



**HOUSE OF REFUGE**  
CHURCH  
AUSTRALIA

# UNPLANNED/CRISIS PREGNANCY SUPPORT INFORMATION GUIDE

**Dear Pastor,**

Thank you for your consideration in making your church a House of Refuge, a place of safety and acceptance for those experiencing an unplanned/crisis pregnancy or who have had an abortion. We recognise the immeasurable work that comes with shepherding a congregation. The House of Refuge has been designed to support the Pastor, and share the load, by equipping and raising up leaders within the church to speak about the message of life from conception to natural death. To address any concerns about what will be required, this document contains a detailed overview of what it means to become a House of Refuge. It also includes resources and referrals including template documents for your church's House of Refuge. As you partner with us, we will provide training and support to you and your volunteers so that they can carry out their role in confidence and safety.

Our desire is that every church in Australia is a place where families can come to find the support they need. Churches can lead the way so that people do not feel abortion is their only option, and help those hurting from a past abortion to find hope and healing.

However, above all, we want them to be without a doubt that God loves them.

[www.houseofrefuge.org.au](http://www.houseofrefuge.org.au) | [info@houseofrefuge.org.au](mailto:info@houseofrefuge.org.au)

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## ABOUT HOUSE OF REFUGE

- Introduction** House of Refuge is a ministry supported and facilitated by Love Australia partnering with Love Life America. Love Australia's mission is to unite and mobilise the church to create a culture of love and life that will result in making abortion unthinkable. House of Refuge will empower your church to support those facing an unplanned/crisis pregnancy, guide those hurting by previous abortions to find healing and protect the unborn in your community.
- The Issue** The negative impact of abortion is widespread—and local churches are not exempt. A U.S. survey by [American Care Net](#) found that 40% of women were attending church at least once a month at the time of their abortion. Similarly in Australia women are not feeling able to ask their church for help. Even one woman in this position is too many.
- The Solution** Our heart is to lead with compassion for those hurt by previous abortions as well as creating a safe space for women—and their families, to come to when facing an unplanned/crisis pregnancy. The local church will be a place where women find the support and care they need so that an abortion is no longer the first or easiest option. Working together in unity to share the hope of the Gospel and the love of Jesus Christ—the Church will become an accessible refuge of love and acceptance no matter what choices people have or will make. Having a clear plan in place to care well for those families and for those hurt by abortion to be gently guided to healing and freedom.
- The Vision** That the church is a safe haven for those in need—knowing and outworking the Heavenly Fathers heart for life. Prepared church communities will be ready and able to provide the support families need when facing an unplanned/crisis pregnancy within their church family. When the church loves each other in this way, we will increase our light which will draw others, outside of the church, looking for hope and healing.

### Watch the impact of the House of Refuge

<https://youtu.be/W5NrjgaNB0A>

(3 min video)

***“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”***

*John 13:34-35*

# House of Refuge Goals

<b>Prevent</b>	Stop abortions taking place—especially among those already attending our church—by providing the love and support needed for women to keep their babies.
<b>Provide</b>	Help those who have had an abortion find healing and understanding rather than judgement.
<b>Protect</b>	Position the church to be a place of refuge where families run to so they have no need to seek an abortion clinic.

## Guidelines

Our role is to lead with love and compassion, we are not here to judge.

### 1. **Create a Team**

Select an official Representative, Mentors and Volunteers. Love Australia will equip them with the necessary training to establish a House of Refuge (HR) ministry in your church. It is important that the proper support network is in place before you begin to advertise or discuss the issue of abortion. Raising the issue without following it up with the appropriate care may be distressing to those who have had an abortion.

### 2. **Remind**

Please read the House of Refuge statement from the pulpit at least twice a year and post the statement publicly on your website and/or in your church foyer. (Churches have allowance to make minor changes to the statement to fit their context better). Please note the reading of this statement may trigger people. Have your HR team available while the statement is being read.

### 3. **Introduce**

Introduce/identify your HR Representative to the congregation as the point of contact.

### 4. **Be ready to act**

### 5. **Prepare and Provide**

Know ahead of time exactly what services your church can/cannot provide to families in need. HR will provide a referral and resource list, but we encourage you to create a list of your own local referrals and connections.

