



## **Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness**

### **For the Community and Faith Leaders**

- 74% of Americans personally know someone who is or has been abused.
- 33% of American women will be victims of relationship violence; 20% of severe physical abuse.
- 25% of American men will be victims of relationship violence; 14% of severe physical abuse.
- 33% of American adolescents will be victims of dating abuse; 10% of physical abuse.
- 62% of tweens (age 11-14) who have been in a relationship say they know friends who have been verbally abused by a boyfriend or girlfriend.
- 40% of 14 to 17 year-olds reported knowing someone their age who has been hit or beaten by a boyfriend.
- 80% of teen girls who are physically abused by a dating partner continue to date their abuser.
- 67% of teens who are abused by a dating partner never told anyone.
- 58% of parents cannot correctly identify all the warning signs of abuse.
- 67% of parents report that dating violence is not an issue at all for their teenaged children.

#### **Relationship Violence:**

- is a series of patterned behaviors over time
- aims to gain or maintain power and control
- involves harmful and coercive behaviors
- is a choice
- is learned
- is not about anger management
- is never the victim's fault

#### **Warning Signs of Abuse in Others:**

- Bruises, cuts or scratches that seem to be unexplained
- Incongruous clothing or accessories for current weather or time
- Fear of partner: verbalizations, flinching, nervousness
- Isolation from friends and family
- Depressed, lonely, low self-esteem
- Lack of self-care
- Substance use
- Being defensive, sneaky, secretive
- Making excuses for or deferring to partner

#### **Red Flags of Abusive Behavior in a Partner:**

- Teasing
- Playing too rough
- Being two-faced
- Being untrustworthy
- Constantly lying
- Blaming others

- Making you feel guilty
- Telling you what to do
- Pouting when you spend time with friends or family
- Extreme jealousy
- Possessiveness
- Explosive rage

#### Types of Abuse:

- Physical
- Verbal
- Emotional
- Sexual
- Digital
- Financial

In one study, among women presently in abusive relationships, 62% practice their religion either strictly or moderately, 42% attend religious services weekly or almost weekly, and yet only 7% would confide in their clergy if they felt unsafe.

#### **Mistakes made by some faith leaders:**

*1. Abused women are sometimes given incorrect and harmful advice.*

Reality: Submission and victim-blaming reinforce abuse.

*2. Abuse is not addressed or condemned by some faith leaders.*

Reality: Silence perpetuates abuse and disempowers victims.

*3. Some faith leaders minimize the prevalence and gravity of domestic violence.*

Reality: Physical and sexual abuse rates are not appreciably lower among members of faith communities than those who are not.

*4. Some faith leaders discourage separating and emphasize the importance of commitment.*

Reality: Couples counseling and redirection from faith leaders fail to stop the abuse.

*5. Some faith leaders state or imply that the woman is partially responsible for the abuse.*

Reality: Abuse is intentional and never the victim's fault. Victim blaming reinforces the abuse.

#### **What faith leaders should do:**

1. Educate yourself on relationship violence.
2. Learn the different types of abuse, the dynamics of abuse and the tactics used by abusers.
3. Refuse to be deceived by perpetrators of relationship violence.
4. Prioritize the protection of abuse victims and their children.
5. Advocate for full accountability for abusers.
6. Condemn abuse from the podium and broadly educate the congregation on abuse.
7. Make strong statements against relationship violence in your social circles.
8. Research community resources and organizations that offer services to victims of abuse.
9. Work with other faith and civic leaders (including legal authorities) to hold batterers fully responsible for their actions.
10. Develop a protocol to follow when a victim discloses abuse. Be responsive.
11. Listen to, believe, support and remind victims that it is not their fault. No one deserves abuse; abuse is not God's will.
12. Call 911 if you suspect or know physical abuse is happening. Assault is a crime.
13. Humbly recognize their own limits as well as the complexities of domestic violence.
  1. Refer victims to specialized counselors and resources.
  2. Refer abusers to specialized BIPP facilitators.

**What faith leaders should *not* do:**

- Never blame the victim.
- Never tolerate RV under cover of male supremacy or godly submission.
- Never believe it wouldn't happen in your congregation.
- Never address abuse when both the victim and abuser are present.
- Never disclose information given to you by a victim without their permission.
- Never defend a batterer to police, prosecutors or judges.

**Faith leaders should tell their congregants:**

- Seek help immediately if you are being abused.
- Stop the violence immediately and seek help if you are abusive.
- Interrupt verbal abuse, and if safe, acts of violence you witness.
- Relationship violence is a crime.
- Abuse is a choice.
- Abuse is not condoned by God.
- Donate, volunteer, and give to local agencies.

