Everything You Need to Host A Salon Event for *A Path Appears*
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Supplemental materials available online at womenandgirlslead.org.
When we wrote our first book *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* we received an overwhelming response from readers. People everywhere asked us, “How can I help?” Community organizers, teachers, artists, and entrepreneurs answered with creative ways to turn gender oppression into opportunity for women and girls.

*A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity* continues this groundbreaking journey. A new book and a television series present tried and tested solutions to transform lives, inspire, and provide accessible ways for people to get involved. It means a great deal to us and to women, girls, and communities everywhere that you are joining the effort.

This salon toolkit will give you everything you need to host your own salon screening event. Film clips, discussion questions, and handouts will provide you with tools to inspire others to become agents of change.

There are so many ways to make a difference! It is our sincere hope that you will find ways to make a significant impact that is rewarding both to you and to those we seek to help.

**Get connected.** Learn even more about challenges and opportunities facing women and girls worldwide.

**Spread awareness.** The challenges facing women will never be addressed if they are borne in silence. How can you spread the message in your community and beyond?

**Take direct action.** Host a salon, mobilize, volunteer, get creative.

We look forward to taking this journey with you. Thank you for your continued commitment to a fairer, freer, safer world.

Best of luck and thank you again!

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**Welcome!**

*Read A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity*

In their best-selling book *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*, husband-and-wife team Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn brought to light struggles faced by women and girls around the globe. *A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity* is even more ambitious in scale: nothing less than a sweeping tapestry of people who are using research, evidence-based strategies, and brilliant ideas to make the world a better place. With scrupulous research and on-the-ground reporting, the authors assay the art and science of giving, determine some of today’s most successful local and global initiatives to fight inequality, and evaluate particularly effective forms of help such as early childhood education. *A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity* makes clear how typical citizens can drive the momentum of worthy solutions to our world’s most pressing social problems. Learn more at apathappears.org/book/.

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“Hope is like a path in the countryside. Originally, there is nothing – but as people walk this way again and again, a path appears.”

— Lu Xun, Chinese essayist, 1921
About Women and Girls Lead

Women and Girls Lead is a public media initiative to focus, educate, and connect citizens worldwide in support of the issues facing women and girls. Combining independent documentary film, television, new media, and global outreach partnerships, Women and Girls Lead amplifies the voices of women and girls acting as leaders, expands understanding of gender equity, and engages an international network of citizens and organizations to act locally and reach out globally. A Path Appears is a pillar program of the Women and Girls Lead initiative. Learn more at womenandgirlslead.org.

About A Path Appears

A Path Appears investigates young women in America forced into a life of prostitution and the innovative programs that have evolved to empower them to lead more fulfilling lives. Sex trafficking and prostitution, Domestic slavery. Teenage pregnancy. The devastation of poverty. These troubling situations are happening not just halfway across the world, but also in our own backyards — in Chicago, Atlanta, West Virginia, Nashville and Boston.

From the creative team that brought you the groundbreaking Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide, the four-hour series A Path Appears will air on PBS as a special presentation of Independent Lens in early 2015 as part of the Women and Girls Lead initiative. With Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times reporters Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn and a number of celebrity activists as guides — including Malin Akerman, Regina Hall, Jennifer Garner, Mia Farrow, Ashley Judd, Eva Longoria, and Alfre Woodard, witnessing stories of transformation and sharing their own experiences — A Path Appears journeys across the country and around the globe to drive home shocking stories of gender inequality and vulnerability.

Modules Available for Your Salon Screening

All modules are approximately 15 minutes or shorter. You can play all for a 1-hour, 45 minute program or select modules to customize your salon screening.

• Sex Trafficking and Prostitution 1: Prevention and Intervention (Boston and Chicago)
• Sex Trafficking and Prostitution 2: Leaving Behind the Life (Nashville)
• Poverty and Early Childhood Intervention (West Virginia)
• Girls’ Education and Gender-Based Violence (Kenya)
• Forced Child Labor (Haiti)
• Teenage Pregnancy (Colombia)
• Domestic Violence (Atlanta)

Watch A Path Appears

On television: Tune in to the PBS premiere on Independent Lens starting Monday, January 26, 2015, 10/9c with a new episode airing for three consecutive weeks. (Check local listings at pbs.org/independentlens/path-appears/.)

