

A large, stylized sun with a bright yellow face and numerous white rays. In the center of the sun's face is a circular orange ring containing a white silhouette of two hands shaking. The background of the entire slide is a solid yellow color.

local activism

community dramas

support

# Support Drama No. 1

Take Home Idea: We can join our power with others' to support women and men as they make positive changes in their relationships.

## Tips for Facilitator's Opening Remarks

- Welcome participants and introduce the drama group.
- Set the stage for the drama by introducing the take-home idea.
- Emphasize that people have more power with others than they do alone.

## Characters

Sara	Adult woman
Amina	Adult woman, Sara's friend
Musa	Adult man, Sara's husband
Sunday	Adult man, Musa's friend, unhappily married
Ksoa	Adult man, Musa's friend, happily married

# Scene One

Sara is at home talking with a friend, Amina. She tells Amina about her husband, Musa, and how their relationship has problems. Sara tells Amina that Musa sometimes shouts at her and even hits her. She explains that she knows he has other partners, but that he still refuses to use condoms. Amina is very sorry to hear about the problems. She thanks Sara for being open with her and telling her what is happening in her relationship. She says comforting words to Sara so that Sara knows she is not alone.

We see Musa at the local drinking joint. He is upset because his friend, Sunday, has tested HIV positive. He meets his other friend, Kasoa. Kasoa notices Musa is upset, and encourages him to talk about it. Musa explains to Kasoa that he is worried about what will happen to him and his family if things don't change. Kasoa asks Musa what he means by this. Musa tells Kasoa that he knows his violence at home is creating a bad environment. Kasoa encourages Musa to tell him more about his feelings and worries.

## Facilitator's Discussion Questions

- Do you think it was good for Sara to tell her friend Amina about her relationship? Why or why not?
  - What did Amina do to make Sara feel supported?
- Do you think it was easy for Musa to tell his friend Kasoa about his own behavior at home?
  - What did Kasoa do that helped Musa be more open?

# Scene Two

Sara and Amina talk about different things that could help Sara's situation. Amina tells Sara that it is first important that she try to stay safe. They brainstorm how she might do this and discuss many ideas. One idea they come up with is to ask an elder to talk with Musa. Another is to ask a relative if Sara can come over if Musa becomes violent. They also talk about the neighbors, about asking them to please come over if they hear violence.

Still at the bar, Kasoa explains to Musa that he also used to be violent in his relationship. Musa is very surprised to hear this, because Kasoa and his wife seem so happy. He asks Kasoa why they don't have conflict anymore. Kasoa laughs and explains they do still have conflicts and disagree with each other, but how they handle it now is different. He says he made a commitment to not use violence. Musa looks skeptical. Kasoa goes on to say that it wasn't easy and that it took time. He needed support from many other people—his wife, children, relatives, friends and even their religious leader.

## Facilitator's Discussion Questions

- Do you think Sara and Amina had good ideas about how Sara might stay safe? Why or why not?
  - What else could Sara do?
  - Do you think it was easy for Kasoa to tell Musa about his life?
- What kind of support do you think would help Musa not use violence?
  - Does Kasoa need support also? What kind of support?

# Scene Three

A week or more passes. One night, Musa arrives home looking unhappy and tired. Sara greets him and begins to prepare tea. Musa asks Sara to sit and talk to him. She feels anxious but sits down. Musa tells Sara he has been thinking about their relationship for the past few weeks and feels ashamed that he has been violent with her. He tells her that he would like to talk with her about how their relationship could improve, about how he could change.

It is hard for Sara to trust that Musa is being honest with her and that his behavior is not a trick. Still, she tells Musa that she also hopes their relationship can change. She tells him that she thinks it would be better if they got help. Musa agrees.

## Facilitator's Discussion Questions

- What kind of help do you think Musa and Sara could get?
  - How do you think they will feel when asking for help?
- Do you think Musa and Sara will have the power to support each other as they make changes in their relationship? Will their relationship be stronger or weaker if they support each other?

