

Rooting Ourselves in Social Justice

Sexual Assault Awareness
and Prevention Month
April 2009



Texas Association Against Sexual Assault



Contents

Click any of the sections below to go to that page. To get back to this contents page, click the TAASA logo on the top of each page.

Media Relations

Sample News Advisory.....	4
Sample News Release.....	5
Op-Ed Tips.....	6
How to Write a Letter to the Editor.....	6

Building Community

Resources.....	8
Event Ideas.....	10

Social Justice

Movies and Discussion Questions.....	13
Books Available for Checkout.....	16



Media Relations



A news advisory is used to notify reporters of an event that you hope they will attend and cover, so it is sent in advance of the event.

Sample News Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date

CONTACT: Name
Title, organization
Cell phone number

APRIL PROCLAIMED SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

YOUR CITY, TX – Governor Rick Perry designated April 2009 as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) in Texas. **Your agency** joins rape crisis centers across the state in commemorating Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month to promote awareness and encourage support of this issue. This year’s theme, “Rooting Ourselves in Social Justice,” is motivating **your agency** to host **describe your event and why it’s newsworthy here**.

WHO: List organizations involved, any VIPs, etc.

WHEN: Date and time

WHERE: Name of venue
Address of venue
Venue phone number *(Included in case reporters need directions at the last minute.)*

Interview Opportunities: List those who will be available for interview, when they will be available and whether interviews must be set up in advance.

Visual Opportunities: Visuals are very important for television reporters. If there will be any special displays, charts or unique interactions between attendees and presenters available to film, note that here.

###



A news release (or press release) is sent when you hope a reporter will write a story about your issue, agency, or event.

Sample News Release

(printed on agency letterhead)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Author's name

Title, organization

Cell phone number

APRIL PROCLAIMED SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

Your city, TX – Governor Rick Perry designated April 2009 as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) in Texas. Your agency joins rape crisis centers across the state in commemorating Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month to promote awareness and encourage support of this issue. This year's theme, "Rooting Ourselves in Social Justice," is motivating your agency to host [list of events or individual event](#) this April.

[If this release is about a specific event, describe it in this paragraph. Talk about why it's important and how it relates to the SAAPM theme "Rooting Ourselves in Social Justice," if applicable.](#)

According to a 2003 study conducted by the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault and the University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work, nearly 2 million Texans have been sexually assaulted. That equals 1 in 5 women and 1 in 20 men in our state. Unfortunately, fewer than 20 percent of sexual assaults are ever reported to police.

Sexual violence is a form of oppression, and it is linked to all other forms of oppression. In order to create a world without sexual violence, it is imperative that each of us takes a stand against all forms of oppression – whether based on gender, age, race or ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender identity, ability or economic class. [Related quote from spokesperson.](#) In order to foster healthy communities, all citizens must support the effort to end sexual violence every month of the year.

[A boilerplate paragraph consists of four to five sentences that briefly state your agency's mission and other important information. Replace the following boilerplate paragraph with your agency's.](#)

The Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA) is the statewide organization committed to ending sexual violence in Texas. A non-profit educational and advocacy organization based in Austin, TAASA member agencies comprise a statewide network of more than 80 crisis centers that serve rural as well as metropolitan areas. Founded in 1982, the agency has a strong record of success in community education, legal services, youth outreach, law enforcement training, legislative advocacy and curricula and materials development. Additional information about TAASA can be found at www.taasa.org.

The National Sexual Assault Hotline number is 1-800-656-HOPE. [Include a link to your website as well as your calendar of events, if you have one.](#)

###



Op-Ed Tips

Writing an op-ed (short for opposite the editorials) is an effective way to educate people about issues that are important to you and your organization. Unlike a press release, an op-ed should articulate an opinion that can be argued. You should check with your local publication to see what their requirements are, but typically op-eds are between 600 and 1,200 words. The topic should not be a response to a story that ran in the paper (that would be best expressed in a letter to the editor), but a longer piece discussing an issue that affects your community. Getting an op-ed published in a larger publication can be very competitive, so keep in mind smaller city/town papers, community publications, and college papers as well.

