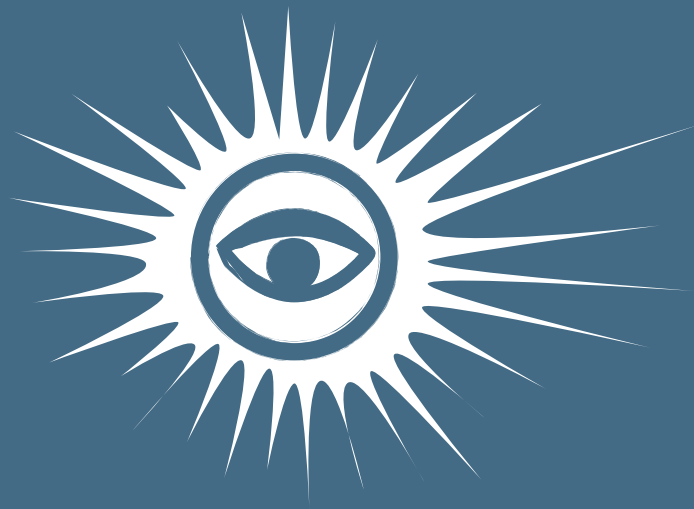
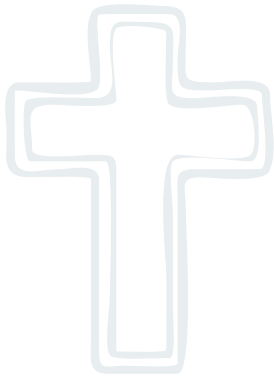


SASA!

Faith

Community Action
Groups in the
Awareness Phase





Note: There is basic information in the *SASA! Faith* guide about the types of activities you may want to conduct with community action groups in the Awareness phase. In this document, you will find additional activity ideas and expanded information on working with each type of community action group.

In the Start phase of *SASA! Faith*, you decided which of the five types of community action groups to engage. In the Awareness phase, you will find additional activity ideas for each type of community action group you can use in this phase.

In the Awareness phase, you will begin to build relationships with the potential participants of these action groups, ultimately confirming whether they are interested in taking part. Through this exploratory process, you will begin raising their awareness of power, violence, HIV, and how these are all connected.

Energy, focus and diplomacy are all required when engaging groups. Each of the recommended ideas for community action groups represents a process that takes time, careful planning and determination. Remember, you can support the development of all or just some community action groups, depending on what is feasible and sustainable for your team. Here again are the five types of groups, followed by recommended steps for each during the Awareness phase:

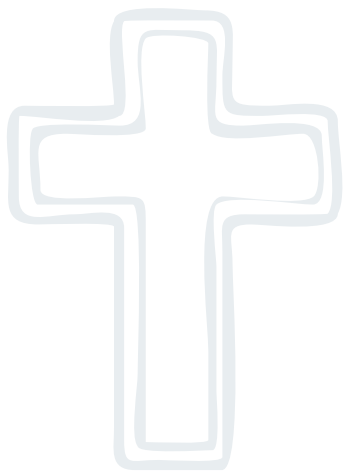
Types of Action Groups	Possible Members
Health and Social Welfare Action Groups	Faith-based health institutions or social welfare organizations, including their doctors, nurses, home-based care givers, health outreach workers, VCT counselors, premarital counselors, social workers, community counselors, etc.
Media Action Groups	Religious media groups, including their media directors, media personnel, journalists, TV and radio presenters, social media personalities, etc.
Education Action Groups	Religious schools, including their directors, staff, parents, and curriculum writers; students of seminary or other religious school programs and religious departments.
Peer Action Groups	Leaders of women's, men's or youth groups; mother's/father's groups; prayer groups; etc.
Security Action Groups	Police officers, probation officers, community liaison officers, etc.

Health and Social Welfare Action Groups

Faith-based health and social welfare providers are at the heart of the response to the dual pandemics of violence against women and HIV. They are front-line caregivers who are essential in prevention and response. Participating in a community action group provides these professionals and their institutions with support and resources for creating new structures, practices and services that better support women and families. In the Awareness phase, you will explore these possibilities with them through an introduction to *SASA! Faith*.

