

**DECLARATION
BY A FAITH COMMUNITY
TO ADDRESS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE**

We invite you to call upon your faith community to discuss the following safe church charter statements and work collaboratively to adopt this declaration to uphold a faithful response to domestic violence and abuse. *Complete by adding your faith community name on the lines below.*

We proclaim with one voice as leaders and members in our faith community of _____ that domestic violence exists in all communities including our own and is morally, spiritually and universally intolerable.

We acknowledge that our sacred texts, traditions and values have too often been misused to perpetuate and condone abuse.

Our religious and spiritual traditions compel us to work for justice, equality in relationships and the safety and protection of the vulnerable.

_____ will listen, support and care for those affected by domestic violence and abuse always placing their safety as the highest priority. Further, we will respect with confidentiality their freedom to direct their own life and decisions to the extent permitted by law.

_____ will insist upon accountability for abusers and will thereby support clear guidelines that always ensure safety for those abused.

_____ will not tolerate domestic violence and abuse. Therefore:

- We seek to create a supportive community in which all feel comfortable discussing domestic violence and we commit to prioritize our time, talents and resources to fully address domestic violence and abuse.
- We will adopt policies and procedures that make our faith community a safe place. We will ensure that the policies are maintained, published, and posted for all to access.
- We will support and work with domestic violence programs and agencies in our community to fully understand services available and know how to refer those who suffer from domestic violence and abuse.

We call upon all people of _____

to commit to this declaration on (*date*) _____.