**Newsletter Article for Faith Community Newsletters**

**January is Stalking Awareness Month**

Stalking is confusing AND it is happening to people we know and care about in our faith community. Nearly [**1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men**](https://www.stalkingawareness.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/SPARC_StalkngFactSheet_2018_FINAL.pdf) have experienced stalking victimization at some point in their lifetime.

[Stalking](https://www.stalkingawareness.org/definition-faqs/) is a pattern of behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear. It is not always clear to the victims, or their friends and families, that a crime has occurred. Stalking may be hard to prove and stalkers know this.

Friends and family members are the first people victims of stalking will turn to, but if we doubt or belittle the victims’ concerns, they are likely not to seek the help they need. New research shows that stalking can be a precursor to serious harm.

So, what can WE as a faith community do? We can learn more about stalking by contacting our local domestic violence services agency, NAME OF LOCAL DV AGENCY and NUMBER HERE. We can also learn more about how to support victims of stalking in our community [here](https://www.interfaithpartners.org/victims-and-survivors-of-stalking). Together, our faith community can help people experiencing stalking know we are here to help.

*If you are in immediate danger, call 911.  If you or someone you know may be experiencing stalking or domestic violence, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at (800) 799-7233 (SAFE).*