

The Mayor's Center for Faith & Community Partnerships &
The Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence
present



Faith in Action Against DV



NYC
CFCP | THE CENTER
Center for Faith and
Community Partnerships

NYC
Mayor's Office to
Combat Domestic
Violence

Dear Faith Leader:

Thank you for participating in OCDV's Weekend of Action 2018. You will be joining faith leaders of many cultures and traditions to raise awareness about Intimate Partner Violence within the faith community. We hope you will work with us over the next month to strengthen engagement from faith partners and support capacity to respond to victims and connect them to services.

The Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence (OCDV), established in 2001, oversees the citywide delivery of domestic violence services. This includes but is not limited to; developing policies and innovative programs, working with diverse communities, City agencies, and community based organizations to raise awareness about domestic violence and strengthening safety of victims and children.

Intimate Partner Violence is a serious societal and spiritual concern. It hinders the dignity of human beings and basic moral principles of all religious faith traditions. Spiritual leaders are often the first person community members are compelled to turn to at times of distress or a crisis, and they are in positions to provide counsel, moral support, and safety. It is our goal to bring these issues to the forefront, educate community members about the prevalence of IPV, take action, and alert survivors to the many service and resource options that are available to them.

This Resource tool kit includes; information about the prevalence of IPV, including fact sheets and borough specific statistics, and guidance on addressing IPV in the community. It also includes resources for IPV including FJC's (Family Justice Centers), hotlines and CBO's (Community Based Organizations), clergy self-care, and training offerings and outreach options.

The Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence will provide information on available training offerings, contact information, and links for registration.

Thank you again for participating in OCDV Weekend of Action 2018.

Best regards,
Cecile Noel, Commissioner,
Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence

What is Intimate Partner Violence?

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a pattern of coercive and abusive behaviors used to gain and maintain power and control over an intimate partner. Intimate partners include current or former spouses or dating partners of any gender or sexual orientation and people with children in common. IPV can include many forms of abuse including physical, sexual, financial, psychological, and intimidation to name a few.

The term domestic violence (DV) is often used interchangeably with intimate partner violence. However, DV is an umbrella term that can also refer to violence between other family members such as between a parent and child or between siblings.

IPV is incredibly prevalent; there were over 90,000 IPV reports made to NYPD in 2016. IPV is the third leading cause of homelessness and can affect people regardless of religion, race, gender identity, sexual orientation or socio economic status.

It is imperative to remember when working with someone who you think may be a victim of IPV that their safety is a priority. The following guide is designed to make your interactions with potential victims of IPV as safe and helpful as possible.

How Members of the Faith Community can Support Victims of IPV

Create a culture of safety and support

- Be willing to see and acknowledge the problem
- Start by believing the person being abused
- Assist the person with their choices without being judgmental
- Have resources and information readily available and on display (brochures, educational materials, Family Justice Center locations and DV hotline posters)
- Be proactive with individuals who may need your attention, while respecting their right to privacy and self-determination

Develop a protocol on how faith community members can support people experiencing IPV

- Learn appropriate ways to respond to both people being abused and people using abuse
- Establish a policy for addressing disclosures within the faith community
- Set clear boundaries about acceptable and unacceptable behaviors within the faith community and place of worship

Know your community resources and post the information

- Share domestic violence resources with the faith community
- **NYC Domestic Violence Hotline: (800) 621-HOPE (4673)**
- The **NYC Family Justice Centers** provide FREE and CONFIDENTIAL assistance to victims of IPV, sex trafficking and elder abuse and welcomes people of all ages, sexual orientations and gender identities, regardless of language spoken, immigration status or income. Open M-F 9-5pm, no appointment necessary:
 - o **Bronx FJC:** 198 East 161st Street, 2nd Floor. (718) 508-1220
 - o **Brooklyn FJC:** 350 Jay Street, 15th Floor (718) 250-5113
 - o **Manhattan FJC:** 80 Centre Street, 5th Floor (212)602-2800
 - o **Queens FJC:** 126-02 82nd Avenue (718) 575- 4545
 - o **Staten Island FJC:** 126 Stuyvesant Place (718) 697- 2800

Understand the dynamics of intimate partner violence

- Consider effects of IPV beyond the individual being abused, particularly impacts on children, family members and the community
- Schedule trainings from professionals in the field of IPV, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence
 - o Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence
DV Training Team
Office: (212) 788-2799
OCDVTraining@cityhall.nyc.gov
<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/ocdv/about/about-ocdv.page>

- o **CONNECT:** CONNECT is dedicated to preventing interpersonal violence and promoting gender justice. By building partnerships with individuals and communities, CONNECT strives to help change the beliefs, behaviors and institutions that perpetuate violence. Through legal empowerment, grassroots mobilization and transformative education, CONNECT seeks to create safe families and peaceful communities.

www.connectnyc.org

Rev. Dr. Sally MacNichol

212.683.0015 x 216

smacnichol@connectnyc.org

Rev. Keisha Kogan

Kkogan@connectnyc.org

connectfaith@connectnyc.org

Promote an understanding of spiritual abuse within the context of IPV

- Be aware that abusers will often misuse religious texts/scriptures to convince the victim that abuse is acceptable in their faith
- Let the victim know that breaking the marriage bond is not a sin within the context of domestic violence
- Assure the person experiencing abuse that it is not their fault and they do not have to stay with person abusing them for spiritual reasons

Create ongoing support network

- Form a support group for survivors dedicated to raising awareness of IPV
- Post videos with hashtags on social media platforms to create a string of inspiring videos on these issues across faiths
- Educate and engage the youth community to help raise awareness

Working with People Experiencing Abuse

DO: Offer supportive statements and remind the victim that the abuse is not their fault.

