WE WILL SPEAK OUT.US
UNITING TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE
Who Are We?

WeWillSpeakOut.US is a movement of diverse faith groups from across the U.S. committed to ending the silence around sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) in the U.S. and worldwide.

Our mission is to work at local, national and global levels to change the culture of tolerance and inaction surrounding SGBV.
Current Members: 12
IMA’s SGBV WORK

USHINDI Project in Eastern Congo (USAID 2010-2015)

• Medical care → 9,921 survivors
• Psychosocial counseling → 15,626 survivors
• Economic development → 2,479 people for literacy; 12,852 through VSLAs and micro-projects
• Legal Support → 9,014 beneficiaries
Where We Came From

• In 2011, Tearfund released the “Silent No More” report on the Church’s need to address SGBV.

• Tearfund launched UK-based We Will Speak Out coalition to build GBV awareness globally.

• IMA joined, and then officially launched WeWillSpeakOut.US in 2013.
Initial Efforts

1. Establish a day for faith leaders to speak out together

SPEAK OUT SUNDAY = November 23, 2014

2. Develop a Sermon Guide to help faith leaders know what to say

ONE IN THREE Sermon Guide is available free at www.wewillspeakout.us
Key Learnings

• Faith leaders aren’t ready: Lack of awareness, training, desire

• Faith leaders aren’t connected to community resources for prevention, treatment and response

• “Speaking Out” requires education and sensitivity: We don’t want to do more harm than good
New Direction

• Training and awareness to build a foundation for speaking out

• Training / tools should be accessible, inexpensive, efficient and appropriate to local context

• Great tools and training do exist, but they are not well funded or marketed, not prioritized

• **WeWillSpeakOut.US** is a great way to **unite** and promote these tools
In Development: “Sacred Spaces”

Elements of a Sacred Space

- Preaching / Pulpit Leadership
- Clergy Training
- Connections with Crisis Center / Police
- Childcare Volunteer Training
- Esteem Building for Youth
- Church policy and pledge
- Advocacy
In the Meantime…

• **Sign our Pledge!**
• **Help to normalize conversations** about healthy relationships, violence and equality – women’s groups, Bible studies, book clubs
• **Reach out to a local Rape Crisis center** or other resource to see how your church can connect, or to volunteer
• **Tell your story** on WeWillSpeakOut.US
• **Research existing trainings:** HAVEN, MinistrySafe, Religion and Violence e-Learning Project, etc.
We WILL Speak Out!

“Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.”

--Proverbs 31:9

“Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow’s case.”

--Isaiah 1:17

If people of faith will not speak out, who will?

--WeWillSpeakOut.US
WE WILL SPEAK OUT.US
UNITING TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE
today

I

choose

hope
Joint
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INITIATIVE
United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men have endorsed the message of the National Declaration by Religious and Spiritual Leaders to Address Violence Against Women.
How does domestic violence affect us, our church, our neighborhood?
Domestic Violence Survey Results

Have there been incidences of domestic violence in your family, church, community or surrounding area?

- Yes: 83.5% (426)
- No: 16.5% (84)
What has been happening?
FaithTrust INSTITUTE

Working together to end sexual & domestic violence
Domestic Violence – What Churches Can Do, a primary resource shared with every conference
Domestic violence is not just a women's issue. It is an issue of faith.

We proclaim that violence against women exists in all communities, including our own, and is inherently spiritually and universally intolerable.

We commit ourselves to working toward the day when all women will be safe and abuse will be no more.

1/4 one in every four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime.

approximately one-half of the identifiable victims of domestic violence were women.

more than three women and one man are murdered by their intimate partners in the U.S. every day.

less than one-third of victims reporting an injury from domestic or intimate partner violence sought medical treatment related to the injury.

only approximately 20 percent of 1 million women who are battered each year are referred to a domestic violence center.

Does your partner:

-軟體 or acts in a way that is frightening?
- Try to control what you do, when you eat and who you see?
- Try to stop you from seeing friends or family members?
- Try to make you lie about things to get you into a situation that is dangerous to be shared or yours?
- Make all of the decisions in your relationship?

If you answered "yes" to even one of these questions, you may be in an abusive relationship.