Recommendations for the Awareness phase:

1. Decide with the *SASA! Faith* Team which type of health and social welfare providers you would like to engage as an action group. You may prefer to work at a district level within the formal health and social welfare services, or with home-based caregivers in a rural community.
2. Learn about how this group of providers is structured—the leadership, types of services, types of professionals, the hierarchy, etc. Understand the protocol you must observe to gain entry into this group.
3. Meet with key leaders of this group, and explore with them the possibilities of engaging with *SASA! Faith*.
4. With leaders' permission and support, and respecting confidentiality, spend time at the hospitals, clinics, in premarital counseling sessions or in homes. Observe the existing sensitivity of personnel to issues of violence against women and HIV, as well as the challenges they face.
5. Based on what you observe, consider what activities would be best for this group during the Awareness phase. You can use some or all of the Start and Awareness phase training modules. In addition, you could use any other activities from these two phases to further raise their awareness of the issues.
6. Provide leaders with a written copy of the activities you propose, including an explanation of the purpose and benefits of each. Discuss each of these openly, welcoming their questions and never getting defensive. If the leadership has hesitations or concerns, aim to get support and buy-in for at least one small trial activity. This will be enough to demonstrate your professionalism and to build rapport.
7. Conduct the activities agreed upon with the leadership.
8. After the activities have been implemented, meet with all leaders and key providers to discuss their experience. Ask if they would like to continue as an action group—receiving training, resources and support from the *SASA! Faith* Team to create change in the community through their health care responsibilities.



Media Action Groups

Religious media—including radio stations, newsletters, newspapers, TV programs, magazines, and more—have the potential to reach large numbers of faith community members. A media action group can help media personnel develop the knowledge, practices and programming that could contribute to the creation of new community norms. In the Awareness phase, you will explore these possibilities with them through an introduction to *SASA! Faith*.

Recommendations for the Awareness phase:

1. Decide which type of religious media association or personnel you would like to engage in *SASA! Faith* as an action group.
2. Learn about how this group is structured—the leadership, how it convenes and communicates, existing activities, etc. Understand the protocol you must observe to gain entry into this group.
3. Meet with key leaders of this group, and explore with them the possibilities of engaging with *SASA! Faith*.
4. With leaders' permission and support, spend some time with media personnel to understand existing practices and challenges related to issues of violence against women and HIV.
5. Based on what you observe, consider what activities would be best for this group during the Awareness phase. You could use all or some of the Start and Awareness phase training modules. In addition, you could use any other activities of these two phases to further raise their awareness of the issues. However, more specifically for media, you can recommend the Awareness phase **radio and story ideas** (page 144).
6. Provide leaders with a written copy of the activities you propose, including an explanation of the purpose and benefits of each. Discuss each of these openly, welcoming their questions and never getting defensive. If the leadership has hesitations or concerns, aim to get support and buy-in for at least one small trial activity. This will be enough to demonstrate your professionalism and to build rapport.
7. Conduct the activities agreed upon with the leadership.
8. After the activities have been implemented, meet with all leaders and key media personnel to discuss their experience. Ask if they would like to continue as an action group—receiving training, resources and support from the *SASA! Faith* Team to create change in the community through their media coverage and presence.

Education Action Groups

Religious institutions run many universities, technical schools and secondary schools. Future religious leaders are also trained in specific seminaries and theological institutions. These groups are powerful in setting norms for the next generation and for guiding the practices of future religious leaders. With an education action group, the ideas of *SASA! Faith* can become a powerful force in the classroom, within administrative decision-making, and throughout campus life. In the Awareness phase, you will explore these possibilities with them through an introduction to *SASA! Faith*.

Recommendations for the Awareness phase:

1. Decide with the *SASA! Faith* Team which educational professionals—or specific religious schools, universities, or theological institutions—you would like to engage as an action group. You may prefer to work at a district level within larger institutions, or with a group of local religious school personnel in a rural community.
2. Learn about how this group/institution is structured—the leadership, types of educational programs, types of students they have, the hierarchy, etc. Understand the protocol you must observe to gain entry into this group/institution.
3. Meet with key leaders, and explore with them the possibilities of engaging with *SASA! Faith*.
4. With leaders' permission and support, spend time at relevant educational facilities to observe their sensitivity to and challenges with issues of power imbalance, violence against women and HIV.
5. Based on what you observe, consider what activities would be best for this group during the Awareness phase. You can use some or all of the Start and Awareness phase training modules. In addition, you could use any other activities of these two phases to further raise their awareness of the issues.
6. Provide leaders with a written copy of the activities you propose, with an explanation of the purpose and benefits of each. Discuss each of these openly, welcoming their questions and never getting defensive. If the leadership has hesitations or concerns, aim to get support and buy-in for at least one small trial activity. This will be enough to demonstrate your professionalism and to build rapport.
7. Conduct the activities agreed upon with the leadership.
8. After the activities have been implemented, meet with all leaders and key participants to discuss their experience. Ask if they would like to continue as an action group—receiving training, resources and support from the *SASA! Faith* Team to create change in the community through their educational responsibilities.

