

God Speaks

“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)

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

Resources for a pastor

Community Resources

In many countries, there are resources in the community to which a pastor can turn. The first is always 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

Some further domestic violence resource centers are:

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 (UNEFEM)
email: currents@unifem.org

Useful Web Sites

National Advisory Council on Violence Against Women

<http://toolkit.ncjrs.org>

Shalom Bayit – Bay Area Jewish Women Working to End Domestic Violence. <http://www.Shalom-Bayit.org>

Clergy and Educator Abuse Survivors Empowered :

www.advocateweb.org/cease

Regeneration Ministries: www.regenerationministries.com

Faith and Trust institute: www.faithtrustinstitute.org/

UNICEF www.unicef.org/publications

World Information www.hotpeachepages.net

Religious resources

Peace and Healing:

Available from family ministries or www.AdventSource.org

Abuse Prevention Emphasis Sabbath packet:

Available in the Women’s Ministries web site: <http://wm.gc.adventist.org>

Breaking the Silence Six Brochures:

Available in the Women’s Ministries web site: <http://wm.gc.adventist.org>

- You can stop the violence and help them heal
- Do you know someone who is abused?
- Are you being abused by your boyfriend or husband?
- Are you abusing someone?
- Have your child being abused?
- Are you being abused by your girlfriend or wife?

Books and Publications

Domestic Violence: What Every Pastor Needs to Know. Al Miles, Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Press, 2000

Helping Hurting Members: A handbook for Pastor and Other helping Professional – AdventSource

Understanding Intimate Violence. Barbara Couden, Ed., Review and Herald Pub. Association

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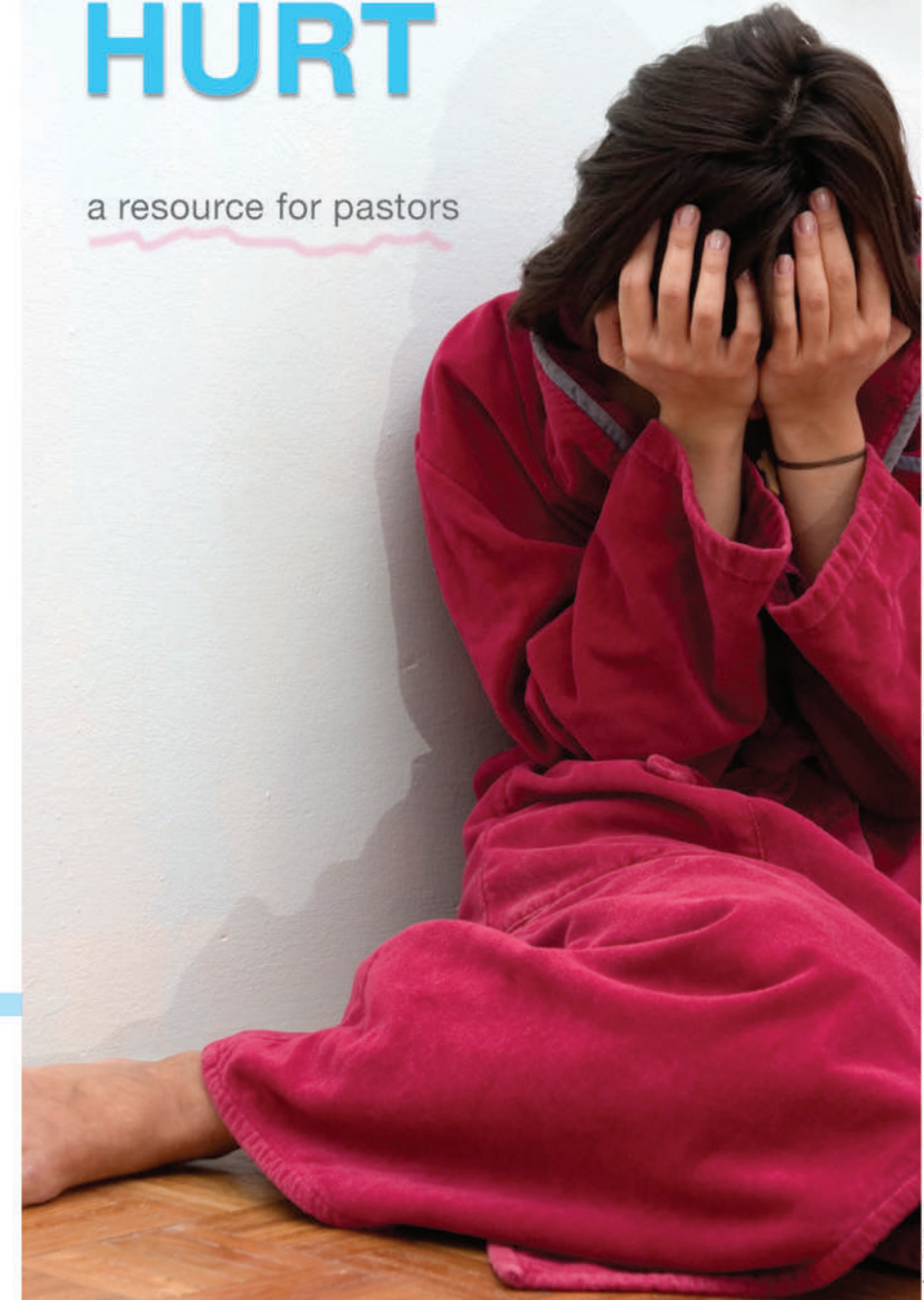
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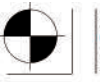
LOVE SHOULDN'T HURT

a resource for pastors



CMYK





Abuse! What is it



Abuse is to intentionally or unconsciously injure or damage someone physically, psychologically/emotionally, or sexually with the purpose to intimidate, dominate, control and/or exercise power.

About Abuse

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 very subtle. Regardless of the type of abuse an individual receives – the results are similarly 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

Child Abuse: All of the above definitions, as well as neglect, deprivation of essentials eg. medical attention, food, appropriate supervision and care.

Who are abused



Abuse is neither gender or age specific but the vast majority of abused are women and children. One in three women in the world can expect to be abused sometime in her life.

As a pastor have you ever

- Believed that abuse does not happen in the SDA 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
- Do all to ensure that my church is a safe place for all
- Make my church a comfortable and safe place to talk about issues relating to abuse

- Respect confidentiality
- Be a good listener – in order to validate the pain and brokenness of victims
- Withhold judgment while supporting the victims and the family
- Know what community support is available in order to refer people as appropriate
- Have information regarding abuse available to my congregations
- When possible, and as appropriate, support local women's shelters
- Address issues on abuse from the pulpit
- Hold perpetrators accountable for their actions
- Reaffirm the worth of all people
- Be aware of the barriers victims face
- Encourage members to talk about abuse
- Know my limitations in dealing with abuse issues and cases
- Assist/arrange for the safety and support of victims

(Source: A Minister's Guide to Understand Domestic Violence, Amelia Rose, PhD;CFLE)

Don't

- Use religious teachings and sermons to support abuse
- Forget that the safety of the victim 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 you were not trained (Ibid)

