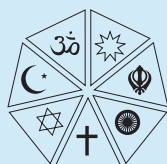




PROMOTING EQUALITY AND RESPECT:

An interfaith collaboration on preventing family violence



This resource has been developed as part of the CHALLENGE Family Violence project, a partnership between City of Casey, Cardinia Shire Council, City of Greater Dandenong and Monash Health. This project has been funded under the Reducing Violence against Women and their Children grants program, part of the Victorian Government's Community Crime Prevention Program – local solutions for local crime prevention issues.



This resource is supported by the City of Greater Dandenong Interfaith Network.



WELCOME

The relationships we have with our husbands, wives, partners and families are an important part of our lives. Sadly, many women and children are abused, intimidated and degraded by their partners or family members. This is known as family violence and is used to control and dominate another person.

Family violence is a major social and human rights issue in our society. Family violence is largely experienced by women and their children, and largely committed by men. Some people think that alcohol, financial stress or poverty causes violence against women. But the key causes relate to the unequal power between men and women in public and private life, particular beliefs about how men and women should behave and certain social attitudes that excuse men's violence against women.

To prevent violence against women, we need to promote equality and respect toward women so that both women and men have equal value, treatment and opportunities in society.

This resource, *Promoting equality and respect: An interfaith collaboration on preventing family violence*, is designed to help faith and spiritual leaders to address and prevent family violence in the community.

Faith and spiritual leaders are influential role models in our community. People turn to their faith and spiritual leaders for moral guidance and ethics. As they play such an important role in the lives of many people, faith and spiritual leaders have an important part to play in preventing family violence.

This resource will help faith and spiritual leaders to understand the issue of family violence and its causes and how they can take action in the community to prevent and respond to it. It provides faith and spiritual leaders with many ideas and examples about actions that can be carried out in the community to promote equality and respect toward women. It guides faith leaders to create awareness and have discussions within their communities about family violence, violence against women and the importance of equality and respect toward women. The resource also supports faith and spiritual leaders to make changes in their communities by involving women in positions of leadership and responsibility and advocating for change.

The resource has been developed by City of Greater Dandenong in collaboration with leaders and people of faith from various traditions including Baha'i, Brahma Kumaris, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Islam, Jewish, Sathya Sai and Sikh. The resource is truly an interfaith collaboration. It has been produced as part of a partnership between City of Casey, Cardinia Shire Council, City of Greater Dandenong and Monash Health on a project called CHALLENGE Family Violence, funded by the Department of Justice and Regulation.

PROMOTING EQUALITY AND RESPECT

As leaders and people of faith, we oppose family violence and violence against women and their children in all its forms. Across our faith traditions, we declare that:

- Family violence and violence against women is wrong and unacceptable.
- Every human being should be seen as valued, important and equal. All should be treated with respect and equality.
- Sacred texts, scriptures and cultural traditions should not be used as a way to justify or excuse violence against women.
- True religion will use its sacred text with reverence and awe, not as a tool to justify imperfection and failing, but as an inspiration to live a better way.
- Our faiths affirm that love, respect, equality and living well together are ideals to aim for.

We are committed to preventing violence against women in our communities by promoting equality and respect toward women. To live in a world where our families and communities are free and safe from violence, we must treat all individuals – women, men, girls and boys – with dignity, equality and respect. Promoting equality and respect in our communities benefits us all and strengthens our communities. A strong community is one where we can all contribute and participate equally.

We invite you to use this resource kit to promote safer and more respectful and equitable communities.



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SECTION 1: KEY WORDS AND TERMS

Some key words and terms used in this resource include:

Family violence

Family violence refers to violence between family members such as between partners, siblings, parent and child, and other relatives. It is any behaviour that is physically, sexually, emotionally or psychologically abusive, or threatening. It is behaviour that controls or dominates a family member and makes them fearful.

Gender equality

Gender equality does not mean that women and men are the same. It means that women and men have equal value, treatment and opportunities in society.

Gender equity

Gender equity means making sure that resources, opportunities and decision-making is fair to both men and women. This may result in more resources, opportunities or power of decision-making given to women.

Sometimes gender equality and gender equity are thought to mean the same thing. But gender equity are the things that we do to achieve gender equality.

Gender stereotypes

Gender stereotypes are those expectations held by our society about how men and women should behave in public and private life.

Primary prevention

Primary prevention includes practices that are used to prevent violence against women before it occurs in the first place. Promoting equality and respect between women and men is a key way to prevent violence against women.

Respect

Respect means considering another person's feelings, wishes and rights.

Secondary prevention

Secondary prevention includes actions that are used to intervene early when there are early signs of violent behaviour.

Social norms

Social norms are attitudes held in our society about appropriate and expected behaviour of particular individuals and groups.

Tertiary prevention

Tertiary prevention includes support and treatment for individuals who have experienced violence.

Violence against women

Violence against women is any act of violence that causes harm or suffering to women, including threats or deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.

SECTION 2: FACT SHEETS

THIS SECTION CONTAINS TEN FACT SHEETS ABOUT:

- Family violence.
- Violence against women.
- Common myths about violence against women.
- Violence against children.
- Violence against men.
- Impacts of family violence.
- Supporting victims of family violence.
- What does the law say about family violence?
- How do we stop violence against women occurring?
- The importance of gender equality to prevent violence against women.

The purpose of this section is to provide faith and spiritual leaders with information about family violence, its causes and its impacts on the community. The Fact Sheets will guide faith and spiritual leaders to gain a greater understanding of the issues and the causes that need to be addressed if we want to prevent violence against women.

