



Leadership Leaflet + Support

The Support Leadership Leaflet is a useful handout for religious leaders and other leadership of the faith community. It can leave a permanent and written reminder of the ways these faith community members can influence change—both through their work and by being role models in their personal lives.

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.

Join your power with others to SUPPORT the prevention of violence against women and HIV.

“If one part is hurt, all the parts share its pain. And if one part is honoured, all the parts share its joy.”

– Holy Bible, 1 Corinthians 12:26

وقال تعالى : وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا لِتَسْكُنُوا
إِيَّاهَا وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ
(سورة الروم: ١٢)

“And among His signs is this: that He created for you mates from among yourselves so that you may dwell in tranquility with them. He has put love and mercy between your hearts; in that are signs for those who reflect.”

– Holy Quran, Surah 30: Ar-Rum: 21

Religious leaders like you—imams, priests, pastors, sheikhs, bishops, vicars, muftis and all religious leaders—play a significant role in preventing violence against women and its connection to 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. You can strengthen the prevention of violence against women and HIV by providing support to women experiencing violence, men trying to change and to faith community members speaking out against violence. Your example and support are important as you prepare couples for marriage, counsel them during their difficult times and encourage them to live the values of their faith. In providing support, you will demonstrate the importance of supporting one another as we confront the dual pandemics of violence against women and HIV.

Why provide support?

Women living with violence and/or HIV usually live with stigma, shame and isolation. Therefore, it takes leaders like you to stand up, speak out and reach out to those most affected. They need the support of others to regain their sense of power. Men trying to create equal power in their relationships also live with stigma, particularly from those who think men should dominate and control their partners. By supporting these men, you can help them maintain their commitment to nonviolence. Faith community members speaking out about violence against women and HIV also live with stigma, since the ideas they represent are not yet the community norms. By standing in solidarity with them, you can support and strengthen their efforts.

How can you provide support?

Support can take many forms. You can provide support in your personal life, by reaching out to family, friends and neighbors who are struggling with issues of violence against women and HIV. You can provide support in your role as a religious leader through premarital counseling, counseling to couples, sermons or homilies, or prayer groups that touch on issues of power, violence and HIV directly.



What you can do RIGHT NOW to provide SUPPORT in your community:

- Seek out the support that YOU need to become more informed and active in preventing violence against women and HIV.
- Support women you know who are experiencing violence. Listen to them and believe them. Tell them they have a right to live free from violence. Tell them that the violence is not their fault.
- Create a list of services that help women experiencing violence and possible HIV infection. (See “Developing a Referral List” on page 54 of *SASA! Faith*.) As you work to create services within the religious institution for women experiencing violence, also support women in seeking help from trusted relatives or friends.
- Support women living with HIV. Ask them about their safety at home. Help to address their safety concerns, and refer them for services.
- Seek out men who are choosing to balance power in their relationships in order to create happier, healthier homes. Encourage them and help them support each other.
- Create support networks for men choosing nonviolence. Encourage them to make positive changes in their relationships and share their experiences with others.
- Support faith community members who are working to prevent violence against women and HIV. Share ideas of how you could work together to promote nonviolence in your faith community.
- Support those advocating for improved services for women experiencing violence and/or HIV.
- Seek out organizations, leaders or groups who need support addressing the connection between violence against women and HIV and offer your assistance. Get involved!

Make a difference.
it's up to you!