

LA County DVC
Religion and DV Committee meeting
January 28, 2020

Meeting was called to order by Bernita Walker, co-chairperson at approximately 1:10 pm. Present were Varsha N. Co-chair; Cecilia Walker, Co-chair and Mable Pearce, guest/prospective new member. Ms. Pearce's *Domestic Kindness* project is a faith-based organization that Ms. Pearce, a survivor, began at her home church. Their platform is to address domestic violence within the Diamond Bar community through training the churches about *Domestic Kindness* as spoken from the bible. They Create bible studies within the church, using dedicated members to form action teams and are obligated to teach kindness from the bible using specifically chosen scriptures to groups within the church. Those trained then go to other affiliated churches within their circle of influence starting the process over again. Right now, it is for Christian Faith. *Domestic Kindness* focuses on education and referrals. June 20, 9am to 12. The project has a sermon outline for Pastor to use once a month. We are very excited about this format and will be attending the training to build the committees ability to introduce this concept to our efforts providing a warm handoff to Ms.

Our concern, as a committee, is the cultural implications that comes from other faiths. While we recognize the differences in worship we also chose to focus on commonalities of the disease.

Varsha shared her worldwide experience of the need of addressing openly the issue of DV/IPV. Most International areas where she speaks believe that they are the only areas that have DV.

Discussion opened on our desire to present to DVC in an attempt to stir interest in the work of our committee hopefully generating similar programs in additional faiths. We discussed two(2) types of presentations: 1. A short blimp on committee with an invitation to share needed contact info concerning the attendees faith leaders, through having a signup sheet for those in attendance who might hang behind to ask any questions and discussing the possibilities of getting their Faith leaders info to pursue as a contact. Enabling us to address key issues in DV that come up in religion and 2. To share increased knowledge on actions taken toward production of the spread of DV knowledge amount their place of worship and increase the committees membership participation.

We discussed our challenges with the faith community such as breaking the barriers presented by the Faith leaders to confront the issues of DV/IPV.

Proclamation for "Start by Believing (SBB)" were covered. Varsha is bringing forward the movement, *End Violence Against Women International*. It is noted that victims more often report to a neighbor rather than police and that 97% of people who tell you a story about their abuse are telling the truth. Our desire is to get the authorities to not judge the victim instead to go beyond the obvious in determining the victims needs. Remembering the possibilities of victims stories changing from first told to the next day due to the fact of trauma and the time of the interview.

We have requested both types of time to present of the executive office.

There being no more discussions, Meeting adjourned at 3:10pm. Next meeting February 25th.

Respectfully submitted, Religion and DV Committee, by Bernita Walker