

## The RAVE Project

(Religion and Violence e-Learning)

### Team Mission

*There is no place like home; when abuse strikes, there is no home.*

**RAVE** seeks to equip religious leaders to respond to domestic violence ways that are compassionate, practical, and informed by the latest research and best practices for professionals;

**RAVE** seeks to build bridges between the steeple and the shelter;

**RAVE** seeks to walk alongside victims and survivors on their journey towards healing and wholeness; and

**RAVE** seeks to hold abusers accountable for their actions, while offering hope for a transformed life.



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## The RAVE Project: Working with Churches to Support Abused Women

RAVE is an initiative that seeks to bring knowledge and social action together to assist families of faith impacted by abuse.



Our logo, featuring the white dove whose wings are outstretched, is meant to represent the centrality of...

- compassion
- spiritual strength
- renewal
- new beginnings

offered to all those impacted by domestic violence.

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## What Can the Church Do?

Religious congregations and their leaders help women to address the spiritual questions that surface when abuse impacts their relationships and home. The language of the spirit speaks of healing and of connecting with God and with sisters and brothers in God's family. When the resources of the community are brought together with resources of the spiritual world, believers who have suffered abuse are given strength and support to combat even the greatest of fears. When clergy condemn abuse from the pulpit or in the privacy of their office, they bring hope and healing to women who have suffered. Christian women need to hear that abuse is always wrong, never part of God's design for healthy family living.

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## Raise awareness in your church on abuse

- Have some of the church groups invite a board member or worker at a women's shelter to explain their work and their needs.

- Plan a training seminar for Sunday School teachers and youth workers. Include both church-related presenters (pastors, denominational resource people) and community presenters (police, child protection worker, shelter worker).



- Choose one month each year and make a local shelter a mission focus. Provide information to the congregation about how many people have been served by the shelter, and ask the shelter for ideas about how the church can help in practical ways. Have some church leaders visit the shelter, and invite shelter workers to the church to provide information for the church and for women's groups about recognizing and responding to abuse.
- Choose a Sunday for a focus on the importance of safety and security in the Christian home. The pastor can confront abuse in the sermon and provide the congregation with written information and resources about abuse.
- Include information about violence in premarital counseling for all couples who are married at the church.
- Schedule youth group and youth Sunday School opportunities to discuss issues related to dating violence.

## How Can We Help?

### We offer resources for churches:

- Contact information for shelters throughout Canada and the United States
- A downloadable safety plan
- Stained glass advice
- Words of hope and awakening
- Information on violence around the world

### Ideas on how to:

- Assist a victim looking for help
- Raise awareness in your church on abuse
- Partner with your community to stop violence
- Support the local shelter

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## Need Help Now?

**Call:**