

Union of Saints

Tables Victim Blaming, Spiritual Selling Out, What “Selling Out” a Friend May Look Like, Family Selling Out, Workplace Selling Out

It is 2025 ~ We have come a long way, but we are making history here at the Union of Saints, for a reason. Understanding abuses can help us overcome them. Hurdles ahead, but this document, and others like this, on the site, and our **POWER combined** can help us **climb that mountain**.
Let's climb that mountain.

1. Victim-Blaming Facets

This table outlines the many ways society shifts responsibility from perpetrators onto survivors. It shows how victim-blaming appears through judgments about behavior, clothing, relationships, substance use, timing, or identity. It reveals how survivors are often retraumatized through layers of stigma, silence, and dismissal. The counter-narratives affirm survivors' dignity and restore truth to their stories. The key truth: **survivors are never to blame — responsibility always lies with the perpetrator.**

Category	Examples of Victim-Blaming	Impact on Survivors	Truth / Counter-Narrative
Behavior	“Why didn’t you fight back?” • “Why didn’t you leave sooner?” • “You should have screamed.”	Fuels shame, implies responsibility lies with the survivor’s actions (or inaction).	Freeze, compliance, or silence are common trauma responses. The responsibility is 100% on the perpetrator.
Appearance	“You were dressed too provocatively.” • “You looked like you wanted it.”	Suggests safety depends on clothing; enforces control over self-expression.	Clothing is never consent. Everyone deserves safety regardless of appearance.
Relationships	“Why did you stay with them?” • “Why did you trust them?”	Oversimplifies trauma bonds, financial	Abusers manipulate, isolate, and control. Staying is often about

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Substance Use	"You shouldn't have been drinking." • "Were you on drugs?"	dependence, or coercion. Excuses perpetrators, strips survivors of their right to safety.	survival, not consent. Intoxication does not equal consent. Only the perpetrator is responsible.
Cultural / Religious Norms	"Good women don't put themselves in that situation." • "You dishonored your family."	Reinforces silence, control, and stigma.	Honor lies in surviving and speaking truth; shame belongs to the abuser.
Psychological State	"You're exaggerating." • "You're too sensitive." • "Maybe you misunderstood."	Gaslights survivors; undermines credibility.	Trauma reactions are valid and real. Survivors' voices are trustworthy.
Timing of Disclosure	"Why didn't you tell anyone sooner?" • "If it really happened, you'd report right away."	Ignores fear, dissociation, or retaliation risks.	Delayed disclosure is common; it's a survival strategy.
Perpetrator Defense	"He's a good man, he wouldn't do that." • "Boys will be boys."	Protects perpetrators, dismisses harm.	Good reputations do not erase abuse. Harmful actions define accountability.
Systemic / Institutional	Police: "Are you sure you want to press charges?" • Courts: "Not enough evidence." • Employers: "It's just a misunderstanding."	Creates barriers to justice, retraumatizes survivors.	Institutions must protect victims, not abusers. Justice systems should center survivor safety.
Self-Blame (Internalized)	"I shouldn't have gone there." • "It's my fault for trusting them."	Survivors absorb blaming narratives; deepens trauma.	Survivors are never at fault. Blame lies entirely with the perpetrator.
Past Shaming	"You've always been trouble." • "You were promiscuous in the past, so what did you expect?" • "You have a history of problems."	Uses past mistakes, experiences, or identity to excuse abuse; denies present harm.	No past behavior justifies assault or violence. Every person deserves safety and dignity in the present.
Identity-Based Blaming	"This happens to people like you." • "That's what you get for being [race/gender/sexual orientation]."	Weaponizes identity as an excuse for harm; compounds systemic oppression.	Abuse is never justified by identity. Discrimination magnifies harm and must be challenged.
Economic / Status Blaming	"You shouldn't have been in that neighborhood." • "If you weren't poor, this wouldn't have happened."	Links poverty or class to deserving harm.	Violence is not chosen by victims. Exploiting vulnerability is the perpetrator's wrongdoing.