At a Community Cinema screening: Find a screening near you in January 2015 at pbs.org/independentlens/getinvolved/cinema/.

In the classroom: Download lesson plans at itvs.org/educators/collections.

Online: Visit womenandgirlslead.org for video links and online screenings of A Path Appears.

At home: Find the PBS Home Video DVD at shoppbs.org/home/index.jsp.
Overview

What Is a Salon Screening?

A salon screening is an action-oriented film event designed for small groups to watch and discuss *A Path Appears* in their communities. The Women and Girls Lead initiative will provide you with the Engagement and Education Toolkit DVD featuring segments from *A Path Appears*, discussion guides for each of the themes to help you facilitate conversation, and action items to empower your viewers to join the movement.

A salon screening could be anywhere from 10 to 100 people gathered in a home, community center, faith-based organization, business, or nonprofit. It could be a stand-alone salon or part of a larger conference. Unlike larger screenings that might be held in a theater or auditorium and may screen an hour to two hours of the series, a salon screening is an intimate affair that focuses on viewer dialogue and coordinating action.

Why Host a Salon Screening?

As a salon host, you are a vital part of *A Path Appears*. You are an ambassador — connecting people in your local community to the global issues presented in the film. You are a convener — providing concerned citizens with a platform to come together and transform themselves into engaged and activated advocates for human rights. Most importantly, you are an agent of change. Like the advocates featured in *A Path Appears*, you have made a commitment to ignite the change needed to put an end to the oppression of women and girls worldwide. To get started with your salon screening, review this toolkit and start planning your event.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I receive film modules of *A Path Appears*?

You may access film modules for streaming online at itvs.org/educators. A very limited quantity of DVDs containing the film modules, discussion guides, and other resources will also be available to order for free until March 1, 2015 (or until supplies run out), at bit.ly/ITVSdvd. Note: The Domestic Violence in Atlanta film module will only be available online after February 9, 2015.

Can Nicholas Kristof, Sheryl WuDunn, a celebrity, or agent of change in the series come to my salon?

Due to the very high demand for the film cast to appear at events, we cannot accommodate speaker requests for individuals who are featured in the film. We recommend you identify local advocates and speakers to attend your salon.

Can I screen a longer segment at my salon?

We can only provide short film modules covering all six-issue areas for salon screenings. If you would like to watch a full episode of *A Path Appears*, we recommend finding a Community Cinema screening in your area in January 2015 by visiting communitycinema.org. You can also host a viewing party to watch the PBS broadcasts on Monday, January 26th, February 2nd, and February 9th, 2015 (check local listings at pbs.org/independentlens/path-appears/). In-depth discussion guides for *A Path Appears* are available at pbs.org/independentlens/path-appears/.

How do I share the results of my salon screening?

The producers, Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, and those featured in the film want to hear feedback about your screening! After your salon, please complete this short online report form bit.ly/ APAsalonReport.

If you have additional questions, email womenandgirlslead@itvs.org.
# Salon Screening Checklist

## Before Your Salon

### One month before your salon

- Pick a date, time, and venue.
- Receive your salon DVD or find the film modules online at [itvs.org/educators](http://itvs.org/educators).
- **Tip:** Women and girls’ human rights are not just women’s issues. Be sure your invite list includes male advocates.

### Three weeks before your salon

- Consider creating an RSVP link for your event.
- Customize and distribute event flyers.
- Create and send your email invitation.
- Announce the event on social media.

### Two weeks before your salon

- Test your equipment.
- Watch the film modules (twice!) and select which ones you’ll screen at your event.
- Review the in-depth discussion guides at [pbs.org/independentlens/path-appears/](http://pbs.org/independentlens/path-appears/).

### One week before your salon

- Send out a reminder about the event.
- Arrange any refreshments or snacks for your guests.

### Two days before your salon

- Print and copy materials for your salon: scripts, audience surveys, and handouts.
- Distribute a final reminder to everyone you invited with a map and parking information.