As always, when approaching a newspaper to run a story, the op-ed should cover a timely issue, otherwise it won't be considered for publication. To increase your chances of having your op-ed published, frequently read the op-eds that your local papers publish to get an idea of what they accept.

How to Write a Letter to the Editor

If you wish to respond to a specific story that ran in a publication, you can do so with a letter to the editor. Make your case, but stay brief. Sometimes, publications will contact you and ask you to shorten your letter for publication. If this happens, make sure that you reply promptly or you may miss your opportunity.

PRINTED ON AGENCY LETTERHEAD

(Name of Organization)

(Address)

(Building., floor, suite, other address info)

(City), (State) (Zip code)

(Date)

Dear Editor:

State your reason for writing here. Use the first sentence to reference the title of the article to which you are responding, author and date it appeared.

State your case here. Include facts and references to establish credibility.

End with a strongly worded positive statement.

Sincerely,

Writer's signature if this is a paper copy

Name of writer

Writer's title

Agency name

A large, stylized teal silhouette of a tree with many branches and leaves, set against a white background. The tree is positioned on the right side of the page, with its trunk and main branches extending towards the center and left. The leaves and small flowers are scattered throughout the canopy.

Building Community



Resources

Violence Prevention

P.E.A.C.E. (Putting an End to Abuse through Community Efforts) **Initiative**, www.thepeaceinitiative.net

A coalition of organizations and individuals working collaboratively to end violence in families.

Voices Against Violence at UT Austin,

cmhc.utexas.edu/vav.html

Addresses issues of sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking. Part of VAV's outreach activities includes interactive theatre techniques to explore these issues.

Men's Nonviolence

A Call to Men, www.acalltomen.com

Through seminars, workshops and other educational vehicles, A Call to Men challenges men to reconsider their long held beliefs about women, in an effort to create a more just society.

Men Stopping Violence,

www.menstoppingviolence.org

Works locally, nationally and internationally to dismantle belief systems, social structures and institutional practices that oppress women and children and dehumanize men themselves.

NOMAS (National Organization of Men Against Sexism),

www.nomas.org

Advocates for a perspective that is pro-feminist, gay affirmative, anti-racist, dedicated to enhancing men's lives and committed to justice on a broad range of social issues.

Men's Resources International,

mensresourcesinternational.org

Helps men around the globe practice and promote a healthy, compassionate and responsible model of masculinity.

Responsible Men, www.responsiblemen.net

Exists to end men's violence against women by creating social change through education, advocacy and service.

The White Ribbon Campaign, www.whiteribbon.ca

The main goal of WRC is ending violence against women in all its forms by challenging everyone to speak out and think about their own beliefs, language and actions.

Community Organizing

Esperanza Peace & Justice Center, www.esperanzacenter.org

Esperanza advocates for those wounded by domination and inequality — women, people of color, lesbians and gay men, the working class and poor.

Workers Defense Project (Proyecto Defensa Laboral),

www.workersdefense.org

Seeks to provide low-wage immigrant workers with the resources they need to eradicate hazardous and unsafe working conditions.

INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence,

www.incite-national.org

A national activist organization of radical feminists of color advancing a movement to end violence against women of color and their communities.

American Friends Service Committee, www.afsc.org/austin

Promotes economic justice, immigrants' rights and peace building in a global economy.

Project South, www.projectsouth.org

Leadership development organization that creates spaces for movement building.

LUPE (La Union de Pueblo Entero), www.lupenet.org

Engages farm workers and immigrants in transforming the communities in which they live.

ACORN (Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now), acorn.org

Builds community organizations that are committed to social and economic justice, helping those who have historically been locked out become powerful players in our democratic system.

Industrial Areas Foundation,

www.industrialareasfoundation.org

The leaders and organizers of the Industrial Areas Foundation build organizations whose primary purpose is power — the ability to act — and whose chief product is social change.



