

Pieces of a Bigger Picture

Faith Communities and Service Providers Working Together to Support Victims of Sexual and Domestic Violence

And among His signs is this: that He created for you mates from among yourselves, that you may dwell in tranquility with them, and He has put love and mercy between your (hearts). Verily in that are signs for those who reflect. - Surat Ar-Rūm 30:21

Develop Protocols to Help Domestic Violence Victims

Have an action plan in place to follow if a victim of abuse asks for help or if a mosque member is abusive. Prioritize the safety of victims. Support victims. Be ready to refer to area service providers.

Make sure all teachers and youth group leaders receive training about how to recognize abuse and whom to approach with concerns. Include age-appropriate prevention programming about healthy relationships and family violence for children and youth.

Use Your Religious Authority

Give khutbas on domestic violence to build

awareness, teach that family violence is not

acceptable in your community, and

emphasize that help is available.

abuse.

Educate

Our Children

Muslim **Community** Response

Get

Training Speak publicly against Participate in domestic workshops designed for religious leaders to learn safe and effective ways to address domestic violence in your mosque. Network with other imams and faith leaders for support. Contact Safe Havens for education and technical assistance.

Create a Safe Haven

Make your mosque 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 in your community.

through **Life Experiences**

Teach

You may have more contact with families around life experiences such as ageegahs, weddings, and funerals. Observe the dynamics within families and share resources as needed. Pregnancy and the arrival of a child may escalate abusive behavior. Include

Educate Your Community

Sponsor education programs on domestic violence. Invite staff from local shelters and other providers to speak at workshops on the family. Work Print articles that include lists of as a Team community resources in programs Domestic violence or newsletters. Post bathroom is a complex problem flyers with resource that requires a team approach. numbers. Clearly define your role as an imam or community leader, and be ready to refer by building relationships with domestic violence advocates, police,

and staff at state-certified batterer

intervention programs.