# HOUSE OF REFUGE STATEMENT

[Your church name] is a House of Refuge: A place of refuge and safety for anyone dealing with an unplanned/crisis pregnancy. Whether you are a member of this church, a visitor, or it's someone you know, we are here to help.

If you find yourself in an unplanned pregnancy, please know that being pregnant is not a sin and the child you carry is not a punishment, this child is a blessing. God is creating this child in your womb. Whatever the circumstances that led to this pregnancy, we want you to know that you are loved and we will do whatever it takes to help you carry and care for this precious child before and after birth.

We will never encourage a woman to have an abortion, because the child you carry is made in the image of God and is intrinsically valuable and loved by Him. You need to know how we will respond.

Here is what we won't do:

Please know that this church family will never gossip about you, shame you, or abandon you. This is a House of Refuge and we will not allow the family of God to harm one another with words or actions contrary to the love of God as revealed in the Bible.

Here is what we will do:

Please know that we will do everything in our power to remove whatever obstacles that stand in the way of you having this child. There are people in this church ready to support and mentor you, connect you with resources inside and outside of our church. We will also encourage men to become great fathers who protect women and children.

Finally, we know that there may be women and men here who were at a stage in their lives when they needed a House of Refuge. You may now live with regret, maybe shame or heartache, over a choice made to terminate your pregnancy. You are not alone. There is refuge available for you as well. We can direct you to individuals who understand and can walk alongside you as you heal by either speaking with us or you can confidentially contact Pregnancy Help Australia. <https://pregnancyhelpaustralia.org.au> Call 1300 139 313



HOUSE OF REFUGE  
CHURCH

# Building a Team

There are various roles in which your church members can be involved in the House of Refuge (HR) ministry. It is very important that you have this team trained and ready before reading the House of Refuge Statement. That way, when a family needs guidance, encouragement and assistance or women and men come forward seeking healing for a past abortion, the HR team will be equipped for action.

Once you have chosen a team, get in contact with Love Australia and we will help equip your volunteers. Please email [info@houseofrefuge.org.au](mailto:info@houseofrefuge.org.au)

## The Roles

### House of Refuge Representative

The House of Refuge Representative is the main point of contact within your church. This person is responsible for managing the HR mentors and volunteers, and is also the liaison between your church and Love Australia. The HR Rep should stay in regular communication with the church leadership as they lead their volunteer team. They are also the first point of contact for all new connections to the support available through the House of Refuge.

### House of Refuge Mentor

The Mentor's role is to be a friend, support, and a listening ear with the aim of being a guide to self-sufficiency for families. If formal counselling is needed this must be referred immediately to a qualified counsellor. We also recommend that even if the Mentor has counselling qualifications, they do not take on this role. This separation helps to define roles and allows the Mentor to simply be a friend. The Mentor and Mentee should meet regularly in a public place as they get to know each other and do life together, walking through the pregnancy process.

The Mentor will report back to the HR Representative.

### House of Refuge Post Abortion Bible Study Mentor

Healing from a past abortion will take time and support, one of the ways to find healing is to be guided through a bible study. Recommendation of resources, support and equipping will be provided by Restored Life <https://lovelife.org/restoredlife/>

### House of Refuge Volunteer

At times there will be a need for other volunteers. These people can be called upon as needed. This might include special events such as planning a baby shower, or on days where the House of Refuge Statement is read from the pulpit.

### House of Refuge Prayer Team

It is essential that prayer plays an important role in your House of Refuge. Pray together as a team—for the HR and for each other; pray for the families in your care, and if they are open to it pray with them. Please know that the team at Love Australia are also praying for you. If you ever have any specific prayer needs, please contact us and we will pray with you. Prayer requests can be sent to [info@houseofrefuge.org.au](mailto:info@houseofrefuge.org.au)

***“So speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you'll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind. I know you're already doing this; just keep on doing it.”***

*1 Thessalonians 5:11 The Message*

# ESSENTIAL TRAINING RESOURCES

## Fetal Development

<https://babyolivia.liveaction.org/> (3 min video)

## Abortion Procedures

**Dr Levatino ex abortionist doctor**—describing the 4 abortion procedures with animated video. <https://youtu.be/CFZDhM5Gwhk> (11 min video)

This is essential training but comes with a warning—please be prepared that the impact of the truth may be difficult to process.