Immigration

PAPA (Political Asylum Project of Austin),
www.main.org/papa/index.html

A central Texas nonprofit that promotes justice for immigrants and refugees by providing free and low-cost legal services and education.

South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project
(ProBAR)
<http://www.abanet.org/publicserv/immigration/probar.shtml>
National organization that aims to provide pro bono legal services to asylum seekers detained in South Texas by the United States government.

LGBTQI

allgo (A statewide queer people of color organization),
allgo.org
Works to create and sustain a statewide network of queer people of color activists, groups, organizations and allies.

Out Youth, www.outyouth.org
A nonprofit organization whose mission is to support and provide services to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth ages 12 to 19 in Austin and Central Texas.

TACT (Transgender Advocates of Central Texas),
www.tactx.org
An advocacy group dedicated to furthering the cause of gender diverse people in Central Texas.

Soulforce, www.soulforce.org
The mission of Soulforce is to cut off homophobia at its source – religious bigotry.

PFLAG: (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays),
www.pflag.org
PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy.

Equality Texas, www.equalitytexas.org
Works toward the elimination of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity/expression through research, education and lobbying.

Human Rights Campaign, www.hrc.org
The largest national lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender civil

rights organization.

Media Criticism & Media Literacy

Stop Porn Culture, www.stoppornculture.org
Dedicated to challenging the pornography industry and an increasingly pornographic pop culture.

About-Face, www.about-face.org
Equips women and girls with tools to understand and resist the harmful stereotypes of women the media disseminates.

Media Education Foundation, www.mediaed.org
Produces and distributes documentary films and other educational resources to inspire critical reflection on the social, political and cultural impact of American mass media.

Robert Jensen, uts.cc.utexas.edu/~rjensen
A journalism professor at the University of Texas at Austin. He is the author of numerous books and articles on topics including pornography and sexism, racism and white privilege.

Environmental

PODER (People Organized in Defense of Earth and her Resources), www.poder-texas.org
Works to redefine environmental issues as social and economic justice issues, and addresses these concerns as basic human rights.

The Rhizome Collective, www.rhizomecollective.org
Nonprofit organization that operates an Educational Center for Urban Sustainability and a Center for Community Organizing.

Sierra Club
<http://www.texas.sierraclub.org/>
Works to protect communities, wild places and the planet itself, by promoting a safe and healthy community in which to live, smart energy solutions to combat global warming and an enduring legacy for America's wild places.

Southwest Workers Union
<http://www.swunion.org/>
An organization of low-income workers and families, community residents and youth, united in the struggle for worker rights, environmental justice and community empowerment.



Event Ideas

Below you will find a few event ideas for this April. Before deciding on what events you want to hold during SAAPM this year, it's important to first consider your goal, and then your audience. After you've determined those two things, you should think about what type of event(s) will meet your goal and appeal to your intended audience. For example, if you want to increase the number of volunteers at your agency (goal), and you decide to target people age 50 and older in your community (audience), then you might consider the "Burma-ads" since they may be nostalgic for those that remember the ad campaign. Remember, these ideas are only suggestions, and you're encouraged to personalize them to best serve your community. If you need any help with event ideas or just want to bounce some ideas off of someone, contact Sherry Hostetter, Technical Assistance Coordinator, at shostetter@taasa.org.

Community-Building Events

Community Picnic

In addition to traditional awareness-raising activities, April is also a good time to host special events that get your community thinking about the prevention of sexual violence or that lay a groundwork for the kind of changes you are trying to make. During an activity at the 2008 Primary Prevention Institute, one group came up with the idea of having a community picnic as an event that could both reach out to the community and also help support the type of healthy, non-violent behaviors and norms we try to support in prevention work. Some of the possible components of this community picnic include:

- Booths with games or activities that support such factors as cooperation, teamwork, healthy communication, etc. Participants can even carry a card that gets stamped for each activity they participate in. Anyone who completes all of the activities is entered into a drawing to receive prizes. Encourage activities that allow for all ages to participate so that people can bring their children and make it a family event.
- Showing a film or portion of a film is shown (see list starting on page 14) and attendees have an opportunity to discuss the issues presented in the film and their impact on the community.
- Allowing other organizations working toward similar goals to co-sponsor the activity and have tables for information.
- Having other activities, movie screenings or similar gatherings scheduled so that you can offer those opportunities to attendees as a follow-up to the picnic.
- Inviting local bands with a positive, community-

based message to perform or having local acting troupes or high school drama clubs put together a series of skits on issues relevant to safe, healthy communities and relationships.