Category	Examples of Victim-Blaming	Impact on Survivors	Truth / Counter-Narrative
Silencing by Comparison	“Others have it worse.” • “At least you’re alive.”	Minimizes trauma, delegitimizes feelings.	Every harm matters. Survival doesn’t erase suffering or the right to healing.

2. Spiritual “Selling Out” of Others

This table explores how spiritual or religious institutions sometimes betray survivors by weaponizing forgiveness, shaming, protecting abusers, or misusing doctrine. It highlights the deep harm of **spiritual betrayal** and how it compounds trauma by mixing abuse with faith. The reminder: true spirituality should protect the vulnerable, not sacrifice them.

Facet	What It Looks Like	Impact on Victims/Survivors
Using Forgiveness as a Weapon	Pressuring survivors to “forgive and forget” quickly, or telling them anger is unspiritual.	Silences pain, invalidates trauma, and protects perpetrators.
Sanctifying Abuse	Saying “It’s God’s will,” “This suffering is your cross to bear,” or “Everything happens for a reason.”	Normalizes harm, traps survivors in cycles of guilt and obedience.
Protecting Abusers for Reputation	Religious leaders covering up abuse to “protect the church,” community, or faith.	Betrays survivors, fosters distrust, perpetuates systemic harm.
Shaming Survivors’ “Purity”	Blaming victims of sexual violence for being “impure,” “fallen,” or “dishonorable.”	Deepens shame, creates spiritual exile, alienates from community.
Transactional Piety	Offering blessings, healing, or absolution only if survivors stay silent, donate, or comply with leaders.	Exploits vulnerability for power or profit.
Weaponizing Scripture / Belief	Quoting verses or doctrine to justify abuse or silence: “Wives must submit,” “Children must obey.”	Distorts faith into a tool of control; strips survivors of agency.
Exiling Dissenters	Shunning or casting out those who speak truth about abuse within a spiritual community.	Isolates survivors, denies belonging, enforces secrecy.
Spiritual Gaslighting	“You’re being tested.” • “Maybe your lack of faith caused this.” • “You must have sinned.”	Blames survivors for their suffering; distorts meaning-making.
Selling Access to the Divine	Leaders positioning themselves as gatekeepers to God, truth, or salvation—demanding loyalty over conscience.	Creates dependence, keeps survivors from trusting their own inner strength.
Minimizing Atrocity with Mysticism	Responding to genocide, slavery, or sexual violence with detached spiritual platitudes: “Souls chose this path.”	Dehumanizes victims; erases real-world responsibility.

3. General Selling Out of Friends

This table looks at betrayal in everyday life: abandoning someone in crisis, gossiping, siding with oppressors, or throwing a friend “under the bus.” Selling out is essentially choosing **self-interest, status, or comfort over loyalty and integrity**. The pain is sharper because it comes from someone trusted.

Facet	Examples	Impact on the Friendship / Person Sold Out
Betraying Confidence	Sharing secrets for attention, clout, or advantage.	Breaks trust, leaves the friend vulnerable.
Abandoning in Crisis	Disappearing when things get hard, or choosing convenience over loyalty.	Leaves the friend feeling isolated and disposable.
Social Climbing	Dropping a friend to fit in with a “cooler” group, or mocking them to gain approval from others.	Inflicts rejection and social humiliation.
Taking the Oppressor’s Side	Siding with someone who harmed your friend to stay in good standing or avoid conflict.	Feels like double-betrayal; deepens the wound.
Exploiting for Gain	Using a friend’s skills, money, or connections without respect or reciprocity.	Reduces friendship to transaction; creates resentment.
Failure to Defend	Staying silent while others spread lies, bully, or mistreat the friend.	Implies complicity; erodes trust and safety.
Throwing Under the Bus	Blaming a friend to avoid consequences, protect one’s own image, or gain favor.	Causes reputational harm; destroys bond.
Performative Loyalty	Pretending to be supportive in private but distancing publicly.	Creates confusion, mistrust, and emotional harm.
Moral / Value Compromise	Ignoring harm done to a friend because speaking up would be inconvenient or unpopular.	Signals their dignity matters less than one’s own comfort.

