

INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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EXCERPTS FROM *THE DYNAMICS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE*
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“Treatment of families experiencing violence and abuse requires integrating the needs of the whole person. Thus, the importance of developing a shared understanding and cooperation between secular and religious helpers to deal with family violence cannot be emphasized too strongly”

(Marie M. Fortune, “A Workshop Manual for Clergy and Other Service Providers,” published by the Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence).





- **Educate yourself** and become aware of the dynamics of domestic violence: read books, watch videos, attend workshops, seminars, etc.
- **Be proactive** in contacting and assisting programs in your area that provide safety, advocacy, support and other needed services for victims and perpetrators.
- **Promote a victim-centered response** to violence and access to community resources.



- **Hold offenders accountable.**
- **Ensure all communities, including underserved populations, affected by domestic violence have a voice** and access to culturally appropriate responses and resources.
- **Promote a collective position on awareness of domestic violence** as a community problem and a community responsibility to prevent it and an intervention protocol when it occurs.

- **Establish a coordinated community response** to domestic violence to include representatives from law enforcement, the school system, mental health professionals, district attorneys, child protection services, clergy, healthcare professionals, victim advocates, programs for offenders, elder abuse, politicians, and probation officers.
- **Contact your local representative to ensure laws are instituted and upheld that will help to prevent domestic violence**, provide safety and services for victims, and accountability of abusers.

