



Leadership Leaflet + Action

The Action 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 leaders 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.

Take ACTION to prevent violence against women and HIV.

قال الله تعالى (والذين جاهدوا فينا لنهدينهم سبلنا وإن
الله لمع المحسنين) سورة العنكبوت

“And as for those who strive in our path — we will surely guide them in our ways. And Indeed, Allah is with those who are of service to others.”

– Holy Quran, Surah 29: al-'Ankabut 69

“But someone may say: So you have faith and I have good deeds? Show me this faith of yours without deeds, then! It is by my deeds that I will show you my faith.”

– Holy Bible, James 2:18

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. By taking action to prevent violence against women and HIV and by becoming an activist in your own life, you will inspire others to do the same.

Why take action?

Faith communities have a long history of working for justice and helping those in need; their primary mission is to transform human society to reflect the faith community's values. As a religious leader, you have the power to influence your religious institution, making use of thriving structures and well-organized networks that can be effective allies in violence prevention efforts. By taking action to prevent violence against women and HIV, you will send the message to all others in your faith community that they have the power to create change.

How can you take action?

Make change in your own life and in your faith community. In your home, live day-to-day in a way that respects and balances power with the women around you. In your church or mosque, create rules against violence and for respect, hold information sessions about the connection between violence against women and HIV, and create a protocol that guides your faith community in responding to violence against women. In the faith community, support prevention efforts that are already in place. By being a role model for respect and nonviolence, you can both create and inspire change.

Be a changemaker!

As a religious leader, you can be a particularly effective changemaker. By taking action against violence against women and HIV, you can positively influence the faith community as a whole. You can live your beliefs by taking action against injustice. You can use your leadership position to carry prevention efforts beyond grassroots activities and into the minds of other religious leaders, particularly those defining faith community priorities, practices and procedures. This is a big responsibility—and a big opportunity! You can be a leader in the prevention of violence against women and HIV in your faith community!



What you can do RIGHT NOW to take ACTION against violence against women and HIV:

- Make a church or mosque rule that violence is not acceptable and won't be tolerated.
- Use your power to take action and provide leadership in faith community prevention efforts. Tell people what you're doing to end violence against women and HIV and why. Persuade them to join you!
- Offer classes for couples in the faith community on creating healthy and balanced relationships.
- Notice men who are using their power negatively against girls and women. Discuss their behavior with them and question what they are doing. Make it clear to them that this behavior is not acceptable in your faith community, and help them to learn another way.
- Notice men around you who are choosing nonviolence. Encourage them and help them become role models for other men.
- Work with other religious leaders and other faith communities to spread the word that violence against women and HIV are connected and need to be addressed together.
- Use your speaking engagements and connections to wider religious networks as forums to tell people about violence against women and HIV. Work with people to understand alternatives to violence and the ways to prevent HIV infection.
- Discuss with other religious leaders how your faith can inspire you to offer more support to girls and women.

Make a difference.
it's up to you!