

SAFFI VISION:

To see individuals live their full potential in intimate relationships and families in a society that is free from gender based violence

SAFFI MISSION:

To advance a coordinated, multi-sectoral, culturally competent restorative justice response to violence against women and children by;

- Being a resource to religious leaders, institutions and faith communities as they hold offenders accountable and ensure the safety and empowerment of victims/survivors by offering opportunity for truth telling and healing of individuals and families; and
- To challenge from a theological perspective patriarchal traditions and other root causes of intimate partner abuse and violence which destroys the dignity of women, children and men; and
- To encourage the promotion of scriptural and theological teachings that encourage intimate relationships that set people free to live their full potential in supportive unions.



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**Faith - The Difficult Bridge
to Build in Addressing
Root Causes of
Violence Against Women**

Why is SAFFI needed?

Research indicates that South African women live in one of the most violent yet most religious societies in the world. More than 90% of its population ascribe to religious practice. Studies indicate that every 26 seconds a woman is raped and 1 in 4 women find herself in an abusive relationship. Women in abusive relationships are more at risk of contracting HIV because of their limited ability to negotiate safe sex practices.

Since the inception of the women's movement in the 1970's, Domestic Violence interventions have rightfully focused mainly on victims/survivors and their safety.

Addressing root causes as it pertains to faith, culture and intervention with men have not featured in the quest to decrease, prevent and eradicate violence against women (VAW). Research confirms that many victims / survivors use faith as a coping mechanism and they often approach their religious leaders and communities for help. Perpetrators also abuse certain teachings and misinterpret scriptures in support of their abusive behaviour.

SAFFI seeks to address faith issues and root causes of VAW by being a resource to religious leaders, their faith communities and secular domestic violence advocates to advance comprehensive coordinated culturally informed strategies and interventions.

We Believe that...

- Religious Leaders and faith communities have a pivotal role to play in addressing VAW.
- Collaboration between the faith sector and domestic violence advocates / service providers is central in our quest to break the cycle of VAW.
- Victims / Survivors should Not have to carry the extra burden of having to decide between their safety and their faith.
- Perpetrators must be held accountable for their abusive behaviour and offered culturally informed zero tolerance restorative justice interventions.
- Children must grow up in a society where honour and respect for the human dignity of women and each person is the order of the day.

SAFFI Embraces Internationally Held Goals in all its Services

1. SAFETY for the woman and children.
2. ACCOUNTABILITY for the abuser.
3. RESTORATION of individuals and, IF POSSIBLE, restoration of the relationship OR
4. MOURN the loss of the relationship.

Domestic Violence Training Services:

- Domestic Violence and Faith issues
- What Clergy Must Know About Domestic Violence and What Clergy Can Do
- How Churches and Faith Communities can Address Domestic Violence
- Healthy Boundries During Pastoral Care
- Intervening with Domestic Violence Perpetrators
- Intervening with Domestic Violence Victims/Survivors

- Clergy Sexual Misconduct: The Faith Community's Responsibility
- Dating Violence amongst Teenagers
- Domestic Violence and Faith Formation of Children
- Establishing Victim/Survivor Support Services in your faith community
- Establishing Perpetrator Accountability Services in your faith community

Consultation Services

- Technical support on Developing Denomination or Faith specific DV policies and Pastoral Care Guidelines.
- On Addressing Clergy Sexual Misconduct
- Setting up DV Support Services for Victims and Survivors.
- Setting up Accountability Structures / Programmes for Perpetrators in your faith community.
- In-house resource material development.
- Assistance with developing strategies for working with clergy and other religious leaders to address domestic violence
- Guidance in ensuring that your faith communities policies secure safety of women and children; and hold perpetrators accountable.

Other Services:

- Educational Talks
- Perpetrator Intervention Programs
- Gender Reconciliation Workshops
- Research and Advocacy
- Technical support to Community-based DV Initiatives

Contact us about your Training , Speaking and Consultation needs. Cost will be discussed based on Services Required.

