

# “Break the Silence”



**“My heart is in anguish within me . . .  
It is not enemies who taunt me – I could bear  
that; it is not adversaries who deal insolently  
with me – I could hide from them. But it is  
you, my equal, my companion, my familiar  
friend...”**

Psalm 55:4, 12-13 (NRSV)

In every church of every faith, victims, survivors and abusers are present at worship. Some are listening for words of recognition, understanding, comfort and healing – that the church stands with them and wants them to choose life. Others need to hear that they must turn away from violence, repent and seek to make reparations to those they have violated.

**padvn**

Presbyterians Against Domestic  
Violence Network

[www.pcusa.org/phewa/padvn](http://www.pcusa.org/phewa/padvn)

**Presbyterians Against Domestic Violence Network (PADVN)** welcomes those who promote non-violence in all relationships. They provide advocacy, training and resources for the prevention of and healing from societal and domestic violence.

**October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month**  
PADVN, through an annual Domestic Violence Awareness Packet, provides materials that can be used in educational and worship settings. These downloadable resources can be found on the web site.

### **Training**

PADVn members can be called upon to facilitate workshops that are designed to your particular time, space and setting. They have experience with conferences, worship services, congregation and seminary classes, presbytery and synod meetings.

**Turn Mourning into Dancing:** Policy statement approved by the 213th General Assembly (2001) — This policy statement outlines ways in which the church, from individuals in the pews to clergy and governing bodies, can help prevent domestic violence and heal the wounds that it causes.

**Anguished Hearts:** A seven-session study on domestic violence for use in congregations — The seven sessions cover different forms of abuse - spouse / partner, child, elder, sibling, dating violence and abuse of vulnerable people.

**In Her Shoes:** Living with Domestic Violence — This is a fast-paced interactive simulation “game” that helps participants experience the ups and downs a battered woman might have over the course of several years.



**PADVn is one of the ten Networks of the Presbyterian Health, Education & Welfare Association (PHEWA).** Other Networks work in the areas of addictions, church-based community organizing, HIV / AIDS, reproductive health, chaplaincy and pastoral counseling, child advocacy, disabilities, health ministries and parish nursing, and serious mental illness. *Visit the web site below to learn more and to become a member of PADVN and/or other networks.*

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