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## **Society's Responsibility to end the silence of Child Abuse**

A single child, or a single adult have little chance to bring change or effectively deal with the abuse of a child. It is all of society's responsibility to effectively deal with the abuse of a child at any level.

It is up to all of us to protect and care for the abused as well as deal with their abuser. We must all step up and openly stand up for the abused. We must all step up and openly stand against the abuser and those that would stand with the abuser.

Openly and willingly stand with the child so that the child has the empowerment and backing to be able to face down their abuser. Openly talk about it, openly deal with it. Do not shut down when faced with abuse, gather up all the resources available to you and face it head on, embrace all of it.

Our children are counting on us to stand with them and support them, if we shut down they will be forced to do the same.

Below are three basic steps that we as a society must take to effectly deal with this issue.

### **AWARENESS/SPEAKOUT**

We must have open dialog when it comes to Child abuse. No matter young or old, it is important that we educate all and that we are all willingly engaged when it comes to talking about child abuse.

We must communicate to our children and let them know that they have many options if they need to disclose at any level. They need to know that they are not

in this alone, that society is willing to be involved, that we all truly care about them.

We need to show the abused that we will give them support as well as seriously deal with their abuser. Again it is all of our responsibility to create an open dialog about child abuse between the abused, the abuser, and society in general.

## **ENVIROMENT**

We must have a system in place that will protect a child that chooses to disclose. They need to know who they can go to, and then when they disclose, they need to know that they will be protected. They need people out there that they can trust; that they feel safe with. They need people that are willing to go all in.

Teachers, Law enforcement, neighbors, family members, religious groups as well as individuals, counselor's, medical professionals, child agencies, it is all of our responsibility when it comes to the welfare of our children. We all need to be available and prepared if a child discloses to us.

We must protect them before and after abuse has occurred. We all must be willing to stand up for those that cannot stand up to their abuser. All they need is for society to stand up for them, for society to stand against those that have hurt them. All they need is a society that is willing to embrace the pain with them, and to show true compassion for them.

## **ACCOUNTABLITY**

We must hold ourselves accountable to a child when they disclose abuse. Focus on them with unconditional love to do whatever it takes to comfort them and

help them to heal. Bring them to a safe place as well as get them counseling and utilize the child agency's that are in place for our children.

When it comes to the abuser, we must hold them accountable and ensure they are dealt with swiftly and are prosecuted to the extent of the law. They must be held accountable for their actions against a child. Once they have crossed that line they must be held accountable, and never trusted interacting with children, ever again. This can be done with love and compassion to the abuser.

We must put the child's welfare over the feelings of family members. We must make the feelings and the welfare of our children a priority over the feelings or welfare of the adults affiliated with the child. As an adult you must put your feelings or how you have been affected by the abuse to the side, as you focus on the child's needs and welfare.

## **CONCLUSION**

Society overall is responsible for all of the above. Individuals cannot come close to what we as a society can accomplish when dealing with child abuse. No single child or adult should ever feel like it is their burden alone to bear. If society as a whole takes on this responsibility with love and compassion, we will truly be able to care for the child as well as deal with the abuser.

As an adult, we have many responsibilities that we must face every day. None is greater than the welfare, safety, the innocence of Gods children.