

Pieces of a Bigger Picture

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

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 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.

rabbis for support. Contact Safe

Havens for education and

technical assistance.

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

Educate

Our Children

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

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.

Teach

through

Observe the dynamics within families and share resources as needed. Be alert that pregnancy and the arrival of a child may escalate abusive behavior.

Rabbinic Response

Get

children.

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. **Training** Incorporate special prayers on Participate in domestic violence, e.g., during workshops designed the "Al Chet" prayer on for clergy to learn safe and Yom Kippur. effective ways to address domestic violence in your congregation. Network with other

Work as a Team Domestic violence is a complex problem that requires a team approach. Clearly define your role as a violence advocates, police, and staff at state-certified batterer intervention programs.

Educate Your Congregation

Sponsor education programs on domestic violence. Invite staff from local domestic violence agencies as Shabbat speakers. Print articles that include lists of community resources in the synagogue bulletin. Post bathroom flyers with resource numbers. Include abuse in pre-marital counseling. rabbi, and be ready to refer by building relationships with domestic