

# Our domestic violence charter

## Above Bar Church...

1. Understands that domestic abuse is the abuse of a person physically, sexually, psychologically, spiritually, emotionally, socially or financially within a family relationship that forms a pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour.
2. Holds that domestic abuse in all its form is unacceptable and irreconcilable with the Christian faith.
3. Accepts that domestic abuse is a serious problem which occurs in church families as well in wider society.
4. Undertakes to listen to, support and care for those affected by domestic abuse, whether female or male.
5. Will always place the safety of children and other victims of abuse as the highest priority.
6. Will work with domestic abuse agencies, learn from them and support them in appropriate ways and will publicise their work.
7. Will play its part in teaching that domestic abuse is an offence to God.
8. Believes in a God of love, justice, mercy and forgiveness.
9. Will teach the equal dignity of men and women, created in God's image, and the responsibility always to treat each other with care, honour and respect.

If you, or someone you know, is experiencing domestic violence, you can contact the National Domestic Violence Helpline (24-hour helpline) on 0808 2000 247.

You can also seek support from the church by e-mailing [domesticviolence@abovebarchurch.org.uk](mailto:domesticviolence@abovebarchurch.org.uk).