

Flinders University Research Project in partnership with the Lutheran Church of Australia

Domestic Violence and Religion: exploring men's perpetration

This research project aims to explore how men understand their use of violence in intimate and family relationships within the contexts of their Christian beliefs and practices. It also explores men's help-seeking experiences inside their church settings. The findings will help identify strategies to engage with men to enable attitudinal and behavioural change to stop the use of violence. The research is funded by the LCA and the Australia Research Council.

This research project is being led by Professor Sarah Wendt, Professor of Social Work at Flinders University, who has been working with the Domestic and Family Violence Working Group of the LCA to conduct research on men's use of violence in intimate partner relationships. Professor Wendt has practiced and researched in the field of domestic violence for nearly two decades and grew up in the Lutheran Church.

The research team are at the recruitment stage of inviting pastors and other men who have previously used violence to be part of the study. In the first instance they would like to talk to pastors to understand specific theological beliefs that have enabled or hindered pastors' ability to support men who use violence in their intimate partner relationships. Pastors will be asked to participate in a confidential face to face interview with Professor Wendt and/or post-doctoral colleague Dr Josephine Clarke. The interview will be about the pastors' experiences of supporting men who have used violence against their partners. Pastors are also invited to identify men they have supported who have used violence in their relationship, and who (with the men's permission) are open to being involved in and interviewed for this research.

This is an opportunity to be involved in research working towards addressing domestic and family violence, and the outcomes will support developing more effective policies and practice inside and outside religious settings to prevent domestic violence.

For more information about this research project and being involved, please contact Professor Sarah Wendt at sarah.wendt@flinders.edu.au or 08 8201 3978.

1800 RESPECT (1800737732) or Mensline (1300789978) are free telephone counselling services for domestic violence.

