media & advocacy

SASA! a film about women, violence and HIV/AIDS & screening guide
Now is the time to become aware, give support and take action to prevent violence against women and HIV/AIDS.

SASA! is an advocacy film created for The SASA! Activist Kit developed by Raising Voices. The film and activist kit are designed to raise awareness, encourage support and inspire action on the interconnected issues of violence against women and HIV/AIDS.

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## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>About the Film</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Story</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Guide</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Short Version</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using the Film</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharing the Film and Making a Difference</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning a Successful Screening</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Guide</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creating Change</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raise Awareness</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offer Support</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take Action</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making the Film</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Women and Men in the Film</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Producers</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Available Formats</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Story

SASA! is a Kiswahili word that means now. Now is the time to prevent violence against women and HIV infection. This 30-minute documentary film tells the personal stories of two women and their experiences with violence and HIV/AIDS. It also offers analysis from activists and leaders about the causal factors, cultural dynamics and politics of preventing and responding to these dual pandemics.

Mama Joyce lives in Mwanza, Tanzania. She had ten children with her husband before he decided to take a second wife. When his new relationship began, he became increasingly violent and hostile toward Mama Joyce. Because so many women in her community experience violence from their partners, Mama Joyce believed for a long time that men had the God-given right to use violence against their wives. When Mama Joyce’s co-wife fell sick with an AIDS-related illness, her husband abandoned both women.
Josephine lives in Kampala, Uganda. She was married when she was only 18 years old, because her parents could no longer afford to send her to school or to support her. Her husband was very violent and had multiple partners. Fearing possible exposure to HIV from her husband, Josephine attempted several times to leave him, only to be forced back to him each time he demanded the return of the bride price he had paid to her parents. When Josephine discovered that her husband had infected her with HIV, she kept her diagnosis a secret from him, fearing more violence. After he died, his family took custody of Josephine’s children.

The stories of Mama Joyce and Josephine are all too typical in sub-Saharan Africa. Domestic violence greatly increases women’s risk of HIV infection. Conversely, HIV infection increases women’s risk of experiencing domestic violence. Violence against women is a violation of women’s basic human rights and is fueling the HIV epidemic—it is both cause and consequence of HIV infection. To effectively prevent HIV infection, we must recognize and work to prevent the violence that many women experience in their intimate relationships.

Mama Joyce and Josephine’s stories highlight the need for awareness, the importance of support and the urgency for action. Through their experiences, both women have been moved to become activists in their communities. They work to support women experiencing violence and those living with HIV or AIDS. They work to prevent violence and HIV infection and are catalysts for change in their communities. This film is an inspiring look at two women’s lives and it is a call to action. It calls on everyone to take action to prevent violence against women and HIV infection.
Chapter Guide

The first “s” in SASA! stands for Start. Anyone who watches this film has started to think about violence against women and HIV/AIDS as interconnected issues. This screening guide is designed to guide people through the remaining three steps of raising awareness, offering support and taking action. The film is divided into three chapters—one for each. You may choose to screen the film in its entirety or one chapter at a time. Screening the film by chapter will focus your audience’s attention on the distinct aspects of Awareness, Support and Action, which may enrich the viewing experience.

Chapter 1 | Awareness
This chapter aims to raise awareness about the connection between violence against women and HIV/AIDS. In particular, this chapter demonstrates how our communities often accept men’s use of power over women.

Chapter 2 | Support
This chapter focuses on supporting the people directly involved in these interconnected issues: supporting girls and women who are experiencing violence or living with HIV or AIDS; supporting boys and men who are rethinking their use of violence; and supporting activists who are becoming aware and speaking out. This chapter explains that by providing support you join your power with others’ and strengthen the prevention effort.
Chapter 3 | Action

This chapter encourages us to take action to prevent violence against women and HIV/AIDS—by leading the way for change and prevention at home, work and in the community and by engaging others. This chapter celebrates the fact that we all have the *power to* change ourselves, our relationships and communities for the better.

