

United Benefice of St Mary's Slaugham with St Mark, Staplefield Common
We support the following declaration made on 15 July 2015 by Faith Leaders:

Faith Leaders' Declaration on Domestic Abuse

15 July 2015

- As faith leaders in the United Kingdom we are speaking out, alongside leaders of our own and other faiths, against all forms of domestic abuse.
- We commit ourselves to addressing domestic abuse both within our own faith communities and in wider society. We look to be a force for good in promoting positive and effective action at both the local and national level.
- We will appoint advisers to encourage the use of good practice guidelines to address domestic abuse within our communities and to monitor the implementation of these guidelines.
- We recognise that women and men are equal in rights, dignity and value, and affirm that:
 1. *Domestic abuse* in all its forms is unacceptable and irreconcilable with the teachings of our, or any other, faith or worldview;
 2. *Domestic abuse* affects women and men of all ages and should be understood as the abuse of a person through physical, sexual, psychological, spiritual, emotional, social, or financial means as part of a pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour within an intimate or family style relationship, including forced marriage and so-called 'honour crimes';
 3. *Domestic abuse* remains a serious problem that occurs within our own faith groups as well as in the wider communities which we serve;
 4. *Domestic abuse* demands our attention, support, and care for those affected, and we will always make the safety of survivors of abuse our highest priority, particularly women and children;
 5. *Domestic abuse* must be addressed in collaboration with a range of stakeholders (including police, local authorities, and support agencies), and we will learn from them, support them, and publicise their work in all appropriate ways; and
 6. *Domestic abuse* is a widespread social problem, and as faith leaders we recognise our unique opportunities for challenging harmful beliefs, preventing abusive behaviour, and providing safe spaces for those affected by abuse.

www.restoredrelationships.org/get-involved/interfaith/

This document was originally published by
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Signed.....Date.....