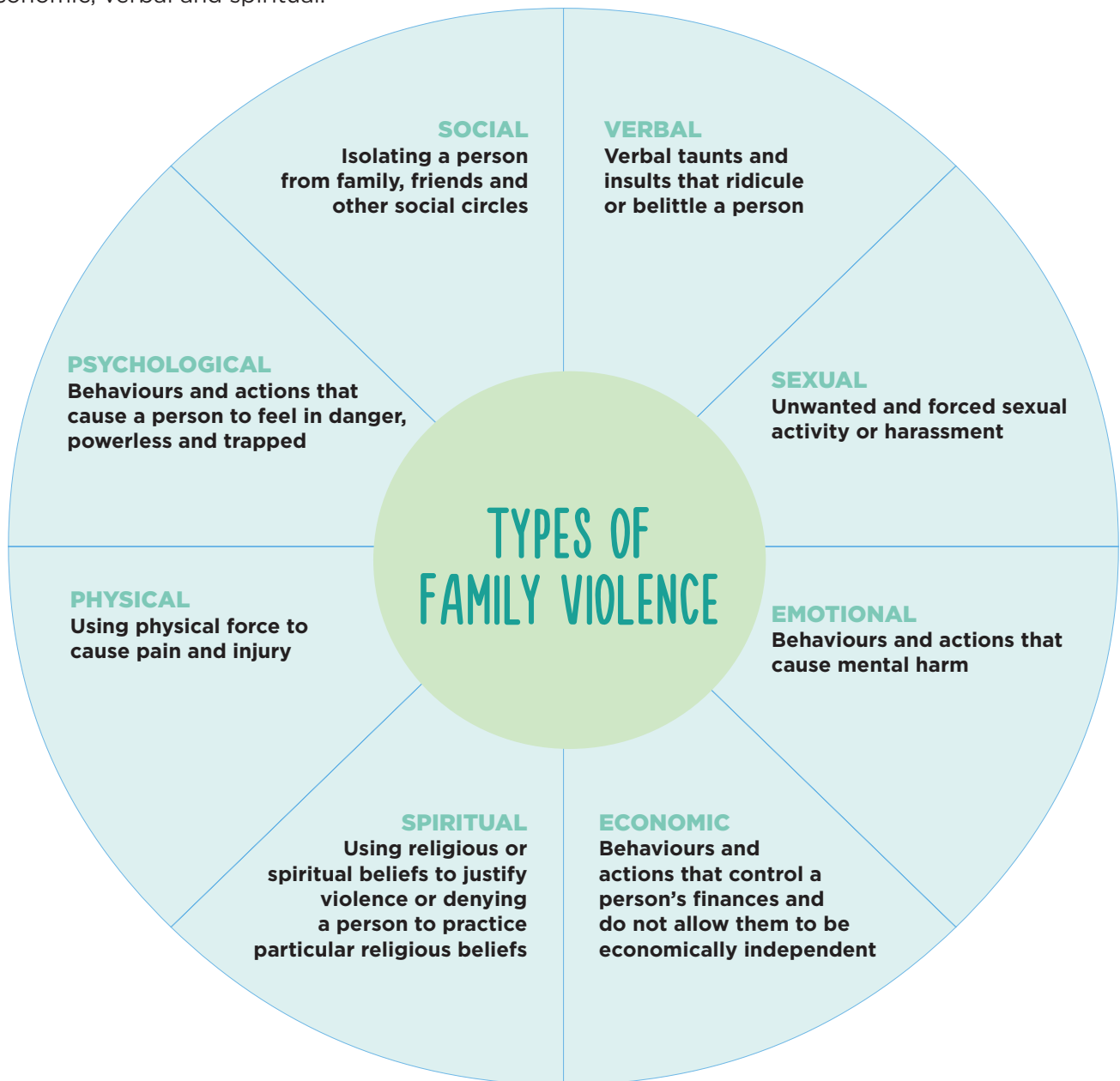
Section 3.1 on creating awareness will give you ideas about how to use these Fact Sheets in the community.



FACT SHEET: FAMILY VIOLENCE

Family violence is any behaviour that is physically, sexually, emotionally or psychologically abusive, threatening, or in any other way controls or dominates the family member or makes them fearful. Violence is used to gain power and control over a family member.

Violence is not just physical. Family violence can also be sexual, emotional, psychological, social, economic, verbal and spiritual.



Source: National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children. (2009). Background paper to Time for Action: The National Council's Plan for Australia to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children, 2009-2021. National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children. Canberra.

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FACT SHEET: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Violence against women is any kind of violence that causes harm or suffering to women.

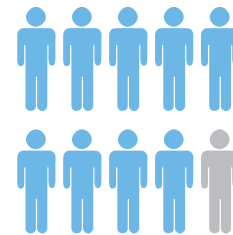


Most family violence victims are women and most perpetrators are men.

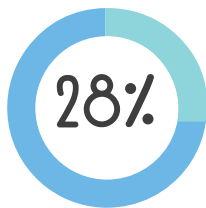


MORE THAN 9 OUT OF 10

perpetrators of family violence against women are male.



Women are most likely to experience this violence from a current or former **MALE PARTNER**



28 per cent of women have experienced violence from a male current or former partner, boyfriend or date

Sources:

Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2012). *Personal Safety Survey*. Canberra: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Diemer, K. (2012). *Measuring family violence in Victoria: Victorian family violence database (Volume 5)*. Melbourne, Victoria: Department of Justice.

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FACT SHEET: COMMON MYTHS ABOUT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

MYTH 1

MEN SHOULD MAKE THE DECISIONS AND TAKE CONTROL IN RELATIONSHIPS.

FACT: Violence is more common in families and relationships in which men control decision making, and less so in those relationships where women have a greater degree of independence.

The belief that men and women have different roles or characteristics (whether in relationships or society in general) is known as gender stereotyping. International studies have shown time and again that belief in such stereotypes is one of the most significant predictors of violence. That is, individuals who hold such beliefs are more likely to perpetrate violence against women and countries where gender stereotyping is more accepted have higher levels of violence against women.

We know that in societies where men and women are more equal in their relationships, and where they are not expected to play different roles based on their sex, violence is less common. Greater equality and more flexible gender roles give everyone more opportunities to develop to their full capacity.

MYTH 2

FAMILY VIOLENCE IS ACCEPTABLE IF SOMEONE GETS SO ANGRY THEY LOSE CONTROL.

FACT: Violence against women is about something more than just losing your temper.

There are no excuses for violent behaviour. Ever. Violence is caused by an individual's attitudes towards women and the social attitudes that say men's violence against women is OK.

MYTH 3

WOMEN COULD LEAVE A VIOLENT RELATIONSHIP IF THEY WANTED TO.

FACT: Women are at risk of extreme violence including murder when trying to leave or after leaving a violent relationship. Women find it extremely difficult to leave a violent relationship because of fear for safety and the safety of children.

We must not place the blame for the violence on women if they do not leave.

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FACT SHEET: COMMON MYTHS ABOUT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

MYTH 4

WOMEN ARE MOST LIKELY TO BE RAPED BY A STRANGER IN A PUBLIC PLACE.

FACT: Both men and women are more likely to be sexually assaulted by someone they know than by a stranger.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics 15 per cent of all women and 3 per cent of all men aged 18 years and over have been sexually assaulted by a known person. This is in comparison to the 3.8 per cent of all women and 1.6 per cent of all men who had been

sexually assaulted by a stranger.

The stranger danger myth is one of the reasons that women are less likely to report a sexual assault perpetrated by someone they know. They may fear no one will believe them or that they encouraged the perpetrator in some way. Once this myth is busted, women may be more willing to come forward and report a known attacker.

MYTH 5

MANY WOMEN MAKE FALSE CLAIMS ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR SEXUAL ASSAULT.

FACT: False claims of domestic violence or sexual assault are extremely rare.

80 per cent of women who experience current partner violence don't contact the police about the violence.

The same is true with sexual assault; 80 per cent of women do not report sexual assault to police.

It can be so difficult for women to tell someone about the violence so it is important that we believe them.

Source:

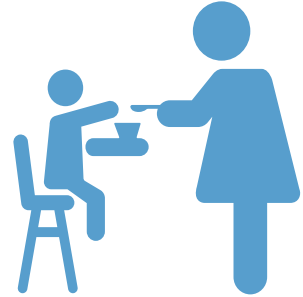
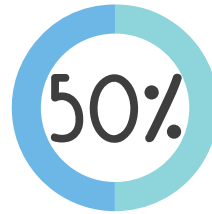
Our Watch. (2015). Myths about violence. Retrieved from www.ourwatch.org.au/Understanding-Violence/Myths-about-violence

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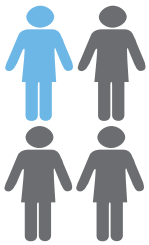
FACT SHEET: VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN



Children are often present when there is family violence in the home.



Over 50 per cent of Australian women who experience family violence during their lives are caring for their children during this time.



One in four young people (aged 12 to 20 years) have witnessed violence against their mother or step-mother.

When children experience violence and abuse, this is known as **CHILD ABUSE.**

WHEN MOTHERS EXPERIENCE VIOLENCE,

their children are likely to be suffering from abuse also. This is because the same person is violent toward the mother and child or the child may be injured when caught in acts of violence. Children can also be neglected by their parents.