An unintended result of understanding this information is that we can start participating in a ‘ministry of condemnation’. It is important that the way we speak always leads others to a place of redemption and healing. With approximately 1 in 4 pregnancies ending in abortion we can never assume those we speak with have not been impacted by a past abortion. Please pray before watching and ask the Lord to give you His grace to understand the truth about the tragedy of abortion.

If you need to debrief afterwards please reach out to trusted counsel, email; [info@loveaustralia.org.au](mailto:info@loveaustralia.org.au) or call Pregnancy Help Australia 1300 139 313.

## Post-Abortion Short Film

<https://www.illspeakforyou.com/> (9 min film)

**Love Australia has produced this internationally awarded short film.**

Based on real events, this short film gives a voice to the hurting and lets them know that they are not alone. There are places of refuge where they can find healing. Recommended for ages 15+ with parental support.

## Pro-Life Apologetics

### How do we answer the difficult questions?

#### Live Action

Apologetics: (10 x 5 min videos) packed full of biblical worldview easy to learn responses.

My Body, My choice: <https://youtu.be/FcZ6IOjNbi0>

Abortion in cases of rape: <https://youtu.be/dUEomZ-07t0>

No one knows when life begins: [https://youtu.be/jnAbwc\\_pHSY](https://youtu.be/jnAbwc_pHSY)

Women will die from illegal abortions (if abortion is illegal):

<https://youtu.be/B1s9WOBihWU>

A fetus is not a person: [https://youtu.be/sCN8M\\_PG-x8](https://youtu.be/sCN8M_PG-x8)

Abortion can be medically necessary: <https://youtu.be/5TmomK2RB2A>

Babies with disabilities are better off aborted: <https://youtu.be/d6GewCpuC30>

Abort babies with terminal illness: <https://youtu.be/FWWW1IMrLAE>

Abortion will stop the world from being over-populated: <https://youtu.be/SVRJnoQJgoY>

I'm pro-life but I don't want to impose my beliefs: <https://youtu.be/7YzY5kuOhxE>

## House of Refuge Modules 1,2,3

### Representative and Mentor Training

Once appointed by the church leadership online training links will be sent.

Please note: to become a House of Refuge a Representative must be appointed and complete Module 1 training. If your church does not initially have anyone ready to take on the role of a Mentor, this does not exclude your church from starting this ministry.

## Additional Training/Recommended Reading

### **Making Life Disciples**

Consider taking the Care Net Initiatives “Making Life Disciples” program. It helps to prepare a mentor to be an excellent advocate for a family considering abortion. It covers MANY of the concerns and questions a mentor and mentee experience. To sign up or get more information, visit; <https://www.makinglifedisciples.com/>

### **Life International**

#### **'Journey of a Life Giver' course**

<https://academy.lifeinternational.com/log-in/>

Click – Request Access

You will receive an email with details of your log in to the Academy

Click into 'Training Resources'

Training Manuals:

1. Journey of a Life-Giver
2. Post-Abortion Healing
3. Redemptive Conversations
4. Intimacy Before Impact

Teaching Tools:

1. Life In The Womb
2. Making An Informed Decision About Abortion - 4 downloadable and printable small brochures about the different procedures
3. Abortion Explained – flip chart
4. Cycle Beads - simple tool that clearly shows where you are in your cycle.

### **Help Her Be Brave**

Discover your place in the prolife movement by Amy Ford: read about many lives that have been impacted by Embrace Grace and learn over 300 ideas on how to help empower women and save lives. <https://www.helperbebrave.com/>

### **Now That You're Saved**

By Jay Zinn (New believer discipleship booklet):  
<https://amzn.asia/d/c9EIMDy>

### **Small Town Big Miracle: How Love Came To The Least Of These**

(Focus on the Family Books)  
<https://amzn.asia/d/cyO15gD>



### **Unplanned Movie**

<https://www.unplannedfilm.com/>

Unplanned is the inspiring true story of one woman's journey of transformation. All Abby Johnson ever wanted to do was help women. As one of the youngest Planned Parenthood clinic directors in the nation, she was involved in upwards of 22,000 abortions and counselled countless women about their reproductive choices. Her passion surrounding a woman's right to choose even led her to become a spokesperson for Planned Parenthood, fighting to enact legislation for the cause she so deeply believed in. Until the day she saw something that changed everything, leading Abby Johnson to join her former enemies at 40 Days For Life, and become one of today's most ardent pro-life speakers in America.