# Scene Four

Musa and Sara start thinking about who could help them. Musa tells Sara about Kasoa, about how he used to be violent but then he changed, about how happy he and his wife are now. Musa suggests that they call a family meeting with both their parents to tell them they want to work on balancing power in their relationship. Sara also suggests that she go to the local women's group to get involved in their activities. Musa also tells Sara about Sunday and how he is infected with HIV. Musa and Sara decide to get tested for HIV.

## Facilitator's Discussion Questions

- What kind of reaction do you think Musa and Sara will get from their family?
- What would it mean for Musa and Sara to balance power in their relationship?
- While some people will support Musa, others will think he is losing power in his family. What would you say to these people?



## Tips for Facilitator's Closing Remarks

- Thank the drama group and the audience for their participation.
- Summarize the key points of the discussion and emphasize the take home idea.
  - Emphasize that changing is difficult, but with the support of others we can be successful.
  - Emphasize that we all feel more power with others than we do alone.

# Support Drama No. 2

Take Home Idea: Girls involved in transactional sex need our support.

## Tips for Facilitator's Opening Remarks

- Welcome participants and introduce the drama group.
- Set the stage for the drama by introducing the take-home idea.
- Emphasize that girls involved in coercive and transactional sex are at increased risk for violence and HIV infection.
- Explain that girls feel more power with others than they do alone.

### Characters

Margaret	15-year-old girl
Zam Zam	15-year-old girl, Margaret's friend
Daudi	Adult man, Margaret's sponsor
Mother	Adult woman, Margaret's mother
Police Officer 1	Adult man, at the police station
Police Officer 2	Adult man, at the police station
Police Officer 3	Adult women, providing service to Margaret at the police station
Nurse	Adult woman, providing service to Margaret at the health center

Note: The information in this drama is based on WHO recommendations for provision of PEP – adapt the drama based on procedures in your area.



# Scene One

Margaret, who is fifteen years old, went back to school because Daudi sponsored her. But now, she is crying and walking home. She sees her friend, Zam Zam, who asks her what is wrong. Margaret is afraid to say anything.

Zam Zam tells Margaret that since her parents died she has also experienced many problems and challenges and that she was also only able to come back to school because she got a sponsor, so Margaret should feel free to tell her anything. Margaret hesitates but then starts to tell her what has happened. She says it all started back when her father died and she couldn't stay in school, because her family couldn't pay the fees and there were many other younger children at home to care for. She tells Zam Zam that she thought her luck had changed, because she met an old workmate of her father's, Daudi, and he gave her money for her school fees. Zam Zam encourages her to keep telling the story. Margaret tells her that Daudi asked her to come over to his house to collect the remaining school fees. When she was there, Daudi told her that she had to thank him in a "special way."

Zam Zam asks Margaret what she means by "a special way." She asks Margaret if Daudi forced her to have sex with him. Margaret cries and says Daudi told her she owed him, because he was now sponsoring her. She says she feels bad, like it's all her fault, and she doesn't know what to do. Margaret is very upset and crying, and Zam Zam tries to comfort her.

