



Faithful City
 Building bridges.
 Growing trust.
 Stopping the violence.

Domestic violence happens in every community. Even yours.

- Police responded to 13,496 domestic violence calls in 2008, an increase of 8% from 2007. (source: Alliance to End Violence)
- Research confirms that family violence is as prevalent within religious / spiritually-based communities as it is within the general population. Denial, however, can be quite common in these communities, and women often find themselves poorly served by both spiritual communities and secular providers.

What is being done?

- FaithLink, started in 1998 by a small volunteer committee, has grown to an influential force in both the spiritual and secular communities dealing with domestic violence.
- Awareness, education and action against domestic violence has been ignited in many faith communities including Christian, Jewish, Cambodian Buddhist and Laotian congregations.
- Working with secular service providers, FaithLink builds bridges, grows trust and fosters cooperation to better serve the spiritual needs of both abused and abusers.

How is Faithful City involved?

- Robert Pynn of Faithful City was instrumental in the formation of FaithLink in 1998, and remains an 'Advisor' to FaithLink's ongoing development.

What can you do?

Donate your time. Share your expertise. Make a contribution. Simply spread the word. Together we can fight domestic violence in our communities.

Faithful City –
 Sharing faith.
 Igniting ideas.
 Building community.

Bringing a faith perspective and spiritual foundation to Calgary's social services community, Faithful City endeavours to raise up our community – and all who live here.

We seek real change on a systemic level; not bandaid solutions. And we believe that, together, the spiritual, social welfare, government and business communities can affect this change – for all.

**Volunteer. Donate.
 Share.**

Please contact us at
info@faithfulcitycalgary.com

FaithLink – A spiritual path to communities without violence

Domestic violence is a fact. In every community.

All communities are affronted with the scourge of domestic violence. It saddens us all. Uncontested, it weakens and frays the fabric of society. Spiritual communities are not immune. Research shows domestic violence is as prevalent in spiritual communities as in the general population.

Spiritual victims of domestic violence often find themselves poorly served on two fronts. First, their spirituality can be ignored or overlooked by secular service providers. Second, spiritual leaders can be ill-prepared to deal with the issue of domestic violence.

Awareness raised. Capacity built.

In 1998, FaithLink was formed with a specific mission, 'Spiritual/religious communities and service providers working together to prevent domestic violence and to provide healing and hope to all those affected by it'.

While seemingly simple, this mission is an ongoing challenge. FaithLink has proven more than up to the task.

FaithLink's numerous publications, seminars, exercises, research endeavours and more are making a real difference in Calgary communities. FaithLink is raising awareness and building capacity for spiritual leaders and secular caregivers to more effectively deal with domestic violence.

Within spiritual communities, FaithLink has brought the issue and the reality of domestic violence to light. This awareness enables spiritual leaders to better provide support and counsel to the abused.

Among secular service providers, FaithLink has grown awareness and acceptance of the need for many victims, as well as caregivers who experience vicarious trauma, to experience holistic healing, including that of the spirit.

These changes help open the door for the abused to demand the help they desperately need.

Bridges built. Voices heard.

Also important to the work of FaithLink is bridging the often large chasm between the spiritual and the secular for the benefit of those affected by domestic violence. Efforts have been relentless and results rewarding with both sides coming together, learning from one another, hearing each others' voices. The result? Better support for those in need.

Communities healing. Together.

With the help and guidance of FaithLink, the spiritual and the secular are working side-by-side, helping people and communities affected by domestic violence.

FaithLink's energetic staff continues to build on its exciting beginnings and Faithful City is proud to continue its own unique and important contribution to FaithLink's ongoing efforts. For more information or to make a contribution, please contact us at info@faithfulcitycalgary.com.

Tools and Resources

Alliance to End Violence
www.endviolence.ca

FaithTrust Institute
www.faithtrustinstitute.org/index/php

Religion and Violence e-Learning
www.theraveproject.org

Calgary Police
<http://www.calgarypolice.ca/>



In an emergency, call 9-1-1.

Non-emergency response

City of Calgary Community

Resource Line	211
Police Service	403-266-1234
Distress Centre	403-266-1605
Men's Line	403-266-4357
Child Abuse	403-297-2995
Alberta Govt Family Violence Info Line	310-1818