

30 Ways Religious Leaders Can Respond to Sexual and Domestic Violence

30 years working for change (1977 - 2007)

1. Work to change the conditions that perpetuate violence against women
2. Give a sermon, a *dvar torah*, a *khtubah*, or spiritual teaching
3. Create an environment of awareness by displaying posters, books, and brochures
4. Host a 30th anniversary party to support the efforts of FaithTrust Institute
5. Arrange for a guest speaker for your congregation or organization
6. Implement a healthy relationships curriculum in your religious school and with your youth groups
7. Develop a policy for your congregation on sexual and domestic violence
8. Participate in clergy ethics and healthy boundaries training
9. Support the safety and wellbeing of survivors
10. Hold abusers accountable for their behavior
11. Screen for domestic violence during premarital counseling
12. Collaborate with advocates
13. Observe national stalking awareness month in January
14. Observe national child abuse awareness month and national sexual assault awareness month in April
15. Observe national domestic violence awareness month in October
16. Ask your local domestic violence, sexual assault, or child abuse program for their wish list and do a collection drive
17. Sign the National Declaration by Religious & Spiritual Leaders to Address Violence Against Women
18. Participate in your local domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions
19. Work for justice, practice peace
20. Encourage parents and child caregivers to participate in parenting classes
21. Create opportunities for the elderly to stay connected to the congregation
22. Host a community education event
23. Familiarize yourself with child protective services and adult protective services
24. Invest in change, give generously
25. Get to know your local domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse and child abuse service providers
26. Provide training for staff and volunteers on how to recognize and respond to signs of abuse
27. Refuse to participate in conversations/activities that belittle, degrade, objectify or disrespect females
28. Utilize the texts, traditions, and values of your religion as resources for addressing violence
29. Model power *with* rather than power *over*
30. Continue to educate yourself