

Appendix III

Books and DVDs on Women's & Children's Victimization Issues and Spirituality

Unless otherwise noted, the materials reviewed below are available from the *FaithTrust Institute*, a national organization headquartered in Seattle, Washington, which has been serving religious and community groups throughout the world since 1977. *FaithTrust Institute* works with many cultures, including Asian and Pacific Islander, African American, Latino/a, and Indigenous. A diverse range of faith communities – including Jewish, Roman Catholic Christian, Protestant Christian, Buddhist, Muslim, and Indigenous – utilize their resources.

FaithTrust Institute envisions a world where religious institutions create a climate in which abuse is not tolerated. Faith communities become sanctuaries of safety, worthy of our trust, and all of us experience justice and healing in our communities.

The staff at *FaithTrust Institute* is available for training seminars and keynote presentations in your area. Subjects include religious aspects of:

- Domestic violence
- Child abuse
- Sexual violence
- Sexual abuse by clergy

FaithTrust Institute

www.faithtrustinstitute.org

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1-877-860-2255 • 1-206-634-0055

Child Abuse Multi-Faith Resources

Hear Their Cries (DVD)

This 48-minute, color video, introduced by a Christian pastor and a rabbi, defines physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and includes the stories of numerous adult survivors of child abuse. Pastors and rabbis discuss theological issues such as forgiveness and confidentiality within the context of child abuse. They point out that the goal of any faith community should be to (1) protect the child, (2) stop the abuse, and (3) attempt to reunite the family although that may not be possible. Guidelines are given about how to respond when a child discloses abuse. While a very valuable tool for congregations, the inclusion of material on the long-term emotional consequences of spanking that does not leave marks would make it stronger.

The Healing Years: A Documentary About Surviving Incest and Child Sexual Abuse (DVD)

This 52-minute, color video profiles the painful journey of three women as they seek healing and recovery from incest as children. *Marilyn Van Derbur*, a former Miss America opens the video by revealing that she and her three sisters survived the incest of their father, but she eventually became physically paralyzed as a means of psychologically coping between the ages of 45 and 51. She says, *"I believed I was bad and dirty for 53 years... It just underscores what happens in a child's mind when her young body is pried open and violated. It is our belief systems that are shattered. It isn't just the physical invasion of our bodies. It's the trauma that it does to our entire belief system... You are not allowed to hate your violator – because he's your father."*

Janice Mirikitani, wife of the pastor of Glide Memorial Methodist Church in San Francisco, speaks of her long-term substance abuse as a means of escaping the pain of incest by her stepfather from the time she was 5 until she was 16. *Barbara Hamilton*, at age 79, continues to work on her incest issues from her father, as do her children whom he also abused. She finally broke the silence, ending three generations of incest.

The video shows how *Janice Mirikitani* now facilitates incest and substance abuse recovery groups at her church where 90% of female substance abusers are also incest survivors.

What You Need to Know if a Child is Being Abused or Neglected

This brochure for Christian and Jewish faith communities, available in English, Korean, and Spanish, answers basic questions about child abuse and neglect and explains what church and synagogue members can do individually and collectively to address it in their congregations.

Jewish Resources

Shine the Light: Sexual Abuse and Healing in the Jewish Community **By Rachel Lev**

This book, published in 2003, was written by a woman who is an incest survivor and a therapist. She tells the story of numerous Jewish incest survivors as they reflect on their personal relationships with the Jewish community. In some cases it discouraged denial; in others it was a source of healing. She reveals Judaism to be rich in resources for healing as she explores Jewish law, tradition, and rituals including the thoughts of rabbis and Jewish community leaders.

Christian Resources

Bless Our Children: Preventing Sexual Abuse (DVD)

This 40-minute, color video is the story of how a Christian church struggled with the decision about introducing a curriculum to prevent sexual abuse. Some opposed it because they didn't think it happened in their congregation. Others didn't want to upset children with the topic. Still others didn't want to interrupt regular programming to address it. However, they eventually reviewed a children's Sunday School curriculum published by the United Church Press (see below) and realized that it was very tastefully done and interwoven around traditional Bible stories. Actual classroom segments are included. In the end, they know what to do when a child discloses that she is being fondled by a tutor. This video could be very effective for clergy continuing education or seminary classes.

Preventing Child Sexual Abuse Program (Sunday School Curriculum) **Published by The United Church Press**

Separate curricula are available for three age groups.