DO NOT: Use victim blaming language. Stay away from the “Why?”

DO: Understand and accept your role as a supportive guide.

DO NOT: Give orders to the victim about what they “should do”.

DO: Provide appropriate options.

DO NOT: Insist that the victim utilize resources you’ve provided.

Remember, disclosing the abuse does not mean the person experiencing abuse is ready to take action.

DO: Check your biases and listen nonjudgmentally. Avoid criticizing the victim’s actions or behaviors.

DO NOT: Underestimate the importance of listening.

DO NOT: React with disbelief, disgust, or anger at what the victim survivor tells you.

DO: Prioritize the safety of the person experiencing abuse.

DO NOT: Inquire about the abuse in front of others.

DO: Protect the victim’s confidentiality.

DO NOT: Ask about the abuse in front of other people, give information about the victim survivor’s whereabouts to the abuser or to others who might pass information on to the abuser. Do not discuss with other people in your faith community (e.g. the parish council/session/elders who might inadvertently pass information on to the abuser.)

DO: Help the victim survivor with any religious or spiritual concerns.

DO NOT: Pressure the victim to forgive or to pray that the abuse goes away.

DO: Believe them. Their description of the violence is only the tip of the iceberg.

DO NOT: Recommend couples counseling or approach the abusive person and ask for their side of the story.” These actions could escalate the abuse.

DO: Support and respect the victim survivor’s choices.

DO NOT: Recommend “marriage enrichment,” “mediation,” or a “communications workshop.” None of these will address the goals listed above, and are not effective when there is fear, or an imbalance of power and control in the relationship.

DO: Educate yourself and your faith community. None of these guidelines make a difference without understanding the tactics and dynamics of abuse.

Working with People who Use Abuse

DO: Encourage and support behavior change while being clear that any type of abuse is unacceptable.

DO NOT: Suggest couple’s counseling. This may seriously jeopardize the victim’s safety.

DO: Hold the person using abuse accountable for their actions.

DO NOT: Let anxiety or fear prevent you from holding the abuser accountable.

DO: Get consent from the victim before speaking with the abusive partner.

DO NOT: Meet with the abuser alone (meet in a public area); conspire with the abuser in any way; or share in information about the victim’s location.

For more information go to the Mayor’s Office to Combat Domestic Violence at: <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/ocdv/about/about-ocdv.page>

Next Steps and How to Connect

Over the next month, OCDV & partners invite you to take action against intimate partner violence. Here are some ways in which you can do that:

Show your support: Purple is the official color of DV Awareness. On the weekend of February 9th to the 11th, 2018, when this campaign commences and in recognition of the First Lady's action against gender-based violence, we ask faith leaders and their members to wear purple in solidarity with DV survivors. Decorate your houses of worship with purple ribbons & decorations. Post videos of your sermons which denounce IPV and express support for victims. Take and post photos of your congregation wearing purple to social media, to share with the world your show of support. Use the hashtag **#GoPurple** and **#NYCFaithInActionAgainstDV**

Sermons and messaging: Carry messages within your sermons that denounce relationship abuse and promote healthy relationships, trust, equality and respect. Share messages of understanding and hope, and encourage members to respond supportively and non-judgmentally to those who may be experiencing abuse.

Share information and resources: Invite OCDV or DV partners to present to your congregation or table at a service or faith event so people can avail themselves of the materials and information the City has to offer.

Build capacity: Request training for you and your staff from the OCDV Policy & Training department or partners. Schedule a workshop or presentation for your congregants by the OCDV Outreach Team. Register for a workshop by the Healthy Relationship Training Academy for your youth, parents, or adults working with youth. Create a policy and procedure within your house of worship for how you will respond to and address disclosures of IPV within your congregation.

Help spread the word: Plan and organize an outreach event in your community to raise awareness about services and resources. Work with the OCDV outreach team to hand out flyers at a busy transit station, host a town hall, special event, or forum where the issue can be presented and discussed.

Visit the Family Justice Center in your borough: Schedule a tour of the center in your borough and meet the team and on-site partners so you understand the variety of comprehensive, holistic, and wrap-around services available. Become familiar with the people and experience members can expect when they walk through our doors.

Support: Organize a donation drive to collect food, clothing, or supplies for a DV shelter or service center.

Create your own way to engage with this topic using the strengths, skills, and resources within your faith community!

