Justice, Peace and Dignity

The SASA! Faith Approach
1 in 3 women experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, most often at the hands of an intimate partner, and often combined with economic and emotional violence.

HITTING BEATING SLAPPING BURNING PUNCHING RAPE FORCED SEX SHOUTING THREATS ISOLATION INTIMIDATION INFIDELITY SEXUAL ASSAULT CONTROLLING BEHAVIOR TAKING MONEY EXCLUDING FROM FINANCIAL DECISIONS PREVENTING INCOME EARNING ABANDONMENT
The Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) said, “The best of you is the best to his wives, and I am the best of you to my wives.”

— Al-Tirmidhi hadith 4269, alt. Vol. 1, Book 46, hadith 3895

“Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.”

— Holy Bible, Colossians 3:19
WHY?
Because SILENCE has suggested it’s permissible and should be tolerated.
If we put our faith into action, we can break the silence, bringing an end to the consequences of violence against women.
Violence against women is both cause and consequence of HIV.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), AIDS is the leading cause of death among women of reproductive age in developing countries.
Violence against women **hurts** the FAITH COMMUNITY.

- Injuries/sickness
- Depression
- Lack of participation
- Death
- Lost family income (property damage, hospital bills, etc.)
- Poor role modeling for children
- Family breakages/separation
- Absence of women from church/mosque
- Poor reputation of faith community when violence known
- Burden on religious leaders handling disputes
Why does violence against women happen?

It happens because some men use power over women and the rest of us stay silent.
Using power over another person is an injustice.

In our community, some men often use power over women. This creates fear and violence.

We can use our collective power positively to stop violence against women.
Religious leaders, as the voices of faith, have the power to guide their communities to justice, peace and dignity.

"Indeed, Allah orders justice and good conduct and giving to relatives and forbids immorality and bad conduct and oppression. He admonishes you that perhaps you will be reminded."
— Holy Quran, Surah 16: An-Nahal 90

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.”
— Holy Bible, Colossians 3:15
SASA! Faith is a tool that supports religious leaders in engaging **everyone** in a journey of change.

**Everyone =**

Religious leaders, elders, female and male faith community members, youth groups, faith-based service providers, religious media, and more

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All who participate in faith-based activities led by many different members of the religious community

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To encourage reflection and open discussion, build awareness and understanding, create systems of support, and join together to take action
SASA! Faith is about living the values of JUSTICE, PEACE and DIGNITY.
Justice

Our faith calls on us to act justly with others, and to work for justice in our religious community.

In *SASA! Faith*, the value of justice is seen in the belief that all people have equal worth and value, no matter who they are—Christian or Muslim, rich or poor, educated or not, female or male, all ethnicities, etc.
Our faith calls on us to live in peace with one another.

In *SASA! Faith*, the value of peace is seen in the belief that all people should live in safety and free of fear. Living with violence or the threat of violence robs a person of peace.
DIGNITY

Our faith calls on us to recognize each person's inherent dignity. Each person is born with "fitrah" in Islam, or as a "Child of God" in Christianity; therefore, we are each called to treat each other in a way that recognizes each person's innate dignity.

SASA! Faith shares this value, and recognizes that, when violence is present, people cannot live with dignity. Balancing power between women and men helps us to restore each person's honor, respect and dignity.
What is the opportunity for RELIGIOUS LEADERS?

Leading **real** change.

Leading **respectful** change.

Leading **supported** change.

Being **models of** change.
SASA! Faith supports religious leaders in understanding where to START, and how to carry their communities through a gradual journey of change that will have a lasting affect on people’s lives.

Example: Religious leaders learn about SASA! Faith and help build its network.
Leading respectful change

SASA! Faith helps religious leaders become AWARE of not blaming and shaming men who are using violence, nor women who are living with violence, HIV or AIDS. Instead, SASA! Faith provides tools for actively engaging both women and men in understanding the benefits of change for all.

Example: Religious leaders give sermons, homilies or talks, or lead prayer groups on violence against women and HIV.
What is the opportunity for religious leaders?

Leading supported change

SASA! Faith helps religious leaders strengthen their faith communities’ power to SUPPORT each other through change.

Example: Religious leaders include discussions of violence and HIV in premarital counseling, and support couples to live without violence.
What is the opportunity for religious leaders?

Being models of change

*SASA! Faith* helps religious leaders use their words and ACTIONS to be models of change for their communities.

Example: Religious leaders work with the faith community to create rules on nonviolence in the church or mosque.
SASA! Faith can work!

SASA! is a community mobilization approach used in over 25 countries that has proven to prevent violence against women.

SASA! Faith is an adaption of the original SASA! Activist Kit, based on the teachings of the Holy Bible and the Holy Quran, and rooted in the work of well-known theologians and scholars of both major religions.

SASA! Faith isn’t a project of an organization with another mission in mind. It is for faith communities, and it is designed to be used and adapted based on our faith community’s particular reality.
With **SASA! Faith**, you can engage others in better living the values of our faith.

**SASA! Faith** starts with you.