**Invite Hope's Door New Beginning Center to speak, present, host a booth or conduct outreach in your faith community or organization!**

Please contact:

**Ryan Thomas**  
Community Education Coordinator  
[rthomas@hdnbc.org](mailto:rthomas@hdnbc.org)  
469-247-5133 (cell)  
[www.hdnbc.org](http://www.hdnbc.org)  
Hotline: **(972) 276-0057**

**Hope's Door New Beginning Center offers the following FREE services:**

- 24-Hour Hotline
- 24-Hour Emergency Shelter
- Counseling (adults and children)
- Legal Advocacy
- Case Management
- Housing Services
- Community Education Services (DV101, Teen Dating Violence, Booths, Events)
- Food Pantry
- Outreach Center
- English and Spanish Services
- LGBT Services
- Sexual Assault Survivor Services
- BIPP (Batterer Intervention and Prevention Program) (attendees must pay a fee)

## Domestic Violence Resources in Dallas

### **Brighter Tomorrows**

Cities: Irving, Grand Prairie

County: Dallas

Executive Director/Program Contact: Diana Franzetti

Phone Number: 972-254-4003

Hotline: 972-262-8383

Website Address: [www.brightertomorrows.net](http://www.brightertomorrows.net)

Program Information: **24-Hour Emergency Shelter, HHSC Funded, Outreach Center, Sexual Assault Program, TCFV Member**

### **First Choice Social Services**

City: Garland

County: Dallas

Executive Director/Program Contact: Bridget Vinson-O'Neal

Phone Number: 972-468-0631

Website Address: [www.firstchoicesocialservices.org](http://www.firstchoicesocialservices.org)

Additional Counties Served: Collin, Ellis, Hunt, Kaufman

Program Information: **BIPPs, TCFV Member**

### **Genesis Women's Shelter**

City: Dallas

County: Dallas

Executive Director/Program Contact: Jan Langbein

Phone Number: 214-389-7700

Hotline: 214-946-4357

Website Address: [www.genesisshelter.org](http://www.genesisshelter.org)

Program Information: **24-Hour Emergency Shelter, TCFV Member**

### **Hope's Door/New Beginning Center**

Cities: **Plano, Garland**

Counties: **Collin, Dallas**

Executive Director/Program Contact: James Malatich

Phone Number: **972-422-2911**

Hotlines: **972-276-0057, 972-422-7233**

Website Address: [www.hdnbc.org](http://www.hdnbc.org)

Additional Counties Served: Denton

Program Information: **24-Hour Emergency Shelter, BIPP, Counseling (adults and children), Legal Advocacy, Case Management, Housing Services, Community Education Services, Food Pantry, Outreach Center, English and Spanish Services, LGBT Services, Sexual Assault Survivor Services, HHSC Funded, TCFV Member**

**Mosaic Family Services, Inc.**

City: Dallas  
County: Dallas  
Executive Director/Program Contact: Walter Nguyen  
Phone Number: 214-821-5393  
Hotline: 214-823-4434  
Website Address: [www.mosaicservices.org](http://www.mosaicservices.org)  
Program Information: **HHSC Funded, Nonresidential Center, TCFV Member**

### **SafeHaven of Tarrant County BIPP**

City: Arlington  
County: Tarrant  
Executive Director/Program Contact: Gil Guerrero  
Phone Number: 817-548-0583  
Website Address: [www.safehaventc.org](http://www.safehaventc.org)  
Additional Counties Served: Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Parker, Wise  
Program Information: **BIPPs, TCFV Member**

### **The Family Place**

City: Dallas  
County: Dallas  
Executive Director/Program Contact: Paige Flink  
Phone Number: 214-956-0100  
Hotline: 214-941-1991  
Website Address: [www.familyplace.org](http://www.familyplace.org)  
Program Information: **24-Hour Emergency Shelter, HHSC Funded, HHSC Special Project, Outreach Center, TCFV Member**

### **The Family Place BIPP**

City: Dallas  
County: Dallas  
Executive Director/Program Contact: David Almager  
TCFV Region: 4  
Phone Number: 214-692-8295  
Website Address: [www.familyplace.org](http://www.familyplace.org)  
Additional Counties Served: Dallas, Collin  
Program Information: **BIPPs, TCFV Member**

### **The Salvation Army Family Violence Program**

City: Dallas  
County: Dallas  
Executive Director/Program Contact: Blake Fetterman  
Phone Number: 214-424-7058  
Hotline: 214-424-7208  
Website Address: [www.salvationarmydallas.org](http://www.salvationarmydallas.org)  
Additional Counties Served: Collin, Denton, Ellis, Tarrant  
Program Information: **24-Hour Emergency Shelter, HHSC Funded**