



## Pledge



### **A Voice against Gender Based Violence**

***In our pledge to take, a public stand against violence in general, domestic, and spousal violence in particular:***

- ✠ We acknowledge that all people irrespective of race, gender, culture and creed have the divine grace to dignity, respect and equality;
- ✠ We acknowledge that in spite of this, violence of any kind is an indisputable unchecked lived-reality in society;
- ✠ We acknowledge that domestic and spousal violence have for too long gone unaddressed;
- ✠ We acknowledge that we remained silent for shame, while women, men and children suffered the psychological, spiritual and physical wounds and scars of violence;
- ✠ We acknowledge that our silence, our disbelief and inaction empowered the perpetrator, while the spirits and bodies of the victims bled unnoticed.

**Through our pledge we therefore:**

- ✠ Repent of our silence against this sin of inhumanity;
- ✠ Repent of our inertia and fear;
- ✠ Repent of our unwillingness to support the victim.



**We now make this pledge that:**

- ✠ We will listen and trust when victims share their story of victimization;
- ✠ We will give them compassionate and responsive support;
- ✠ We will act with immediacy without respect of persons;
- ✠ We will ensure that boys in particular will receive education in life skills pertaining to attitudes to women;
- ✠ We will ensure that victims especially women in vulnerable situations will be emboldened to articulate their pain and oppression;
- ✠ We will create safe spaces where victims can find refuge and comfort and an opportunity to heal and to speak out;
- ✠ We will ensure that perpetrators will be brought to account, to admission, to repentance and rehabilitation and to do reparation;
- ✠ We will continue to create public awareness of the ills of violence and especially domestic and spousal violence.

**(Diocese of False Bay)**