4. Family Selling Out

Families can either be a place of refuge or a place of betrayal. When families “sell out” their own members—choosing reputation, silence, or loyalty to abusers over support for survivors—the harm cuts even deeper than external betrayal. Survivors may lose both safety and belonging, reinforcing the trauma of abandonment.

Facet	Examples	Impact on Survivor / Family Member
Protecting Reputation Over Truth	“Don’t tell anyone, it will shame the family.” • Covering up abuse to keep appearances.	Silences survivors; deepens isolation.
Taking the Abuser’s Side	Believing or excusing the abuser within the family (“He didn’t mean it,” “Don’t exaggerate”).	Betrays trust; retraumatizes the victim.
Minimizing Harm	“It wasn’t that bad.” • “You’re being dramatic.”	Invalidates trauma, discourages healing.
Scapegoating	Blaming the survivor for family problems (“You’re tearing this family apart by speaking up”).	Shifts guilt from perpetrator to victim.
Exiling / Shunning	Cutting ties with the survivor for “causing trouble” or refusing silence.	Creates abandonment wounds, compounds harm.
Using Survivors as Shields	Expecting the harmed member to “forgive for the sake of the family” or to maintain unity at their own expense.	Forces emotional labor, prevents accountability.
Transactional Love	Withholding affection, support, or belonging unless survivors stay quiet or comply.	Teaches love as conditional, undermines safety.

5. Workplace Selling Out

In professional settings, “selling out” often shows up as betrayal for career advancement, status, or protection from consequences. When colleagues or employers choose **power, reputation, or convenience over solidarity**, the workplace becomes unsafe and toxic. True professionalism requires integrity, mutual support, and accountability.

Facet	Examples	Impact on the Person Sold Out
Taking Credit / Withholding Credit	Claiming another’s ideas or work to look good with leadership.	Erodes trust, diminishes recognition, causes resentment.
Blame-Shifting	Pinning mistakes on a colleague to avoid consequences.	Harms reputation, creates unjust penalties.
Favoring Power Over Integrity	Siding with abusive managers or higher-ups to maintain status.	Leaves harmed colleagues unsupported, fosters toxic culture.
Silencing Complaints	“Don’t report this, it’ll ruin your career.” • Discouraging whistleblowing.	Forces silence, protects systemic harm.

Facet	Examples	Impact on the Person Sold Out
Exclusion for Advancement	Cutting colleagues out of opportunities, projects, or networks for personal gain.	Blocks growth, undermines belonging.
Performative Allyship	Publicly supporting a colleague but privately distancing when conflict arises.	Creates betrayal and confusion.
Retaliation for Speaking Out	Ostracizing or undermining a colleague who reported abuse, harassment, or discrimination.	Reinforces fear, punishes truth-telling.

Final Combined Summary of All Tables

Across every sphere—**society, family, spirituality, friendship, and the workplace**—the same pattern repeats: betrayal of survivors and shifting responsibility away from perpetrators. Whether through victim-blaming, silencing, gaslighting, or scapegoating, these dynamics protect abusers and isolate the harmed.

The wound is deepest when betrayal comes from trusted places: family that should protect, friends that should stand by, faith that should heal, or colleagues that should support. Each layer of selling out compounds trauma, reinforcing shame and abandonment.

Yet by **naming these betrayals clearly**, we strip them of their hidden power. Survivors are never at fault. Responsibility always lies with those who cause harm and those who protect harm-doers. Naming the patterns is the first step toward breaking them—and toward building communities, families, workplaces, and spiritual spaces rooted in integrity, safety, and unwavering solidarity.

Closing Statement: From Betrayal to Strength

To every survivor who has been blamed, silenced, abandoned, or sold out:
Your truth matters. Your voice matters. Your life matters.

The betrayals of society, family, faith, friends, and workplaces do not define you. They expose the failures of others to stand in integrity. You are not broken; you are carrying the weight of what others refused to hold.

Where blame once lived, let truth stand.
Where silence once suffocated, let your voice rise.
Where betrayal once cut deep, let solidarity and justice take root.

The light at the end of the tunnel is not given by those who abandoned you—
it is carried in your own hands, and it shines brighter with every step forward.

You are not alone.

You are not at fault.

And you are far stronger than the harm that was done.
