

Promoting Gender Equality and Respect

There are many things you can do to challenge harmful beliefs and prevent inappropriate and abusive behaviour towards women.

They include:

Create awareness: A lack of information and misinformation about domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV) and its causes create fear and prevent women experiencing violence and abuse from seeking help. Faith and community leaders can undertake specific training to better understand DFSV and how to prevent it. You can include information from fact sheets in community newsletters or distribute these as flyers; display posters to increase community knowledge; or create a declaration so your community knows where you stand on promoting men's use of safe and respectful behaviours in relationships and women's right to live free from violence and abuse.

Have discussions: Create opportunities to talk about DFSV and the importance of gender equality in preventing men's use of violence against women. This may be through a sermon, less formal small group discussions or by inviting experts to speak to your community. Include everyone in your community – men, women and young people.

Consider how your faith tradition fosters respect and equality between women and men, how the role of women differs from men's and what more you could do to include women in decision-making and leadership.

Engage: Participate in community initiatives that promote respect between men and women, including the annual International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on 25 November and 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based violence campaign from 25 November until 10 December. You could also recognise International Women's Day on 8 March by celebrating women's contribution to your faith and community.

Take Action: Promote gender equality by making changes in your community to encourage equality and respect of women. These could include creating a gender equality/preventing violence against women plan or action group; encouraging young women to be involved in leadership; and providing training for new leaders.

Build partnerships and advocate for change: Connecting and working with other community groups, networks and faith communities, can help you learn and strengthen your work to prevent DFSV. This can also provide opportunities to connect your faith and community members with safety services, and encourage them to seek help and support.

DFSV Resources

A range of resources are available to help you recognise and challenge violent and abusive behaviour. They include:

1800 RESPECT – National Sexual Assault, Domestic Family Violence Counselling Service

[Information about DFSV in different languages](#)

Anglican Diocese Melbourne

[Preventing Violence Against Women Program](#)

AMES Prevention of Violence Against Women Leadership Project

[Challenging Everyday Sexism – Part 1 and 2](#)

Challenge Family Violence Project

[Promoting Equality and Respect: An interfaith collaboration on preventing family violence](#)

Church of Scotland – Integrity Strategy

[Working to end violence against women](#)
[Resources for tackling violence against women](#)

Faith Communities Addressing Violence Against Women and Family Violence – What Works:

[Key Tips for Effective Prevention in Faith Settings](#)
University of Melbourne and Multicultural Centre for Women's Health

InTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence

[Empowering Faith and Community Leaders to Prevent Violence Against Women](#)

Our Watch – [Let's change the story: Violence against women in Australia](#)

Our Watch – [Prevention Practitioner Guide](#) (with examples for faith based contexts)

Our Watch – [What Drives Violence Against Women?](#)

Promoting Equal and Respectful Relationships in Faith Communities [Manual and toolkit](#)

SASA! Faith

[A Guide for Faith Communities to Prevent Violence Against Women and HIV](#)
Trocaire and Raising Voices

The Man Box: A study on being a young man in Australia

[The Men's Project – Jesuit Social Services](#)

White Ribbon Australia [resources](#)

You can play a key role in preventing and addressing DFSV and keeping women and children safe.

Further information is available at 1800RESPECT (1800 737 732) or www.1800RESPECT.org.au

In an emergency or if someone is in danger call 000 immediately.

This is one of 4 Fact Sheets on DFSV. Additional information about promoting gender equality and respect is available in Fact Sheet 3. To learn more about identifying and responding to DFSV see Fact Sheets 1 and 2.



Government of South Australia



MCCSA
Multicultural Communities Council of South Australia



Women's Safety Services SA

**BREAK
THE
CYCLE**
OF DOMESTIC ABUSE