Sources:

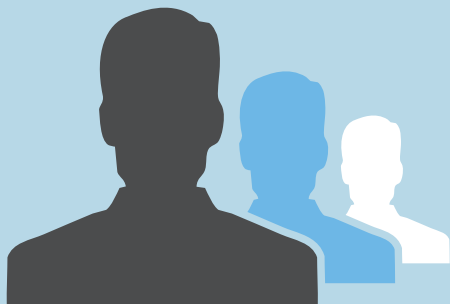
Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2006). *Personal Safety Survey*. Canberra: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Laing, L. (2003). *Domestic violence in the context of child abuse and neglect*. Issues paper, Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse, UNSW, Sydney.

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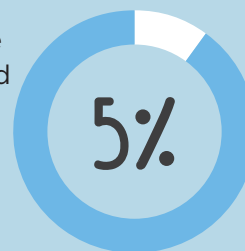
FACT SHEET: VIOLENCE AGAINST MEN



Violence against men is most likely to be committed by other men, usually a male stranger or male friend or acquaintance.



Only 5 per cent of violence towards men is perpetrated by a current or former female partner and 3.5 per cent by a girlfriend (or date).



When men are victims of family violence, it is usually committed by

MALE RELATIVES

such as fathers, brothers or other relatives in-law.

Source:

Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2012). *Personal Safety Survey*. Canberra: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

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FACT SHEET: IMPACTS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE ON OUR COMMUNITY

Family violence has serious impacts on a person's health and wellbeing.



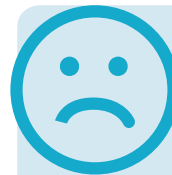
In Victoria, intimate partner violence against women is the biggest contributor to preventable ill-health and premature death in women aged 15 to 44 years than any other risk factor including high blood pressure, obesity and smoking.



Violence against children can cause injuries and disabilities.

The total cost of domestic violence on the Australian economy is estimated at

\$13.6 BILLION



Women who have experienced violence are more likely to have anxiety and depression and/or eating disorders. They are more likely to have alcohol problems, to smoke and use non-prescription drugs.

Children who experience or see family violence can experience depression, anxiety, trauma, aggression, anti-social behaviour, low self-esteem, fear, mood problems and conflict with peers.

Sources:

Braaf, R. (2012). *Health impacts on domestic and family violence*. Sydney, Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse, UNSW.

National Council To Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children. (2009). *Economic Costs of Violence against Women and their Children*. Commonwealth Government of Australia, Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Canberra,

Richards, K. (2011). Children's exposure to domestic violence in Australia. *Trends and issues in crime and criminal justice*, No. 419, June 2011.

Vichealth. (unknown). *How violence against women affects health*. Retrieved from www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/Programs-and-Projects/Freedom-from-violence/PVAW-overview.aspx

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FACT SHEET: SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

People turn to their faith leaders and communities for guidance and support often in difficult times. Those who have experienced family violence may seek support and advice from their faith communities. It can be difficult to know what to say or do, but it is important to remember to be sensitive and give help and support. Remember to:

BELIEVE THE PERSON
AND LET THEM KNOW
YOU BELIEVE THEM.

LISTEN TO THEIR
EXPERIENCES.

BE NON-JUDGEMENTAL.

TELL THEM THEY ARE NOT TO
BLAME FOR THE VIOLENCE.

KEEP THE PERSON'S STORY PRIVATE
AS TELLING OTHERS MAY PUT THEM
AT RISK OF FURTHER VIOLENCE.

RESPECT THE PERSON'S
DECISIONS.

PROVIDE APPROPRIATE INFORMATION ABOUT
SUPPORT SERVICES SUCH AS 1800 RESPECT
(1800 737 732) OR SAFE STEPS FAMILY
VIOLENCE (1800 015 188).

Supporting someone who has experienced family violence can be distressing. It is important to look after yourself and remember:

Your help and support is important.

Do not pressure yourself to provide more support than you can give.

Talk to a service if you are unsure or feeling overwhelmed.

Adapted from: Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria (<http://www.dvrcv.org.au/help-advice/guide-for-families-friends-and-neighbours>)

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FACT SHEET: WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY ABOUT FAMILY VIOLENCE?

Everyone has the right to live a safe life free from violence and abuse. It is against the law for someone to physically hurt, threaten, or coerce or force another into sexual contact.

If someone is in immediate danger, or if has been physically or sexually assaulted, threatened or stalked, the person can call the police on 000.

In Victoria, if someone needs protection from further violence, they can apply for an Intervention Order. The police can also apply for an Intervention Order on a person's behalf. An Intervention Order is a court order that may state the abuser must follow various conditions such as they cannot hurt or threaten the person, or cannot come near or contact the person. If the abuser does not follow the Intervention Order, they can be charged with a criminal offence.

REPORTING FAMILY VIOLENCE

In Victoria, people in certain positions must report if a child has suffered or is at risk of physical harm or sexual abuse. These people include medical practitioners, nurses, midwives, teachers, principals, registered psychologists or anyone who has post-secondary qualifications in youth, social or welfare work who works in health, education, community or welfare services.

If a religious leader occupies one (or more) of these positions, then they are required to report the risk of physical or sexual harm to a child.

In Victoria, religious leaders are not legally required to report family violence toward adults.



Sources:

Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria. (<http://www.dvrcv.org.au/help-advice/are-you-happy>)

Australian Institute of Family Studies.

(<https://www3.aifs.gov.au/cfca/publications/mandatory-reporting-child-abuse-and-neglect>)

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FACT SHEET: HOW DO WE STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN OCCURRING?

We can take action to stop violence against women before it occurs in the first place. This is known as primary prevention.

We must first understand why violence against women occurs.

So what are the key factors that cause violence against women?

- Unequal power between men and women.
- Rigid gender roles and stereotypes.
- Social attitudes that excuse violence by men.

UNEQUAL POWER BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN

The power and influence that men and women have is not equal. Often, men have greater power in public and private life. For example, men most often have leadership positions in politics, business and religion. They may also have greater power in their relationships and at home.

SOCIAL ATTITUDES THAT EXCUSE VIOLENCE BY MEN

These social norms are beliefs in our society that feel it is acceptable for men to be violent. These kinds of social norms can be seen across our society such as in sport, in the media and in the way men are described as 'tough' and 'strong'.

RIGID GENDER ROLES AND STEREOTYPES

Gender roles and stereotypes are beliefs about what it means to be a 'man' and a 'woman'. This includes what is appropriate behaviour for men and women in regards to, for example, work, domestic roles, parenting, leisure and dress.

These key factors support beliefs and actions that lead to women being treated with less respect and dignity in their relationships.

Other factors such as poverty, alcohol, seeing violence as a child or having violent friends are factors in violence against women. These factors can contribute to violence against women, but do not cause it.

TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, WE MUST ADDRESS GENDER INEQUALITY.

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FACT SHEET: THE IMPORTANCE OF GENDER EQUALITY IN PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Research shows that countries with greater gender equality between women and men have lower levels of violence against women.

We can address gender inequality as individuals, in our communities and in our societies more broadly.

	EXAMPLES
Individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speaking out against gender stereotypes.• Challenging attitudes that support men's violence against women.• Promoting respectful relationships.
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Involving women in decision-making positions.• Involving women in leadership positions.
Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advocating for change to structures and practices that are unequal for women.

Sources:

United Nations Development Fund for Women. (unknown).