The Short Version

For those individuals with limited time, the producers have created a short version of the film (six minutes). The short version introduces us to the women in the film and explores their experiences of violence and HIV/AIDS. It serves the same purposes as the full version: (1) to introduce the connection between violence against women and HIV/AIDS; (2) to act as a catalyst for discussion; and (3) to encourage individuals to raise awareness, provide support and take action in their community and workplace.
Everyone can be an activist! The film SASA! is designed as an education and advocacy tool. We encourage you to use SASA! in your efforts to prevent violence against women and HIV.

Consider doing one or more of the following:
Organize a public screening.
Use the film in trainings, presentations or classrooms.
Host advocacy sessions with leaders, policymakers or donors.
Organize a public screening

A public screening is a useful (and fun!) way to get the message out and engage others. Screenings can be large events or small casual gatherings, whatever you prefer.

Small and personal: You can organize a screening for a small and specific group of people. Possible groups include family and friends; people living in your neighborhood; members of your church or mosque; or members of your social circle or support group.

Large and far-reaching: You can organize a screening for a large and general audience by using community venues and events, special occasions and/or the media. For example, you could hold a screening on World AIDS Day, during the 16 Days of Activism, at community fairs, on local television stations, at community centers or at local video halls.

Repeated showings: You can make your public screening a repeated and regular occurrence. For example, you could play SASA! once a week in a hospital or clinic waiting room, on long-haul passenger buses or in the public waiting rooms of local government offices.

Use the film in trainings, presentations or classrooms

The film SASA! is designed as an easy-to-use tool for raising awareness about the connection between violence and HIV and for inspiring viewers to become activists themselves. You may, therefore, consider using this film in your training and educational work.
**Trainings:** You can play *SASA* at seminars, workshops or other types of trainings — large or small. The film could be the focus of the training or a complement to the training content.

**Presentations:** You can show part or all of *SASA* as part of a presentation at a conference or meeting. The film’s personal, visual and creative format will get the attention of busy conference participants or meeting attendees.

**Classrooms:** You can show *SASA* to students in secondary and tertiary educational settings, as well as to teachers and professors. Campus screenings can be particularly relevant for students, faculty and staff in programs such as public health, medicine, human rights, international development and women/gender studies.

**Host advocacy sessions with leaders, policymakers or donors.**

Many leaders, policymakers and donors are not aware of the complex connection between violence against women and HIV infection. This film can help them understand the underlying power imbalance between women and men and how they could address this power imbalance through their work. When using *SASA* for advocacy you can share specific and relevant information about violence against women and HIV/AIDS in your community or country. Also, be sure to define how your audience can contribute within their professional capacities. Clear, simple and strategic action points will strengthen your advocacy efforts.
Local government leaders: In many countries of the Global South, local leaders are often the first layer of response for women experiencing violence and for those living with HIV or AIDS. You can use the SASA! Film to help them better understand and address these issues in their communities. For example, local leaders can initiate educational activities and information sharing, ensure adequate funding for prevention efforts and services for those affected, or pass a local bylaw against violence.

Lawmakers and policymakers: It is critical to engage those responsible for creating laws and policies. They play an important role in creating systemic changes that help prevent violence against women and HIV/AIDS. Consider screening the film in network meetings, policy forums, think tanks, national or regional legislative sessions and meetings of the relevant ministries (e.g., health, gender and local government).

Donors: It is critical to increase the interest and investment of donors in these interconnected issues. By showing them the SASA! Film, you can make a strong case for why they should fund small and large related initiatives.
Planning a Successful Screening

To plan your screening, think through the following questions. These questions will guide you through all the necessary considerations for successfully sharing the *SASA* Film with others.

**What do you hope to accomplish with the screening?**
A screening of the *SASA* Film can accomplish a variety of goals. Modify and build on the following ideas to define the goals for your screening.