If you are in danger, please call 911 or the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or TTY 1-800-787-3224. For more information and to get involved, visit www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/act.
I BELIEVE YOU

Faiths' Response To Intimate Partner Violence
The Domestic Violence group on UMWOnline is a place for connecting to share ideas and supporting each other.

http://www.umwonline.org/groups/domesticviolence/
Faith’s Response to Domestic Violence

Workshop co-sponsored by United Methodist Women and FaithTrust Institute
Tuesday March 5, 2013
12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Intersections of Domestic Violence and Maternal Health

See the content of the webinar at
http://umchealthyfamilies.org/content/blog/Intersections_of_DV__FP_Webinar_FINAL.pdf
United Methodist Women address Gun Violence
United Methodist Women supported the Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)
Congregational Team Training

A Laity Training Approach for Conferences

Training for local church teams
Get involved with the United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women joint initiative on Domestic Violence.
11 August 2013 Program for the Baltimore/Washington Conference

Shades of Violence, Paths to Healing: Open Gathering on Stopping Domestic Violence and Abuse

UMM President Richard Campbell offers his appreciation to Julie Taylor.
United Methodist Women
April 25-27, 2014

MAKE IT HAPPEN!

Assembly 2014: Louisville

Workshops:
Ending Domestic Violence, Getting Men Involved
"Domestic violence is now recognized as being the most pervasive human rights violation in the world."

—Hillary Rodham Clinton
Domestic Violence Initiative
PHASE III– Train the Trainers

Under development with
FaithTrust INSTITUTE

Working together to end sexual & domestic violence
84% of homeless families are headed by a woman.

The top cause of homelessness for mothers and children? Domestic violence.

Respect all women on Mother’s Day.

#respectmothers #respectwomen
We proclaim…that violence exists in all communities, including our own, and is morally, spiritually and universally intolerable.

We commit ourselves to working toward the day when all will be safe and abuse will be no more.

(Taken from the declaration, modified for inclusive language)
There is a light in this world, a healing spirit more powerful than any darkness we may encounter.

We sometimes lose sight of this force when there is suffering, too much pain. Then suddenly, the spirit will emerge through the lives of ordinary people who hear a call and answer in extraordinary ways.

- Mother Teresa
African American Faith Communities Responding to Domestic, Sexual, and Gender-Based Violence

Reverend Maxine Lloyd Ball, M.Div.
President & Founder
Isaac Ministries, Inc.
(240) 764-4908
African Americans Family Values

• Family is important
• Goal is to keep their family together
• Family business is held within confounds of family (Secrecy)
• Spirituality and Religion is very important
• The pastor is trusted leader to whom victims disclose their abuse
The Black Church

- African American church by virtue of the historical oppressive racial realities of life in the United States, has been and remains the center of the African American community.

- The Black Church is more than a Sunday religious or social experience; it holistically tasks itself to oversee the social, cultural, and spiritual center of its community.

- The complex interconnectedness between the church and its members, the form of spirituality received by African Americans is embedded within their psyche and is continually reinforced through the Sunday church experience, personal relationships, and interaction within the community (Arnold, 2012).

- Pastors also educate their congregation on proper “political, educational, and moral/ethical conduct in society” (Latimore III, 1984, p. 11)
Do’s and Don’ts/ Moral, Ethical & Theological

CASE STUDY - THE UNMENTIONABLE SIN

SCRIPTURES RESOURCE OR ROADBLOCK
Malachi 2:13-16  Ephesians 5:22-30  Matthew 6:15

WAYS OF BEING

Relay Empathy  Listen to Story
Give Encouragement  Build Trust
Cultural Context  Scriptural Context
Non-judgmental  Stay Calm
Hold Perpetrator Accountable  Refer
Malachi 2:13-16 (NKJV)

16 “For the LORD God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one’s garment with violence,” Says the LORD of hosts. “Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously.”
Ephesians 5:22-30

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything
Matthew 6:14-15

“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.
ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS MODEL OF INTERVENTION

(Bronfenbrenner, 1979)
WAYS OF INTERVENING
ZERO TOLERANCE

1. PROVIDE RESOURCES
2. DISPEL MYTHS
3. ENCOURAGE HEALTH & WELLNESS
4. COURT APPEARANCES
5. SAFETY PLANS
6. COUNSELING – GROUPS, INDIVIDUAL
7. LEAVE ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP
8. TELL SOMEONE
9. REFRAMING/RELABELING
10. SETTING GOALS
11. FINANCIAL PLANNING
12. CAREER COUNSELING
13. EMPOWER

