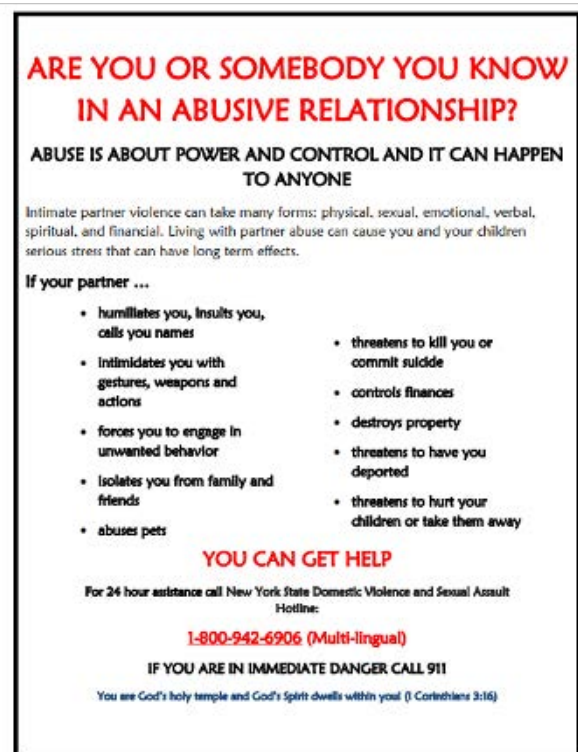


“Signs of Support:” Signs, Brochures & Actions

Episcopal Relief & Development recognizes that the global epidemic of violence against women and girls impedes the transformation of just societies, erodes the human assets and strengths of a community, causes severe health problems for women and children and stunts health and economic activity. Learn more about how we are taking action [here](#).

The Episcopal Diocese of New York’s Task Force on Intimate Partner Violence created bathroom signs, shown below on the right, which you can find [here](#). Available in both English and Spanish, they are available for faith communities to display not only in their bathrooms but also in area businesses and restaurants, reminding women that they are beloved by God and that if they are in danger, help is available. The image on the left is an example of the many bathroom signs available from other intimate partner violence response agencies. You can also create a brochure [like this one](#), updated for your community.

We encourage you to modify these ideas to suit your own community’s needs and local resources.



Additional Ways Your Team Can Show Support for Women & Girls

Before you create signs and brochures guiding people toward help from your team, it's important to be ready to respond. Seek guidance from experts in your community.

Here are things to consider as your team prepares your community to lead:

- Have a list of resources available, including brochures like the one listed above. Survivors, faith leaders and key members of the community should also have these resources on hand. A local brochure should include agencies, counselors, support groups, batterers' intervention programs, attorneys, shelters, information about courts, etc.
- Display information: where can people go for help? Make sure there is information, phone numbers, lists of resources, support groups, agencies, hotlines, legal advocacy, etc. Information should be put in the weekly bulletin or on the website. You can share the city's hotline number and have a section that defines intimate partner violence, etc.
- Include survivor testimonies in your teaching moments. This includes adults who were exposed to intimate partner violence as children and men who have transformed their lives. This is a powerful way to illuminate the issue and to lessen the taboos around talking about domestic violence.



Ghanaian Health Service sponsored by Episcopal Relief & Development's program partner, ADDRO, held a workshop on health that covered prevention of diseases such as malaria, diarrhea, and pneumonia. Pre-natal care was also discussed along with breastfeeding and diet.

- Remember: this is not just a women's issue. It is a community issue and if your faith community is going to take intimate partner violence seriously, the men of the community must partner with the women and work with other men to address it. Men's retreats, women's retreats, conferences, etc., are excellent places to address family violence.
- Include discussions about intimate partner violence in any premarital counseling and marriage seminars.
- Exploring these worship, formation ABCD and engagement resources will expand your awareness of how VAWG impacts members both inside, and outside of your community. It is important to take seriously the capacity you have to support those struggling with intimate partner violence. Even when interest is strong, we encourage you to partner directly with local organizations already engaged in this complicated work. Leaning on your assets, this partnership and offering of resources can come in many forms:
 - * **Practical needs:** Housing, food, transportation, clothing, etc., for survivors and their children. Will you create a fund?
 - * **Shelter:** Do members of the community have space to offer temporary shelter?
 - * **Court accompaniment:** Will members of the support team be available to accompany the survivor to court?
 - * **Ongoing spiritual and emotional support:** Will members of the support team check in with survivor regularly, pray with her, offer to spend time with children, listen compassionately or host a support group?
 - * **Accountability:** Will someone be a mentor/ sponsor/accountability partner to an abusive partner? Will you be willing to host a support group for those who have been abused?