Possible goals:
- Raise awareness on the connection between violence against women and HIV/AIDS.
- Inspire others to support the women and men directly affected by these interconnected issues, as well as the activists who are speaking out.
- Encourage others to get involved within their personal and professional roles (e.g., as a community member, NGO staff, policymaker, health care provider, religious leader, police officer, local government official, donor, neighbor, teacher, church member) and through these roles to take action to prevent violence against women and HIV/AIDS.

**Who will you aim to engage?**
Decide who you would like to engage in the screening (e.g., family members and friends, women and men in the community, young people, religious or...
cultural leaders, professionals, government officials, policymakers, donors).

Will you invite a mixed audience or reach out to a specific group of community members?

**Will you screen the full or short version of the film?**
Assess the time availability of your audience. The full film provides more details for stimulating learning and reflection. However, if most of your audience will need to leave early, consider showing the short version instead—ensuring all themes are introduced and allowing time for discussion.

**Will you choose English subtitles or English voice-over?**
Determine whether subtitles or voice-over would be best for your audience. Subtitles (translations written on the screen) and voice-over (translated voices for the characters) are accessible to different types of people. Both the full and short version of *SASA!* are available with subtitles or voice-over, while the content remains the same. The subtitled format is appropriate for audiences with good English literacy skills, who can read from the screen what characters are saying in Kiswahili and Luganda. The voice-over format is appropriate for audiences with good English listening skills, who would prefer to listen to an actor's voice rather than read subtitles off the screen.

**Where will you host the screening?**
Organize a location for your screening. This could be a home, a hall, a local government building, a market—any place that is accessible to your desired audience and the right size for the number of people you will invite. If your screening will happen outside, ensure that at the time of your screening it will be dark enough for everyone to see the screen.
Do you have all the necessary equipment?
Organize equipment for the screening. You will need a television and a DVD player or a projector and a screen. Ensure that you have an adequate sound system for the size of audience you expect—and of course electricity! Test your copy of the film well in advance to make sure that it plays all the way through without problems.

How will you publicize the event?
There are many creative ways to publicize the event. Publicize the event to as many people as is suitable for the location. Be sure to tell everyone the day, time and location of the screening. You could do this through flyers, a press release, announcements on the radio, announcements at churches/mosques or invitations by letter, phone or email. Begin publicity at least two weeks prior to the screening, and then send follow-up reminders a few days before.

How will you facilitate a discussion after the film?
Decide whether you will play the film all the way through followed by one discussion or chapter-by-chapter with a discussion after each. Facilitated discussions play an important role in ensuring audience members have understood the film and in encouraging them to think about their role in preventing violence and HIV infection. Identify one or more facilitators to lead the discussion(s). Ask the facilitator(s) to prepare by reading through the screening guide, watching the film and creating a list of discussion questions. See below for more information about facilitated discussions.
Discussion Guide

There are three ways to hold a discussion as part of the screening of this film.

Play the film from beginning to end. Then engage the audience in a discussion of the film as a whole.

Play the film chapter-by-chapter. Engage the audience in a discussion at the end of each chapter and then move on to the next chapter. The advantage of this method is that the audience members do not have to save all their thoughts until the final discussion. It will also allow them time to reflect on the individual concepts of Awareness, Support and Action. This option is particularly useful in trainings or smaller screenings.

Play the short version of the film from beginning to end and then engage the audience in a discussion appropriate to the details shared in this version. This option suits screenings and audiences with limited amounts of time.

Consider the following questions as you plan for the discussion(s) at your screening. These questions are only suggestions—feel free to modify them or create other questions that better suit your audience.

