



THE EMPTY CHAIR

Gender based violence is a global phenomenon . . . with devastating effects on individuals, families and society (Letter from Primates Meeting 2011). The aim of the drama, *The Empty Chair*, is twofold: to open the issue of domestic abuse to the grace and healing power of God; and to give survivors of abuse space to tell their story.

Suggestions to demonstrate a willingness to challenge and transform gender-based abuse

- Display notices which condemn domestic abuse in all faith community premises
- Display National Domestic Abuse Helpline Scotland 24 hours tel 0800 027 1234
- Offer prayers, develop liturgies, sermons
- Services on 25th November
- Develop links with women's refuges
- www.whiteribboncampaign.co.uk

**National Domestic Abuse Helpline Scotland 24 hours
– tel 0800 027 1234**

If it were between countries, we'd call it a war
If it were a disease, we'd call it an epidemic
If it were an oil spill, we'd call it a disaster
But it is happening to women, and it's just an
everyday affair
It is violence against women

It is sexual harassment at work and sexual abuse
of the young
It is beating or the blow that millions of women
Suffer each and every day
It is rape at home or on a date.
It is murder

There is no secret enemy pulling the trigger
No unseen virus that leads to death.
It is only men. Not all men, but far too
many men.....
and just who are these men?

Just regular guys
Men from all social backgrounds, of all colours
and ages
rich men and poor men, men who toil in the
fields and men who sit behind desks

(Kaufman M)