Investing in gender equality: Ending violence against women and girls. Retrieved from www.endvawnow.org/uploads/browser/files/genderequality_vaw_leaflet_en_web.pdf

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SECTION 3: IDEAS FOR PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY ACROSS YOUR COMMUNITY

The purpose of this section is to provide faith and spiritual leaders with ideas about how to promote equality and respect toward women in the community. It is broken up into five parts:

Creating awareness

This section will give you ideas on how to create awareness about family violence, violence against women and the importance of equality between men and women in preventing violence against women in your community. For example, one way that your community could do this is to display posters that demonstrate the links between violence against women and gender inequality. See Section 3.1 for more ideas about how to create awareness.

Having discussions

This section will give you ideas on how to begin having discussions with the community about violence against women and gender equality. An example of this is to devote some time to talking about these issues in a weekly sermon. See Section 3.2 for more ideas about how to have discussions.

Engaging in community initiatives

This section gives examples of community initiatives that work to prevent violence against women such as HeForShe campaign and White Ribbon Day. Your community could participate in these kinds of initiatives. See Section 3.3 for more community initiatives.

Taking action to promote gender equality

This section contains useful ideas about how you can promote respect and equality between men and women in your community. Some examples that are provided include: developing

a community plan to promote gender equality, educating young people or involving both women and men in making decisions in the community. See Section 3.4 for more ideas about how to take action to achieve equality in your community.

Building partnerships and advocating for change

This section provides ideas about how to build partnerships with other faith communities or community groups to work together to promote gender equality in the community and advocate for change. For example, your community could contact a peak faith or interfaith network to advocate for greater inclusion of women in decision-making positions. See Section 3.5 for other ideas about how to build partnerships and advocate for change.

You will see a number of examples featured in this section that show how faith communities have carried out some of these activities.

Your community may already be involved in these activities in some way.



3.1 CREATING AWARENESS

Creating awareness about the links between violence against women and gender inequality in the community is an important part of preventing violence against women. This section will look at different ways of creating awareness about the need to promote equality between women and men to prevent violence against women in the community. These include:

- Ideas for using fact sheets, posters and checklists.
- Examples of posters.
- Examples of checklists.

Example from the community on creating awareness:

Anglicans Promoting Respectful Relationships for Violence Prevention – Anglican Diocese of Melbourne

The Anglican Diocese of Melbourne has introduced a number of activities and strategies to create awareness about violence against women, violence prevention and respectful relationships to clergy and lay leaders as part of *Anglicans Promoting Respectful Relationships for Violence Prevention project*.

The Diocese has created a poster with facts and figures about violence against women and ways to prevent it. Church leaders have been invited to display the poster in church buildings.

Another way that the Diocese has created awareness is by producing a monthly bulletin about the prevention of violence against women. This is sent to all clergy and lay leaders in the Diocese.

The fact sheets in Section 2 could be inserted into community newsletters or distributed as flyers to increase community knowledge about family violence and violence against women and its causes.

Posters can be displayed around your place of worship.

Some important messages to include on posters are:

- **Violence against women is unacceptable:** Send a strong message that violence against women is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.
- **Faith leaders are committed to promoting gender equality as a way to prevent violence against women:** Show a commitment to gender equality in your community. This is important because faith leaders are role models who can have a positive influence in the community.
- **Show links between gender inequality and violence against women:** Identify the link between violence against women and gender inequality. Consider using examples of how we can address inequality between men and women.
- **What makes a respectful, equal and healthy relationship:** Display a checklist about what makes a respectful and equal relationship. See the checklist at the end of this section.
- **Lists of services and helplines:** Make sure any information you display has a list of phone numbers for services who support victims of family violence. It may encourage someone who has experienced violence to ask for help. Use the List of Services and Organisations in Section 5.1 to get this information.

Faith pledge / declaration to prevent violence against women by promoting gender equality

Creating a faith pledge or declaration to prevent violence against women is one way that you can raise awareness and show your community's commitment to achieving gender equality.

You could adopt this common understanding and display it in your community.

We recognise:

- Family violence is any behaviour that is physically or sexually abusive, emotionally or psychologically abusive, threatening or coercive or in any other way controls or dominates the family member.
- Family violence is a gendered crime. This means that most of the perpetrators are men, while the majority of victims are women.
- The primary causes of violence against women are unequal power between men and women, violent social norms and attitudes and cultures of violence.
- Promoting equality between men and women is important in stopping violence against women before it occurs (primary prevention).

We declare:

- Violence against women is wrong and unacceptable.
- Violence against women is to be resisted, taught against, abhorred, and rejected.
- All faith traditions should see every human being as valued and important and equal. All should be treated with respect and equality.
- Any abuse of sacred texts that try to justify violence against women by misquoting aspects of those ancient religious writings is unacceptable. Authentic religion will use its sacred text with reverence and awe, not as a tool to justify imperfection and failing, but as an inspiration to live a better way.

- Any appeal to “cultural traditions and ways” as an excuse to justify violence against women is unacceptable. Authentic religion will rise above cultural traditions and norms, expose the ones that are lacking or sinful, and aspire to live to a higher way.
- Our faiths affirm that love, respect, and living well together are ideals to aim for.

We are committed to:

- Creating awareness and having conversations about the roles of men and women and the importance of promoting gender equality in our communities.
- Taking action to change or challenge structures, practices, beliefs and misuse of sacred texts in our communities that justify violence against women and foster inequality between men and women.
- Developing partnerships with other faith communities and community organisations to work together to advocate for change.
- Above all, promoting equality in our communities.

Examples of declarations from Australia and overseas include:

Religious for Peace – European Council of Religious Leaders

<http://www.regionalinterfaith.org.au/upload/sarajevao-restoring-dignity.pdf>

National Declaration by Religious and Spiritual Leaders to Address Violence Against Women

www.faithtrustinstitute.org/take-action/declaration

Faith Communities Council of Victoria – Faith communities condemn violence against women

www.faithvictoria.org.au/news-a-articles/95-violence-against-women

PROMOTING EQUALITY AND RESPECT





INEQUALITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN CAUSES VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.

What does inequality between men and women look like?

- Men often have decision-making roles in private life and in society.
- Men often have leadership roles in private life and in society.
- Men often have power and control in their relationships.

This leads to women being treated with less dignity and respect.

OUR COMMUNITY PROMOTES EQUALITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN.

Faith leaders in our community are committed to encouraging equality between women and men in our community.

If you or someone you know is experiencing family violence, services such as 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732) are available to provide help and support.

CHECKLIST

WHAT MAKES A RESPECTFUL, EQUAL AND HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP

- Each person values the other and respects who they are.
- You trust each other and feel trusted.
- You can share your thoughts and opinions openly without being disrespected.
- You can talk about how you feel and listen to the other person express their feelings.
- You share decision-making with the other person. You make decisions in your relationships by compromising.
- You feel safe.

3.2 HAVING DISCUSSIONS WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

Most faith communities have some kind of delivery of a message or address such as a formal sermon. These can be used as an opportunity to talk about violence against women and the importance of equality between men and women in preventing violence against women. This discussion can also reflect on the role of women in your faith community and how there can be greater inclusion of women in the community.

The purpose of this section is to provide faith and spiritual leaders with ideas on how to have discussions with the community about the need for equality and respect toward women and its links to preventing family violence. These include:

- Including women, men and young people in discussions.
- Inviting experts to speak to your community.
- Discussing the role of women in your community.
- Example of an address or statement.

When talking about violence against women and respect and equality in your community, think about whether your community is ready to hear about this kind of address. These are difficult ideas to understand and explain so you might like to ease your community into this discussion by starting off with some basic facts about violence against women. (Use the fact sheets in this resource). Or, you could use a case of violence against women featured in the newspaper as a 'conversation starter'.