Remember: The discussion presents an opportunity for viewers to think about their own lives, communities and workplaces and to express their thoughts, opinions and feelings. Welcome different opinions and allow everyone to express their views. Encourage positive comments and fresh ideas.
General Questions
For a single discussion after screening the entire film

1. What is your initial reaction to the film? How did the film make you feel?
2. Could you relate to Mama Joyce and Josephine’s stories? Did they remind you of something you have experienced or witnessed in our community?
3. Did you become aware of anything new about the connection between violence and HIV/AIDS? If so, what?
4. How does violence increase a woman’s vulnerability to HIV infection? How does it precipitate AIDS-related illnesses?
5. How does HIV/AIDS increase a woman’s vulnerability to violence?
6. The film talks about power and about how men generally have more power than women in relationships and communities. What do you think of this analysis?
7. How were women in the film using their power positively? How were men in the film using their power positively?
8. Why is support important? Who do you think needs support — only women or men as well?
9. The film gives many ideas for taking action. How could you take action?
10. Preventing violence against women and HIV infection includes addressing the experiences of girls and boys. How can we reach out to young people through our actions?

There is a real urgency to prevent violence against women and HIV/AIDS. What can you do NOW?
Chapter-Specific Questions
For discussions after each chapter

For screening the film chapter-by-chapter, we have provided questions as well as chapter descriptions. Consider reading the description of each chapter before or after the chapter has played. The descriptions may prompt the audience’s thinking in advance of the discussion. This approach is particularly useful when using SASA! as a training tool.

Chapter 1 | Awareness
Understanding the negative impact of men’s power over women

Chapter description:
This chapter is entitled “Awareness” because it raises our awareness about the issues of violence and HIV/AIDS. In particular, this chapter demonstrates how our communities often accept men’s use of power over women.

Discussion questions:
1. Both Mama Joyce and Josephine didn’t have much power in their relationships. Do you think this is common? Why or why not?
2. In our community, how does men’s power over women affect women’s lives? Men’s lives? Families? The community?
3. How do you think the violence experienced by Mama Joyce and Josephine made them more vulnerable to HIV infection? Does this happen in our community? Are there other examples in our community of violence increasing a woman’s risk of HIV infection?
4. Why did HIV infection increase Mama Joyce and Josephine’s risk of experiencing violence? Does this happen in our community? Are there other examples in our community of HIV infection increasing a woman’s risk of experiencing violence?

Chapter 2 | Support
Joining our power with others’ by providing support

Chapter description:
This chapter is entitled “Support” because it focuses on supporting the people directly involved in these interconnected issues: supporting girls and women who are experiencing violence or living with HIV or AIDS; supporting boys and men who are rethinking their use of violence; and supporting activists who are becoming aware and speaking out. The chapter explains how through providing support you join your power with others’ and strengthen prevention efforts.

Discussion questions:
1. In what ways do you think our community stigmatizes women experiencing violence and/or living with HIV or AIDS?
2. Why is it important to reduce stigma and begin supporting the women experiencing violence and/or living with HIV or AIDS? Why is it important to support men who may be using violence?
3. There were many examples of support in the film. Which do you think would work in our community? What are some other ideas? How could we join our power with one another?
4. How can we gather support for speaking out and raising awareness about the connection between violence against women and HIV/AIDS?
Chapter 3 | Action
Using our *power to* create positive change

Chapter description:
The last chapter of the film is entitled “Action” because it encourages us to take action to prevent violence against women and HIV. It shows how each of us can lead the way for change and prevention at home, work and in the community. This chapter celebrates the fact that we all have the power to change our relationships and communities, making them safer and healthier.

Discussion questions:
1. Preventing violence against women could greatly contribute to preventing women’s HIV infection. Why do you think the idea of prevention is so important?
2. What do you think prevents people from taking action to prevent violence? What prevents you? How can we overcome these barriers?
3. There were many examples of people taking action in the film. Would any of these examples work in our community? What else could we do to prevent violence against women? To prevent HIV infection?
4. How will you use your power to prevent violence against women and HIV infection?
You have the power to create change!

People often see a film, hear a report or read an article that makes them think, “How terrible!” Some take that thought further and ask themselves, “What can I do?” We all have the power and the responsibility to do something within our relationships, families and communities to stop violence against women and the spread of HIV.

Violence against women is unjust. So too is the accelerated spread of HIV among girls and women, largely because of a violation of their rights. By recognizing the interconnectedness of violence and HIV/AIDS, we can work
together for their prevention. In order to make a real and sustained change, we need to address the root cause of these connected issues: the imbalance of power between women and men and how our communities accept men’s use of power over women.

