

Hyde County Hotline, Inc.

24-Hours Crisis Line 252-925-2500

Visit us at: HydeCounty-Hotline.org Facebook: [Hyde County Hotline](https://www.facebook.com/HydeCountyHotline)



*In the beginning, I was young . . . he was handsome. He said I was beautiful, smart, worthy of love . . .
He made me feel that way.*

And so we were married, walking joyfully together down a church aisle, our union blessed by God.

*Then came the angry words . . . the verbal tearing apart. . . .
Now I was made to feel ugly, unintelligent, unworthy of any love, God's or man's.*

*Next came the beatings . . . unrelenting violence . . . unceasing pain.
I shouldn't stay, but this is my husband . . . promised forever.
He says I deserve it . . . maybe I do . . . if I could just be good.
I feel so alone . . . doesn't God hear me when I cry out silently as I lie in bed each night?*

*Finally came the release, the realization. It's not me . . . it's him. . . . I am worthy of love, God's and man's.
One spring morning, my heart was filled with hope and with fear now only of starting over on my own.
And so again I walked . . . down the hallway of our apartment building . . . never again to be silent . . .
never again to live with that kind of violence, to suffer that kind of pain. —A battered wife
(Source: "When Home Is Where the Hurt Is," *Christopher News Notes*)*

Domestic Violence and the Church

What Can Church Communities Do to Help End Domestic Violence?

Religious communities can be incredibly helpful or incredibly damaging to survivors of abuse. Religion plays a very important role in the lives of many victims of domestic violence. Many women have confided in their faith leader when experiencing domestic violence, and some women have found the support and assistance of their faith community to be essential in obtaining safety. Other women have felt that their religious community has not helped or supported them, by encouraging the woman to work harder to make a marriage work, to pray for strength to deal with domestic violence, or by telling the woman that it is her obligation to stay in a dangerous relationship. Sometimes religious text and traditions have been misinterpreted or misused by religious leaders, which has resulted in guilt, shame, self-blame, and suffering for victims. Some religious texts have been used to justify abusive behaviors. Yet other faith communities have taken a strong stand against abuse in the home and have found ways to advocate with abuse survivors, help facilitate safety and providing essential support for victims.

Faith plays a very important role in the lives of many victims of domestic violence. Many women have reported that their faith and faith community provided essential support when leaving an abusive relationship, and found their religion to be a comfort to them in very difficult times. How we, as Christians, react to an abuse victim will greatly affect how they view God, themselves and even their faith. It is essential to respond with care and encouragement and not with victim blaming and guilt.

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Below is a list of ways in which faith communities can assist survivors of domestic violence:

Get involved.

- Make connections with your local domestic violence program.
- Co-sponsor a training on domestic violence.
- Partner with domestic violence organizations or become a part of your local domestic violence coordinated community response.

Support domestic violence organizations.

- Help a domestic violence organization by taking a special offering, raising money or making donations.
- Volunteer your time or resources to a domestic violence organization.
- Offer free space for domestic violence support groups or trainings.

Educate your faith community.

- Put domestic violence information in your bulletin or newsletter.
- Invite a representative from the domestic violence program to speak to church groups, subcommittees, or at meetings.
- Have information with the local domestic violence programs phone number available in your offices, in restrooms, and at women's meetings.
- Understand that abusive individuals tend to be manipulative and coercive and will often make promises to change, yet rarely keep those promises.
- Address domestic violence in Sunday school or at children's classes or youth groups. Have a speaker from a domestic violence agency complete educational programming with the adults and youth in your congregation.
- Talk about domestic violence in sermons or messages from faith leaders.

Make your faith community a safe space and support abuse survivors.

- Make it clear, that your house of worship is a place that a person can talk to someone about abuse and be supported.
- Intervene when you suspect abuse is occurring. Talk to the couple separately and help the victim plan for safety. Know about community resources for both the abusive individual and the victim.
- Do not engage in any victim blaming and remember only the abuser is responsible for the choice to be violent.
- Reinforce to survivors (and their children) that abuse is never their fault.
- Support the survivor in her decisions, regardless of if they are the same decisions you would make.

(Source: <http://www.odvn.org>)

Go to www.faithtrustinstitute.org for fantastic resources on faith communities and effective ways to respond to domestic violence.

If you or someone you know is being hurt we are here to help! You are not alone.
Please call our **24-Hour Crisis Line at 252-252-2500**. There is an advocate ready to talk to you.

God Hates Violence

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Psalm 11

1 In the LORD I put my trust;
How can you say to my soul,
“Flee as a bird to your mountain”?
2 For look! The wicked bend *their* bow,
They make ready their arrow on the string,
That they may shoot secretly at the upright in heart.
3 If the foundations are destroyed,
What can the righteous do?
4 The LORD *is* in His holy temple,
The LORD’s throne *is* in heaven;
His eyes behold,
His eyelids test the sons of men.
5 The LORD tests the righteous,
But the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates.
6 Upon the wicked He will rain coals;
Fire and brimstone and a burning wind
Shall be the portion of their cup.
7 For the LORD *is* righteous,
He loves righteousness;
His countenance beholds the upright.

As faith leaders and a faith community we have the opportunity to eliminate violence by standing up for those who cannot stand up for themselves and by being there to encourage and support victims by getting them the help they need.

Take a stand against violence today!

Hyde County Hotline has been working hard to build a team of professionals who can quickly respond to the needs of a survivor of human trafficking. The North East Coastal Regional Rapid Response Team meets quarterly to work toward the goal of assisting human trafficking victims and to hold community trainings to give the community and those agencies working with victims a better understanding of what human trafficking is and how to respond to it.

You are invited to join us at our upcoming NECRRRT meeting to learn about labor trafficking.

Please mark your calendars for January 23, 2020.

We look forward to having Nancy Hagan from *Project NO REST* join us for this meeting to be held on January 23, 2020 from 10:00a.m.-12:00p.m. (Location to be announced)

Please let us know if you plan to attend by calling 252-925-2502.



Human Trafficking Statistics for North Carolina During 2018

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859 CONTACTS REGARDING HUMAN TRAFFICKING 287 IDENTIFIED HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASES

These statistics are based on the contacts -- phone calls, texts, online chats, emails, and web forms -- received by the National Human Trafficking Hotline that reference North Carolina.

*If you or someone you know is being trafficked please call the
National Human Trafficking Hotline:
1-888-373-7888 (TTY: 711)/Text 233733 |Live Chat*



Words cannot express how very grateful we are to all of our community partners for the love and care that is shown to our clients and their families!

We are very blessed by the supporters who sponsored the children participating in our 2019 Christmas Outreach Project!

9 Families are participating this year and 27 children have been sponsored!

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!!

We appreciate the love and hope that you have shown by sharing the love of God with these families!

*Merry Christmas from the staff at Hyde County Hotline!
May you be blessed beyond measure and be showered in the love and
peace of Jesus!*

Thank you to the N.C. Council for Women and Youth Involvement-Family Violence Prevention and Services Act Program and US DHHS and the North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission for financial support.



**Family Violence Prevention
& Services Program**



**Council for Women &
Youth Involvement**
Department of Administration