



SAFETY STARTS HERE

A Curriculum for Faith Community
Presentation on Sexual Violence
Awareness and Prevention



Agenda

- I. Scope and Impact of Sexual Violence on the Faith Community
- II. Registered sex offender who wants to attend your faith community
- III. Accountability and prevention policies



The Facts are startling:

- One in three girls and one in five boys will be sexually assaulted by the time they are 16 years old, which is one quarter of your faith community.
- 84 - 95% of all sexual assault are committed by an acquaintance of the victim.
- As of 12/6/06 there are 3, 899 registered sex offenders in king county.
- According to the Justice Department, 1 in every 32 American adults are in prison, on parole or on probation.
- Most people do not talk about sexual abuse or sexual violence prevention.
- Sex offenders represent the largest group of offenders what attend faith services in prison.



Ask yourself:

- *How well is your faith community dealing with these issues?*
- *Do you have enough awareness and information on these issues to be responsible for the safety and spiritual well being of all members of your faith community?*



How are people made aware of sexual violence safety, prevention strategies and resources in your faith community?

- Trainings?
- Written literature?
- Posters, stickers or cards?
- Informal conversations?
- Policies and Procedures?
- Who knows? Who has to know? Who makes the decision?
- Adults only? Children? All?



*Addressing sexual violence is
a complex issue for anyone.*

Resources

- Law Enforcement: Dial 9-1-1
- CPS: 1.866.ENDHARM
- Sexual Assault Resource Line:
1.888.99VOICE
- KCSARC website: www.kcsarc.org
- WCSAP website: www.wcsap.org

Four Preconditions of Sexual Violence: A Model

<u>Motivation</u>	<u>Overcoming Internal Inhibitors</u>	<u>Overcoming External Inhibitors</u>	<u>Undermining Victims</u>
<i>What impulses lead an offender to victimize other?</i>	<i>How do offenders justify their actions?</i>	<i>How do offenders create opportunities to gain access to victimize children?</i>	<i>How do offenders get the victim to trust them <u>and</u> to keep the secret?</i>

Four Pre-conditions

<u>Motivation</u>	<u>Overcoming Internal Inhibitors</u>	<u>Overcoming External Inhibitors</u>	<u>Undermining Victim</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Anger•I am not the only one who does this•Power	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Drugs/Alcohol•Happened to me•It is really love	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Lack of supervision•Gaining trust of not only the children but , more importantly, the adults and/or communityIsolation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Threats•Bribes•Make it a game•“I’m the only one who really cares”



What can we do?

*Any intervention or prevention efforts in
even **one***

*Of the four pre-conditions will deter an
assault!*



Addressing risk in your faith community

- Risky people
- Risky positions
- Risky relationship
- Risky locations or environments



Adult Responsibility

Take responsibility to protect vulnerable people from sexual violence:

1. Understand the difference between a groomer and a grabber.
2. Understand that groomers access victims through lies, secrecy and trust.
3. Understand, observe and question the groomer behaviors.
4. Understand the ways a groomer would repond to questions or confrontations.
5. Understand the ways suspicions and behaviors of groomers remain secret
6. Understand that when observations or disclosures/reports occur community alliances, in combination with reporting authorities, become essential. No one should or could ever tackle this situation alone.
7. Understand that sex offenders eventually return to communities and that protecting children and vulnerable individuals requires new levels of cooperation between adults, community organizations, police, corrections, faith communities, schools, youth service providers, and beyond.



Accountability Plans

Things to keep in mind:

- Necessary to have more than one set of eyes
- Necessary that more than one person knows the conditions and risks of the offender
- Work with the Corrections Officer and/or Treatment provider
- An offender's actions should be transparent, no secrets!



Liability

- Speak to your insurance carrier to find out your responsibilities and liabilities
- Talk to other faith communities to see how they have handled similar concerns
- Attend the Interfaith Group monthly meetings for information and/or support

Resources

- Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers website: www.atsa.org
- Sexual Assault Resource Line:
1.888.99VOICE
- KCSARC website: www.kcsarc.org
- WCSAP website: www.wcsap.org



How do I know?

Trust your “gut” and what it is telling you

- Do you notice a difference in behavior and/or demeanor of someone?
- Is somebody's boundaries being crossed?
- Is someone using ploys and manipulation?
- Is someone trying to isolate his or her self, you or another person?



Indicators of Abuse

Keep in mind:

These are only indicators or red flags, they are not proof of abuse but are indicators to:

- look deeper,
- be more aware,
- be more observant,
- be more present and/or available



REMEMBER #1:

You do not have to prove abuse has occurred but....

“under the law people should report when it appears there is reasonable cause to believe that a child, legally defined as a person under the age of 18, has been neglected, physically abused, sexually abused, sexually exploited or abandoned.”



Mandatory Reporting

- Law to report within 24 hours
“reported” abuse and/or if you have a
“reason to believe” abuse has occurred
- Not required to prove or disprove
- Confidentiality concerns
- Law enforcement or Child Protective Services



Process

- Give as much detail as you have. Names, places, past “red flags”
- May be “information only” or an investigation
- DSHS will administer a Safety assessment on the incident. You will not know the results of this assessment due to confidentiality



Responding to Victim

- Protect
- Believe
- Affirm
- Support
- Empower
- Refer

Remember:

- You do not have to handle this all alone. There is help and support for you as well.
- You are already a person of trust. This is why you were chosen.
- Making the call is always hard.
- You are making a difference in a child's life.

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Thank you!

You are making a difference.

You are making our communities safer for children.

Even small efforts are significant in the work of prevention.

Remember: "Safety Starts Here"