Everyone has a role to play in this important work. We all have talents, abilities and skills that can be used to prevent violence and the spread of HIV/AIDS. What can you do?

On the following pages you will find several ideas for things you can do NOW! Copy these pages and share them with everyone and anyone. Hold screenings of SASA! and provide copies of the following pages to everyone who attends.
Raise Awareness – Sasa!

Preventing violence against women and HIV/AIDS means becoming aware. In the Sasa! process of Start, Awareness, Support, Action the concept of power plays a central role in preventing violence against women and HIV/AIDS. Violence against women occurs when there is an imbalance of power in relationships—usually men having power over women. In most communities, there is a silent acceptance of men’s use of power over women. Everyone has power—but power can be used as a negative or positive force. Power used negatively hurts others. Power used with fairness and solidarity can make positive changes in individual lives and in the community. Become Aware NOW!

Ideas for everyone
• Become aware of how you use your power.
• Are you using your power positively or negatively?
• Do you use your power differently with women in comparison to men?
• Do you use your power differently with your family in comparison to friends or colleagues?
• Become aware of how other people are using their power.

• Are they using their power positively or negatively?
• What effect does their use of power have on others?
• Talk to friends, family, neighbors and colleagues about power.
• Explain to them the different types of power: power over, power with and power to.
• Discuss with them whether it is usually women or men who have more power in relationships and in your community.
• Talk with them about how abuse and violence happen as a result of people using their power over others. This is injustice.

Reach out to the wider community.
• Offer to speak at community meetings, at church or mosque or at workplace meetings about how violence against women increases women’s risk for HIV infection.
• Write letters to the editor of your local newspaper to help others become aware of the connection between violence and HIV/AIDS.
• Find out about local services for women experiencing violence, including post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), and then tell others where girls and women can go for help.

Ideas for teachers and parents
• Become aware of what you are role-modelling to
the children around you. What are you teaching them about power and using power positively?

- Help create a safe space where young people can talk about their feelings and experiences, about sexuality and violence.
- Talk with young people about power. Encourage them to connect with and understand their own power and their responsibility to use it positively.
- Contact local agencies that work with youth to learn more about how girls in your community are at risk for violence and HIV infection.

Ideas for police

- Recognize that violence puts girls and women at higher risk for HIV infection.
- Understand what services are available for women who have experienced violence.
- Learn about and help other colleagues learn about PEP and why it is important for women who experience sexual violence.
- Become aware of how your power as a police officer may scare or intimidate women. Use your power positively.

Ideas for health care providers

- Recognize your own concerns and fears about addressing violence with clients. Seek information and advice.
- Become aware of the various health problems that are typical for women experiencing violence, including increased risk for HIV and other STIs.
- Learn more about other health care and counseling services that women experiencing violence can access in your community. Compile a list for referrals.
- Become aware of how you are using your power with clients? Positively or negatively?

Ideas for religious leaders

- Learn about different verses in the Qu’ran or Bible that promote respect, equality and nonviolence between women and men.
- Become aware of the violence that women in your congregation may be experiencing, and consider how you could help others become aware of this problem.
- Help your congregation become aware of how violence increases women’s risk for HIV infection.
- Become aware of your power as a religious leader, how you could use it more positively?

Ideas for counselors

- Learn more about how women in your community experience power and how that affects their health and decision-making.
• Discuss with colleagues how all of you could become more aware of men’s power over women and its negative effects.
• Learn where women can access PEP in your community and tell others (e.g., health care providers and police).
• Learn how violence and fear of violence are potential barriers for women wanting to access VCT, disclose their HIV status to their partner and/or reduce their risk for HIV.

Ideas for NGOs
• Analyze your programs. Are they addressing the imbalance of power between women and men?
• Help staff become aware of these connected issues, including how they affect their own lives and the lives of those they work with.
• Take time to train staff so that they are comfortable working with issues related to violence against women and HIV/AIDS.
• Make linkages with organizations working on violence against women and/or HIV/AIDS.