Including women, men and young people in the discussion

We can all play a part in promoting equality in our communities, so it is important to involve everyone - women, men and young people - in discussions about these issues. Think about having separate discussions with women, men and young people to create comfortable and safe spaces for individuals to freely talk before coming back to a larger group discussion.

Inviting experts in the area to speak

Your community could invite an expert on the area to speak. There are many organisations that you could contact and ask for someone to talk with your community (remember there may be a cost involved). See Section 5.1 for organisations that you could contact.

Discussing the role of women in your faith community

Considering the role of women in your faith community should be an important part of the discussion. You can engage your community to reflect on the role that women have and how this is different to the position/s that men possess. This could lead to a conversation about how women could be included further in, for example, worship practices, leadership and decision-making. Make sure women are involved in these discussions. Use the faith perspectives in Section 4 to reflect on how your faith tradition fosters respect and equality between women and men.

Other ways to have discussions

As a faith leader, if you feel uncomfortable delivering an address about violence against women and equality and respect, there are other ways to have these discussions. Leaders could have conversations in a less formal setting such as in smaller groups where people can interact with each other.

PROMOTING EQUALITY AND RESPECT

Example of an address or statement:

Taken from: World Conference of Religions for Peace. (2009). *Restoring Dignity: A toolkit for religious communities to end violence against women*. New York, World Conference of Religions for Peace.

Our faith celebrates life. It calls on us to treat one another as we would like to be treated—with respect, compassion and kindness—however inequalities are abundant in our communities. Women and girls are often treated with far less respect, compassion and kindness than they deserve. In our community and in communities around the world, violence is used to perpetuate power inequalities and violence against women. The terrifying physical, psychological and spiritual devastation that is a reality for too many of our sisters is an affront to our core values and beliefs. Violence against any member of the human family can never be justified.

And so today, we join together in one voice as women and men of faith, ready to speak out in solidarity with those who have been silenced; we must advocate for their right to live healthy and dignified lives. We must prevent the violence from persisting unaddressed.

Many of us are already actively engaged with ending poverty, caring for the sick, and resolving conflict. We know that transformation is possible with these problems, and therefore we know there is reason for hope that our efforts to eliminate violence against women can also effect change. We will remember and draw

lessons from our community's long tradition of promoting peaceful and healthy relationships, as we continue to work together to promote justice and provide a safe environment for all.

[This could be a good place to highlight examples of past or ongoing actions within your community.]

In speaking out against violence against women and caring for survivors, we are not alone. Many religious communities and individual people of faith are committed to ending violence against women, and our actions will be stronger and more effective if we join together. We are all affected by a culture of violence, and we can all respond by creating a multi-religious community that is safe and healthy for all—women, men, girls and boys.

As a multi-religious front within our own community, we must speak out against violence against women and girls in our sermons and religious instructions to ensure that the violence and suffering stops here and now.

We resolve to make violence against women and girls history, so that future generations of young women and young men can grow up in harmony, non-violence and peace.

3.3 ENGAGING IN COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

There are many excellent community initiatives that are committed to preventing and reducing violence against women. Faith communities can take advantage of the good work that these initiatives have been doing and use them in their own settings.

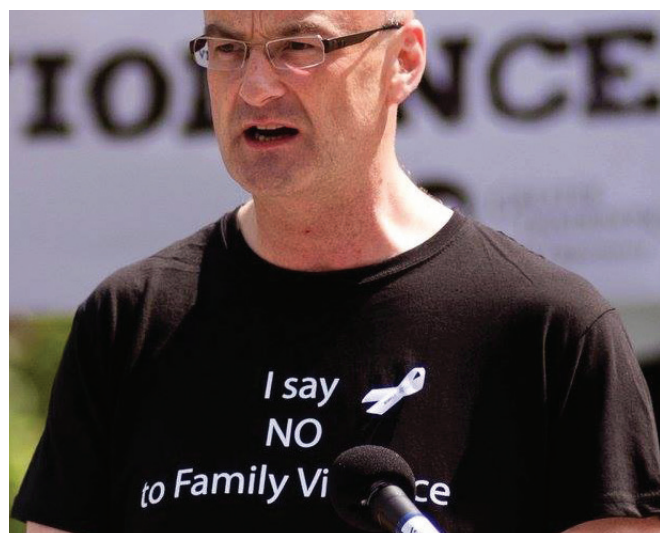
This section gives details of some initiatives and campaigns that your community can be involved in including:

- Our Watch
- HeForShe campaign
- YWCA Week Without Violence
- 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence
- International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
- White Ribbon
- White Ribbon Ambassador Program

Example from the community:

City of Greater Dandenong Interfaith Network – Involvement in Walk Against Family Violence

Members of the City of Greater Dandenong Interfaith Network have participated in Walk Against Family Violence held by City of Greater Dandenong. The purpose of the Walk Against Family Violence is to show that our community is united in opposing violence against women and children, and in supporting those who have experienced violence.



PROMOTING EQUALITY AND RESPECT

Our Watch

www.ourwatch.org.au

Our Watch is a national initiative to change the culture, behaviours and attitudes that underpin and create violence against women and children.

HeForShe campaign

www.heforshe.org

HeForShe is a campaign by United Nations Women to encourage men to speak out against the inequalities faced by women and girls.

YWCA Week Without Violence

www.ywca.org

Week Without Violence is held in the third week in October. It is an initiative created by YWCA United States of America nearly 20 years ago to mobilise people in communities to take action against all forms of violence.

16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence

The international campaign, 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence, begins on November 25. It seeks to raise awareness about gender violence as a human rights issue.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

The United Nations General Assembly has dedicated November 25 as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. The purpose of the day is to raise awareness about violence against women across the world.

White Ribbon

www.whiteribbon.org.au

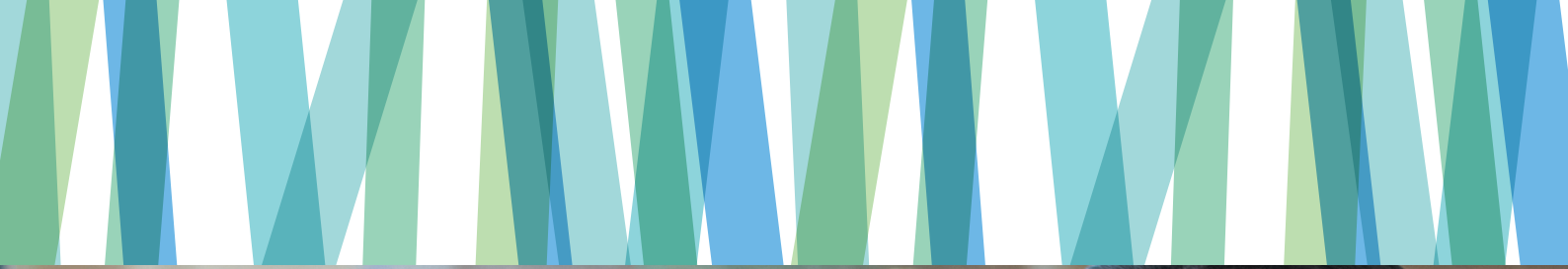
White Ribbon is a national, male-led movement to end violence against women. It engages in primary prevention activities involving raising awareness and education and programs with young people, schools, workplaces and across the community.