## Day of Your Salon

### Before the screening

- Test your equipment the morning of the salon.
- Set up a literature table with audience surveys and handouts.
- Read the welcome script.

### After the screening

- Distribute handouts.
- Lead the postscreening activity.

## Day after Your Salon

- Send a thank-you note to everyone who attended!
Promote Your Salon

Download these materials and more at womenandgirlslead.org

Create a Flyer

Create a customizable flyer using the file included in the folder on your salon DVD. Be sure to include the date, time, address of your salon, and contact information where guests can RSVP. Mail the flyer to your guests, hand them out in person, or post them in your community.

Create an Email Invitation

Create an email invitation using the image included in the folder on your salon DVD. Consider trying free invitation tools such as Eventbrite (eventbrite.com), Paperless Post (paperlesspost.com), or Evite (evite.com).

Sample Social Media Posts

Build interest in your salon screening by leveraging the power of social media using these hashtags and sample posts:

#APathAppears  @APathAppears  @WomenGirlsLead  @IndependentLens

Twitter

1. We all have the power to change the world. Will you act? #APathAppears (Insert link to your RSVP or invitation.)
2. What can a single person do to help build a more hopeful world? Find out at a screening of #APathAppears: (Insert link to your RSVP or invitation.)
3. Just because we can’t do everything doesn’t mean we shouldn’t do something. Join me: (Insert link to your RSVP or invitation.) #APathAppears

Facebook

1. Just because we can’t do everything doesn’t mean we shouldn’t do something. This (day) at (time), join us for a special screening of @APathAppears. We’ll watch the film and discuss practical ways to make changes both at home and around the globe. (Insert link to your RSVP or invitation.)
2. What can a single person do to help build a more hopeful world? Find out on (day and date) when we host a special screening and discussion featuring the documentary @APathAppears. Learn more about the event and the movement to become more conscious citizens: (Insert link to your RSVP or invitation.)
Pre-screening Welcome Script

Welcome to this Salon Screening of *A Path Appears*. I'm your host ________________________. I invited you here today because I believe we share a common desire to address gender-based oppression and human rights issues, and I also believe that typical citizens like you and I can drive the momentum of worthy solutions to our world's most pressing social problems. We have the power to change the world; one person can truly make a difference.

You are about to watch a segment from *A Path Appears*, a three-night series which airs on the PBS series *Independent Lens* starting Monday, January 26, 2015. After the screening, we will discuss the issues raised in the video and how we can help forge a path of hope for women and girls around the world. My wish today is that you will be inspired to join the movement and become an agent for positive change.

Sample Agenda:
90-Minute Salon Screening

1. Welcome guests (5 minutes)
2. Play four selected modules (approximately 50 minutes)
3. Large group discussion (30 minutes)
4. Audience surveys (5 minutes)
Post-screening Activity Script

☛ <Pass out handouts on themes featured in the film module(s) you screened.>

We’ve just watched excerpts from the series *A Path Appears*. This film series investigates issues of sex trafficking and prostitution, domestic slavery, teenage pregnancy, early childhood intervention and the cycle of poverty, and gender-based violence.

These troubling situations are happening not just halfway across the world, but also in our own backyards — in Chicago, Nashville, West Virginia, Boston and Atlanta. My question for the group is: What insights did this segment of *A Path Appears* give you into gender oppression? What information surprised you most?

☛ <Allow for 10 minutes of group discussion>

*A Path Appears* not only shows us the oppression women and girls face worldwide, it also shows us what it means to walk the path of hope. Where did you see hope in the film segment? How did you see the agents of change keep that hope alive even in difficult circumstances? And how can we help?

☛ <Allow for 10 minutes of group discussion>

I’ve passed out handouts with background information, discussion questions, and suggested actions related to the issues we’ve talked about today. Please take a moment to think about one action you plan to take after this event.

☛ <After a minute of reflection, ask a member of the group to share their commitment to take action. Allow for five minutes of sharing.>

I’d like to thank each and every one of you for making the commitment to be here and discuss these important issues. This is the end of our screening, but it is certainly not the end of the conversation. Please take the ideas we discussed here and put them into action. If enough of us walk this path of hope, change will happen.

