

padvn PRESBYTERIANS AGAINST
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE NETWORK

September 2009

Dear Friends,

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Presbyterians Against Domestic Violence Network (PADVN) provides this annual packet to assist your congregation as it seeks to address relationship violence in all of its forms. If you are not in a position to use this material, please pass it along to your pastor or youth group leader.

Our 2009 packet focuses on Teen Dating Violence. Dating violence crosses all racial, social, economic and religious lines. Yes, it happens to the teens who sit in our church pews. While parents are the first defense in making sure that their children understand healthy relationships, studies have shown that teens need to hear that message from a variety of persons and groups who have their best interests in mind. What better place than in our congregations.

Since 2001, PADVN has produced a packet for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. During those years, we have covered a number of topics: domestic violence 101, children who witness the violence, men's involvement in the movement, elder abuse, tough issues that arise in congregations, education, and advocacy. All of these resources can be found on the PADVN web site, www.pcusa.org/phewa/padvn.

Among the resources in this year's packet, you will find an article on the inappropriate use of texting and cell phones, a letter from a father to his children on the gift of their sexuality, a youth activity on dating violence for youth group leaders, a lesson plan for a session on teen dating violence from *Anguished Hearts*, a covenantal contract for teens, their families and youth group leaders to sign around the issue of dating and sexuality, suggested resources for teens on dating violence, the teen power and control and equality wheels, a dating "Bill of Rights," a bulletin insert on dating violence, and sermon suggestions using October's lectionary readings to address issues of relationship violence.

As always, PADVN is available to help you as you engage your congregation or presbytery around these issues. If you have received this packet and are not a member of PADVN, please consider joining our network to stay connected and to show your continued support for this important emphasis in the life of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Sincerely, Presbyterians Against Domestic Violence Network (PADVN)

**PADVN is one of the 10 Networks of the Presbyterian Health, Education & Welfare Association (PHEWA)
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