Peer Action Group

Many faith communities have women's, men's and youth groups; mother's/father's groups; prayer groups, etc. as spaces where faith community members can find support, inspiration and courage. These groups are uniquely suited to playing a role similar to community activists (CAs), since they already serve the broader community in personal or informal ways. In the Awareness phase, you will explore this possibility with them through an introduction to *SASA! Faith*.

Recommendations for the Awareness phase:

1. Decide with the *SASA! Faith* Team which groups you would like to engage as a peer action group.
2. Introduce *SASA! Faith* to the leadership of the various chosen groups. You may choose to have one-on-one meetings, or call members together to explore the potential of their group working with *SASA! Faith* ideas and activities.
3. Learn more about the groups you are engaging. Learn about their schedules, their other connections in the faith community, their priorities, the common activities they do. Discuss with members how they could integrate *SASA! Faith* into their activities.
4. With interested groups, begin by facilitating the *SASA! Faith* Start and Awareness phase training modules. Train a few members from each chosen group, so that they can then go back to their groups and facilitate the same modules with all other members.
5. Give *SASA! Faith* materials to group members. Encourage them to use these within their group and with others. For example, they could participate in community conversations, create community dramas, and more.
6. With those peer groups who express interest in *SASA! Faith*, ask if they would like to continue as an action group—receiving training, resources and support from the *SASA! Faith* team to create change in the community.

Security Action Group

Security organizations, while typically secular, often already work in partnership with faith-based organizations, receiving referrals from them for faith members in need. These security personnel can play an important role in the prevention of and response to violence—by supporting women reporting violence and sending clear messages that violence against women is not acceptable. *SASA! Faith* can guide them in developing the knowledge, protocols and skills for doing so. In the Awareness phase, you will explore these possibilities with them through an introduction to *SASA! Faith*.

Recommendations for the Awareness phase:

1. Decide with the *SASA! Faith* Team which type of security officials you would like to engage as an action group (i.e., police officers, local defense units, community liaison officers, probation officers etc.). You may even be able to find a group of security officers that share your religion.
2. Learn about the hierarchy you must respect to get permission and buy-in from the group's leadership. It will depend on your community whether you need to meet with officials at a national, regional/provincial, or local level.
3. Think about how religious institutions and faith-based NGO's can and do work with security officers, as you consider how you would like to engage the chosen group. Some ideas for the Awareness phase include the following:
 - a. Conducting the Start and Awareness phase training modules with the group.
 - b. Providing them with awareness raising materials so they can do in-house trainings as well as include violence against women prevention in their community outreach activities.
 - c. Using a dual strategy, working with decision makers and front-line workers (perhaps engaging both groups in such things as training sessions and quarterly meetings, while only engaging front-line staff in ongoing trainings, office visits and joint community activities).
4. Meet with the necessary leadership. Present your ideas in a way that shows respect and talks about the benefits for them professionally:
 - a. Security officials are often men, and they may hold quite traditional beliefs about women. Therefore, it might be more effective to approach the issue of violence against women by focusing on concepts such as crime prevention and safer neighborhoods.
 - b. Discuss the benefits for security officials if violence against women was reduced, for example, saving officers time in handling cases, fewer resources spent on follow up/arrests/imprisonment, etc.
 - c. Provide a written copy of the types of activities you propose. Discuss each of these openly, welcoming their questions and never getting defensive. If the leadership has hesitations or concerns, aim to get support and buy-in for at least one small trial activity. This will be enough to demonstrate your professionalism and to build rapport.
5. Conduct your activities as agreed upon with the leadership.
6. Meet again with security leaders and officials to talk about their experience. Ask if they would like to continue as an action group—receiving training, resources and support from the *SASA! Faith* Team to create change in the community through their security responsibilities.