

# Action

## How Church Communities Can Confront Violence and Abuse



- **Listen to, support, and believe** those who are experiencing violence and abuse.



- **Speak out** about the sinfulness of family and domestic violence and the responsibility of perpetrators to change.



- **Publicise the support** available in your area for victim-survivors and for perpetrators who want to change their behaviour.



- **Reflect together** on how we might be caught up in structural and cultural violence.



- **Reject spiritual abuse** by debunking the misuse of faith sources to justify violence, abusive behaviour or to coerce women to stay in unsafe situations.



- **Connect with programs**, ensuring our responses are evidence-based and trauma-informed.



- **Promote resources** on responding to family and domestic violence produced by dioceses e.g. Perth, Broken Bay and Parramatta.

# Prayer

Loving God, you made each of us in your image and likeness.

Open our eyes to recognise one another as equals, replacing domination and control, violence, and abuse, with mutuality, reciprocity, respect, and freedom.

Help us to love like you.

Jesus Christ, you rejected the use of religious traditions to justify violence.

Teach us to unmask manipulations of our faith used to justify violent, abusive, or coercive behaviour.

Teach us to be people who show tenderness, respect and care for others as you did.

Holy Spirit, you are with us always, showing us the way. Move us to assist those who experience violence and abuse, and support their call for justice.

Empower us to hold perpetrators of violence and abuse responsible, encouraging them to change their behaviour.

AMEN



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