Thank you.
Sex Trafficking and Prostitution in Boston, Nashville, and Chicago, United States

“It was like I’m a commodity. Like I’m for sale. It’s not who I am anymore.”
- Shana, A survivor of sex trafficking who now supports other women in getting off the street.

**Background Information**

Sex trafficking is believed to be the most common form of modern-day slavery, with the United States as a significant destination, origin, and transit country for victims and perpetrators (ICF International, 2006). Although there is widespread concern that incidents of sex trafficking in the United States are on the rise, the scope of the problem is not fully understood and data about sex trafficking (especially about minors) is notoriously difficult to document. According to the 2010 U.S. Attorney General’s Annual Report, traffickers target children and adults who are disadvantaged and financially and emotionally vulnerable and who may “lack access to social safety nets” (USAG Annual Report, 2010).

Pimp-controlled prostitution is pervasive and believed to be the most common form of prostitution in the United States, but pimps are arrested and prosecuted at a staggeringly low rate when compared to the prostitutes themselves (Williamson and Cluse-Tolar, 2002). Before the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) was enacted in 2000, pimps faced up to 15 years in prison for promoting prostitution with an adult, but today the maximum sentence has risen to 25 years. Despite increasing efforts on the part of law enforcement to target pimps and traffickers, prostitutes still bear the brunt of the legal, physical, and economic consequences of illegal sex work.

**What Can Men and Boys Do?**

- Educate yourself about human trafficking.
- Challenge degrading representations of women in the media.
- Support local agencies that work to address sexual exploitation.
- Celebrate strong women and support confident and educated girls and boys.
- Raise sons and mentor boys to challenge oppression.
- Speak up and speak out.

Learn more at: MensWork: mensworkinc.com/
Futures Without Violence: futureswithoutviolence.org/engaging-men/coaching-boys-into-men/

**Thinking More Deeply**

1. Why is sexual exploitation an important issue to tackle?
What are some of the ripple effects of sex trafficking on families, communities, and societies?
2. How is sexual exploitation connected to the cycle of poverty? What role, if any, could access to education and economic empowerment play in combating this form of gender-based violence?
3. What can we do as individuals or as a group to end sex trafficking?

**Suggestions for Action**

1. Report concerns about trafficking to the 24-hour National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) hotline at 1-888-373-7888, run by Polaris: polarisproject.org.
2. Get involved with Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS), designed to serve survivors of commercial sex exploitation in New York: gems-girls.org.
3. Learn more about prevention education and survivor advocacy from Fair Girls: fairgirls.org.

Read the full *A Path Appears: Sex Trafficking and Prostitution: Boston, Nashville, and Chicago, United States Discussion Guide* for a more in-depth exploration of this issue and more sample discussion questions. Find additional resources at pbs.org/independentlens/path-appears/.
Handout

Poverty and Early Childhood Intervention in West Virginia, United States

“I would love to see her graduating high school and go to college. I never got the chance to do that.”
- Cynthia, A survivor of child abuse who is working to end the cycle of poverty through early education for her daughter.

Background Information

According to the World Health Organization, poverty is the greatest cause of suffering on earth, and there is strong evidence that the stresses of living in poverty increase the risk of physical and mental illness and drug abuse. Although poverty is not necessarily the cause of mental illness and illegal drug use, the sustained emotional and physical stresses of poverty coupled with a lack of access to effective services and resources can complicate health issues for families and communities living on the economic margins. For many West Virginian communities, decades of economic and social instability have had a measurable impact on the health and well-being of adults and children. The majority of West Virginia’s population lives in rural areas where they face unique challenges, including greater distances between people, health resources, and health care facilities and institutions. Economically disadvantaged and isolated families also have fewer resources for both preventative and responsive health care services.

Thinking More Deeply

1. Nicholas Kristof refers in the film to the “invisibility” of poverty. Do you agree that poverty is an invisible issue in the United States? Do you “see” poverty in your community? If so, what does it look like?
2. Do you think early childhood intervention programs like home visitations are effective in addressing poverty? Why or why not?
3. What can we do as individuals or as a group to support early childhood development and alleviate poverty in the United States?

