What does the United Methodist Church say?

Recognizing the inherent worth and dignity of all people, we condemn sexual harassment, abuse, and assault and consider them grave violations of the established behavioral norms within the church as well as our larger society. **(The Social Community, Other Issues, M. Sexual Harassment, Abuse, and Assault)**

We advocate the development and implementation of comprehensive policies and practices in relation to cases of suspected sexual abuse and assault, especially when such cases involve minor children or others incapable of giving their consent. Even unsubstantiated reports of assault or abuse must be investigated immediately. **(The Social Community, Other Issues, M. Sexual Harassment, Abuse, and Assault)**

All of creation is sacred in God's sight. Because many women and children, along with others, are ignored, abused, and violated, we urge renewed commitment to prohibiting violence against women and children in all its forms. **(2020/2024 Book of Resolutions, #3355, Eradicating Sexual and Gender-Based Violence)**

United Methodists have worked to eradicate the many forms of violence that destroy the integrity of individuals, families, communities, and nations. People of faith must work to change attitudes, beliefs, policies, and practices at all levels of society that dehumanize and promote the exploitation and abuse of women and girls. Women with equal rights are better educated, healthier, and have greater access to land, jobs, and financial resources. Because women and children, along with others, are ignored, abused, and violated, we urge renewed commitment to eradicating violence against women and children in all its forms. **(2020/2024 Book of Resolutions, #3355, Eradicating Sexual and Gender-Based Violence)**



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living FAITH Seeking JUSTICE Pursuing PEACE

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

What do the facts say?

- Globally, at least 1 in 3 women has been beaten, coerced into sex, or abused in some other way most often by someone she knows, including by her husband or another male family member; one woman in four has been abused during pregnancy.¹
- The presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases risk of homicide by 500%.²
- Women who are beaten by their partners are 48 percent more likely to be infected with HIV/AIDS.³
- Abuse occurs in every community - every racial/ethnic composition and every economic status, in rural areas as well as cities, in families adhering to every religion and to no religion. Men are also victims of domestic violence.



¹ Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, ² National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, ³ Unite to End Violence Against Women

What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

- **Identify** resources and programs in your church that seek to prevent domestic violence and to create a safe place for people who have experienced abuse.
- **Advocate** for the passage and implementation of laws at local and national levels of government to prevent abuse, protect victims and hold perpetrators accountable.
- **Teach** and model healthy masculinity. Engage men as allies with women to lessen violence and risk factors for abuse.
- **Organize** forums, inviting outside speakers, including survivors and advocates to facilitate discussions.



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