



WEAAD Newsletter Article for Faith Community Newsletters and Bulletins

Supporting Older Adults in our Faith Communities

It is hard to imagine that 1 in 10 older adults (and 1 in 4 adults with dementia) experience **abuse**, no matter their community, faith, ethnic background, gender, or social status.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) is June 15th and it provides us a great opportunity to raise awareness about the abuse and neglect of older adults. The support and care we provide to older people in our congregation is more important now than ever.

Elder abuse is an intentional act (or failure to act) by a trusted caregiver or another person that causes a risk of harm to an older adult. It is a term that encompasses caregiver neglect and abuse, financial fraud and exploitation, psychological abuse, and sexual, physical, and spiritual abuse. Elder abuse is devastating to its victims and their families.

What can WE as a faith community do? We are already a trusted source of support, resilience, and connection. Now more than ever, **we need to strengthen our efforts to stay connected to each other and to our older friends, family members, and fellow congregants**. Please, check in regularly. Remember potential [red flags](#) of elder abuse, and ask questions privately if you're concerned. We can be beacons of hope and bridges to safety for older people who are experiencing abuse.

Learn more about elder abuse by exploring [these resources](#) and more about WEAAD [here](#).

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