



## Supporting those who have been abused

The national statistics on sexual abuse are overwhelming. One in 3 girls and 1 in 4 boys will be sexually abused before they turn 18 years old. Approximately 93% of child victims know the offender and spent significant time with the offender prior to the assault taking place (nsvrc.org/statistics). The most common places sexual offenders search for victims is in youth activities such as school, sports, and church. WELS congregations and their members are no exception.

Freedom for the Captives (FFTC) is a ministry of WELS Special Ministries. We focus on two areas: 1) preventing child abuse in our churches and schools and 2) providing support and encouragement for those who have experienced trauma and are working every day to recover and build resiliency. **Visit [freedomforcaptives.com](http://freedomforcaptives.com) for resources.**

We take to heart the words of Micah 6:8: "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

We seek to carry out that encouragement by providing:

- 1. Resources for prevention.**  
Churches and schools have a responsibility to keep the children in their care safe. FFTC provides in-depth training and resources to improve the safety and care of children.
- 2. Resources for pastors, teachers, family members, and friends.**  
Helping a survivor of abuse first requires understanding. FFTC has information to help you better understand abuse and learn how to support a survivor on their journey of healing.
- 3. Resources for survivors of abuse.**  
Healing from the trauma of abuse can be a lifelong journey. We provide spiritual nourishment for the hurting, recommended reading, and guidance in selecting counseling or other services.



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