



Leadership Leaflet

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Awareness



Leadership Leaflets are useful handouts for faith community leaders. They leave a permanent and written reminder of the ways these leaders can influence change—both through their work and by being role models in their personal lives. The Awareness, Support and Action phases of *SASA! Faith* each include a Leadership Leaflet with content appropriate for the phase.

When meeting with busy faith community leaders, they will often have their attention divided between you and the many other meetings and challenges they must face that day. The Leadership Leaflets allow them to review the *SASA! Faith* issues at a later time.

Tip!

Incorporate time in your quarterly meetings with religious leaders to share the Leadership Leaflet together. Consider including some question and discussion about the Leaflet before you leave. Also ask if leaders would like an electronic copy of the document emailed to them.

Lead by example. Make a difference.

Raise AWARENESS about the connection between violence against women and HIV.

“And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together in one body.”
— Holy Bible, Colossians 3:15

وقال تعالى (يا أيها الذين آمنوا كونوا قوامين بالقسط شهداء لله ولو على أنفسكم أو الوالدين والأقربين إن يكن غنيا أو فقيرا فالله أولى بهما فلا تتبعوا الهوى أن تعدلوا وإن تلووا أو تعرضوا فإن الله كان بما تعملون خبيرا) سورة النساء ٥٣١

“O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm in justice, witnesses for Allah, even if it be against yourselves or parents and relatives. Whether one is rich or poor, Allah is more worthy of both. So follow not [personal] inclination, lest you not be just. And if you distort [your testimony] or refuse [to give it], then indeed Allah is ever, with what you do, acquainted.”

— Holy Quran, Surah 4: An -Nisaa: 135

Religious leaders like you—imams, priests, pastors, sheikhs, bishops, vicars, muftis and others—play a significant role in preventing violence against women and HIV. As a role model within the faith community, your words and behaviors affect those of others. People look to you to live the values of the faith: justice, peace and dignity.

Religious leaders have the respect and audience of a large and committed faith community who are eager to listen and live according to their guidance and the principles of their faith.

By raising your own awareness and the awareness of others, you will begin a process of positive change in your faith community. You will show the faith community that awareness about violence and HIV is important.

Violence against Women

An estimated one in three women experience physical or sexual violence worldwide.¹ Violence against women exists in our families and communities—often perpetrated by intimate partners, and not strangers.² Violence against women is unjust. It insults women's dignity. Where there is violence, families cannot live in peace, because violence brings unhappiness and ill health to the entire family.

HIV

HIV and AIDS is a global problem with serious consequences. Women account for 58% of the total number of people living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa.³ Adolescent girls and young women account for 1 in 4 new HIV infections in sub-Saharan Africa, and young women 15-24 years old are twice as likely as young men to be living with HIV.⁴

Violence against Women and HIV

Violence against women and HIV constitute two of the most serious problems in the world. Violence against women is directly connected to the increasing rates of HIV infection among women. Violence against women is both a cause and a consequence of HIV. Women who experience violence are more likely to contract HIV, and women who are HIV positive are more likely to experience violence.⁵ When women don't have equal power in their relationships, they are at risk for both violence and HIV infection. In order to break this connection, we must all become aware of the dangers of violence against women and the interconnectedness of violence and HIV.

What you can do RIGHT NOW to raise AWARENESS in your faith community about violence against women and HIV:

- Think about how you use power. Are you setting a good example of how to live the values of justice, peace and dignity in your own relationships?
- Think about power in your faith community. Do men generally have power over women? If so, what are the negative consequences of this?
- Listen, watch, and become aware of the ways that violence and HIV are connected in people's day-to-day lives.
- Realize that the way you treat women and the way you talk about violence and HIV influences others, because you as a religious leader are a role model for many around you. Become aware of how you can treat women with equal respect and dignity in your faith community.
- As you learn more about the issues of violence against women and HIV, start to give homilies or sermons, lead prayer groups and other activities, on these topics.
- Talk informally with fellow leaders and members of the faith community about power, violence against women and HIV.
- Learn about services for women experiencing violence in your area. Make a list of available services and share with others so that they know where to refer women.

Express your faith by promoting
justice, peace and dignity
between couples and in families in the
faith community!

- 1 World Health Organization, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, South African Medical Research Council (2013). *Global and regional estimates of violence against women: prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence*, 2.
- 2 Garcia-Moreno C., Jansen, Henrica A.F.M., Ellsberg M., Heise L., & Watts C. (2005). *WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence Against Women: Initial results on prevalence, health outcomes and women's responses*. Geneva: World Health Organization, 28.
- 3 UNAIDS (2014). *Fact sheet*. Available at: http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/en/media/unaids/contentassets/documents/factsheet/2014/20140716_FactSheet_en.pdf on July 29, 2015.
- 4 UNAIDS (2014). *The Gap Report*. Available at: http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/UNAIDS_Gap_report_en.pdf on November 3, 2015.
- 5 UNAIDS (2014). *Unite with Women: Unite against violence and HIV*. Available at: http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/JC2602_UniteWithWomen_en_0.pdf on November 3, 2015.