Art Exhibit/Auction

For a fundraising and community-building event, hold an art exhibit for people to express their feelings about sexual violence (or violence in general). The theme could also focus on healthy sexuality, respect and equality. The art can be solicited from survivors as well as advocates and activists – anyone who is willing and wants to express their creativity. The art can be sold or auctioned as a fundraiser if artists are willing to donate it, or you can charge admission to the gallery. If the budget allows, you can serve hors d'oeuvres and wine or sparkling cider.

Instead of, or in addition to, more traditional artwork, recruit survivors to decorate shoes for an "in their shoes" exhibit. Artists can decorate their shoes to illustrate their journey from victim to survivor.

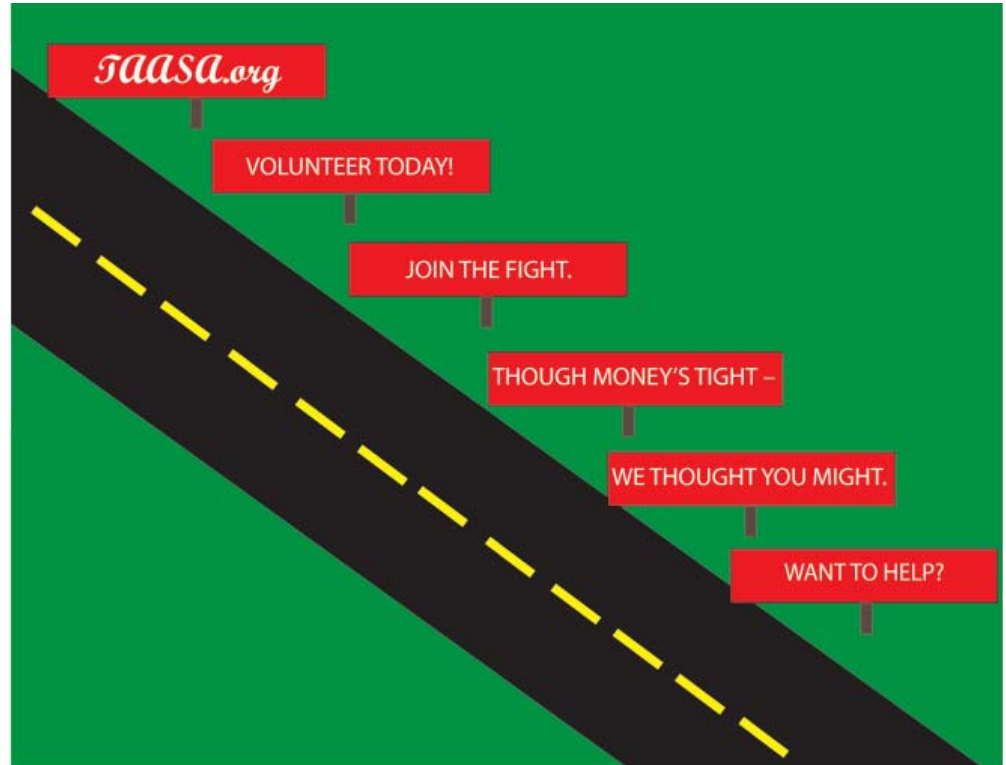
Community Theatre

Get a group of volunteer actors together to stage a play about sexual violence. Some suggested themes include victim-blaming attitudes, bystander intervention, identifying unhealthy behavior, attitudes that support sexual violence and healing after victimization. Recruit local high school or college theatre members to write, act in and direct the play. Remember to keep in mind your audience when selecting material, and make sure to have counselors available at screenings of the play in case anyone in the audience is triggered and needs to talk to someone.

