



**INTER AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO
GUAYAMA CAMPUS
Religious Life Office**

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To: Campus Community

Ángela de Jesús Alicea, Ph.D.
Chancellor

From: Rev. Arnaldo Luis Cintrón Miranda
Campus Chaplain

PASTORAL MESSAGE: LOVE HEALS, NOT HURTS

May God bless you today and always. We are celebrating the month of friendship and love. It is a great moment to show our gratitude to those people with whom we are emotionally connected. However, how unfortunate it is when we hear in the news that a female life has been taken away.

It is certainly sad to have to listen to such a difficult reality that many Puerto Rican families live through. The World Council of Churches has launched a campaign to raise awareness and to denounce the alarming rate of this situation; the campaign is entitled, "Love heals, not hurts." It is the prophetic voice of the church that announces that it is time to put a stop to this terrible social and cultural problem. Gender violence is affecting several sectors of society, especially women. It is necessary and imperative that people raise their voices against violence that destroys lives, families, and the very essence of harmony and coexistence.

It is important to denounce this violence in order to bring justice to the victims of these vile crimes. God is the God who enforces justice and welcomes those who suffer shameful conduct. Finally, a quote from the text of the First Corinthians 13: 4-8 where the apostle Paul defines love.

**“Love is patient, love is kind.
It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.
It does not dishonor others,
It is not self-seeking,
It is not easily angered,
It keeps no record of wrongs.
Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.
It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.
Love never fails. . .”**

Some reflection questions will allow you to help others in their process of discerning life and its contents.

May God Bless you. Amen.