Healing Waters

Churches Working To End Violence Against Women

Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada

Churches are working to end violence against women.

As Christians we are part of God's healing river that is bringing love and justice to our world. We want to end the reality of women being abused by their partners. We want women and children to live without fear of being sexually assaulted. We want to create a society where women can live in peace and security.

Healing Waters explores the pervasive violence that is part of the context of women's lives. It provides theological background and reflection, as well as practical tools for dealing with a woman's experience of abuse. We believe it will be helpful in churches' work of compassion in worship, pastoral counselling, support groups, legislative action, and sanctuary. It contains both study materials and ideas for action.

The author

Carol Penner, is a freelance writer and chaplain with a doctorate in theology; her thesis focused on a theological response to violence against women.

The Spirit of God's work for love and justice flows like water,
Like never-ending streams:
Comforting the wounded;
Calling those who have wounded to repentance;
Challenging traditions which are rigid and violent;
Envisioning new relationships where every voice is heard.
O Healing River, send down your waters!

Who is Healing Waters for?

- Clergy and lay leaders
- Pastoral care staff and volunteers
- Women's groups
- Students preparing for ministry
- Theological educators
- Denominational resource centres

Ways to use Healing Waters

- Include in the curriculum for pastoral ministry at theological schools.
- Distribute the resource to every church in your community.
- Create a ministry of compassion for women suffering violence and abuse.
- Hold training workshops for church staff and volunteer leaders.
- Organize an ecumenical Bible study with neighbouring churches.
- Plan a workshop with young people from neighbourhood churches.

Healing Waters is a 164-page practical guide to education and action. Its contents include:

- ✔ An historical overview of violence against women and the role of the church.
- ✔ Practical advice for recognizing and responding to a woman who has been abused.
- ✔ Helpful handouts on abuse, myths, shelters and needs of specific groups of women.
- ✔ Information on creating safe spaces in the church.
- ✔ Biblical and theological background, sermon guides and other practical resources for planning worship.
- ✔ Workshop outlines and Bible studies to use in your congregation.
- ✔ Community action ideas.

The handbook comes shrink-wrapped and 3-hole punched, ready to insert in your own binder. Tabs for each section make it easy to find what you're looking for. Adhesive cover and spine labels mean you won't lose track of the handbook on your bookshelf.

$20 per copy includes shipping and handling
Bulk orders: 10% off orders or 5 or more.
Denominational discount available.

Order your copy today.

Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada is a national Christian women's council, including representatives from 11 church partners, that encourages women to

- ❑ Grow in ecumenism
- ❑ Share spirituality and prayer
- ❑ Engage in dialogue about women's concerns
- ❑ Take action together for justice

WICC, through project grants, supports grass-roots work to help women caught in the web of violence. It also prepares an annual service to mark December 6, the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women. The service is available on the web site or through the office.

The annual World Day of Prayer and the Fellowship of the Least Coin movement for peace and reconciliation are both coordinated by WICC in Canada. The council also supports networks across the country committed to working for gender justice in church and society. The ecumenical feminist journal, *Making Waves*, helps to connect these networks and acts as a forum for discussion of theological and social justice issues.

For more information about WICC:

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