Marketing Events

“Burma-Ads”

Remember Burma-Shave, the shaving cream company that used groups of rhyming road signs to advertise their product? (If you don't, Google search “Burma-Shave” for examples.) Several signs were placed consecutively along the road so that passing cars could read them. In addition to extolling the virtues of their product, the company also frequently ran public service announcement-style ads encouraging drivers not to speed or drink and drive, always with a cheeky tone. Along these same lines, your organization can develop signs to advertise your events or fundraisers, encourage volunteering or donating, or even to send out positive messages. Be careful, however,



about using this method for sexual assault statistics, hotline advertising or similarly serious messages, since that may seem trivializing. For the most authentic look, you should design five or six red signs with white letters (all capital letters), but you can also make the signs consistent with your agency's branding. In the Burma-Shave ads, the very last sign in the series was always the company name, so you can imitate that by having your agency name and logo on the last sign. In addition to posting near the road, you can also post your signs along walking/jogging paths in your community. Feel free to use the Burma-Taasa example above, but don't be afraid to have some fun and be creative!

Poster/PSA Contest

Looking for a way to raise awareness about sexual assault and abuse of teens? Sponsor a poster or public service announcement contest for area middle and high school students. This engages young people and gets them interested in learning about sexual assault because you are including them as part of the process rather than talking at them. To ensure success, carefully plan the parameters of the submissions – think about your community and agency needs. In order for your contest to draw a lot of talent, you will need at least one prize. This will cost your agency some money, but it will be worth it in the end. Consider having a panel choose the winner(s) and include some local teens (perhaps local Students Taking Action for Respect [STAR] team members if your community has one). Suggested prizes include an iPod, a Wii (or other video game system), concert tickets or gift cards. Speak with schools, community centers and businesses in your community about displaying the winning poster. If you do a PSA contest, approach local news stations in advance about playing it. Also, you can post the poster and/or PSA on your website or social networking page (e.g., MySpace, Facebook) if you have one. Additionally, you can hold an art show to display the submissions and open it to the public (see art exhibit idea).



Social Justice

2009 Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month Packet

Movies and Discussion Questions

Below is a listing of movies produced by the Media Education Foundation, along with several suggested discussion questions. The films explore a wide range of issues that pertain to sexual violence, and are valuable tools for engaging critical thought. The questions are adapted from study guides that are available at www.mediaed.org (unless otherwise noted). The full study guides are much longer and more comprehensive, so check them out. More detailed descriptions of each film are also available at the MEF website.

Generation M

Explores misogyny in the media.

- Do you feel that female music artists are promoted differently than male music artists?
- What kinds of toys and entertainment products do you believe are appropriate for kids, and should parents concern themselves with the alleged gendered nature of many toys?
- Why do you think gender roles are still policed as rigorously as they are today?
- Why do you believe men outnumber women in prison by a wide margin, particularly with respect to violent crimes?
- Why do you believe women outnumber men as students in colleges and universities nationwide, and that women are graduating at higher rates?
- At a time when our country has embraced more women in positions of political power, why do you believe Rush Limbaugh uses derisive and sexist language when referring to his opponents who are female? Do you agree with the filmmaker that Limbaugh would never make fun of someone being a man? What does that tell us about his criticism?
- Think about the first time you heard the term “feminism”. Was it presented to you in a positive or negative way? What were the ideas presented to you about feminism from whoever exposed you to the term?

Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats & Rhymes

Discusses the portrayal of masculinity in popular hip-hop music.