Ideas for policymakers
• Learn more about the issues of violence against women and HIV/AIDS. Lead the way for other colleagues to also become more aware.
• Talk about the connection between violence against women and HIV/AIDS in relevant forums.
• Think about how you are using your power to create more equitable and effective policies that prevent violence and HIV/AIDS.

Ideas for donors
• Learn more about the connection between violence and HIV/AIDS in the communities and countries where you work. Identify which organizations and institutions are doing work that addresses these issues.
• Recognize that violence against women is a crosscutting issue. Is it being addressed across sectors and thematic areas?
• Learn more about primary prevention and how investing in these types of initiatives can be ultimately more sustainable.
• Think about how you are using your power as a donor. Are you using it effectively to prevent these dual pandemics?
Offer Support — SASA!

Preventing violence against women and HIV/AIDS means offering support. You can support girls and women who are experiencing violence or living with HIV or AIDS. You can support boys and men who are rethinking their use of violence. You can support activists who are becoming aware and speaking out. Through providing support you join your power with others’ and strengthen the prevention effort.

Offer support NOW!

Ideas for everyone
Support girls and women.
- Listen to girls and women experiencing violence — and take them seriously. If you know a woman who is experiencing violence, find a quiet time to talk with her. Offer to listen and help in whatever way you can.
- Avoid shaming or stigmatizing women living with HIV, AIDS or violence. Offer them your friendship.
- Recognize that young women are particularly vulnerable to HIV infection. Talk with them about how to protect themselves and stay safe.
- If you know women who are worried that they may be HIV positive, offer to accompany them for testing.

Support boys and men.
- Talk with men you know using violence.
- Encourage men who are trying to share power more equitably in their relationships.
- Talk with boys and men about the negative consequences of violence on their intimate relationships and family. Convince them of all the benefits of being nonviolent.
- Tell boys and men about local programs and activities that address nonviolence and human rights.

Support activists.
- Seek out the support you need to become more informed and active in preventing violence against women and HIV/AIDS.
- If you see someone speaking out about violence in the community, lend your voice, stand in solidarity, and join together to make a difference.
- Gather people you know who are aware of these issues and talk about how you can support each other in taking a stand.

Help the people you support discover positive ways to use their power.
- Avoid telling women or men what to do. Help them become aware of their own power to make decisions.
• Remind people in crisis that they still have power. Offer to join your power with them to help them find their voices and strength.
• Help people recognize when they have used their power to make a positive change.

Ideas for teachers and parents
• Create open and supportive relationships with young people. Let them know that they can seek advice and guidance on any issue.
• Encourage young people to use their power to support others.
• Support young people when they ask about sex. Be open, honest and direct with them.
• Support rather than shame the girls and young women who disclose experiencing sexual violence. Make sure they know it is not their fault.

Ideas for police
• Treat every woman reporting violence with respect. Take her report seriously and keep it confidential.
• Create a list of clinics that provide PEP. Refer women who have experienced sexual violence to this service when appropriate.
• Avoid telling a woman experiencing violence what to do. Help her think through her options. Refer her to a counsellor for more support.
• When a woman is reporting violence take her case privately. Do not jointly interview the victim and suspect.

Ideas for health care providers
• Ask women about the cause of their health problems, using a nonjudgemental and respectful approach. Their signs and symptoms may be the result of violence.
• Ask women if they would like to see a counselor or talk with you about any violence or problems in their relationships.
• Assure women that everything they say is confidential — and keep it that way!
• Make sure that all staff understands the protocol for administering PEP.

