

Responding to the Abuser

- **Hold the abuser accountable. Support the abuser in seeking specialized batterers' counseling to help change his behavior.**
- **If he has been arrested DO express your concern and support for him to be accountable and to deal with his violence.**
- **DON'T approach him or let him know that you know about his violence unless you have the victim's permission, she is aware that you plan to talk to him and you are certain that his partner is safely separated from him.**
- **DO address any religious rationalizations he may offer or questions he may have.**
- **But, DON'T allow him to use religious excuses for his behavior.**
- **DO name the violence as his problem, not hers. Tell him that only he can stop it.**
- **DON'T accept his blaming her or other rationalizations for his behavior.**
- **Let him know reconciliation is up to the victim. Repentance and restitution is up to him.**
- **Remind him that repentance is not saying, "I'm sorry, I will never do it again." Repentance is to make a 90 degree change in mind, heart and actions.**