- Are all hip-hop artists alike? Do they all present similar images of men and women in their lyrics and videos? If you believe there are differences, who are some of the artists that present alternative images?
- Could Hurt’s critique of hip-hop be extended to other types of popular music and/or popular culture? Are there any other forms of pop culture that you enjoy yet feel uneasy about?
- Katz argues that not only men of color but also working class white men feel the need to be physically hard and tough. Do you think this argument could be extended to other men as well? What connection do you see between this working class white male need to be tough and what Hurt is saying about the need for so many black men to project hardness?
- Why does this video provide statistics about sexual violence? Knowing that rap videos don’t simply cause people to act violently, what connection do you see between popular culture and violence? Leaving aside simplistic cause-and-effect arguments, what do you think Hurt was trying to say here?
- When men really want to hurt and dominate other men they call them by feminized names. Why do you think this is? What might be some of the effects of this? Do you think it’s always been this way?
- Why do you think the rappers that Hurt interviewed were unwilling to even discuss homophobia?
- Why are images of violence and sex easier to sell than positive or political messages?

Killing Us Softly 3

Explores images of women in advertising.

- What, according to our culture, is the definition of “femininity”? What characteristics are considered “feminine” in our culture? Do other cultures consider different characteristics “feminine”? What about “masculinity”?
- What products are sold by people of color? What is the setting in these advertisements?
- What would sexual freedom be like? How would it be different than limits on freedom? How would all groups of women and men benefit from sexual freedom?
- What are some stories media tell about women? What about men?

- Jean Kilbourne comments that women of color are disproportionately shown as animalistic and exotic. What effect(s) might this have on girls and women of color? What effect(s) might this have on the way that others view girls and women of color?
- Do you feel that femininity, or what it means to be female, and masculinity, or what it means to be male, are learned or natural? Why?
- Do you feel that the culture is opening up, that it has started to embrace more willingly women and girls that go against the traditional feminine type? If so, why do you think this is happening? If not, why not?

The Price of Pleasure

Critiques sexism and racism in pornography.

- What are some of the ways that pornography has been pushed into the mainstream? Do you think this mainstreaming has normalized pornography? Why or why not? How does the normalization of pornography affect the culture and the content it produces?
- Fans of pornography argue that it's the choice of the performer to be in pornography and the choice of the viewer to watch it. How does this make you feel? Do you believe in a larger, social responsibility? Or do you think responsibility lies more with the individual?
- Do you agree with Sarah Katherine Lewis' statement: If a woman's best choice is pornography, then there's a real problem with the labor system?
- Why do you think racist imagery is so prevalent in pornography? Do you think the mass media has been successful in correcting some of the stereotypical imagery they produce? Give specific examples.
- Is there any situation where heterosexual pornography can be feminist? Why or why not?

Speak Up!

Looks at ways to improve the lives of LGBT youth.

- Matthew Shepard was killed because he was gay. In the public service advertisement featured in the film, a number of young people are shown shouting out homophobic epithets like "fag" and "queer". Judy Shepard, Matthew's mother, says at the end of the ad, "The next time you use words like these, think about what they really mean."
 - What do these words "really mean"? Are they just words? Do words have consequences? If so, when and how? What are some consequences? If not, why not?
 - Do you feel that harassment like this has effects beyond the specific individuals involved? If so, how and in what specific ways?
- Andrea says that she worries about the safety of her son much more than her daughter, "because our culture is much more afraid of gay men than lesbian women."
 - Do you agree with Andrea?
- If Andrea is correct that gay men are more feared than lesbian women in our culture, does this mean that lesbian women are safe? Why or why not? What's the relationship between fear of gay men and fear of gay women?
- Al Toney, of Safe Homes of Central Massachusetts, says that "one of the biggest myths I hear in talking to the kids is, 'Well, I don't mind if so-and-so is gay as long as they don't try anything on me.'"
 - When someone says "as long as they don't try anything on me", what myths get perpetuated? What is implied in this statement?
- Danny and Julie, from MTV's Real World, talk about how intolerance toward people because of their sexual identity often results from ignorance. Julie calls for talking about sexuality openly so that it's no longer considered "weird".
 - The concepts of "weirdness", "strangeness" and "difference" all bear similarities. Look up and think about the literal definitions of these words, and compare them to the literal definitions of "queerness". Then compare all of these concepts to our common association of "queerness" with homosexuality. What do all of these words, at the level of the very definitions of the language we use, have in common?
 - Based on all of these definitions, what do you think is necessary for something to be considered strange, different, weird or queer? Can something be strange or different in its very nature, all by itself, apart from its context?