Ideas for religious leaders
• Offer counseling to men using violence and women experiencing violence. Maintain that violence is never acceptable.
• Encourage members of the religious community to create supportive networks for women experiencing violence and/or HIV or AIDS.
• Help couples learn communication skills.
• Make sure your congregation knows you support nonviolent relationships.
Ideas for counselors

- Ask clients about violence in their relationships. If they disclose, avoid telling them what to do, help them think through their options.
- Encourage women to think through how they can reduce their risk of acquiring HIV. Help them practice these personal risk reduction ideas in a role-play.
- Help clients plan how they will safely disclose their HIV status to their partner. Encourage them to role-play this with you. Offer facilitated disclosure to couples when appropriate.
- Remember that violence counseling can be very emotional and difficult for the counselor as well as the client. Seek personal support from a colleague or another professional if you feel your caseload affecting your emotional wellbeing. Getting support for yourself will better enable you to support others.

Ideas for NGOs

- Remember that staff may be experiencing violence in their own lives. Create space for sharing and support.
- Recognize how difficult it is to talk about controversial issues in the community. Avoid assuming that staff feel completely comfortable in this role. Foster solidarity and create support for staff.
- Recognize and strengthen all the informal mechanisms for support in the community. Help community members help themselves.
- Mentor staff to develop their own consciousness and analysis of power and human rights.

Ideas for policymakers and donors

- Join your voice and power with others to advance, encourage and support initiatives and policies that support women experiencing violence and/or HIV/AIDS.
- Remember that violence and HIV/AIDS don’t discriminate. Reach out to your colleagues and friends who might be experiencing violence and/or HIV/AIDS.
- Initiate relationships with organizations, leaders or groups who are addressing the link between violence and HIV/AIDS.
Take Action – Sasa!

Preventing violence against women and HIV/AIDS means taking action. We can all become activists in our own lives—small actions can create a big change. Lead the way for change and prevention at home, work and in the community.

Take action NOW!

Ideas for everyone

Take responsibility for yourself and your relationships.

• Commit to never using violence in your relationships.
• Go for an HIV test, alone or with your partner.
• Create a family or community rule: Violence is not accepted here!
• Talk with your partner about your fears of contracting HIV. Decide together how to stay safe.
• Think about how you will use your power to take action and prevent violence against women in your relationships, family and community.

Hold people accountable for their actions.

• Stop tolerating the violence in your neighborhood or community. Get organized and respond.

• Confront men who are using their power over girls and women. Talk with them; do not let it go unnoticed.
• Confront older men who you see with girls and young women. Don’t ignore it.

Spread the word.

• Work with other community members to spread the word that violence against women is not acceptable in your community.
• Organize events where community members will be able to talk about violence and HIV and how to prevent them.
• Through your words and actions, demonstrate your belief that men and women are equally valuable.
• Work with your local leaders to foster community values that reject violence against girls and women.
• Organize activities with neighbors, members of your church/mosque or social groups that promote equal power in relationships.
• Download or order educational materials (posters, flyers, info sheets, etc.) from Raising Voices and distribute them in your community and/or workplace.
• Celebrate non-violence and positive change!
Ideas for teachers and parents

- Role model respect, dignity and responsible use of power to your children and students. Foster in boys and young men a respect for girls and young women.
- Go beyond promoting abstinence with young people. Discuss the full range of options, such as non-penetrative sex, alternative ways of showing affection and the whole spectrum of safer sex practices including condoms, delaying sex, negotiation and assertiveness skills.
- Encourage young women and men to respect each others’ rights and to communicate openly about all matters related to intimate relationships. Emphasize that having sex is a joint decision that requires active consent from both people.
- Recognize that many young women turn to transactional sex for school fees and other expenses. Discuss this problem with parents and fellow teachers. Brainstorm together what you can do to help.

Ideas for police

- Use your community outreach activities to promote nonviolence.
- Hold a meeting between police, health care providers and local leaders to enhance the process of referrals.
- Train all officers on how to effectively and sensitively deal with cases of violence against women.
- Seek collaborations with local women’s organizations and HIV prevention organizations to strengthen your services and activities.

Ideas for religious leaders

- Emphasize in sermons the importance of nonviolent families and sharing power in relationships.
- Demonstrate in words and actions that violence is not acceptable in relationships.
- Work with members to create a violence-free church or mosque. Help your members create violence-free families.
- Reach out to other religious leaders within your faith and beyond. Become a positive force for violence prevention in your community.