As we seek to increase capacity, build trust and awareness, and engage with you and your faith communities, please feel free to contact the following OCDV departments and partners:

The New York City Family Justice Centers:

If someone you know is in a relationship that makes them feel scared, hurt or unsafe, refer them to one of the 5 New York City Family Justice Centers. The FJs provide **FREE** and **CONFIDENTIAL** assistance to survivors of intimate partner violence, sex trafficking and elder abuse. We welcome people of all ages, sexual orientations and gender identities, regardless of what language you speak, your immigration status or your income. **All Centers are open Monday through Friday from 9:00AM – 5:00PM.** Spoken translation services are available at every Center. No appointment necessary.



Are you in a relationship that makes you feel scared, hurt or unsafe?

New York City Family Justice Centers

The New York City Family Justice Centers provide **FREE** and **CONFIDENTIAL** assistance to survivors of intimate partner violence, sex trafficking and elder abuse. We welcome people of all ages, sexual orientations and gender identities, regardless of what language you speak, your immigration status or your income.

All Centers are open Monday through Friday from 9:00AM – 5:00PM.

Spoken translation services are available at every Center.

No appointment necessary.

NYC Family Justice Center, Bronx
198 East 161st Street, 2nd Floor
(718) 508-1220

Subway: **4** **B** **D** to Yankee Stadium
Bus: BX1, BX2, BX6 and BX13

NYC Family Justice Center, Brooklyn
350 Jay Street
(718) 250-5111

Subway: **A** **C** **F** **R** to Jay Street
or **2** **3** **4** **5** to Borough Hall
Bus: B25, B26, B38, B54, B57, B61, B62, B65,
B67, B75 and B103

NYC Family Justice Center, Manhattan
80 Centre Street
(212) 602-2800

Subway: **4** **5** **6** to Brooklyn Bridge-City Hall
J **Z** to Chambers Street
N **Q** **R** to Canal Street
1 **2** **3** **A** **C** to Chambers Street
Bus: M5, M9, M22 and M103

NYC Family Justice Center, Queens
126-02 82nd Avenue
(718) 575-4545

Subway: **E** **F** to Kew Gardens-Union Turnpike
Bus: Q10, Q37, Q46 and Q60

NYC Family Justice Center, Staten Island
126 Stuyvesant Place
(718) 697-4300

Close to the St. George Ferry terminal
Staten Island Railroad to St. George
Bus: S40, S42, S44, S46, S48, S51, S52, S61, S62, S66, S74,
S76, S78, S81, S84, S86, S90, S91, S92, S94, S96 and S98

The Policy & Training Institute:

OCDV's **Policy and Training Institute** (the Institute) focuses on building awareness, skills and capacity around issues related to IPV throughout New York City. The Institute is comprised of two training programs and a policy unit: the Domestic Violence Training Team and the Healthy Relationships Training Academy (the Academy). The Institute's Policy unit builds on the work of the other two programs by identifying, evaluating and implementing new policy and legislative initiatives.

The Domestic Violence Training Team (DVTT) works with City Agencies and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to build capacity around topics related to Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). The team is comprised of Policy and Training Coordinators who have drawn on their own expertise to develop introductory and advanced curricula tailored to address the needs of a wide variety of service providers with varying levels of experience with IPV. The team works with City Agencies and CBOs to identify IPV training needs for staff, implement ongoing staff trainings, review current policies and protocols around IPV, and provide ongoing technical support as needed.

If you have further questions, or would like to schedule training, please contact (212) 788-2799 or OCDVtraining@cityhall.nyc.gov

The Healthy Relationships Academy (The Academy) provides educational and skills-building workshops for adolescents, parents, and organizations that provide services to young people. In 2016 the Academy developed the Creating Awareness about Relationship Equality (CARE) program to reach youth in the City's foster care system and other vulnerable youth populations. The Academy's workshops on dating violence and healthy relationships are facilitated by expert peer educators and give young people a meaningful opportunity to build awareness about IPV, identify relevant resources, and develop tools to promote equitable relationships.

If you have further questions, or would like to schedule a workshop, please contact (212) 788-2516 or OCDVAcademy@cityhall.nyc.gov

The Outreach Team:

OCDV's charter mandate includes public education and outreach to communities across the city. To that end we have a team of Community Liaisons, as well as a Director of Programs and Community Partnerships at each FJC, who can be conduits to agency and partner services, or travel to your community to engage and support you in your efforts. OCDV is currently engaged with artists and art organizations that use various modalities to support conversations and learning.

If you are interested in planning or hosting an event such as a presentation, activity, or performance, please contact a member of the outreach team in your borough. Dial (212) 788-3156 or email the following team members

Manhattan: Flore Baptiste (212) 788-2870 or FBaptiste@OCDV.nyc.gov

Brooklyn & Queens: Kevin Morris (212) 788-2405 or KMorris@OCDV.nyc.gov

Staten Island: Mateo Cello (212) 788-8384 or MCello@OCDV.nyc.gov

Bronx: Kevin Perry (212) 788-6825 or KPerry@OCDV.nyc.gov

Notes

