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# Expert Q&A: Clergy Response to Survivors of Domestic Violence: How to Engage and Train Faith Leaders

**Moderator:** Tammi Slovinsky

**Guest Host:** Dr. Y. Joon Choi

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# Where Are You Located?

Please type your answer in the chat!

# Featured Host



**Dr. Y. Joon Choi, Ph.D., MSW, MA**

She/Her/Hers

Director & Professor  
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# QUESTIONS

# Current Practice of Faith Leaders Regarding Domestic Violence

What is the current state of faith leaders' practices regarding domestic violence?

Current  
Practice of  
Faith  
Leaders  
Regarding  
Domestic  
Violence  
(continued)

I taught responding to domestic violence in a seminary, and their barrier was knowledge. Do you see the same thing?

Current  
Practice of  
Faith  
Leaders  
Regarding  
Domestic  
Violence  
(continued)

What do faith leaders feel domestic violence is?

# How to Engage Faith Leaders

What are some essential concepts when engaging with faith leaders?

## How to Engage Faith Leaders (continued)

What are some best practices to start reaching out to faith leaders about domestic violence?

## How to Engage Faith Leaders (continued)

How do we get church leaders to recognize they need to support nonprofits that will help members/future members?

## How to Engage Faith Leaders (continued)

How do we present the opportunity to become an advocate with community organizations to lay leaders?

## How to Engage Faith Leaders (continued)

How do we convince faith leaders that domestic violence is not a situation that we should tell a victim to simply pray away?

## How to Engage Faith Leaders (continued)

How do you handle faith leaders or religious organizations that blame the victim or minimize the offenders' actions?

## How to Engage Faith Leaders (continued)

How can you help faith leaders understand that couples counseling may be unsafe for victims/survivors of domestic violence?

# How Faith Leaders Should Respond to Domestic Violence

When should faith leaders or church congregants step in to help someone whom they suspect may be suffering abuse at home?

# How Faith Leaders Should Respond to Domestic Violence (continued)

When parishioners report domestic violence to faith leaders, what duty do faith leaders have to report to law enforcement?

## How Faith Leaders Should Respond to Domestic Violence (continued)

How do you address intimate partner violence if both are congregation members and only one partner communicates the violence?

How Faith  
Leaders  
Should  
Respond to  
Domestic  
Violence  
(continued)

What does safety planning look like for a faith leader?

# How Faith Leaders Should Respond to Domestic Violence (continued)

What advice can you offer a survivor who has been raised to believe the laws of their faith warrant their abuse?

How Faith  
Leaders  
Should  
Respond to  
Domestic  
Violence  
(continued)

What protocol is needed at a church  
when faced with violence?

How Faith  
Leaders  
Should  
Respond to  
Domestic  
Violence  
(continued)

Should faith leaders attend court hearings or trials with families?

# How Faith Leaders Should Respond to Domestic Violence (continued)

How do we start the conversation regarding domestic violence within our congregations?

# How Faith Leaders Should Respond to Domestic Violence (continued)

Not all people are religious. How do you know when to talk about faith with a client?

# How to Work With Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence

Immigrant women report higher rates of domestic violence. How do you engage immigrant communities?

# How to Work With Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence (continued)

What cultural practices are barriers to addressing intimate partner violence, and how do we address them with cultural humility?

# How to Work With Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence (continued)

How would you address language barriers so you can assist immigrant women?



# RESOURCES

# Resources

- [Clergy as Mandatory Reporters of Child Abuse and Neglect](#)
- [Embracing Justice: A Guide for Jewish Clergy on Domestic Abuse](#)
- [Religion and Domestic Violence: Information and Resources](#)
- [Faith, Spirituality, Religion & Domestic Violence](#)
- [Faith Communities: Domestic Violence Protocol 2007](#)
- [A Commentary on Religion and Domestic Violence](#)

# Resources (continued)

- [What a Faith Community Can Do to Respond to Domestic Violence](#)
- [What Does the Bible Say About Violence & Abuse?](#)
- [Domestic Violence: A Focus Guide for Clergy & Religious Leaders](#)
- [Preaching About Sexual and Domestic Violence](#)
- [The Bible on... Understanding What the Bible Says About Faith Issues That Relate to Domestic Violence](#)

# Next Expert Q&A

**Topic:** The Role of Victim Assistance Providers in Victim Impact Programs

**Date:** June 21, 2023

**Featured Host:** Karin Ho

# Thank You!

Download a **certificate of attendance** for today's session via the link in the Chat.

**Questions?**

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