Ideas for health care providers

- Talk with couples about violence, teach them safer sex practices, and emphasize the importance of open couple communication about sexual health and reproductive decision making.
• Sensitize the other providers in your clinic to the connection between violence and HIV and together develop effective and systematic methods for responding to women experiencing violence.
• Establish and participate in a referral network of providers (including counselors) offering services to women experiencing violence.
• When you are in the waiting room or conducting community outreach, encourage people to become aware, give support and take action to prevent violence and HIV/AIDS.

Ideas for counselors
• Create protocols for effectively and sensitively talking with clients about violence and HIV/AIDS.
• Create protocols for helping female clients develop their own risk-reduction plans for safer sex in their relationships.
• Establish and participate in a referral network of counselors and health care providers offering services to women experiencing violence.
• Seek training from other organizations if you and/or your staff need more skills for responding to issues involving violence.

Ideas for NGOs
• Reorient or strengthen your programs to address the root cause of violence against women: the imbalance of power between women and men and the acceptance of this imbalance within our families and communities.
• Ensure that your programs approach violence against women and HIV/AIDS from a human rights perspective.
• Demonstrate the values of justice, equality and respect, internally and externally.
• Strive to become a leading force for positive change in your community.

Ideas for policymakers
• Advocate for and/or create laws and policies that recognize women’s right to live free of violence.
• Advocate for the provision of PEP in all health centers.
• Advocate for a gender-based analysis (i.e., an analysis of the power imbalance between women and men) as part of all policies, frameworks, laws, local/national plans of action, etc.
• Promote inclusion of the prevention and response to violence against women in the national HIV/AIDS strategy.
Ideas for donors

- Fund programs that work toward preventing violence against women and HIV infection.
- Review your portfolio. Analyze the extent to which your grants help address the imbalance of power between women and men.
- Advocate with other donors to prioritize investment in holistic, long-term, community-based programs that prevent violence against women and HIV/AIDS.
- Recognize that the prevention of violence against women and HIV/AIDS requires fundamental social change. Give grants to organizations and programs that can realistically work toward this.
The Women and Men in the Film

SASA! A Film about Women, Violence and HIV/AIDS was made possible by the generous on-screen participation of several inspiring activists. The film’s main characters, Mama Joyce and Josephine, share how their experiences of living with violence and HIV have affected their lives, their families and the communities around them. Josephine’s second husband, Charles, and her father, Kalanzi, also appear in the film to share how they have been affected.

In addition, a variety of activists and leaders explore the causal factors, cultural dynamics and politics of preventing and responding to these dual pandemics. They include (in order of appearance):
Verdiana Kamanya, HIV Counselor – Mwanza, Tanzania
Maimuna Kanyamala, Activist – Mwanza, Tanzania
Collins Ocham, Teacher – Mwanza, Tanzania
Rev. Canon Gideon Byamugisha, Anglican Priest, Diocese of Namirembe – Kampala, Uganda
Hon. Dora Byamukama, Member of Parliament – Kampala, Uganda
Dr. Nicodemus Butamanya, HIV Specialist – Mwanza, Tanzania
Christine Agwang, Child and Family Protection Unit – Kampala, Uganda
Sheikh Idriis Habiib Luswabi, Muslim Supreme Council – Kampala, Uganda
Anna Chambo, Violence Counselor – Mwanza, Tanzania

The Producers

Raising Voices is a Uganda-based organization working to prevent violence against women and children in East and Southern Africa. Raising Voices creates and inspires innovative approaches to prevention.
www.raisingvoices.org

The People’s Picture Company is a Canadian documentary production company that strives to produce creative and entertaining films that start discussion, compel thought and encourage action—Picture This.
www.theppcinc.com
Available Formats

The film is available on DVD in PAL or NTSC. The film and short version are available with English voice-over and English subtitles. The full film is also available with Kiswahili voice-over.