### **Love Unleashes Life**

<https://amzn.asia/d/7wqEQKq>

Love Unleashes Life offers a fresh approach to pro-life apologetics. It is designed to equip people to reach not only people's minds but also their hearts, on the controversial topic of abortion. Through the use of sample dialogues and proven strategies Stephanie equips you with the confidence to truly communicate while changing hearts and minds.

### **The Walls Are Talking**

<https://amzn.asia/d/ij3Njvl>

This book narrates the harrowing and life-changing experiences of former abortion clinic workers, including those of the author, who once directed abortion services at a large Planned Parenthood clinic in Texas. These individuals, whose names have been changed to protect their identities, left their jobs in the abortion industry after experiencing a change of heart. They have come forward with their stories, not for fame or notoriety, but to shed light on the reality of abortion. They want their stories to change the lives of others for the better. These stories are difficult to read, because an abortion is an act of violence, harming not only the obvious victim—the unborn child—but also the mother, the father, the doctor, and everyone else involved. But these stories also offer hope, for they show that anyone, no matter what part the person has played in an abortion, can start anew, can make amends for past mistakes. They demonstrate that the first step on that journey is telling the truth, as these courageous individuals do in these pages.

## **Unplanned/Crisis Pregnancy and Post Abortion Support**

### **Free Counselling**

**Pregnancy Help Australia**

<https://pregnancyhelpaustralia.org.au/>

Nationwide 1300 139 313 (8am-10pm AEST)

**Life Line**

<https://www.lifeline.org.au/>

24 Hour Hotline: 13 11 14





# HOUSE OF REFUGE

CHURCH

## Intake Care Form

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

House of Refuge Church - Online Care Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Baby's Due Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Other children:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

If appropriate, Father's name: \_\_\_\_\_

In case of emergency, contact details of Next of Kin / Closest Contact Person:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

What are your current concerns? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Further information you would like to share: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Mentor and Mentee Agreement

We at House of Refuge want to provide **guidance and discipleship** through our mentor program. Our mentors have agreed to walk alongside our mentees with very specific support and services as guides to self-sufficiency.

MENTOR AGREES TO:	MENTEE AGREES TO:
Regularly communicate with your mentee by a combination of phone, face to face meetings, texting etc. (initiate and maintain regular check-ins 2-4 times per month)	Regularly communicate with your mentor by a combination of phone, face to face meetings, texting etc. Respect their private time also with regard to these communications.
Commit to at least one year of continuous efforts to build this relationship. Focus on relationship building, by providing Biblical based coaching and teaching.	Be open to get to know your mentor as your relationship grows and accept coaching and teaching efforts.
Be available to connect your mentee to local resources, (refer to Resource Guide) Direct financial assistance is not expected.	Mentors are available to connect you to different resources and make that process as easy as possible for you but are not expected to directly and personally financially assist you.
Endorse proper relational boundaries by only meeting in public spaces for the initial 6 months.	Meet the Mentor in public spaces until mutual trust is established for the initial 6 months.
Be available to attend doctor and ultrasound appointments.	Let your mentor know about your doctor appointments for the baby.
If your church is able and it is appropriate, work together to arrange a Baby Shower for your mentee that accommodates her calendar.	If this is offered work with your mentor to plan your baby shower.
Mentee information will be kept strictly confidential and not shared with any others. No photos or conversations are to be shared including posts to social media without the permission of the Mentee.	House of Refuge information and photos are to be kept private and not shared on social media without permission of the church.

