

Voices Against Sexual Assault



MONTHLY UPDATE

MARCH 2011

Preventing Sexual Violence: The Bystander Approach

In one way or another, in the grand scheme, we are all bystanders. We watch scenarios play out in our classrooms, our offices and our homes and find ourselves wondering how we could have changed an outcome.

The 2011 Sexual Assault Awareness Month Campaign aims to give people the resources necessary to engage in discussion and action throughout their community about sexual assault in an effort to build communities and societies where sexual assault not acceptable.

The National SAAM Campaign (online at: <http://www.nsvrc.org/saam>) offers various resources to help fight sexual assault by utilizing the bystander approach.

For example, the following scenarios depict everyday interactions among people and offer discussion activities

and possible responses about intervening (electronic newsletter links to the documents):

- [It's time ... to talk to your family](#)
- [It's time ... to discuss boundaries with your neighbors](#)
- [It's time ... to help your friends](#)
- [It's time ... to protect your students](#)
- [It's time ... to respect your coworkers](#)
- [It's time ... to speak up in your community](#)

The NSVRC campaign also provides a more in depth look at the bystander approach in their downloadable booklet [Engaging Bystanders in Sexual Violence Prevention](#) (available online at: <http://www.nsvrc.org/saam/current-campaign>).

During, before and after the 2011 SAAM campaign, these materials will help the fight to end sexual victimization!

Documentary Looks at Trafficking

Did you know that the FBI estimates that well over 100,000 children and young women are trafficked in America today?

The reality of human trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation is something that many would prefer not to look at but, given the staggering statistics, is something that we need to take a closer look at.

The documentary *Very Young Girls* is a documentary and expose of human trafficking in the United States. The film both follows young girls as they are seduced, abused and trapped by their pimps and the work of Rachel Lloyd, founder of the Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS).

Lloyd, herself a former trafficking victim, works today to free young girls from their lives on the streets. This film is a must see for anyone who wants to learn more about the sex trafficking industry in our country.

Next Meeting

Thursday, April 7th @ 2:00
YWCA Kalamazoo

VOICES meets regularly at the YWCA of Kalamazoo on the FIRST Thursday of the month at 2PM. Please RSVP to info@voicesasa.org to join us!

SAAM: Calendar of Events

Sexual Assault
Awareness Month

In collaboration with the YWCA of Kalamazoo, Western Michigan University,

Kalamazoo College and other local organizations, Voices Against Sexual Assault will be supporting the following events for Sexual Assault Awareness Month:

- KVCC Screening and Discussion of *Very Young Girls*: Wednesday, April 6th 11:00—1:00
- KVCC Sexual Assault Awareness Month Resource Fair: Monday, April 11th 11:00—1:00 (9th Street)
- WMUS Take Back the Night: Thursday, April 14th 4:00—7:00 (tentative timeline)
- Kalamazoo College Screening and Discussion of *Very Young Girls*: Wednesday, April 20 6:00—8:00

Please note that community members are not only invited, but are welcome at all of these events!