White Ribbon Ambassador program

www.whiteribbon.org.au/ambassadors

White Ribbon Ambassadors are men who take a leadership role in preventing men's violence against women. They are representatives of White Ribbon Australia who have the knowledge, skills and determination to influence men to think about their attitudes and behaviours toward women.





3.4 TAKING ACTION TO PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY IN YOUR COMMUNITY

As a faith leader, you can take action to promote gender equality by making changes in your community and its everyday practices. This section has many useful ideas and examples of activities that your community can do to encourage equality and respect between women and men. These are:

- Create a gender equality/preventing violence against women community action plan.
- Encourage young women to be involved in leadership.
- Educate and train leaders in your community.
- Encourage women to become involved in leadership and decision-making positions.
- Create a gender equality / preventing violence against women action group.

Examples from the community:

Jewish Taskforce Against Family Violence (Victoria)

The Jewish Taskforce Against Family Violence have arranged for Rabbis to be trained about family violence and how to support those who have experienced such violence.

Anglicans Promoting Respectful Relationships - Anglican Diocese of Melbourne

As part of the *Anglicans Promoting Respectful Relationships for Violence Prevention project*, the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne has provided violence prevention training for clergy across the Diocese.

Gender equality/preventing violence against women community plan

Your community could develop a plan that commits to encouraging gender equality and preventing violence against women. The plan could state what your community stands for and what you will do. A community plan could include:

- Information about family violence and violence against women including definitions, different forms of violence and the significance of the issue. Use the fact sheets in Section 2 of this resource to help.
- Information about the causes of violence against women. Use the fact sheets in Section 2 of this resource to help.
- What is prevention and why is it important.
- How the values of your community align with primary prevention of family violence.
- A plan of activities your community will undertake to promote gender equality within its own practices (use an example of the community action plan below to help do this).

Once you have developed the plan, ask your leadership team and others who have decision-making responsibilities in the community to sign or endorse it. It is important to make sure that women contribute to the plan. You might like to present the plan to the rest of the community by making hard copies available or uploading it to your website.

Encouraging young women to be involved in leadership

Many faith communities run programs or groups for young people and children often for the purposes of social interaction, mentoring or leadership, such as youth camps, youth resorts or Sunday school. These could be used as settings for ensuring that young women are given opportunities for leadership.

You could set up a youth leadership program or a youth committee in your community and ensure that young women are encouraged to be involved in these groups. This will give both girls and boys an opportunity to contribute to decisions that are made within their community and present ideas to senior faith leaders.

Training for leaders

Some faith communities already provide new leaders with training about healthy relationships. You might like to consider participating in community education or training for leaders to gain knowledge about primary prevention of violence against women and how to promote equality and empower women in the community.

Involving women in leadership and decision-making

Involving women in leadership and decision-making in your community is an important step in moving toward equality between the roles of women and men. In some faith traditions, it is not practice for women to become leaders, but there are other ways that women can be given more opportunities for leadership and decision-making in the community such as:

- Making sure women are represented on faith committees and boards.
- You could make sure that your community's committee has an equal number of women and men. Ensure that women and men are able to contribute equally to discussions.
- Giving women an opportunity to take on senior roles in education.

Gender equality/preventing violence against women action group

An action group is another way of making sure that the work your community does to promote equality in order to prevent violence against women continues. An action group could include members in the community who hold positions of leadership, decision-making and educating/teaching as well as community members more generally. This should include both men and women.

The purpose of an action group is to talk about ideas for promoting equality in the community and how actions will be carried out. It also gives an opportunity to think about prevention actions in your community – Are these working well? What impacts are they having? How could they be improved?

The action group should meet regularly to keep the issue on the agenda.

Example of a community action plan

An example of a community plan is:

Our community's plan to promote gender equality and prevent violence against women

Introduction

Violence against women is any kind of violence that causes harm or suffering to women. It is a significant issue in our community.

- One in three Australian women are estimated to have experienced violence from a male in their lifetime.
- Over half of all women have experienced at least one incident of physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime.

Women are most likely to experience violence in the home and from someone that they know, usually a male partner or a male relative.

- Since the age of 15, almost 34 per cent of Australian women have experienced violence from a male known to them.

Causes of violence against women

The key factors that cause violence against women:

- Unequal power between men and women.
- Rigid gender roles and stereotypes.
- Social norms that condone violence by men.

Unequal power between men and women

The power and influence that men and women have is not equal. Often men have greater power in public and private life. For example, men most often have leadership positions in politics or in business. They may also have greater power in their relationships and at home.

Rigid gender roles and stereotypes

Gender roles and stereotypes are beliefs about what it means to be a 'man' and a 'woman'. This includes what is appropriate behaviour for men and women in regards to, for example, work, domestic roles, parenting, leisure and dress.

Social norms that condone violence by men

These social norms are beliefs in our society that feel it is acceptable for men to be violent. These kinds of social norms can be seen across our society such as in sport, in the media and in the way men are described as 'tough' and 'strong'.



So what does this mean?

These key factors support beliefs and actions that lead to women being treated with less respect and dignity in their relationships.

It is important to remember that not all men are violent. Other factors such as poverty, alcohol, seeing violence as a child or having violent friends are factors in violence against women. These factors can contribute to violence against women, but do not cause it.

Preventing violence against women

We can take action to stop violence against women before it occurs in the first place. This is known as **primary prevention**. We must do this by addressing gender inequality between women and men.

ACTIVITIES	WHAT WILL WE NEED?	WHEN WILL WE DO THIS?	WHAT DID WE ACHIEVE?
e.g., Encourage the involvement of women in leadership	Invite women to be involved; Offer leadership training for women	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2016-2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Equal number of men and women on our committee

3.5 BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS AND ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

Building partnerships and networks with other communities and organisations can strengthen the work your community does to prevent violence against women. You can learn from each other and combine to work together as well as advocate for change to peak faith bodies. There is great benefit in sharing.

This section gives ideas about how your community can build partnerships by, for example:

- Connecting with other faith leaders.
- Connecting with other interfaith networks.
- Connecting with other community groups.

Examples of partnerships from the community:

Interfaith Forum on Family Violence (Victoria)

To recognise International Day of Elimination of Violence Against Women, the Islamic Council of Victoria organised an interfaith forum on family violence. Leaders from various faiths including Islam, Jewish and Christian came together to speak about the issue of family violence and bring their own perspectives.

Connecting with other faith leaders and communities: Connecting with other faith leaders and their communities shows that, while different faith traditions have different beliefs and practices, all faiths are committed to promoting equality between men and women.

Collaborating with interfaith networks:

Interfaith activities can be organised through local or state interfaith (or multi-faith) councils. Think about arranging a time to present your community's activities to promote equality to the council(s) or attend interfaith events to encourage support from diverse traditions.

Consider contacting the lead inter- or multi-faith agency in your state (e.g., Faith Communities Council of Victoria) or the lead agency representing your faith tradition (e.g., The Buddhist Council of Victoria) to tell them about your activities. Ask them to send information about these activities in their mail-outs or newsletters.

Connecting with other community groups:

Some local communities have 'action groups' involving community members who are working to address gender inequality to prevent violence against women.

You could arrange a meeting with local community groups to work together on activities.

Advocating for change: As a faith leader, you can advocate for change by connecting with peak faith or interfaith bodies. You can advocate for the need to change practices and systems to be more inclusive of women. You could present the actions that your community has been taking to encourage equality between women and men.

SECTION 4: FAITH PERSPECTIVES

The following section draws upon sacred texts, scriptures and practices from particular faith and spiritual traditions which can be used to guide the activities outlined in this resource so far.

