



Help survivors in your congregation find freedom and healing today.

## WHAT SERVICES AND TRAININGS DO WE OFFER?

We can provide education and technical assistance in the following areas:

Domestic violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Child Abuse, Stalking, Primary Prevention Strategies, Community Collaborations and Task Forces, Traumainformed care, Offender accountability, Human Trafficking, Prison Rape Elimination Act, Access to services for marginalized and underserved communities, Campus Prevention and Intervention initiatives, Intersectionality and victimization experiences.

We can also connect you to your local domestic violence and sexual assault organization for training and services.

### **WHO WE ARE**

### ABOUT US

We work towards ending domestic and sexual violence in South Carolina and beyond through engaging individuals and communities in advocacy, collaboration and education. We advocate for the transformative social change that will result in a society free of violence, push for policy changes that support survivors, and provide education and technical assistance to build the capacity of our members, allied organizations and communities to provide trauma-informed and survivor-centered services.

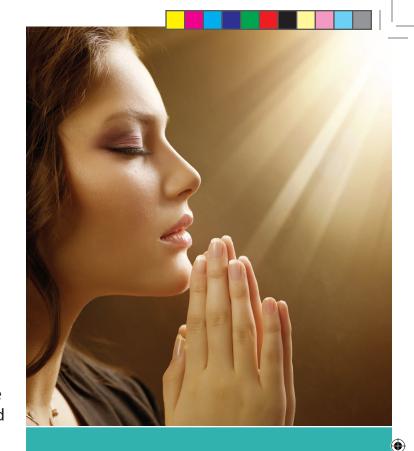
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# WORKING WITH FAITH COMMUNITIES TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ABUSE







#### STATISTICS ARE NOT JUST NUMBERS. THEY TELL US THE STORY OF LIVES IMPACTED BY DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

South Carolina ranks in the top ten states in the nation in the rate of women killed by men. (Violence Policy Center)

There were 18,740 emergency hotline calls made to domestic violence organizations in FY 2015. These 13 organizations provided emergency shelter to 2,796 adults and children fleeing violence in their homes.

In 2015, over 5,500 individuals accessed services for the first time at a Rape Crisis Center in South Carolina (DHEC), which of course, does not include previous years or those people who do not report or seek out services.



## HOW DOES THIS AFFECT YOUR CONGREGATION?

Of the thousands affected by domestic violence and sexual assault every year, a large number of these survivors are members of their faith community. They may seek healing and answers through a faith-based, trauma-informed lens.

> "We seek healing mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually for all survivors."

## WHAT CAN FAITH COMMUNITIES DO TO RAISE AWARENESS AND SUPPORT SURVIVORS?

- Designate a week or month to raise awareness about domestic and sexual violence through worship, adult and youth education, newsletters and special events.
- Establish a congregational policy that has a clear statement about our understanding of and intolerance for domestic and sexual violence and procedures for reporting possible abuse.

- Invite a guest speaker from a local domestic violence or sexual assault organization.
- Use educational curricula for all ages in classes and youth groups that teach how to identify and prevent abuse and educate around healthy relationships.
- Offer training for community leaders (especially clergy) on issues of domestic violence, sexual harassment and abuse, and laws on mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse.

# COLLABORATION: WORKING TOGETHER TO END DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE.

We seek out and offer training for clergy and community leaders to educate and create awareness around domestic and sexual violence. We understand that faith can be an instrumental tool for healing and recovery. We look to serve survivors through education and training as the means to engage in the prevention of sexual and domestic violence.

Source: http://www.faithtrustinstitute.org/

