

# Domestic Violence Project

Identification and Definition

World & Church Views

Scripture & Training

Resources

Action

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# Executive Summary



- Domestic Violence is a real, if often hidden, problem in society and the Church
- The goal of this project is to provide information on domestic violence that every pastor should know:
  - Resource for ministers to identifying abuse
  - Provides information on World and Church views on domestic violence
  - Scripture
  - Resources available to help guide in pastoral care



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# Definition

“The physical, sexual, and/or psychological abuse to an individual perpetrated by a current or former intimate partner.”  
(American Medical Association)

# Domestic Violence Statistics

- 95% of victims are female
- 1 in 3 women have been beaten, abused, and/or coerced into sex in their lifetime
- Domestic violence affects people in all demographics groups
- Rate of reporting to police varies by demographic group

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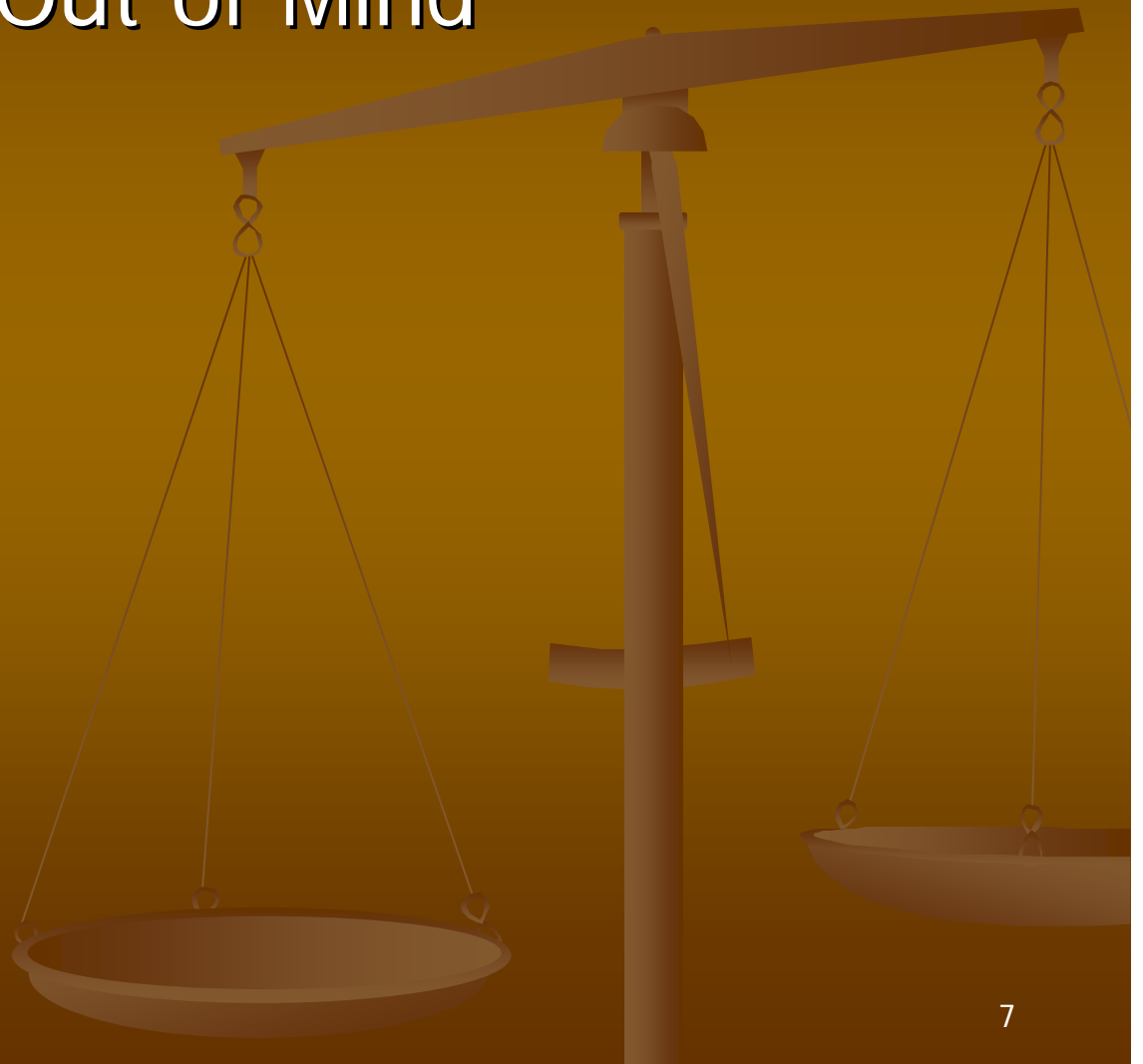
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# World View