Tough Guise

Discusses violence, media and masculinity.

- Many people think the very concept of “gender issues” is synonymous with “women’s issues”. Talk about why this is so. And discuss how this misconception makes it difficult for many men, and women, to understand the gendered nature of men’s lives.
- Is it “nit-picking” to suggest that we should not use male-inflected language to suggest universal ideas and experiences? Are we overreacting or reading into things too much, for example, when we question descriptions such as “man has always searched for answers,” or “man’s religions have unifying themes” as inherently exclusionary and sexist? How might the way we approach and think about such formulations be different if we said “men and women” instead?
- What do you make of the increasing presence of overtly sexualized male bodies in advertising, posed in provocative, at times submissive, ways?
- The vast majority of gay-bashing incidents are perpetrated by young men. Discuss the reasons for gay-bashing, focusing on the gender and sexual identities of the perpetrators.
- In what cases, or environments, do you feel a “hyper-masculine” pose – one based on control, power and the threat of violence – might be necessary? Are there such situations?
- What sort of power can the limited, sometimes racist, portrayal of men of color exercise over white boys? And why do you feel white boys from the suburbs seem to be so taken in by these images?
- Do you feel the culture is opening up, that it has started to embrace more willingly males that go against the traditional masculine type? If so, why do you think this is happening? If not, why not?

What a Girl Wants

Explores commercial culture’s impact on girls’ identities.

- What is the role of advertising in a capitalist society?
- What do you think goes into making ads? What kind of research?
- Do you think that the kinds of stories told by advertisements targeted at kids simply reflect what teens are and what they want? Or do you think ads also play a role in creating these things?
- What do the mass media tell us about what it means to be American? Is this ideal of America connected to buying things? Is it connected to ideals of femininity and masculinity? What American values are missing from the stories told by the mass media?
- Do you think popular celebrities dress and act like they do completely by choice? Who and what else might influence their choices? Do you influence these choices?

War Zone*

Examines men’s street harassment of women.

- The filmmaker talks about using her video camera as a weapon to take back the power that the men who harass her try to take and using it to turn the aggression back at them. Do you think she successfully does so?
- Why do you think the some of the men turned from or dodged the camera?
- Some men in the video argue that they aren’t being disrespectful, they are only offering compliments. Do you think this is ever the case?
- One woman in the film argued that the comments from men on the street are compliments. Do you think many women feel that way?
- How do you feel about the argument that women shouldn’t dress “that way” if they don’t want male attention?
- Why do you think the majority of street harassment is male-on-female?
- The filmmaker states that “Women in particular have to take their destinies into their own hands. We have to learn to control our own lives. Part of the way that we do that is through the men that we love.” Do you agree with this statement?

* Original questions, no MEF study guide available.

Books Available for Checkout

TAASA now has a social justice library! If you're interested in connecting your anti-violence work with other social justice issues, this is the place to start. To check out one of the books, contact Emiliano Diaz de Leon, ediazdeleon@taasa.org.

Community Organizing

Educating for a Change

Rick Arnold, Bev Burke, Carl James, D'Arcy Martin, Barb Thomas

- Drawing on the authors' experiences in facilitating a wide range of workshops, the book offers theory and practical tools for consciously applying the principles of democratic practice to daily work in social education, anti-racism and organizing.

Organizing for Social Change Midwest Academy Manual for Activists

Kim Bobo, Jackie Kendall, Steve Max

- With new information on the trends, technology, and concerns of the new millennium, this edition of *Organizing for Social Change* will help concerned citizens bring about needed changes by learning from the experiences of those who have succeeded.

Consensus Organizing: Building Communities of Mutual Self Interest

Mike Eichler

- This book connects the poor to the rest of society. Through real examples, Eichler illustrates how anyone can practice consensus organizing and help the poor, forgotten and disempowered.