Suggestions for Action

1. Get involved with Save the Children’s work in the U.S. and internationally: savethechildren.org/site/c.8rKLIxMGlI4E/b.6115947/k.B143/Official_USA_Site.htm.

Read the full A Path Appears: Poverty and Early Childhood Intervention: West Virginia, United States Discussion Guide for a more in-depth exploration of this issue and more sample discussion questions. Find additional resources at pbs.org/independentlens/path-appears/.

Home Visitation

The Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (Home Visiting Program) was established as part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act in 2010. The Home Visiting Program provides $1.5 billion over five years to states to establish evidence-based home visiting program models for at-risk families. Home visiting programs are early childhood intervention strategies targeted to disadvantaged and first-time parents. They provide in-home visits with trained professionals who build relationships with families to support healthy parenting behaviors, deliver information and resources, and offer guidance throughout the child’s first years. Programs vary from state to state and among service providers and may use professional nurses, social workers, or trained paraprofessionals from the region with links to the local community.
Forced Child Labor in Haiti

“If your parent is poor, it’s only one way you can have a better life ... education”
- Réa Dol, Co-founder and director of SOPUDEP, which provides education and counseling to exploited Haitian children.

Background Information

Haiti is the most populous member of the Caribbean Community, but the poorest nation in the Americas. According to the United Nations World Food Programme, “Three-quarters of Haitians live on less than US $2 per day and half of the population earns less than US $1 per day (World Food Programme, 2014).” It is also one of the most economically unequal countries in the world. WFP reports that “in rural areas, almost 90 percent live below the poverty level and basic social services are practically nonexistent.” Haiti ranks 161 out of 187 countries in the 2012 United Nations Human Development Index (HDI). In Haiti, as in many parts of the world, poverty and income inequality are underpinned by gender inequality. Women and children are disproportionately affected by poverty, civil unrest, and a lack of social services.

In the last 20 years, Haiti has been affected by a series of severe natural disasters, the worst of which was the catastrophic earthquake on January 12, 2010. More than two hundred and fifty thousand people were killed, and hundreds of thousands more were left homeless, many of whom still live in tent cities. The devastation was compounded by a cholera epidemic that has killed more than seven thousand people. Billions of dollars in aid were pledged to Haiti after the earthquake, but recovery has been slow and concerns about corruption widespread.

Education

A key obstacle to Haiti’s social and economic development is the limited access to quality and consistent education. According to a report by USAID, approximately 35 percent of Haitian youth are unable to read and the average Haitian child spends less than four years in school (USAID Haiti, 2014). The 2010 earthquake further devastated the educational landscape in Haiti, damaging 80 percent of primary and secondary schools in earthquake-affected areas (USAID Haiti, 2014).

Thinking More Deeply

1. Do you think child labor is inevitable in countries facing dire poverty like Haiti? What effects — either negative or positive — does working have on children’s lives?
2. What impact has child labor had in your life/family/community? Do you have insight into child labor that you can share?
3. What can we do as individuals or as a group to end exploitation of children in Haiti and other parts of the world?

Suggestions for Action

1. Measure your “slavery footprint” based on the forced labor involved in manufacturing products you use everyday: slaveryfootprint.org.
3. Take action with Restavek Freedom: restavekfreedom.org/.

Read the full A Path Appears: Forced Child Labor: Haiti Discussion Guide for a more in-depth exploration of this issue and more sample discussion questions. Find additional resources at pbs.org/independentlens/path-appears/.
Handout

Teenage Pregnancy in Colombia

“I cannot ignore what the reality was here and what surrounded me.”
- Catalina Escobar Restrepo, Founder and president of Juanfe, which provides skills training to empower teenage mothers in Colombia.

