

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FACT SHEET

## For Service Providers

### Define your role

- Are you a domestic violence advocate?*
- Are you an educator?*
- Are you a community organizer?*
- Are you a case manager?*
- Are you a bystander?*
- Are you a board member of a mosque?*
- Are you an imam?*
- Are you a khateeb?*

Defining your role is crucial because each role has its own set of skill sets and knowledge that impact the intervention process differently. Defining roles helps set clear boundaries and expectations for both the helper and the person seeking support. For counseling best practices, please consult this [toolkit](#).

### Tips for community helpers

- Prioritize safety & well-being (**Personalized safety plan**)
- Be aware of potential risks
  - To yourself
  - To the person seeking help
  - To family members
- Avoid telling the person what to do
- Help identify possible options & solutions
- Remember that it's complicated and there is no easy or perfect solution
- Maintain supportive stance
- Refer to experts
  - Domestic violence advocates
  - Mental health professionals
  - Attorneys, social services
  - Child protection services, etc.



### When referencing Qur'an & Hadith



#### DO'S

- Support the right to live free of oppression
- Encourage help-seeking
- Reinforce accountability of the perpetrator
- Remind the survivor of Allah's support, presence and mercy
- Emphasize that abuse is prohibited
- Frame divorce as an option to "peaceful" resolution

#### DON'TS



- Pressure to make "Islamic" choices
- Make judgements
- Blame the person for anything
- Create guilt
- Link degree of faith with current problems
- Insist on forgiveness or patience
- Justify abuse or violence

### Reporting child abuse and neglect

#### Who is mandated to report? (Laws vary from state to state)

- Health practitioners
- Educators
- Human service workers
- Police officers
- Clergies

(mandated in 26 states)

#### What must be reported in most states?

- Suspected child abuse & neglect
- Abuse of someone over 18 who is incapacitated
- Abuse of someone over age 60

#### Are you a mandated reporter?

*A Guide for Mandated Reporters in Recognizing Child Abuse & Neglect* ([click here](#))

*Child Welfare Information Gateway* ([click here](#))