Dear [Add name of elected official],

I am a member of [add church name] Presbyterian Church in [PLACE]. I am writing because there is an urgent need for public supports to address domestic violence in our communities. Domestic violence can impact anyone within a household or holding an intimate connection (e.g., a caregiver). Over the past two years, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated this public health crisis.

The supports necessary to assist those living with domestic violence, and those who are trying to escape violence, must be trauma-informed, victim-centred and culturally appropriate including shelters, housing, counselling and legal advice. It is critical to acknowledge the different vulnerabilities, needs and experiences of violence faced by Indigenous and racialized people, 2SLGTBQI people, people with disabilities, people who have been trafficked and people with precarious immigration status.

A lack of safe, affordable housing is an unequivocal barrier to someone’s ability to leaving a violent situation. I am writing to ask that you support addressing these barriers in the following way:

* increasing priority access to housing for victims of domestic violence;
* providing short-term financial assistance for victims of domestic violence so that they can access safe housing; and
* assisting municipalities to tackle waitlists and capacity issues for affordable housing.

Will you work to ensure that these needs are addressed?

Addressing domestic violence will require cooperation and collaboration across governments and departments. We all have a role to play to build up communities where violence is not ignored, diminished or dismissed. Only then can domestic violence be eliminated.

[Include any information about church or community initiatives that you are involved in that work to prevent domestic violence, including ways that ensure members of the public understand and can identify signs of domestic violence.]

Thank you for the important work you do and rest assured of our continued prayers for it. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

[Your name]