These can be used to reflect upon:

- What your faith or spiritual tradition says about the roles of men and women.
- What your faith or spiritual tradition says about equal relationships between women and men.
- What your faith or spiritual tradition says about gender equality.

This section can be used by the following faith traditions:

- Baha'i.
- Brahma Kumaris.
- Buddhist.
- Christian.
- Hindu.
- Islam.
- Jewish.
- Sathya Sai.
- Sikh.

The statements, quotes and passages have been contributed by community faith and spiritual leaders involved in the project working group and from City of Greater Dandenong Interfaith Network.

BAHA'I

Equality between woman and man forms one of the cardinal beliefs of the Bahá'ís around the world.

...The world of humanity is possessed of two wings — the male and the female. So long as these two wings are not equivalent in strength the bird will not fly. Until womankind reaches the same degree as man, until she enjoys the same arena of activity, extraordinary attainment for humanity will not be realized...

The Promulgation of Universal Peace: Talks Delivered by 'Abdu'l-Bahá during His Visit to the United States and Canada in 1912, p 375

The emancipation of women, the achievement of full equality between the sexes, is one of the most important, though less acknowledged prerequisites of peace. The denial of such equality perpetrates an injustice against one half of the world's population and promotes in men harmful attitudes and habits that are carried from the family to the workplace, to political life, and ultimately to international relations. There are no grounds, moral, practical, or biological, upon which such denial can be justified. Only as women are welcomed into full partnership in all fields of human endeavour will the moral and psychological climate be created in which international peace can emerge...

The Universal House of Justice, The Promise of World Peace, p 9

PROMOTING EQUALITY AND RESPECT

BRAHMA KUMARIS

The Brahma Kumaris recognise the intrinsic worth of every human being. We seek to help everyone rediscover his or her potential for greatness by encouraging and facilitating a process of spiritual awakening through B.K. meditation. Today, the BK's worldwide organisation continues to follow the understanding that equality and respect between men and women is based on the awareness that we are all peaceful souls.

“When you use the power to oppose the family, the family does not become powerful. Even if you do not like something, you should still have respect and regard for one another, you should not cut off someone's idea or words at that time.

Therefore, you now have to imbibe the power to accept. There should be closeness and unity within the family. (*Avyakt 9.12.75*).

BUDDHIST

Equality is promoted in Buddhism. Buddha said anyone can be a Buddha as long as you practice mindfulness. It is recognised that people are different due to their physical and psychological factors, but we all need to be treated equally. It is a classroom of various strengths and the teacher has different ways to reach these students but she/he does care for everyone in the class and help them to succeed. It is not just equality but equity, and it is respected in Buddhism.

In the Lotus Sutra, Shakyamuni Buddha stated: *“At the start I took a vow, hoping to make all persons equal to me, without any distinction between us, and what I long ago hoped for has now been fulfilled.”*

(The Lotus Sutra, translated by Burton Watson, p.36)

CHRISTIAN

Christianity teaches that love is the greatest of all virtues, that God is love, and that we must love others as we would want to be loved. We are called to be peacemakers, to forgive, and to treat others with dignity and respect. The Christianity Scriptures teach:

“However you want people to treat you, so treat them” (Jesus, recorded in Matthew 7:12)

“Let us not love with just words or with our speech, but in deed and truth!” (1 John 3:18)

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Paul, in Galatians, 3:28)

“Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be away with you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you” (Ephesians 4:31-32)

HINDU

The Hindu (Vedic) tradition holds a high regard for and the greatest respect to women within its tradition as seen in the honour it gives for the Goddess, who is portrayed as the feminine embodiment of important qualities and powers. Throughout the many years of Hindu (Vedic) tradition and culture, women have always been given the highest level of respect and freedom, but also protection and safety.

“Women must be honored and adorned by their fathers, brothers, husbands, and brothers in law, who desire their own welfare. Where women are honored, there the gods are pleased; but where they are not honored, no sacred rite yields rewards. Where the female relations live in grief, the family soon wholly perishes; but that family where they are not unhappy ever prospers. The houses on which female relations, not being duly honored, pronounce a curse, perish completely, as if destroyed by magic. Hence men who seek (their own) welfare, should always honor women on holidays and festivals with (gifts of) ornaments, clothes and (dainty) food.”

(Manu Smriti III.55-59)

PROMOTING EQUALITY AND RESPECT

ISLAM

Islam teaches us that in the sight of God, Allah Almighty says that all people are equal, regardless of gender. Although, people are not necessarily identical. There are differences of abilities, potentials, ambitions, wealth and so on. Reference is made to men and women through their attributes and deeds. Spiritual equality, responsibility and accountability for both men and women, is a well-developed theme in the Quran. Spiritual equality between men and women in the sight of God is not limited to purely spiritual or religious issues, but is the basis for equality in all temporal aspects of human endeavour.

I shall not lose sight of the labour of any of you who labours in My way, be it man or woman; each of you is equal to the other.
(3:195) Surah Ali Imran (Family of Imran)

The Believers, men and women, are protectors one of another (At-Tawbah 9:71)

JEWISH

The Jewish tradition views all human beings - men, women and children - as being created in God's image. Undermining the dignity and autonomy of women through control and violence is morally repugnant and has no place in Judaism. Jewish law fosters the belief that men and women are equal partners within the family unit, and men must behave with the utmost respect to their partners.

A husband should love his wife as much as he does himself and should respect her more than he respects himself. Yevomot 62b

A sage said that a man should be meticulous in giving proper respect to his wife, because the blessing of the household is by virtue of the wife. Bava Metzia 59a

SATHYA SAI

Sathya Sai promotes respect and equality of men, women and children through a feeling of connection to one's religion, to maintain the love, peace and harmony in the family circle. The key themes in Sri Sathya Sai teachings are living the five human values of truth, peace, love, right conduct and non-violence. To quote Sri Sathya Baba:

"LOVE IS THE KEY...Love is all embracing; it cannot be confined to one person and denied to another. It is a current that flows through all both men and women. Love leads to expansion. Hatred leads to fear.."

[Sathya Sai Baba]

"When there is harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation. When there is order in the nation, there will be PEACE in the world." *[Sri Sathya Sai Baba]*

Sri Sathya Sai Baba teaches of the value of women, stating that 'women have a vital role to play in the world...'

SIKH

Sikhism is built on the foundation of equality for all human, irrespective of gender, faith, caste, or creed. Women have equal status in social, cultural and religious matters in the Sikh faith, where women play as an important role as any male in the Sikh faith.

"We are born of woman, we are conceived in the womb of woman, we are engaged and married to woman. We make friendship with woman and the lineage continued because of woman. When one woman dies, we take another one, we are bound with the world through woman. Why should we talk ill of her, who gives birth to kings? The woman is born from woman; there is none without her. Guru Nanak says, Only the One True Lord is without woman" (Var Asa, pg. 473)

SECTION 5: RESOURCE GUIDE

This final section provides details of useful services, organisations and websites that faith and spiritual leaders can contact for advice, support or to pass onto others who may need assistance.

5.1 LIST OF SERVICES AND ORGANISATIONS

Below is a list of some services and organisations that may be useful when talking about violence against women in your community and taking action to prevent violence before it occurs.

These services and organisations can give further information about family violence and violence against women. You may also pass on the information and support numbers to those who tell you that they are experiencing violence and would like help. They can also give you support if you are feeling overwhelmed.

