



Sexual Violence Prevention Tips for Communities



Individuals who take steps to prevent sexual violence have a big impact, but a community's unified efforts can have even greater power to create change. When a community collaborates to prevent sexual violence, they are doing community level prevention.

Community level prevention is about bringing entire communities together to create the largest positive impact and implementing changes that benefit the larger community—not just a single individual or small group. The goal of community level prevention is to shift overall environments, policies, and culture to be more equitable, inclusive, safe, and thriving for all.

There are many ways that communities can work together to prevent sexual violence. The strategies below aim to prevent sexual violence and other forms of violence from happening within larger community settings. We all have a role to play in prevention—choose an activity and bring your community together!

1 Get to know your neighbors.

A well-connected community is often a safer community. There are many benefits to having a well-connected community, such as increased access to and awareness of available resources and regular opportunities to engage with others. If you are not sure how to engage with your community, here are a few ideas to get started: volunteer at a local nonprofit, join a board, help organize a neighborhood/block party, or attend community meetings and events. Introduce



yourself to those who live near you. Even getting to know your mail carrier could be helpful. Reducing isolation and building stronger support networks for individuals leads to safer communities for all.

2 Attend a school board meeting.

Attending a school board meeting is a great opportunity to see how local school districts make decisions about school policies and have a voice in the process. Consider joining your district's advisory committee, which includes community members and makes recommendations to the school board on various topics. Participate in your district's strategic planning process to help set goals around equity and inclusion. Talk to your district's curriculum director or leadership about implementing healthy relationships, boundaries, and consent education for youth in the district. Providing healthy relationship education within schools is the most efficient and effective way to reach the largest amount of youth. Developing healthy relationship skills is easier if youth learn them early and often, so be engaged with your district from pre-k through high school. Bringing community support to this issue within a school district and board meeting is a powerful way to move this work forward.

[1. Sexual Harassment within Secondary Schools Resource Package](#)

[2. Evidence-Based Prevention Curricula](#)

3 Host or participate in a workplace fundraiser for the professional development of women and girls and other marginalized communities.

Communities thrive when they invest in the leadership of women and girls. By closing gender gaps in pay and creating inclusive policies, workplaces can help prevent sexual violence. Workplaces also strengthen women's and girls' opportunities for education and employment through policies and programs that improve their economic security. Providing opportunities for empowerment of women and girls is also a CDC-recognized strategy to prevent sexual violence. Efforts focusing on workplace investment should not be limited to women and girls, however. LGQBT+ and gender nonconforming folx are disproportionately impacted by sexual violence and opportunities for workplace empowerment should also benefit these communities. Creating policies and practices with an equity lens boosts positive outcomes for all members of our communities.



4

Lead a letter writing or email campaign to local legislators, city council members, school board members, and other elected officials that supports sexual violence prevention.



One voice has impact, but the combined voices of a community have even greater authority. When passionate people collaborate, their cause is amplified and local leaders are more likely to listen. In addition to educating your legislators on important sexual violence

prevention legislation, everyone is able to have a say in who they want to represent their community. Use these MNCASA resources to learn more about local and statewide legislation, find your legislators, and begin reaching out:

5

Organize a Rosemary Project Pledge Party or another prevention-themed event.

1. [Action Steps for Political Involvement Resource Package](#)

2. [Meeting with Your Legislator for Beginners](#)

Organizing a [Rosemary Project pledge party](#) or another prevention-themed gathering creates an opportunity to share practical tools, resources, and ideas about how the community can work together to prevent sexual violence. Use any of the below MNCASA prevention resources to

start dialogue with family, friends, and community members

When people know the different ways they can prevent sexual violence, everyone can work together to plant to plant seeds of change in the community.

Share [The Rosemary Project: Come Together As A Community for Change video](#) and view the Rosemary Project homepage for tips to inspire action in your community.

Prevention is Possible.

[The Rosemary Project](#)

