

Appendix 4: The Church's Charter on Domestic Abuse

Domestic Abuse in all its forms is unacceptable in the church and in society. The Seventh-day Adventist Church:

- Resolves to work towards making all our churches safe places where anyone who has experienced abuse can find sanctuary and informed help.
- Commends the guidelines Safe at Home for use in churches in membership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
- Urges every local congregation to break the silence over domestic abuse.



Safe at Home

Charter on Domestic Abuse



The Seventh-day Adventist Church:

1. Understands domestic abuse to be the violation of a person physically, sexually, emotionally, psychologically, spiritually, socially, or financially within an intimate or family-type relationship and that forms a pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour.
2. Holds that domestic abuse in all its forms is unacceptable and irreconcilable with the Christian faith and a Christian way of living.
3. Accepts that domestic abuse is a serious problem which occurs in church families as well as in wider society.
4. Undertakes to listen, support and care for those affected by domestic abuse.
5. Will always make the safety of victims of abuse a very high priority.
6. Will keep up to date with the work of domestic abuse agencies, will learn from them, and will publicise their work appropriately.
7. Will hold perpetrators of abuse accountable.
8. Believes in a God of love, justice, mercy and forgiveness.
9. Will live and teach what it means to be male and female equally made in God's image.
10. Will seek to train leaders to encourage the use of good practice guidelines, and keep the church informed about the implementation of this charter.