**Background Information**

According to the United Nations Population Fund, Colombia is a middle-income country, but development is slower to take hold in rural areas and among the millions of people uprooted by conflict (UNFPA, 2014). Adolescent fertility is high, and the maternal mortality rate indicates substantial gaps in health services. Inequalities exist in the access to contraception according to wealth: 75 percent for women at the richest level, compared to 67.5 percent for women who are less wealthy (UNFPA, 2012). A 2010 report by Profamilia in collaboration with the Colombia Ministry of Social Protection and the Directorate of Public Health highlighted a decline in fertility rates of adolescents aged 15 to 19: from 90 per 1,000 women in 2005 to 84 per 1,000 women in 2010. However, “16% of adolescents were already mothers, 4% were pregnant with their first child, and 20% had been pregnant at least once” (PAHO, 2012). The risk of dying from pregnancy-related causes is four times as high for adolescents under the age of 16 than it is for women over 16. Pregnant adolescents are also more likely to have preterm or low birth-weight babies, and newborns of teenagers have higher rates of neonatal mortality (UNFPA, 2012). Legal abortions are only available in Colombia when the mother or baby is at risk.

**Thinking More Deeply**

1. Why is it important to address the issue of unintended adolescent pregnancy? Discuss how it affects children, families, communities, and nations.
2. What role should boys and men play in addressing the issue? How does teenage pregnancy impact boys and young men?
3. What can we do as individuals or as a group to reduce teenage pregnancy at home or abroad?

**Suggestions for Action**

2. Join the CARE Action Network to learn how to support equal access to education for girls worldwide: care.org/work/womens-empowerment.
3. Check out the tools and resources at the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy: thenationalcampaign.org/.

Read the full A Path Appears: Teenage Pregnancy: Colombia Discussion Guide for a more in-depth exploration of this issue and more sample discussion questions. Find additional resources at pbs.org/independentlens/path-appears/.

**Sexual Education**

Sexual education became obligatory across Colombia in the 1990s in the hope that young people would have a place to discuss questions and concerns about reproductive health; conversations which are perceived as taboo in many communities. Efforts to provide education and free contraception have been problematic. In a country that is 90 percent Catholic, resistance to these policies from the Catholic Church has had a notable impact. Representatives of the church have expressed concern that the programs were promoting ideas of sex over abstinence.
Handout
Girls’ Education and Gender-Based Violence in Kenya

“It started with men in the community and community leaders coming together and saying ‘We don’t want to see this. We don’t want to worry about our children, about our sisters, about our wives.’”
- Jessica Posner, who together with her husband Kennedy Odede, works to end gender-based violence in Kenya through their organization Shining Hope for Communities

**Background Information**

Today, more than half of Kenya’s population lives below the poverty line on less than a dollar a day. The country is also home to Kibera, the largest urban slum in Africa. According to the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census, Kibera’s population is 170,070 people in an area the size of New York’s Central Park (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, 2009). Other sources, such as the Map Kibera Project, put the total above 235,000, and still other organizations, including the Kibera Law Centre and Shining Hope for Communities, estimate the population at over 1,000,000. In Kibera, social services such as sanitation and running water are virtually nonexistent, with tragic consequences for those who live there. While the life expectancy in the rest of Kenya is 50 years of age, it is only 30 years of age in Kibera. One out of five children in Kibera does not live to see his or her fifth birthday. The lack of social services and infrastructure in Kibera make it difficult to obtain comprehensive population data and consequently to understand and serve the needs of the people who live there.

**Impunity**

In Kenya, as in most countries, survivors of sexual violence often suffer in silence and face stigma for their attack. There is a profound lack of survivor services such as medical and emotional support, legal aid, and physical protection. Despite the existence of comprehensive policies for handling sexual violence cases, there is a lack of institutional and political will and no consequences for police, medical professionals, or community leaders who fail to provide services or follow procedures. This has contributed to the ongoing culture of impunity across the spectrum of gender-based violence crimes in Kenya.

**Thinking More Deeply**

1. What are some of the barriers that get in the way of bringing perpetrators to justice in Kenya? What are some of the consequences for survivors who come forward to seek prosecution? How do these challenges compare with survivors’ experiences in your community?
2. In addition to education, what other needs do schools like Shining Hope for Communities address for students in Kibera? Do schools in your community offer similar support services for children?
3. What can we do as individuals or as a group to end gender-based violence in Kenya and in our own communities?

