Let the dignity of other people be as important to you as your own. - Pirke Avot

Develop Protocols

Have an action plan in place to follow if a victim of abuse asks for help or if you learn that a synagogue member is being abusive. Prioritize the safety of victim(s) and the Our Children accountability of the abuser. Make sure all teachers Be ready to make referrals and youth group leaders receive to area service training about how to recognize providers.

abuse and whom to approach with concerns. Include age-appropriate prevention programming about teen dating violence and family violence for children and youth.

Educate

Use Your Prophetic Voice

Give sermons on domestic violence to build awareness, teach that family violence is not acceptable in the Jewish community, and emphasize that help is available. Incorporate special prayers on domestic violence, e.g. during the "Al Chet" prayer on Yom Kippur.

Training Participate in workshops designed for clergy to learn safe and effective ways to address domestic violence in your congregation. Network with other rabbis for support. Contact Safe Havens for education and technical assistance.

Create a Safe Haven

Make your synagogue a safe place where victims of abuse can ask for help. Let your community know that you are prepared to provide support. Keep an updated list of referral resources for women, men, and

children.

Family Events You may have more contact with families during events such as weddings, brit milah, baby namings/simchat habat, bar and bat mitzvah, and funerals. Observe the dynamics within families and share resources as needed. Be alert that pregnancy and the arrival of a child may escalate abusive behavior.

Teach

Through

Rabbinic Response

Get

Educate Your Congregation

Sponsor education programs on domestic

violence. Invite staff from local domestic violence agencies as Shabbat speakers. Print articles Work that include lists of community resources as a Team in the synagogue bulletin. Post Domestic violence bathroom flyers with resource is a complex problem numbers. Include abuse that requires a team approach. in pre-marital Clearly define your role as a counseling. rabbi, and be ready to refer by building relationships with domestic violence advocates, police, and staff at state-certified batterer

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intervention programs.

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