

## Religion & DV Issues Committee Meeting

Minutes for October 26, 2021

Meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Bernita Walker. Introductions found present Varsha N., Co-chair; Cecelia Walker, Co-chair; Nafisa Ahmed, Carol Tantau, Kelli Dillon, Melinda Oakley, Elviria Herrera, Sheetal..... (SAAHAS for a Cause), Colette Amin, Jemba Against Domestic Violence (JADV), Gloria Shell Mitchell (Joy Youth Services).

Guest Speaker, Reverend Patti Dersham was unable to attend and agreed to rescheduled for a later date.

All joined in a moment of silence in honor of DV Awareness Month.

Bernita updated us on activities she has been involved in during Domestic Abuse Awareness Month.

Attendees were invited to share responses to survey questions that were distributed via email by Varsha. There were expressions of appreciation about the range of speakers invited, who provided a variety of perspectives. Presentations helped to develop understanding, empathy, and increase knowledge. Encouraged us to 'reject fear and opt for understanding'.

It would be useful to incorporate prevention into the dialogue around DV. Faith leaders should speak against DV from their *pulpits* using language that is engaging, rather than creating barriers.

Possible topics that could be covered next year included Punk religion, Mayan and Aztec religions, Mormons, Bhai faith, various Christian denominations, as well as Nation of Islam.

Attendees were invited to please continue responding to survey questions, emailing responses to [varsha@roartc.com](mailto:varsha@roartc.com).

Matters not posted on the agenda: none

Next meeting is November 23, 2021

Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm