

# Domestic Violence Forum

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For Faith Leaders  
October 28, 2017



# Statistics

- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have been victims of [some form of] physical violence by an intimate partner within their lifetime.
- A woman is beaten every nine seconds in the U.S.
- On average more than three women a day are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in the United States.
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- Women between the ages of 18-24 are most commonly abused by an intimate partner.
- In a survey of victim/survivors in Boroklyn, Queens and the Bronx - 82% of those surveyed that they would go to their faith leaders first for assistance.

## Definition of Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence

**Domestic Violence and Intimate Partner Violence (DV/IPV)** is the **actual** or **threatened** physical, sexual, psychological, (verbal, emotional, spiritual) and economic abuse that impairs that ability of the abused person to function in a self-determining and healthy way or causes the person to be afraid. It is a pattern of coercive behavior - the **goal** of which is to establish and maintain power and control.

# What Faith Leaders Can Do About DV/IPV

- BECOME A SAFE PLACE
- EDUCATE the congregation
- SPEAK out
- LEAD by example
- OFFER space
- PARTNER with existing resources

# What Faith Leaders Can Do About DV/IPV

- PREPARE to be a resource
- PREVENT
- INTERVENE
- SUPPORT professional training
- CONNECT Faith - [www.connectnyc.org](http://www.connectnyc.org)

# CASE STUDIES

1. Edwin
- 2.

# Teen Dating Violence Statistics

72% of 8th and 9th graders reportedly “date”

1 in 4 adolescents report verbal, physical, emotional, or sexual abuse from a dating partner each year.

About 10% of students nationwide report being physically hurt by a boyfriend or girlfriend in the past 12 months.

About 1 in 5 women and nearly 1 in 7 men who ever experienced rape, physical, violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner first experienced some form of partner violence between 11 and 17 years of age.



# Teen Dating Violence Statistics

Teen mothers are at a high risk violence from their partners during both their pregnancy and the postpartum period.

Just as with adult victim-survivors, victims of teen dating violence come from all walks of life, all races, all socioeconomic backgrounds and all religious communities.

**Unhealthy relationships can start early and last a lifetime.  
Dating violence often starts with teasing and name calling.  
These behaviors are often thought to be a “normal” part of a  
relationship. But these behaviors can lead to more serious  
violence like physical assault and rape.**

## Teen Dating Violence

**Teen Dating Violence** is the **actual** or ***threatened physical, sexual, psychological, (verbal, emotional, spiritual) and economic abuse*** that impairs that ability of the abused person to function in a self-determining and healthy way or causes the person to be afraid. It is **a pattern of coercive behavior** - the **goal** of which ***is to establish and maintain power and control.***

# Who Is At Risk For Teen (Any) Dating Violence

1. Poor social skills
2. Inability to manage anger and conflict
3. Belief that using dating violence is acceptable
4. Having more traditional beliefs about the roles of males and females
5. Witnessing violence at home
6. Alcohol use
7. Having behavior problems in other areas
8. Having a friend involved with dating violence
9. Witnessing violence in the community

# How Can We Prevent Dating Violence?

1. Talk with teens (and even when they are younger) about what healthy relationships look like:
  - a. **Self-respect**
  - b. **Personal Boundaries**
  - c. **Dating**
  - d. **Recognizing Abuse**
2. Being able to have a conversation with teens (and younger) means that you need to be aware of what a healthy relationship looks like.

The Respect Challenge at [Futurewithoutviolence.org](http://Futurewithoutviolence.org)

<http://startstrong.futureswithoutviolence.org/>

# What To Do?

The best solution would be prevention. Begin early teaching children what healthy relationships look like. Even if they live in violent communities and/or homes. Do not underestimate the effect your words can have on a child.

If you are responding to a crisis with either teens use the same protocol you would use for helping an adult.

Do you have a responsibility to report the abuse?

If the person is a minor you do have the mandate to report abuse to Child Protective Services.

# Faith Issues

Scripture: Do not take the scripture out of context (Ephesians 5)

Preach about Domestic and Teen Dating Violence (October if no other time)

Post information that offer resources, like helpline numbers, in bathrooms or in the church bulletin

Train and encourage youth ministers to teach about healthy relationships

Hold Bible studies about problematic texts like Princess Tamar and Bathsheba

Do not just make this a "woman's" issue

# Other Challenges

1. Feeling Abandoned by God
  - a. Why did God let this happen to me?
2. Forgiveness
  - a. How and when should the forgive?
  - b. Why do we forgive?
  - c. What does forgiveness look like? - It's not always reconciliation - how do you feel about that?
3. Accountability for the abusive partner
  - a. Unknowingly colluding with the abusive partner
  - b. Having the abusive partner take responsibility for their actions