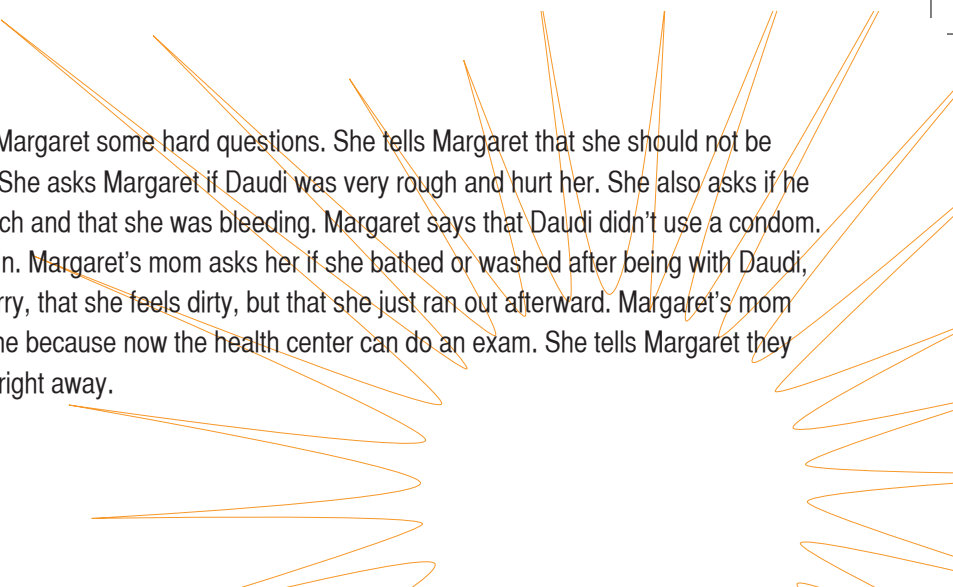
## Facilitator's Discussion Questions

- Why was it important for Margaret to tell Zam Zam what was going on?
- Why do you think Zam Zam suspected that something had happened to Margaret?
- What did Zam Zam say that made Margaret feel comfortable sharing her problems?

## Scene Two

Zam Zam asks Margaret what she wants to do. She encourages her to tell an adult. Margaret is very scared of this idea and fears that she will be in a lot of trouble. She worries that people will blame her or that they will not believe her. Zam Zam asks how Margaret thinks her mom might react. Margaret feels very worried but says that if Zam Zam comes with her, she will tell her mom.

When they reach Margaret's house, her mom can see that Margaret has been crying. She is very worried and the three of them go inside. Margaret's mom asks what has happened. Margaret is crying and can't talk. She asks Zam Zam to tell her mom. Zam Zam tells the story. Margaret's mom is very sad and upset. She hugs Margaret and tells her that she is so sorry this happened to her. She thanks Zam Zam for helping Margaret and praises both of them for telling her.



Margaret's mom explains that she has to ask Margaret some hard questions. She tells Margaret that she should not be embarrassed, but should just speak the truth. She asks Margaret if Daudi was very rough and hurt her. She also asks if he used a condom. Margaret says it hurt very much and that she was bleeding. Margaret says that Daudi didn't use a condom. Margaret's mom cries and hugs Margaret again. Margaret's mom asks her if she bathed or washed after being with Daudi, and Margaret says no. She says that she's sorry, that she feels dirty, but that she just ran out afterward. Margaret's mom tells her that it is very good that she didn't bathe because now the health center can do an exam. She tells Margaret they have to go to the health center and the police right away.

## Facilitator's Discussion Questions

- Why do you think Margaret decided to tell her mom about the transactional sex?
- Do you think Margaret's mom's reaction was helpful for Margaret? Why or why not?
- Do you think Margaret feels more power with her mom and Zam Zam than when she was alone? Why or why not?
  - Why shouldn't Margaret wash herself before going to the health center?

# Scene Three

Going to the health center makes Margaret feel very scared, but her Mom assures her that she will stay with her and that everything will be fine. At the health center, the nurse asks Margaret many questions and does an exam, collecting some evidence in case Margaret wants to open a police case. The nurse explains to Margaret and her mom that the unprotected sex could have exposed Margaret to STIs, pregnancy and HIV. Margaret is very upset. The nurse comforts her and praises her for coming direct to the health center because the drugs women can take to prevent pregnancy and HIV infection need to be given soon after the assault. She gives Margaret drugs that can prevent her from becoming pregnant called Emergency Contraception (EC). Margaret will take the EC right away because it is more effective if taken right away (although it can be taken up to five days after the intercourse).

The nurse also gives Margaret post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). She explains that PEP can help kill any HIV virus that might have been transmitted. She explains that PEP must be taken within 72 hours after the assault to be effective. The nurse explains that she can start the PEP treatment but to continue the full treatment (usually four weeks) Margaret has to take an HIV test to make sure that she was not HIV positive before the assault. PEP given to girls/women who are already HIV positive is not safe or effective. After they discuss the difficult issue of HIV testing Margaret decides, with the support of her mom, to take the HIV test. Fortunately, the test comes back negative which means that Margaret was likely to be HIV negative at the time of the assault and can come back to the clinic for the entire PEP treatment. The nurse explains that Margaret will have to come back in three months for another HIV test to be sure that she was not infected with the virus and that the PEP treatment was successful.