DOMESTIC/FAMILY VIOLENCE CRISIS AND OUTREACH SERVICES

SERVICE/ORGANISATION	PURPOSE	PHONE	WEBSITE
1800 Respect	24 hours a day, 7 days a week service for those experiencing sexual assault or family violence	1800 737 732	www.1800respect.org.au
Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre	24 hours a day, 7 days a week response line for victims of family violence providing emergency accommodation and referral to local support services	1800 015 188	www.safesteps.org.au
InTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence	Support and advice for culturally and linguistically diverse women	1800 755 988	www.intouch.asn.au
Centres Against Sexual Assault (CASA)	24 hours a day, 7 days a week crisis and support line for survivors of sexual assault	9635 3610 (Counselling and support line)	www.thewomens.org.au/SexualAssault

INFORMATION AND RESOURCE AGENCIES

SERVICE/ORGANISATION	PURPOSE	PHONE	WEBSITE
Domestic Violence Resource Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telephone support and referral to services for those experiencing family violence • Online information for those have experienced family violence • Training courses for professionals to improve skills in supporting survivors of family violence • Pamphlets and booklets to assist survivors of family violence 	9486 9866 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)	www.dvrcv.org.au
Women's Information and Referral Exchange		1300 134 130 (Telephone Support Service - Monday 9am-5pm) 9348 9416 (Women's Information Centre)	www.wire.org.au

RELATIONSHIP SUPPORT

SERVICE/ORGANISATION	PURPOSE	PHONE	WEBSITE
Family Relationship Centres (FRC)	Support for separating families with parenting arrangements		To find your nearest FRC, visit: www.familyrelationships.gov.au
Relationships Australia (Victoria)	Offers counselling for relationship matters	1300 364 277	www.relationshipsvictoria.com.au

WOMEN'S HEALTH AND WELLBEING ORGANISATIONS

SERVICE/ORGANISATION	PURPOSE	PHONE	WEBSITE
Women's Health Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides online information about issues related to women's health Offers workshops and forums on issues such as violence against women and prevention 	9664 9300	www.whv.org.au
YWCA Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocates for women's equality Supports women to obtain accommodation and housing Offers mentoring program for young women 	8341 8700	www.ywca.net
Victorian Women's Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocates for the rights of women and girls Offers grants to projects that improve conditions for women and girls 	9642 0422	www.vwt.org.au

MEN'S ORGANISATIONS

SERVICE/ORGANISATION	PURPOSE	PHONE	WEBSITE
Mens Referral Service	Telephone counselling, information and referrals for men to help them to stop using violent and controlling behaviour	1300 766 491	www.mrs.org.au
No To Violence	Provides information and training for professionals working with men to change their violent behaviour	1300 766 491	www.ntv.org.au

LEGAL SERVICES

SERVICE/ORGANISATION	PURPOSE	PHONE	WEBSITE
Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims of family violence • Provides free legal advice • Support with issues such as intervention orders, Family Law and Child Protection 	1800 105 303	www.fvpls.org
Community Legal Centres	Provides free legal advice, information and representation	To find your nearest Community Legal Service, phone 9652 1500	To find your nearest Community Legal Service: www.fclc.org.au
Muslim Legal Services Victoria	Provides legal advice and services within the Muslim community	9386 6804	
Refugee and Immigration Legal Centre		9413 0101	www.rilc.org.au
Women's Legal Service Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides legal services for the needs of women and their children • Provides women with information about the legal system 	8622 0600	www.womenslegal.org.au
Victoria Legal Aid	Provides free legal information	9269 0234	www.legalaid.vic.gov.au
Youthlaw	Free community legal centre for young people under 25 years of age	9611 2412	www.youthlaw.asn.au

USEFUL WEBSITES

Berry Street

www.berrystreet.org.au

Berry Street supports children, young people and families with complex issues arising from their experiences of abuse, neglect or violence.

Bursting the Bubble

burstingthebubble.com

Bursting the Bubble is a website for young people. It has information about what to do if someone in the family is abusing another member such as making a safety plan and services to contact for help. Bursting the Bubble also has true stories from young people about how they coped with family violence in their families.

FaithTrust Institute

www.faithtrustinstitute.org

FaithTrust Institute is a multifaith and multicultural training and education organisation working to end sexual and domestic violence. The website has many resources about domestic violence from the perspectives of faith and action to be taken by faith communities to address domestic violence.

Love: The good, the bad and the ugly

lovegoodbadugly.com

Love: The good, the bad and the ugly is a guide about abusive relationships for young people. The website has information about abuse and violence in relationships and how to know if you or someone you know is in an abusive relationship.

Take a stand campaign – South African Faith and Family Institute

www.saffi.org.za

South African Faith and Family Institute calls upon faith leaders to 'take a stand' against intimate partner violence and gender based violence. It calls for faith communities to prioritise the issue of violence against women and children.

Youth Central

www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au

Youth Central is a website that has information on a range of topics for young people. It includes information about health and relationships.

Our Watch

www.ourwatch.org.au

Our Watch is nation-wide organisation established to change cultures, behaviours and attitudes that underpin violence against women and children.



YOUR OWN RESOURCES

You may come across other resources. Fill in the blank table below and keep them for your records.

SERVICE/ORGANISATION	PHONE	WEBSITE

5.2 FURTHER READINGS AND RESOURCES

VicHealth. (2007). *Preventing violence before it occurs: A framework and background paper to guide primary prevention of violence against women in Victoria*. Melbourne, VicHealth.

Faith-based resources

Anglican Diocese of Melbourne – Preventing violence against women

(see many documents on the work the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne has done to prevent violence against women)

www.melbourneanglican.org.au/ServingCommunity/src/Pages/Prevention-of-Violence-Against-Women.aspx

Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights. (2011). *Muslim women, Islam and family violence: A guide to changing the way we work with Muslim women experiencing family violence*. Melbourne, Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights.

Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights. (2011). *Islam and Muslims oppose violence against women: A guide for Muslim women*. Melbourne, Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights.

Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights. (2013). *Working with Muslim women on the effects of family violence and child sexual abuse on children*. Melbourne, Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights.

Holmes, S. (2012). *Promoting equal and respectful relationships in faith communities: A manual and tool kit – Working together to prevent violence against women before it occurs*. Melbourne, Darebin City Council, VicHealth.

Immigrant Women's Domestic Violence Service. (2007). *Responding to domestic violence: Faith leader handbook*. Melbourne, Immigrant Women's Domestic Violence Service.

Jewish Taskforce Against Family Violence. (2011). *Will my rabbi believe me? Will he understand?: Responding to disclosures of family violence in a rabbinic context*. Caulfield, Jewish Taskforce Against Family Violence.

Sheerattan-Bisnauth, P., and Peacock, P. V (eds.). (2010). *Created in God's Image - From Hegemony to Partnership - A Church Manual on Men as Partners: Promoting Positive Masculinities*, World Communion of Reformed Churches, Geneva 2010.

Transforming Communities: Technical Assistance, Training and Resource Center. (2010). *One in spirit: Domestic violence advocates and faith and spiritual leaders working in partnership to end domestic violence*. San Rafael, California, Transforming Communities: Technical Assistance, Training and Resource Center.

Trocaire and Raising Voices. (2013). *Through the voice of faith – Learnings to inspire DV prevention through faith communities*. Kildare, Ireland, Trocaire.

United Nations Population Fund. (2012). *A mapping of faith-based responses to violence against women and girls in the Asia-Pacific region*.

World Conference of Religions for Peace. (2009). *Restoring Dignity: A toolkit for religious communities to end violence against women*. New York, World Conference of Religions for Peace.



