

10 Building Blocks to Make Your Church a Safe Space for Domestic Violence Survivors

I can't leave. I feel it would be very difficult to take care of my kids or live by myself.

I am not sure I can talk about what is going on in my home with some one at church?

1 in 3 women experience some form of domestic violence.



This is happening in churches too.



Make your church a safe space for survivors.



Educate churches on the **DOs and DON'Ts** of how to support women who face abuse

RAISE AWARENESS within the congregation to accept domestic violence happens in churches too.

Appoint a person in your church to offer **PASTORAL SUPPORT** for people who discloses abuse.

EMPOWER SURVIVORS of domestic abuse to then be able to help other women in similar situations.

EDUCATE NEW CLERGY at theological colleges on VAW.

Create **'SAFE GROUPS'** in churches for survivors of domestic violence.

Raise awareness with young people. Use **YOUTH GROUPS** and marriage preparation **COURSES** to talk about healthy relationship and what abuse is.

Preach **SERMONS** on the use of power and control in relationships & teachings on some of the often misquoted scriptures.

Encourage **CHRISTIAN UNION'S** at Universities to raise awareness of VAW.

Display information clearly on **LOCAL SERVICES AND HELP LINES** in churches.