

A Community Drama Sketch

16 Days of Activism against Violence Against Women

Take Home Idea: Happy Families are Violence-free!

Facilitator

Warmly welcome community members and introduce the drama group members. Set the stage for the drama by explaining that the key idea behind the drama is that healthy and happy families are violence-free! Let community members know that in between scenes you'll be coming back to ask questions, get their opinions and to start talking about life in our relationships and families.

Scene One

Peter is at home reading a newspaper and listening to a radio program while his wife Betty is washing clothes. Peter's phone rings and he tells a friend he will join them in the next thirty minutes. Upon hanging up the phone he calls Betty and tells her to organize his clothes and shoes in the shortest possible time. Betty explains to him that she still has a pile of clothes to wash and has to rush to the well before it gets dark. Peter is angered by this and complains that she is lazy and cannot run her home properly. He threatens to beat her when he returns home in the evening.

As Peter leaves the compound Susan, a friend of Betty's, is walking in. She greets Peter but he answers her rudely and hurriedly walks away. Susan is concerned and asks Betty if the beating and insults from Peter have continued. Betty explains that things have not gotten better. Susan listens quietly and advises Betty to persevere as that is women's fate in marriage.

Facilitator (ask these questions to community members to get people talking)

- In your community is it common to find women experiencing their relationships like Betty?
- How do you think living in this kind of relationship makes women feel? How about the men?

Scene two

Betty and Susan are on their way to the well which is near the compound of Juma. His wife, Amina is hanging up clothes while he is cleaning the compound. Juma asks the two women to come over and wait for Amina so they can go to the well together.

As the three women leave Amina tells her husband she won't be long at the well and asks him to check on the baby as she sleeps. Betty and Susan openly express their surprise. As the women walk to the well, Betty laments about how different her relationship with Peter is and how she could never imagine her husband doing household tasks or watching the children. Amina explains to her friends how she and her husband are friends and do many things together including taking care of the children.

Facilitator (ask these questions to community members to get people talking)

- What do you think of the relationship between Juma and Amina? Is it possible that a woman and man respect each other like this?
- How do you think Amina feels about Juma? How do you think Juma feels about Amina?

Scene three

In town Peter has joined his friend James for a drink. The men inquire about each other's families and Peter expresses his disappointment with his wife and how he feels he is not respected in his home. James advises him to set rules for her to follow and 'discipline' her when she fails to follow them in order to prove he is the man in the house.

On his way home, Peter sees Juma and stops for a chat. He shares the advice he got from James and tells Juma he has decided to be stricter at home. Juma laughs and explains to his friend that in his relationship, more love and respect, not more discipline and control made him happier. Peter is stunned and says it is impossible. Amina and Betty come home from the well. Amina greets Juma warmly and they begin talking about the evening meal. Betty and Peter look on, wishing that was their relationship.

Juma and Amina invite Betty and Peter to stay for a meal – and a chat about how respect and their commitment to never using violence has created happiness and health in their family!

Facilitator (ask these questions to community members to get people talking)

- How possible is it to never use violence in a relationship?
- How can respect and non violence create happier homes?

Thank community members for coming and participating in the discussion. Remind everyone of the take home idea:
Happy relationships are violence free!

