



King County
Sexual Assault
Resource Center

END THE SILENCE



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Resource Center

SAFETY STARTS HERE

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

- 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

"Safety Starts Here" Curriculum

Scope and Impact of Sexual Violence in the Faith Community
(Overview of victim issues, offender issues, and leadership issues)

Registered Sex Offenders in Faith Communities
(Addressing risk and prevention strategies for all)

Accountability and Protection Policies
(Addressing risk and prevention strategies for sex offenders)



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The Scope and Impact of Sexual Violence Section One

The Scope and Impact of Sexual Violence

Agenda



- The facts are startling
- Questions to ask your faith community
- Resources

The Facts are startling:

- Most people do not talk about sexual abuse or sexual violence prevention.
- Today 60% of rapes go unreported to law enforcement.
- Approximately 2/3 of sexual assaults are committed by someone known to the victim.
- 44% of victims of sexual assault are under the age of 18.
- As of 1/1/12 there are over 4,000 registered sex offenders in king county.
- According to the Justice Department, 1 in every 32 American adults are in either in prison, on parole or on probation.
- Sex offenders represent the largest group of offenders that attend faith services in prison.

Ask yourself:

- *How well is your faith community or your organization 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 or your organization?



- 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?

Connecting with your local resources and/or your local faith community can be a great way to begin the process of education.

- Most organizations have stickers/flyers/brochures to help raise awareness and that your faith community is interested in safety for all
- Most organizations are willing to provide education and consultation for you, your staff, and your community



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

- Sexual Assault Resource Line:
1.888.99VOICE
- Interfaith Group through the KCSARC
website: www.kcsarc.org



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The Registered Sex Offender
who wants to attend a faith
community
Section Two

The Registered Sex Offender who wants to attend a faith community Agenda



- The Pre-conditions of sexual assault
- Adult Responsibility
- Addressing risk in your faith community
- Accountability plans
- Liability

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

<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 community Isolation 	<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

Possible Risky Locations/Environments

Youth and Adult:

- Summer camps and vacation Bible school
- Nurseries
- Buses that travel to and from activities
- Choir practice, events and trips
- “Field trips” which are outside of faith community
- Bible study and group specific bible study
- Meetings in the faith community
- Bathrooms
- Storage areas
- Clubhouse or other youth related programs
- Isolating situations
- Swimming pools

Possible Risky Relationships

Staff and/or Volunteers:

- Bible study leaders
- Choir instructors
- Supportive people within the faith community
- Foster parent or surrogate parent role
- Authority figures within the faith community staff or volunteers
- All can be “targets” for huggers

Other:

- People who are in need of support from a current problem, past problem or on-going problems
- People who are isolated in need of support, company or assistance
- Authority figures within the faith community

Note: Cultural differences exist in physical approach and comfort.

Check it out first, don't just assume

Possible Risky Positions

Vulnerable People:

- English as a second language
- Undocumented immigrant
- New to country, new to area, new to community, new to faith community
- Currently in a “bad” relationship
- Prior victimization
- Receiving support (spiritual and/or financial) from the faith community
- Vulnerable individual and/or family
- Isolation
- Secrecy

Those at risk to offend:

- Relationship with an age difference
- Relationship with a “power” difference
- Position of power or authority no matter what age group

Sometime risky positions and risky people can be the same.

Possible Risky People

- Elders
- Faith leaders
- Youth director
- Choir director
- Sunday school teachers
- Volunteers
- Secretary
- Janitor/maintenance
- Bible study instructors
- Faith Leaders Spouse
- Traveling Faith Leaders
- Lay Ministers
- Lay Counselors
- Adults who work with or volunteer with children
- Volunteers
- People who “drop in” at a faith community
- People who are overly eager to work with others, especially the most vulnerable
- People who move around frequently

Note: Many times risky positions and risky people can be the same.

Take responsibility to protect vulnerable people from sexual violence:

- ❑ Understand the difference between a groomer and a grabber.
- ❑ Understand that groomers access victims through lies, secrecy and trust.
- ❑ Understand the ways suspicions and behaviors of groomers remain secret
- ❑ 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.

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

- Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers website: www.atsa.org
- Sexual Assault Resource Line:
1.888.99VOICE
- Offender Watch, Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs:
www.ml.waspc.org/



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Accountability and Prevention Policies Section Three

Accountability and Prevention Policies

Agenda



- Reality about Victims
- How do I know?
- Indicators of Abuse
- Handling a report of abuse
- Mandatory Reporting and the process
- Responding to victims
- Resources

"Safety Starts Here" Curriculum

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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?

Red Flags of Abuse

Keep in mind:

These are only 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 :

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.”

Handling a Report/Suspicion of Abuse

- Mandatory reporting
- Process
- Responding to Victim

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

- 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

- Let them know you are glad they came forward. Let them know how courageous it is to not be silent
- Reassure that they are not to blame and that they are not in trouble for telling
- Refer . Let them know this is a large issue and you will need the help of others to deal with the incident

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.

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

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"