**Suggestions for Action**

1. Volunteer with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) to help respond to the world’s worst humanitarian crises: rescue.org/womenandgirls.
2. Become a mentor in a Girls Inc. educational program: girlsinc.org/.

Read the full A Path Appears: Gender-Based Violence: Kenya Discussion Guide for a more in-depth exploration of this issue and more sample discussion questions. Find additional resources at pbs.org/independentlens/path-appears/.
Handout

Domestic Violence in Atlanta, United States

“Most men think, ‘That’s somebody else’s problem, I really don’t do these things.’”
- Dick Bathrick, who founded Men Stopping Violence to engage men in building safer communities for women and girls

Background Information

The U.S. Department of Justice’s Office on Violence against Women defines domestic violence as “a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner.” It includes, but is not limited to, physical aggression. “Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This includes any behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure, or wound someone” (OVW, 2014).

Many forms of abuse have been normalized due to their pervasiveness or minimized by perpetrators, victims, and witnesses as being “less serious” than more extreme forms of aggression. Although men experience intimate partner abuse, women and girls are disproportionately victimized by domestic violence. In the United States, it is estimated that over 12 million people each year are affected by domestic abuse, with one in four women and one in seven men having experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime (CDC, 2014).

Root Causes of Violent Behavior

Among the myriad challenges that survivors of domestic violence face is the accusation that something they said or did triggered the beatings, threats, and mistreatment. The fact is that domestic violence is rarely an isolated act by the abuser, but a complex pattern of behavior influenced and rooted in a “range of cultural, social, economic, and psychological factors” (OCAN, 2003). According to the Office on Child Abuse and Neglect, part of the Administration for Children and Families within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, “Abusive behaviors can be learned through
- childhood observations of domestic violence;
- one’s experience of victimization;
- exposure to community, school, or peer group violence; and
- living in a culture of violence (e.g., violent movies or videogames, community norms, and cultural beliefs).”

Thinking More Deeply

1. What harmful effects does domestic violence have on the individual, on families, and on the larger community?
2. There is a culture of silence surrounding domestic violence in the United States and around the world. Does telling one’s story about abuse break the cycle of violence? Why or why not?
3. What can we do as individuals or as a group to end domestic violence in the United States and worldwide?

Suggestions for Action

1. Get involved with Man Up Campaign, which works with men and boys to end gender-based violence: manupcampaign.org.
2. Learn more about the campaigns and programs of Futures Without Violence: futureswithoutviolence.org/.

Read the full A Path Appears: Domestic Violence: Atlanta, United States Discussion Guide for a more in-depth exploration of this issue and more sample discussion questions. Find additional resources at pbs.org/independentlens/path-appears/.

Note: The Domestic Violence in Atlanta film module will only be available online at itvs.org/educators after February 9, 2015.
Credits

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ITVS
Independent Television Service (ITVS) funds, presents, and promotes award-winning independently produced documentaries and dramas on public television and cable, innovative new media projects on the Web, and the Emmy® Award-winning series Independent Lens on PBS. ITVS receives core funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, a private corporation funded by the American people.

ITVS’s Women and Girls Lead is a strategic public media initiative to support and sustain a growing international movement to empower women and girls, their communities, and future generations. Women and Girls Lead is supported by CPB and Eileen Fisher, Inc. To learn more, visit womenandgirlslead.org

SHOW OF FORCE
Founded in 2006 by veteran television producers Maro Chermayeff and Jeff Dupre, Show of Force is known for creating some of the last decade’s most ambitious and creative programs, including feature documentaries, event television series and innovative transmedia projects. Included in its projects to date is the groundbreaking Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide, a multi-platform project based on the bestselling book by New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. Other recent projects include the Peabody and Emmy Award-winning Marina Abramovic The Artist is Present (HBO), Kehinde Wiley: An Economy of Grace (PBS) winner of the 2014 Jury Prize for Best Documentary Short at SXSW, the 6-hour series Circus (PBS) and the Emmy Award-Winning 10-hour series Carrier (PBS).