

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?

We recognize that family violence and abuse in all its forms — verbal, psychological, physical, sexual — is detrimental to the covenant of the human community. We encourage the Church to provide a safe environment, counsel and support for the victim. While we deplore the action of the abuser, we affirm that person to be in need of God's redeeming love. **(Social Principles ¶ 161.G)**

The history of our faith is the history of attempts to recover the insight of Genesis 1 that all creation is sacred in God's sight, and all human beings are creatures of sacred worth. Jesus was an advocate for the sacred worth of all...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. **(2016 Book of Resolutions, Eradicating Sexual and Gender-based Violence)**



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living **FAITH** Seeking **JUSTICE** Pursuing **PEACE**

WOMEN AND CHILDREN

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 per cent 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. Additional information at www.faithtrustinstitute.org.

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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