

Commentary / Living Faith / Women and Girls

'I BELIEVE YOU': CHURCH LEADERS RESPOND TO SURVIVORS

BY JENNA BARNETT, JIM WALLIS

SEP 27, 2018

SHARE



On Thursday Dr. Christine Blasey Ford recounted her experience of sexual assault before a committee comprising mostly older white men. Women and other victims of abuse held their collective breath. The details were familiar. The resulting trauma — anxiety, fear of flying, claustrophobia — resonated. Survivors listened — and they recalled their worst experiences.

How will the church step up? We all want our churches to be a safe space for survivors to be heard and to heal. But a recent survey shows us that while 90 percent of pastors encounter domestic and sexual violence through their work, only 50 percent believe they have sufficient training to address it. We want to change that.

Every pastor should be equipped to address domestic and sexual violence in their ministry. And we can begin by looking to those pastors who have already started.

In January we invited pastors and parishioners to send us sermons on domestic and sexual violence, hoping to have 100 by the end of the year. By July, we had nearly 150. We've compiled the sermons, along with other resources, for ministers to take and use within their own communities. **You can view them here.**

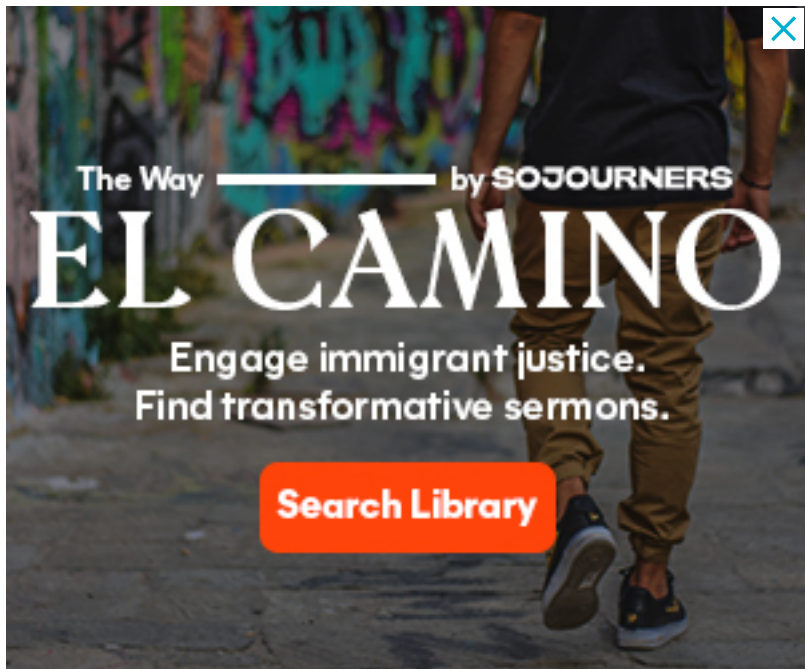
People of faith and pastors need to step up to let survivors in their communities know they are heard, they are believed, and they are supported.

Share this video and **view all 100 Sermons and resources here.**

SHARE



Photo by Jachan DeVol on Unsplash



Jenna Barnett

Jenna Barnett is associate culture editor for sojo.net. Find her on Twitter: [@jennabarnett](#).



Jim Wallis

Jim Wallis is founder and ambassador of Sojourners. His book *Christ in Crisis: Why We Need to Reclaim Jesus* is available in paperback now. Follow Jim on Twitter [@JimWallis](#).

Got something to say about what you're reading? We value your feedback!

Send Message

SUBSCRIBE TO NEWSLETTER

E-Mail

State (if U.S. resident)

Sign Up

SUBSCRIBE

Magazine

Newsletters

Preaching The Word



SOJOURNERS

Donate

Products

Digital Edition

Editorial Policies

Privacy Policy

MEDIA

Advertising

Press

OPPORTUNITIES

Careers

Fellowship Program

CONTACT

Office
408 C St. NE
Washington DC, 20002

Phone 202-328-8842
Fax 202-328-8757
Email sojourners@sojo.net