The Critical Classroom: Education for Liberation & Movement Building

Project South: Institute for the Elimination of Poverty and Genocide

- This toolkit is based in the struggle to link our classrooms and our communities in the larger struggle for freedom. Included are essays about the history of the academy and radical community-based pedagogies, plus socio-political history and examples of political practice.

The Roots of Terror

Project South: Institute for the Elimination of Poverty and Genocide

- Using popular education exercises, this toolkit explores the definition of "terrorism" as well as how to organize under great political repression.

Homophobia

Dude, You're a Fag: Masculinity and Sexuality in High School

C.J. Pascoe

- Based on 18 months of fieldwork in a racially diverse, working-class high school, *Dude, You're a Fag* sheds new light on masculinity both as a field of meaning and as a set of social practices. Pascoe's unorthodox approach analyzes masculinity as not only a gendered process but also a sexual one.

Homophobia: A Weapon of Sexism

Suzanne Pharr

- Helps create a greater understanding of how homophobia functions to keep all people – not just lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning – from realizing their full potential.

Masculinity

Muy Macho

Rudolfo Anaya

- Gonzalez has gathered some of the most widely recognized male American writers of Latino descent to contribute original essays that voice both personal and universal experiences of manhood, which are plagued by clichés and misperceptions.

The Will to Change

bell hooks

- Everyone needs to love and be loved – even men. In this groundbreaking book, hooks gets to the heart of the matter and shows men how to express the emotions that are a fundamental part of who they are – whatever their age, ethnicity or cultural persuasion.

Getting Off: Pornography and the End of Masculinity

Robert Jensen

- Jensen's treatise begins with a simple demand: "Be a man." It ends with a defiant response: "I choose to struggle to be a human being." The journey from masculinity to humanity is found in the candid and intelligent exploration of porn's devastating role in defining masculinity.

The Macho Paradox: Why Some Men Hurt Women and How All Men Can Help

Jackson Katz

- *The Macho Paradox* makes the case that violence against women is a men's issue, exploring male culture and why so many men physically and sexually abuse women.

Men's Work: How to Stop the Violence that Tears Our Lives Apart

Paul Kivel

- *Men's Work* helps men understand the consequences of their violent behaviors and gives them the tools to make choices other than violence. The text and exercises help men learn the roots of male violence, the role of violence in their lives and actions they can take to change their responses today.

Race

We Real Cool: Black Men and Masculinity

bell hooks

- Without casting blame, hooks tells hard truths: black men are feared, admired, made the objects of sexual fantasy, envied, but rarely loved. Highlighting the value of a feminist approach to understanding black masculinity, hooks looks at the way patriarchal thought and action undermine black male self-esteem.

Color of Violence

The INCITE Anthology

- In *Color of Violence*, INCITE! demands that we reconsider a reliance on the criminal justice system for solving women's struggles with domestic violence; acknowledge how militarism subjects women to extreme levels of violence perpetrated from within, and without, their communities; recognize how the medical establishment inflicts violence (such as involuntary sterilization and inadequate health care) on women of color; devise new strategies for cross-cultural dialogue, theorizing, and alliance building; and much more.

The Heart of Whiteness Confronting Race, Racism and White Privilege

Robert Jensen

- While some whites would like to think that we have reached "the end of racism" in the United States, and others would like to celebrate diversity but are oblivious to the political, economic and social consequences of a nation (and their sense of self) founded on a system of white supremacy, Jensen sets his sights not only on the racism that can't be hidden, but also on the liberal platitudes that sometimes conceal the depths of that racism in "polite society".

Black Radical Traditions in the US South: A Toolkit for Community Education & Liberation

Project South: Institute for the Elimination of Poverty and Genocide

- Includes new timelines, never published popular education exercises for movement building and narratives that encourage liberatory understandings of our histories.

Youth

I Can Make My World A Safer Place

Paul Kivel

- This book helps kids age six to 11 find alternatives to violence in their lives.