



Guidelines for Intervention

Suggested responses to a person experiencing abuse:

- Assure her/him of confidentiality
- Listen without being judgmental and believe her/him
- Empathize with her/him
- Validate what she/he is saying
- Ask how she/he wants you to help
- Trust her/him about what is safe and unsafe for them
- Leaving is not always the answer, or a possibility
- Refer her/him to a domestic violence agency, such as SHALVA
- Recognize your limitations. You cannot “fix” the situation. Many situations require a community response that includes Rabbi, treatment specialist, police officer, or other community resources

How to talk to someone accused/suspected of abuse:

- Be aware of the ability some abusers have to charm and manipulate
- Don't be judgmental of the person, just their behavior
- Avoid confrontation
- Be cautious about engaging in a conversation about alleged abuse
- Don't validate any attempts to blame others
- Keep the conversation open and look for ways to help find support
- Don't make excuses for the behavior or reinforce it in any way
- Follow your congregational protocol related to intimate partner abuse