In many countries, there are resources in the community to which a pastor can turn. The first is the local “safe house” or “women’s shelter.” These establishments are always anxious to assist in teaching clergy about the problem. They are listed in your phone book.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Domestic violence resources:

Human Rights Watch
1522 K Street NW #910, Washington, DC 20005, phone (202) 371-6592

International Women’s Rights Action Watch
Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, 301 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55455

United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)
e-mail: currents@unifem.org

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
womensministries@gc.adventist.org
www.adventistwomensministries.org
www.enditnow.org
301-680-6608
Department of Women’s Ministries
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600 USA

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: WHAT EVERY PASTOR NEEDS TO KNOW.

HELPING HURTING MEMBERS: A HANDBOOK FOR PASTORS AND OTHER HELPING PROFESSIONALS. AdventSource


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Community and International RESOURCES

COMMUNITY RESOURCES
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Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

Psalms 82:3-4 (NIV)

GOD SPEAKS

The Lord desires His people to give in their homes a representation of the order and harmony that pervade the heavenly courts. E. G. White, Counsels on Health, 101

WHAT IS ABUSE?
Abuse: to injure or damage someone physically, psychologically/emotionally or sexually in order to intimidate, dominate, control, and/or exercise power. Abuse can be isolated or habitual, premeditated or spontaneous. The one who inflicts the abuse is typically called the abuser; the one who is abused is typically called the victim. Abuse can be overt or subtle. Regardless of the type of abuse, the results are equally destructive.

FORMS OF ABUSE
Physical: Actions which cause humiliation, physical pain or injury.
Psychological/Emotional: actions which cause loss of self-esteem, and/or self-determination.
Sexual: Actions of a sexual nature that are unwelcome, uncomfortable, inappropriate or forced.
Financial: Actions of controlling and using the victims’ finances without their permission or knowledge.
Digital: Actions of using technology such as texting and social networking to bully, harass, stalk or intimidate.

WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT

AS A PASTOR HAVE YOU EVER . . .
• Believed that abuse does not happen in the Seventh-day Adventist church?
• Been asked for help by a victim of abuse?
• Been overwhelmed by the needs of victims of abuse?
• Wished you had more resources to help you respond to domestic violence?
• Felt like your training did not equip you to respond to victims of abuse?

AS A PASTOR I CAN . . .
• Recognize that abuse happens, even in my church.
• Work to ensure that my church is a safe place for all.
• Make my church a safe, comfortable place to talk about issues relating to abuse.
• Respect confidentiality.

AS A PASTOR, I WILL NOT . . .
• Use religious teachings and sermons to support abuse.
• Forget that the safety of the victims is most important.
• Deny and minimize violence.
• Ignore, cover, deny or remain silent about abuse.
• Breach the confidentiality of the victim.
• Allow excuses for family violence.
• Assume a role for which I am not trained.

(Information sourced from: A Minister’s Guide to Understanding Domestic Violence. Amelia Rose, PhD; CFLE, 2005.)

WHO ARE ABUSED?
Abuse is neither gender nor age specific, but the vast majority of those abused are women and children. One in three women in the world can expect to be abused sometime in her life.

Child Abuse: Child abuse includes all of the above, as well as neglect and deprivation of essentials such as medical attention, food, appropriate supervision and care.

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