The nurse also gives Margaret some pamphlets about STIs and HIV and a referral to a counselor. She says that Margaret has had a very traumatic experience and that she may find it helpful to talk with a counselor about what she is feeling. She says that counseling is very important for helping Margaret deal with her experience.

### Facilitator's Discussion Questions

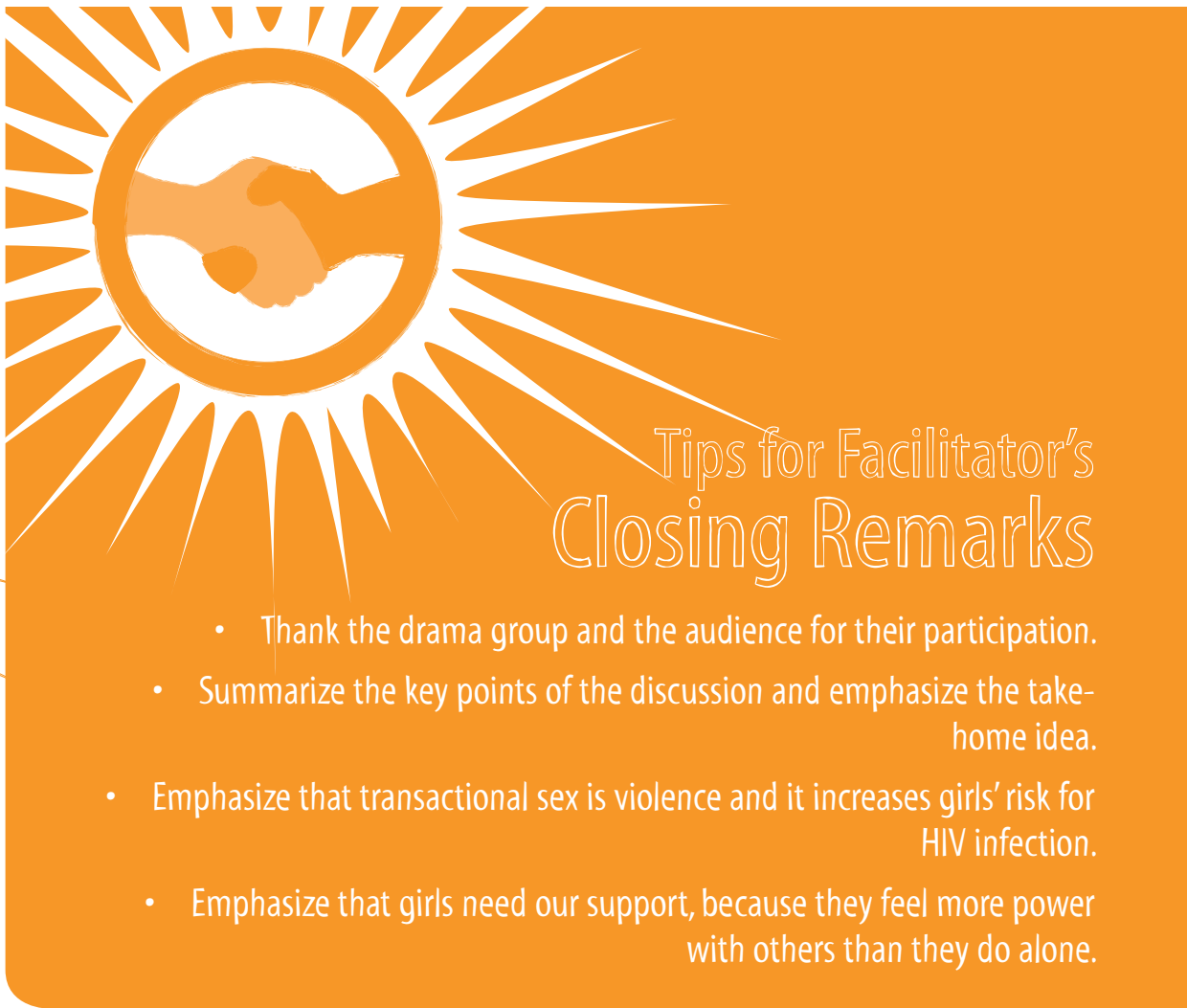
- Do you think the nurse did everything she should have done to help Margaret?
  - Why do you think that Margaret will have to go back for another HIV test?
- Do you think it is important for Margaret to talk with a counselor about what happened to her? Why or why not?

