The Connection between Violence against Women and HIV/AIDS

When girls and women lack power in their relationships, families and communities they are more vulnerable to violence and more vulnerable to HIV and AIDS. For many women, the violence they experience leads to HIV infection. For others, their HIV positive status brings violence, which can speed the onset of AIDS. Violence against women and HIV and AIDS are closely connected.

Get Involved!

SASA! is a movement in your community for preventing violence against women and HIV. It involves many community members working for positive change.

Basics

Children who witness violence may:

- be fearful of and distrust their fathers
- feel afraid for their mothers
- feel sad and depressed
- perform poorly in school
- run away from home
- have nightmares
- behave violently toward other children
- withdraw from activities and friends
- grow up believing that violence is normal

Communities that remain silent about violence may:

- lose out on women’s participation
- spend resources responding to violence against women
- have increased crime
- have overburdened social services (health care, police, social welfare)
- experience less or slower development
- have greater prevalence of HIV/AIDS
- lack solidarity and harmony

What is Violence against Women?

Violence against women is any threat or act (physical, emotional, sexual, economic) directed at a girl or woman that causes harm and is meant to keep a girl or woman under the control of others.

Violence against women happens to women all over the world. Women of all races, cultures, nationalities, religions, ages and class experience violence. It is a human rights issue that hurts us all.

www.raisingvoices.org/sasa.php
Emotional Violence includes:
- Steps to control, e.g., cutting off the lines to the outside world, forbidding the woman to go out, forbidding the woman to have friends or family, etc.
- Verbal abuse, threats, and beating.
- Refusal to allow the woman to have control of the money or property.
- Refusal to allow the woman to receive education or work.
- Refusal to allow the woman to attend religious activities or ceremonies.
- Refusal to allow the woman to have access to health care.
- Refusal to allow the woman to have access to legal aid.
- Refusal to allow the woman to have access to medical aid.
- Refusal to allow the woman to have access to education.
- Refusal to allow the woman to have access to employment.
- Refusal to allow the woman to have access to financial resources.
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