

## BREAK THE SILENCE INTERFAITH YOUTH FORUM

### MUSLIM FAITH ACTION PLANS

- Become strong in our own faith and within our own community, increase bonds within our own community, so we can better participate in interfaith efforts
- Keep spirituality in everything
- Get to know our own religious leaders better, so we can go to our imams and talk about our problems
- Follow the Prophet's example on dealing with problems: first deal with the problem with your hands, if you cannot solve it with your hands, then use your voice, if you cannot solve it with your voice, then use your heart, but the heart is the weakest form of faith. The Muslim community needs to stop chastising the issue of family violence with their hearts, and start using their hands and voices, thereby moving from a lower form of faith to a higher form of faith.
- Hold a citywide gathering of Muslim youth to address many social issues, including family violence

### OTHER FAITH ACTION PLANS

#### Baptist Faith Action Plans

- Report any abuse that you witness
- Identify people you can talk to about abuse, such as: Counselors, Teachers and Pastors
- Youth Group Leaders
- Give the person who is being abused reasons not to go back into the relationship
- Pray! Prayer is an important step in solving any problem

#### Catholic Faith Action Plans

- Youth-to-youth education
- Support group formation
- Petition for more public (government) support
- Pass out flyers at school/youth events
- Website development (with chat rooms)
- Train youth groups to deal with family violence
- Hold a youth rally on family violence, including grade school and high school students
- Distribute cards with the names of students who are willing to talk to other kids
- about family violence

- Have a video festival to showcase videos made by kids to increase awareness of family violence
- Use religious education opportunities to set stage for parish involvement in activities
- Make posters, local commercials
- Put resource cards in restrooms
- Put flyers in church bulletins
- Encourage survivors to tell their stories to inspire others
- Create a Diocesan hotline staffed by youth
- Use school media such as newspapers to increase awareness of family violence
- Have a family violence awareness day

### **Jewish Faith Action Plans**

- Place victim resource cards in the restrooms of synagogues and other public places
- Develop youth programs with a family violence focus that stress intervention techniques
- Distribute fact sheets in the community to increase family violence awareness
- Learn warning signs like possessiveness and jealousy that could lead to violence
- Create a service through Jewish Family Services to help family violence victims
- Include family violence education in pre-marital counseling offered to Jewish couples
- Include family violence education in both religious and public schools

### **Non-Denominational Christian Faith Action Plans**

- Hold a speaker series that stresses our life's purpose through Christ and the Word
- Intercessory prayers for victims
- Resource cards
- Verbalize both the male and female aspects of family violence
- Use the performing arts to educate the public about family violence
- Have a day for youth to get together to discuss issues such as family violence
- Hold a "rave" to send out a message about abuse and how young people can help stop it
- Have a ribbon day, when everyone wears a certain color ribbon to send the message that abuse is wrong
- Hold an event called the "Great Escape" for people who have experienced violence or are going through a trial with violence. At this event, Christian youth could come together and say, "I understand the authority that I have in Jesus Christ"
- Create a collective youth council from all faiths in order to put action behind all these words
- Form a community alliance between schools and faith groups

- Have student/teacher in-services so that problems with violence can be addressed productively, and kids aren't just kicked out of school because no one took the time to help them

### **United Methodist Faith Action Plans**

- Raise money for an adult forum, so the adults in the central Ohio faith community can learn what the youth have learned
- Put stat sheets in the Conference bulletin
- Make all efforts interfaith, to impact entire community, not just the United Methodist Church
- Delegate a person or group of people in each congregation to counsel family violence victims and/or perpetrators
- Have someone do research on the issue of family violence and present findings to the community
- Plan a worship service in which kids can talk to their congregations about what they have learned at this conference
- Bring Scripture and faith into the healing process of abuse victims
- Educate clergy on how to deal with victims/perpetrators of abuse
- Obtain more information on men who are abused, even though we realize they are in the minority of abuse victims
- Show love from our faith to the entire community