# Scene Four

At the police station, Margaret's mom tells the officers at the front desk that she needs to report a case of sexual assault. The officers give Margaret and her mom a difficult time. They talk to each other, teasing and laughing about what they think happened to Margaret. The officers make them wait a long time. This upsets Margaret and she almost decides to go home but her mom encourages and supports her to stay. Finally, another officer comes to take the case. She is friendly and takes Margaret, her mom and Zam Zam into a private room to talk with them. It is hard for Margaret to tell the story, but the police officer is kind and does not blame her. The police officer asks if Margaret has been to the health center. Margaret says yes and that they collected evidence. The police officer gives Margaret a form to take to the health center to record the findings of the exam. Margaret promises to bring the form back later. The police officer asks where Daudi lives, and the officer says she is going to arrest him.

## Facilitator's Discussion Questions

- Why would Margaret be afraid to go to the police? Why does her mother think that it's important to go?
- How would you feel if you were Margaret and the first police officers were giving you a difficult time?
- What supportive things did the female police officer do to help Margaret feel like she could tell her story?



## Tips for Facilitator's Closing Remarks

- Thank the drama group and the audience for their participation.
- Summarize the key points of the discussion and emphasize the take-home idea.
- Emphasize that transactional sex is violence and it increases girls' risk for HIV infection.
- Emphasize that girls need our support, because they feel more power with others than they do alone.

# Support Drama No. 3

Take Home Idea: Community members, family and friends can offer support and help women stay safe when disclosing their HIV status to their partners.

## Tips for Facilitator's Opening Remarks

- Welcome participants and introduce the drama group.
- Set the stage for the drama by introducing the take-home idea.
- Emphasize that women feel more power when they are supported by others than when they are alone.

## Characters

Janet	Adult woman
Sunday	Adult man, Janet's husband
Helena	Adult woman, Janet's friend
VCT Counselor	Adult woman
Janet's Parents	Adult woman and man



# Scene One

Janet is at home with her husband, Sunday. Their relationship is a bit difficult sometimes, but most of the time things are okay between them. Janet is talking politely to Sunday, trying to get up the courage to ask him a big question. Finally, Janet asks Sunday if he will go for HIV testing with her. He becomes very quiet. Janet feels hopeful. But then he becomes very harsh with her. He accuses her of going outside the marriage. He shouts at her and forbids her from going for testing. Janet says she has never been with another man. She just wants to keep their family safe. Sunday storms out of the house, very angry.

Janet is very disappointed. She tries to sleep but feels very worried about her status and feels she must go for a test. The next morning she goes to see her friend Helena to ask for advice. She knows that Helena has recently tested positive.

## Facilitator's Discussion Questions

- Why do you think Sunday refused to go for testing?
- Do you think it is a good idea for Janet to know her status?
  - Why do you think Janet decides to go see Helena?

# Scene Two

Helena encourages Janet to go for testing. But Janet asks Helena if it is really a good idea, because after Helena tested positive her husband left her. Helena explains that it has been very difficult, but at least now that she knows, she can plan for her life, get treatment and plan for her children. Helena offers to go with Janet for testing. This makes Janet very happy and she agrees.

Janet and her friend Helena are with a VCT counselor. The counselor is talking to Janet in the pre-testing session. When they are talking about the possible outcomes, the VCT counselor explains to Janet that many women come for VCT, even though they have not told their partners or even though their partners refused to come. Janet explains that her husband refused and that she has come in secret.

The VCT counselor asks Janet if Sunday has ever been violent or threatened violence. Janet explains that Sunday is a good man, but that he has used violence during some of the problems they have had in the past. The counselor asks Janet how Sunday might react if her test results are positive.

## Facilitator's Discussion Questions

- How do you think Janet feels going for testing without being able to tell her husband?
  - Do you think Janet feels more power with Helena at her side?
- Why is the counselor asking Janet about whether Sunday has been violent in the past?

