

speaking through the silence

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This is a hard subject to write and read about. Too often the topics are ignored, kept silent, even suppressed. We urge you to read on and awake to the tremendous need for further understanding and action.

Speaking through the Silence: Addressing Issues of Domestic Violence will be an August 22 workshop that will help people see the ugly picture and sense the urgency for attention. The event, at the Temple in Independence, Missouri, also will be available online via Zoom video conferencing.

The United Nations defines violence against women as:

...an act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.

Globally, the World Health Organization says about one in three women experience physical violence. By the age of 15, almost one in five experience sexual violence. Violence in family and domestic settings is recognized worldwide as a significant public health issue for women, men, and children. Familial and domestic violence and sexual assault are crimes that cause endless and unacceptable suffering.

This broad definition shows how violence impacts mind, body, spirit, and relationships. Doctrine and Covenants 163:4a directs:

Open your ears to hear the pleading of mothers and fathers in all nations who desperately seek a future of hope for their children. Do not turn away from them. For in their welfare resides your welfare.

The workshop will be offered by the Community of Christ Health Ministries Association in partnership with Community of Christ Health and Wholeness, Temple Ministries, and Spiritual Formation teams.

This day will be offered in response to World Conference Resolution 1317 Domestic and Sexual Violence, adopted at the 2019 World Conference. It calls for three actions:

1. To express solidarity with and show active support for organizations and community groups that aim to eradicate familial and domestic violence.
2. To have congregations worldwide urgently prioritize admonitions found in WCR 1195, 1235, 1250, and 1276. These resolutions address domestic violence, children's advocacy, nurturing children, and sexual abuse of children.

3. To have the First Presidency develop or make available culturally appropriate study materials regarding domestic and sexual violence and abuse with the intent that such material is included in course curriculum for all current priesthood members and candidates for priesthood office.

The workshop will highlight four types of violence: child abuse; elder abuse; intimate partner abuse; and sexual abuse and assault/rape. The information is for health-care professionals and priesthood members. Each experienced presenter will have two sessions. The first will deal with causes and symptom recognition. The second will focus on treatment, outcomes, and resources. It specifically will address the importance of church members and priesthood involvement in each type of abuse.

Katie Harmon-McLaughlin, Spiritual Formation minister, will offer spiritual insights for those encountering persons experiencing abuse. Evangelists, ministers of blessing, will offer spiritual support throughout the day.

Speaking through the Silence: Addressing Issues of Domestic Violence will be an August 22 workshop.

To Register, Get More Information

Visit www.hmaCofChrist.org/Health

SpiritualityWorkshops/2020/ to register or learn more about the workshop, *Speaking through the Silence: Addressing Issues of Domestic Violence*.

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