

Proposal — Rapha Training

2025



Training on domestic violence:
understanding the issues and
reflecting on the role of the Church
in responding, accompanying and
prevention.

Presented by
Jenna Smith
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The Rapha Project :

“Rapha” means healing in Hebrew.

The Rapha Project was born out of a community based research, studying the prevalence of domestic violence in Québec and the response of Christian communities to this issue.

The study produced 3 reports :

- **A quantitative survey (503 responses)**
 - **Qualitative interviews (13 survivors)**
 - **Focus groups with clergy (39 Christian leaders)**
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Presenters :



Jenna Smith works in Urban Ministries at Christian Direction as head of outreach and engagement. She coordinates the Rapha Project. Jenna has a masters of theology from Université de Montréal and more than 20 years of experience in community development and in support services to youth and families in difficulty.



Julie Kaulanjan works part-time at Christian Direction as the formation assistant at the Rapha Project. A psychosocial practitioner, her training was in clinical psychology with a particular focus on mental health. She is invested in social impact projects, and is especially sensitive to issues surrounding domestic violence and conflict management.

Objectives :

The main objective is to equip churches in Québec to better recognize and discern the signs of domestic violence and to support survivors in their healing journeys.

In this training, the values we want to transmit are the following:

- Affirm God's desire for our spiritual, physical and emotional well-being in both our teaching and our practice.
- Prioritise safety, taking seriously situations of domestic or family violence.
- Establish spaces of safety, where all can flourish and where survivors are listened to and believed.
- Identifying and understanding one's roles and responsibilities = putting into place appropriate protocols that will support survivors in their healing journeys.
- Using the proposed tools (Church Guide, response flowchart, safety toolkit, etc...)

At the end of the training, participants will be able to :

- Name different types of domestic violence.
- Understand the particularities concerning Christian DV victims and survivors.
- Have a general understanding of Rapha's mission, services and tools and be invited to use them.
- Imagine the possibilities and limitations to one's role in the church when faced with a situation of DV.
- Access concrete tools and materials to help launch a church's prevention and response strategies in situations of DV.



We are convinced that to reveal is to begin to heal.

Who can take this training?

Anybody who has responsibilities towards other persons in their community of faith.

This includes anyone involved in pastoral, social or psychological care, Christian education, formation, discipleship or teaching ministries. These responsibilities can be carried out in a variety of roles according to gifts, call or the leadership structure of the local church.

Length :

In between 1.5 and 2 hours.

Modality :

- Training available via zoom or in person.
- Approach includes theory and dialogue.
- Breakout groups possible.

Training content :

- What is Rapha and what were the findings?
 - Domestic violence
 - The types of domestic violence
 - Listening to the voices of survivors: what are some best practices?
 - The role of the leader: prevention and response.
 - Tools geared towards the Québec Christian context.
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**We will be delighted to talk with you
and adapt this training to your needs.**



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