# Scene Three

Janet has been tested and the counselor tells her that her tests came back positive. Janet is shocked and Helena tries to comfort her. Janet is also very worried that the counselor is going to inform Sunday. The counselor assures her that her results are confidential and that she will not be forced to tell anyone. She asks Janet to think about who she might be able to disclose her results to, to think about people who would support her. Janet says that she knows Helena will support her. She also feels that she can tell her parents and her sister.

For now, Janet decides she will not tell Sunday. She wants to think about and prepare for this. She makes another appointment to come back to see the counselor about this issue.

## Facilitator's Discussion Questions

- Why do you think the counselor assures Janet that she will not be forced to tell anyone her status?
- Do counselors usually talk about how to disclose your status to your partner? Do you think they should?
- Why do you think it might be important for Janet to tell other people who she is close to about her status?
- Do people have more power with others than they do alone?

# Scene Four

Janet returns to see the VCT counselor. She explains that she disclosed to her parents and her sister. They were all very sad about the news but were also supportive.

The counselor asks Janet if she has thought any more about disclosing to Sunday. Janet says she is very worried about telling him. The counselor asks her what might happen if she told Sunday. Janet explains that she is afraid he might beat her, or leave her and the children, or kick them out of the house. Janet explains that she does not feel safe telling Sunday alone. The counselor asks if Sunday would come for testing. Janet doesn't think he would and is afraid to ask him again, since he became very angry the last time.

Janet and the counselor talk about other options because Janet feels that she wants to tell Sunday her status. One idea is to ask Janet's parents to be with her when she tells Sunday. In this way, if Sunday became very angry, Janet would still be safe. Janet also feels that Sunday might be more respectful and cooperative with elders there. Also, they will need to spend some days with them, since they are coming from far. This will give Sunday a chance to get used to the news.

The VCT counselor tells Janet that she will pretend to be Sunday, so Janet can practice disclosing her results to him. Janet acts as herself. They do this so Janet can imagine the different reactions that Sunday might have and how to respond. This helps Janet better prepare for talking about her test results.

## Facilitator's Discussion Questions

- Do you think it is a good idea for Janet to disclose to Sunday while her parents are visiting?
- Why do you think the counselor had Janet pretend she was disclosing? How might this help her?
- Do you think Janet made the right choice to tell Sunday? Why or why not?

## Scene Five

Janet informs Sunday that her parents will be visiting from the village. Janet's parents arrive at Janet and Sunday's house. They share a meal together. After the meal, Janet tells Sunday that there is something she needs to tell him. Janet's father says that they wanted to be there to support Janet and to help the two of them make good decisions about their future. Sunday is nervous. Janet tells Sunday that she went for testing and that she is HIV positive.

Sunday stays very quiet and just looks down. He finally says that he had forbidden Janet from going for testing. Janet recognizes this but says she was very worried about her life and the life of her whole family, including Sunday.

Sunday is angry, and he starts to blame Janet. Janet's parents stop him, telling him that Janet has been a good wife and that blame will not help anyone. Janet's parents try to console Sunday and explain that being tested and knowing one's status is a good thing, so that they can take care of themselves and each other and also seek treatment. They remind Sunday that he has his children to think of. After much talking, everyone goes to sleep.

The next morning, Sunday says he will go for testing. Janet thanks Sunday, and her father commends Sunday for doing the right thing for the family. Janet and Sunday go together to the VCT counselor. The VCT counselor, already knowing the situation, welcomes Sunday and knows that she will talk to him about violence and keeping the family safe.

### Facilitator's Discussion Questions

- Do you think Sunday would have reacted differently if Janet's parents were not there?  
How? Why?
  - How did Janet's parents' presence provide support for Janet? For Sunday?
- What are other ways that we can support women who test positive, so that they do not experience violence?



## Tips for Facilitator's Closing Remarks

- Thank the drama group and the audience for their participation.
- Summarize the key points of the discussion and emphasize the take-home idea.
- Emphasize that women need support when disclosing results to a partner, because it can be a time of increased violence.
- Emphasize that people have more power with others than they do alone.



[www.raisingvoices.org/sasa.php](http://www.raisingvoices.org/sasa.php)