

Church Self-Assessment Quiz



This quiz is designed to allow individuals or groups to think about how the issue of violence against women, girls and children is included in the life of their church.

Answer a, b or c for each question before turning over to see our suggested next steps for you...

Question 1: In our church, we:

- a) Know that violence against women, girls and children happens in the world but it doesn't affect anyone in our congregation
- b) Recognise that violence against women affects us as a church and in our communities but aren't quite sure what to do next
- c) Talk openly about our concerns around violence against women and know how we would respond if someone in our congregation told us they had experienced this

Question 2: In the past year:

- a) We have never heard anyone preach about violence against women or pray for those affected by it
- b) We occasionally remember those who experience violence against women in our prayers or services particularly when something happens in the news or in our community
- c) We have prayed for those who experience violence against women regularly

Question 3: If someone in an abusive relationship came to us looking for help, we would:

- a) Not know what to do at all and suggest that the person speak to the minister or an elder for help with their relationship
- b) Give them the number of a domestic abuse helpline
- c) Ask if they would like to talk, listen to them, and ask them what they would like to do. Offer to support them in making links with specialist help services.



Question 4: On our Church noticeboards, toilets and other public spaces, we:

- a) Have no space for information about local support services – these spaces are generally just for Church related information
- b) Have one domestic abuse helpline poster on our main noticeboard or in our toilets
- c) Have information on all of our local support services, including Women’s Aid, Rape Crisis and youth services, displayed both publicly and in places where people can read them privately

Question 5: If someone in your congregation said that women who experience rape are partially to blame for what happens to them, we would:

- a) Agree. Sometimes people are partially to blame because of how they act, what they do and what they wear
- b) Say nothing. Although we know that no-one can be responsible for someone else’s violent actions, everyone is entitled to their opinion
- c) Gently challenge your fellow church member. We know that blaming women for gender based violence makes it harder for people to come forward and access support.

What were your results?

Mostly a’s

You are ready to engage with the topic of violence against women. Why not start by checking out the information sheets on the Integrity pages of the Church of Scotland website? You could also explore the World Mission Council Bible Studies on gender based violence here—these are ideal for starting a conversation on the topic in your church.

Mostly b’s

You are well on your way to responding to violence against women as a Church. You are aware of the issues and how they affect your community but could perhaps be a little more consistent in your response. Why not consider signing up to the Church of Scotland Violence against Women charter or look up the ‘what we can do’ suggestion sheet.

Mostly c’s

You are very engaged with the topic of violence against women. Why not consider formalising your work in church policies and procedures and sharing your learning with other congregations or your Presbytery? Remember to sign up to and display the Church of Scotland violence against women charter in your church and start to create links with your local support services.