

Dear Advocates, Colleagues, and Friends:

A 2009 U.S. Department of Justice study reports that 11% of Americans 60 and older experienced at least one incident (physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional) of elder abuse in the past year.<sup>1</sup> Often, these incidents go unreported, and older adults struggle to find support. Many elder abuse victims and survivors turn to their faith communities for help. However, faith community leaders may be unaware of the resources available to help them respond effectively and safely.

Safe Havens Interfaith Partnership Against Domestic Violence and the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL), a program of the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WCADV), have collaborated to develop a toolkit that will help domestic violence, sexual assault, and elder abuse service providers reach out to and collaborate with local faith communities. We hope that, working together, service providers and faith communities can respond more effectively to victims and survivors and increase access to community-based services.

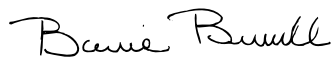
The toolkit, “Where Faith and Safety Meet: Faith Communities Respond to Elder Abuse,” includes:

- ② Tips for reaching out and planning a first visit to a faith-based organization or congregation.
- ② An elder abuse information packet (including a bookmark, brochure, and booklet) that you can give to faith leaders in your community.
- ② A model cover letter that you can use on your own stationery to introduce the materials to faith communities and to provide contact information about your agency. This letter can be downloaded and adapted from the Safe Havens website at [www.interfaithpartners.org](http://www.interfaithpartners.org) or from the NCALL website at [www.ncall.us](http://www.ncall.us).
- ② An “Outreach Challenges and Strategies” document to help you overcome any obstacles that you may encounter along the way.

We hope these resources provide you with information and tools for working collaboratively with your local faith communities. We also hope that faith leaders in your community will use the provided information to offer support and provide referrals to victims and survivors of elder abuse.

To order additional materials or for more information, please contact Safe Havens at 617-654-1820 or [info@interfaithpartners.org](mailto:info@interfaithpartners.org), or the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life at 608-255-0539 or [ncall@wcadv.org](mailto:ncall@wcadv.org).

Sincerely,



Bonnie Brandl  
National Clearinghouse  
on Abuse in Later Life



Anne Marie Hunter  
Safe Havens Interfaith Partnership  
Against Domestic Violence

*Citation*

*1 Acierno, Ron, Melba Hernandez-Tejada, Wendy Muzzy, and Kenneth Steve, "National Elder Mistreatment Study," U.S. Department of Justice, 2009, pp. 4 ff.*

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