- “Out of sight, Out of Mind”
- Isolation
- Shame



# United Methodist Church View

- Book of Discipline ¶ 161 & ¶ 162
- Book of Resolutions Recommendations



# UMC Pastors Survey

## ■ Survey Scope:

- Survey emailed to 3 districts in the North Georgia UMC Conference (+/- 250 pastors)
- 37 pastors responded
- 8 yes/no questions
  - 18 pastors answered all 8 questions
- Note: Survey should not be viewed as statistically representative data

# UMC Pastors Survey

1. Have you had a domestic violence case in the last two years?
2. Have you ever had a domestic violence situation in your years of ministry?
3. Have you received any domestic violence training?
4. Are you aware of resources available to domestic violence victims and their families?
5. Do you have contact information for local domestic violence shelters?
6. Are you aware of transitional housing?
7. Do you have legal contact information?
8. Do you feel a handbook on domestic violence resources would be of value to you?



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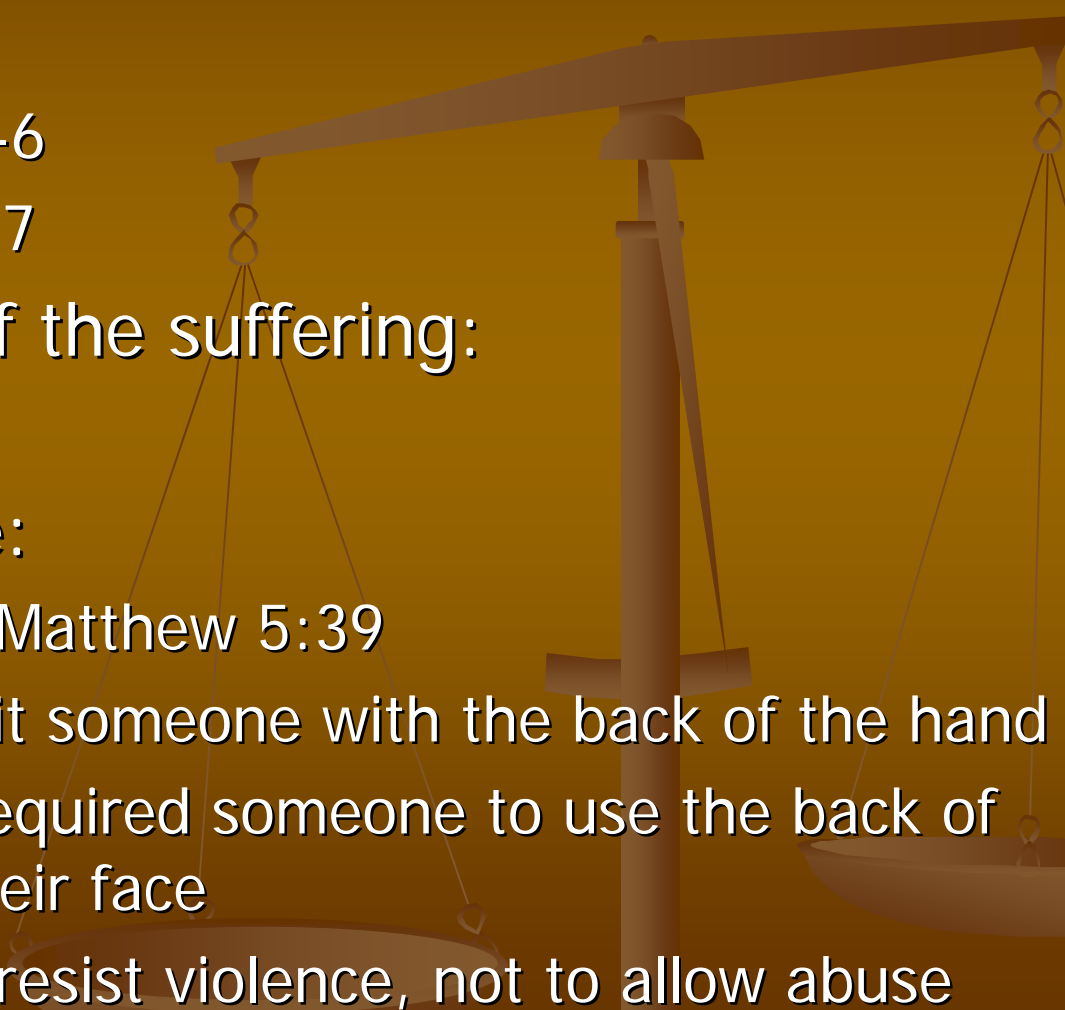
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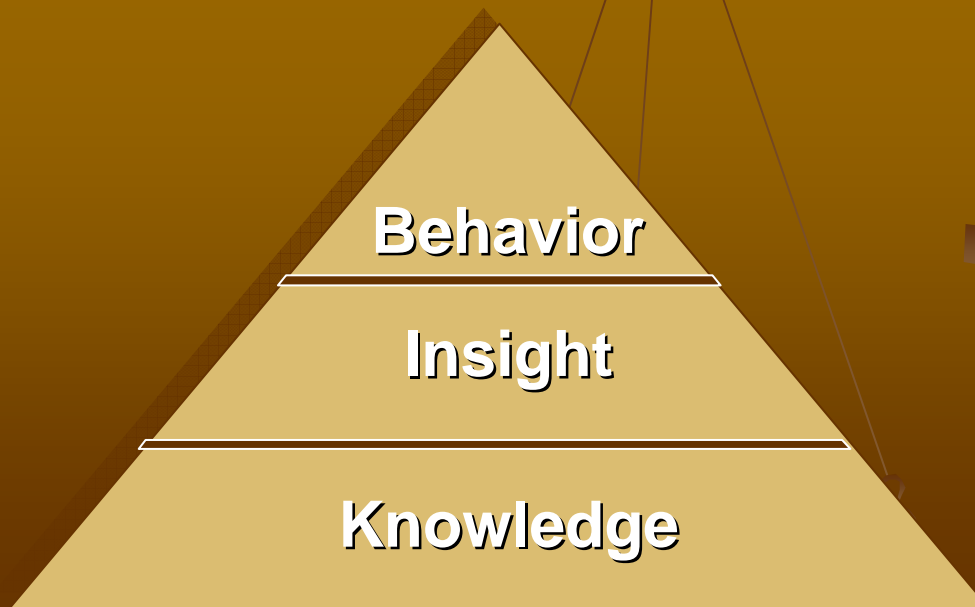
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# Related Scripture

- God does not condone domestic violence:
    - Matthew 5:22
    - 1 Thessalonians 4:3-6
    - 1 Corinthians 3:16-17
  - God hears the cry of the suffering:
    - Psalms 10:17-18
  - Reacting to violence:
    - Misinterpretation of Matthew 5:39
    - Against the law to hit someone with the back of the hand
    - Turning the cheek required someone to use the back of their hand to slap their face
    - Jesus teaches us to resist violence, not to allow abuse
- 

# Clergy Training

- Critical Success Factors:
  - Overcome denial and resistance to the issue of domestic violence
  - Behavioral change



# Clergy Training

- Learning Objectives:
  - Name symptoms of domestic violence
  - Deliver a sermon on domestic violence
  - Support to victims
  - Provide safety to victims & refer to shelters if needed



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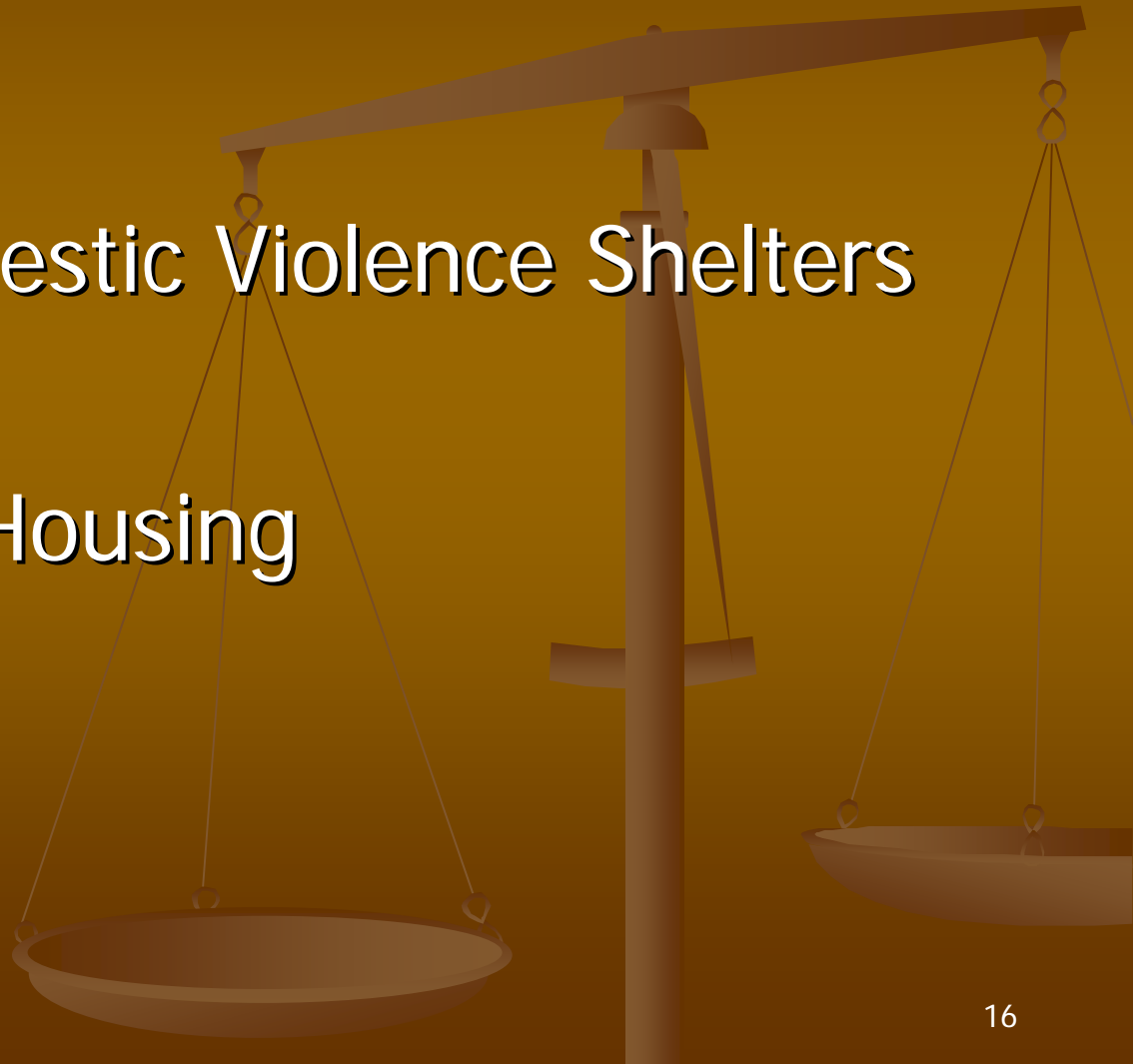
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# Available Resources

- Hotlines
- Georgia Domestic Violence Shelters
- Transitional Housing





# Domestic Violence Hotlines

- Statewide toll-free 24-hour crisis line:
  - 1-800-33-HAVEN
- Report Domestic Violence to DFCS:
  - 1-800-869-1150
- National Domestic Violence Hotline:
  - 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

# Georgia Domestic Violence Shelters

- Georgia has more than 45 certified family violence shelters
- Listing of Women's Shelters in GA:
  - [www.sboard.org/SHELTERS/GA.HTM](http://www.sboard.org/SHELTERS/GA.HTM)

# Transitional Housing through Action Ministries

- Transitional Housing web address:
  - <http://www.actionministries.net/Default.aspx?tabid=764>
- Contacts
- Program Description
- Locations in North Georgia

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# Recommendations

- Development Program for Pastors on DV
- Distribute Pamphlets on DV After Training
- Purchase “Wings Like a Dove” for use in Congregations
- Participate in Domestic Violence (DV) Awareness Month each year
- Preach that Scripture does not excuse DV
- Create a Lay DV committee
- Educate clergy and laity about DV
- Support a local Women’s shelter
- Post information about DV at church
- Use the church bulletin to inform