

Why we need to act against domestic abuse

A message from Dr Hannah Thompson, Church of England National Safeguarding Learning and Development Manager

Domestic abuse is the most prevalent form of abuse within our society, and the church plays an important part in recognising and responding to this complex social problem that impacts people, communities and services across our society, spanning health, housing, social care, the Criminal Justice System and beyond.

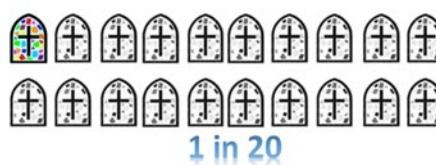


Church should be a source of support for people experiencing abuse, but it all too often creates barriers and difficulties.

A recent study undertaken in partnership with Mother Union and the national safeguarding team highlighted we still have some way to go to ensure anyone experiencing domestic abuse feels

safe and support by their church community. As in some cases *“domestic abuse is not considered a subject to be talked about in the Church to which I belong”*

As Church we want our communities to feel able to recognise and refer individuals to services that can provide the specialist support.



people say domestic abuse is spoken about in sermons, worship and prayer

Over the coming months we will be working across our Church communities to develop, stronger partnership, and developing resources and training to support confidence in recognising and responding to domestic abuse.

