

To Whom It May Concern

The Issues papers pointed out that submissions should highlight solution to gaps and problems in the response of systems and society in general, to family violence. You also welcome any suggestions that may have the greatest impact in reaching the goals of the Royal Commission.

To this end, I wish to draw your attention to the problem of domestic violence in evangelical Christian churches, estimated to be as prevalent as in the secular world. As public awareness of domestic violence has increased in society, Christians too are now more aware of the dynamics of domestic abuse but the acknowledgement of the prevalence, risks and protection of church-going victims is very limited among the leaders of Christian churches and organisations. Among the few organisations advocating for victims is A Cry for Justice (www.cryingoutforjustice.com), led by an American pastor Jeff Crippen and Barbara Roberts, a Victorian Christian domestic violence survivor and author of Not Under Bondage, a book that posits a Biblical case for divorce for abuse. Since the vast majority of abuse victims in churches are not believed or adequately supported in their local congregations, many find comfort in this online community of survivors who validate, support and educate each other in their journey of healing from domestic violence.

One of the recent suggestions put forward by A Cry for Justice is an idea to disseminate information to the people who need it the most. The following is taken from their blogpage:

Ladies restrooms are ideal places to provide information about domestic abuse, as victims can access the information without their abusers knowing about it. One of our team was recently given the opportunity to place information about domestic abuse in the ladies restrooms at the church she attends. So we created flyers which have tear-offs at the bottom that can be taken by a woman and discreetly hidden if necessary.

We want to make these flyers available to our readers, and encourage you to distribute them. The flyers contain the contact information for ACFJ along with a national domestic violence hotline phone number. To accommodate different national DV hotlines we have made four flyers for the countries: Australia, Canada, United Kingdom, and the United States. If you would like a flyer for an additional country, provide us with that country's DV national hotline and we will make one for you.

The link for the Australian flyer is below:

[DV Flyer: Australia](#)