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Signature of Mentor and Date

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Signature of Mentee and Date

*\*This is not legally binding but signed in good faith.*

# Frequently Asked Questions

## 1. How much time will it take to be a Rep?

Once the House of Refuge Training is completed, the Rep should allot 1 to 1 ½ hours per week on the work. The training is self paced videos covering fetal development, abortion procedures, prolife apologetics and 3 modules of HR specific training; total time approximately 3 hours.

## 2. Our church already partners with a pregnancy help centre, should we also be a House of Refuge?

Yes! Partnering with a pregnancy centre and being a House of Refuge are not mutually exclusive. In fact, it would benefit both the church and the pregnancy help centre to be recognized as a House of Refuge by identifying women who need a mentor in the church as well as the other services of the pregnancy help centre.

## 3. What is the pastor's role?

The pastor submits the application which signals their desire for the church to become a House of Refuge. The pastor appoints a Representative (Rep) to be the liaison with Love Australia and to initiate the House of Refuge as a ministry within the church. The pastor reads the House of Refuge Statement to the congregation twice each year. The pastor/church leadership stays in touch with the Rep for encouragement and to provide direction, as needed. The HR ministry has been designed to confidently support churches to speak about and actively support families in need through the engagement of the congregation—without further adding to the current pastoral teams workload.

When the pastor is ready they can sign the pastors agreement here;

<https://unqlink.com/widget/survey/iMveqGr2jpKktoMl3gLT>

## 4. Is a House of Refuge a political group?

No. A House of Refuge church is not a political group and is not associated with a political movement. That being said, life issues—including abortion—are spiritual, biblical issues. The Bible speaks of life issues from conception through natural death. It's true that some of our spiritual, biblical issues have been made into political issues, but they originated with God. Love Australia encourages speaking to local members of parliament to find out their stance for life issues to enable wise choices with voting. If you would like more information about this please email; [info@loveaustralia.org.au](mailto:info@loveaustralia.org.au)

## 5. Does my church have to provide a Baby Shower for each family they are supporting?

Love Australia have left this up to the discretion of individual churches. There is no expectation that your church will throw a Baby Shower and it is not mentioned in the HR Statement. However, ideas and how to find support for throwing a Baby Shower are all provided in the Mentoring Roadmap Training.

## 6. Is a House of Refuge an actual house?

No, this is not an actual house or building. A House of Refuge is what we call a local church where a person could run to in a time of crisis—a safe place where the body of Christ can minister to someone in need. This is particularly important for women experiencing an unplanned/crisis pregnancy. Your church as a HR could more accurately be described as “People of Refuge” for those in need.

## **7. Does it cost anything to become a House of Refuge Church?**

No, there is no financial commitment required by Love Australia. As a voluntary charitable organization Love Australia and the House of Refuge relies on the generous donations of our supporters to deliver these resources. Churches are not expected to make any donations but they are warmly welcomed if you would like to pay it forward for other churches to receive this information.

## **8. Does my church have to participate in a Love Australia Walk for Life in order to be a House of Refuge?**

No, a church can be a House of Refuge regardless of where they are located. If your church is located in a city where there is a prolife public gathering, we encourage your participation. Most capital cities hold annual events, if you would like more information please email; [info@loveaustralia.org.au](mailto:info@loveaustralia.org.au)

## **9. What if there is more than one family needing help at a time, and our church is small?**

If your church needs help with supporting those coming to you please do not go this alone, email; [info@loveaustralia.org.au](mailto:info@loveaustralia.org.au) and together we will work through the options we have available to enable your church to support those in need. We believe that being supported by Love Australia, Pregnancy Help Australia and other House of Refuge churches you will be able to connect to the support needed.

The next step to become a House of Refuge is signing the pastors agreement;  
<https://link.lovelife.org/widget/survey/iMveqGr2jpKktoMI3gLT>

If you have any questions please email; [info@houseofrefuge.org.au](mailto:info@houseofrefuge.org.au)

Love Australia is praying that you will be blessed beyond measure as a House of Refuge church. Our hope is that your support for families facing an unplanned/crisis pregnancy will help enable them to overcome their fears—guiding them along a path to self-sufficiency. Welcoming children into the world with confidence that they are not alone, and for those suffering from a past abortion that they too will find refuge in your church and be supported to find hope and healing.