



Social Issues and Action Newsletter No. 3 November 2017

Dear AMUA Friends,

We are constantly being confronted with the prevalence of Family Violence. Of course you remember Rosie Batty being awarded Australian of the Year in 2015 for her raising awareness of domestic violence following the death of her son Luke by her estranged husband.

Domestic violence includes not only physical violence but also emotional, psychological, spiritual and economic abuse and it can affect both men and women. The tragedy is that it occurs within marriages in our churches. And when victims have taken to courage to seek help from church leaders they have often not been believed.

In the past year, I have met with several Christian women who are victims of domestic violence. I have been humbled by their courage as they've faced the difficult choice of leaving their marriages. It was not easy but for the sake of their children they had to take this step. You can imagine they are faced with traumatized children, little income and a sense of failure.

In September this year the General Synod of the Anglican Church offered a formal apology to victims of domestic violence. It realised that many victims have been let down by church leaders and its teachings.

Although it is late in the year it is not too late to pray as we come to the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women**. I have included some prayers developed from the resources of the General Synod, Anglican Church of Australia. And as well some helpful suggestions on how to respond.

This Christmas time as we rejoice in the birth of our Saviour the Lord Jesus, may our hearts be stirred to pray for those families shattered by family violence.

God bless,

Christine Jensen
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