

QUESTION VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Card GAME

Preventing violence against women requires all of us to move beyond what we accept as “normal” and dare to imagine a different way of living. It requires us to stop and think about the way things are and ask ourselves whether there is a better way. It is about **questioning** what we know, think, feel, and do. It takes courage to question, and support to consider alternatives. Questioning norms can make our communities stronger.

How can we begin questioning violence against women? This interactive and thought-provoking game will help you work with community members to question the social norms that support and perpetuate violence against women. You will not find all of the answers in one session, but beginning to ask is an important first step. One question can open up a range of positive possibilities!

Time: 1 hour (flexible according to your needs)

Number of Players: 5 – 15

**This game can be played in single sex or mixed sex groups.
Decide what is appropriate in your own community.**

HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE GAME

1. Photocopy and cut out the square question cards on the attached piece of paper.
2. Photocopy and cut out the two community board sheets (attached at the end of the exercise). Tape these together side by side, to form the Community Board.
3. Find a flat surface, such as a small table, a bench or the ground to place the materials on.

HOW TO SET UP THE GAME

1. Put the question cards into a pile and place them face down so that no one can see the questions.
2. Place the Community Boards face up on the table.

This game requires players to read from cards. If players are unable to read, encourage others in the group to assist them.



HOW TO FACILITATE THE GAME

1. Warmly welcome players to the activity.
2. Introduce yourself and ask others to do the same if they do not already know each other.
3. Explain that this game will challenge us to question violence against women.
4. Explain that each player will have a turn to select and answer a question card and place it on either board: *This Strengthens our Community* or *This Hurts our Community*.
5. Remind players that there are no right or wrong answers in this game, but rather that the intention is to think through ideas and behaviors that we commonly accept in the community.
6. Play the game:
 - a. Ask a player to select a question card, read it aloud, and to answer the question.
 - b. Encourage a few other players to comment or add to the player's answer (2-3 minutes per player).
 - c. After this discussion, ask the player to place the card on the corresponding Community Board, i.e. *This Strengthens our Community*, *This Hurts our Community*.
 - d. Invite discussion from two or three other players about how they think this norm, behavior, attitude or belief affects their community (limit comments to 2-3 minutes per player).
 - e. Ask the next player to take a turn. Repeat steps a – d until all participants have had a turn.
 - f. When all of the players have had a turn, or there are no additional cards, review the Community Board. Notice which cards are on each board. Facilitate a discussion with all participants. See below for questions and discussion points that could guide your discussion.
 - i. What does this tell us about violence against women in our community?
 - *Violence against women occurs in many different forms throughout the community whether at home, school, work, or in other places.*
 - *Violence against women hurts the whole community. Therefore, violence against one affects us all.*
 - *Our community can thrive when we treat women and men with equal respect and dignity. When one sex is denied opportunities, then we cannot reach our full potential.*
 - *Relationships, families and communities that are free from violence against women are happier, healthier and stronger.*



ii. How can we build on our strengths?

- *It's important to support each other to not use violence in our relationships—we can help our friends, relatives and neighbors think about alternatives to violence, reach out when they need help, and ask others*
- *We can speak out against violence against women amongst our friends, neighbors, and in the community.*
- *When we support each other, we are stronger as a community. We must support women and girls who have experienced violence, rather than blame them.*
- *Together we can begin questioning violence against women. Reach out to others and start questioning.*

iii. How could we change what is hurting the community?

- *Beginning to question the attitudes and behaviors we share in our community that support violence against women is an important first step. Let's continue to ask ourselves these questions and ask others too!*
- *Change begins with us. We can commit to not using violence in our own relationships and let others know of our commitments.*
- *We have the power to create positive change. Let's help each other consider alternatives to using violence against women in our community.*
- *As a community, it is our responsibility to speak out against violence against women wherever it occurs—whether among neighbors, in our homes, in the market, or anywhere!*
- *Change is only possible if we help each other. We can all think of ways to help our friends and family avoid using violence and ask them to help us as well!*

7. Thank all participants for playing and encourage them to keep questioning violence against women!

QUESTION CARDS

PHOTOCOPY



1.

What happens in our community when men are respected and women are not?

2.

What happens to our community's future when children grow up in homes free from violence?

3.

What happens in our community when girls and boys don't have the same opportunities?

4.

What happens in our community when men choose not to use violence in their relationships?

QUESTION CARDS

PHOTOCOPY



5.

What happens in our community when families encourage women to tolerate violence from their husbands?

6.

What happens in our community when husbands and wives discuss issues openly and honestly in the household?

7.

What happens in our community when girls and women fear sexual violence?

8.

What happens in our community when men and women share responsibilities in the household?

QUESTION CARDS

PHOTOCOPY



9.

What happens in our community when we remain silent when we hear violence between a man and woman in a neighbor's home?

10.

What would happen in our community if husbands respected their wives as equal partners?

11.

What happens in our community when men offer girls money or gifts in exchange for sex?

12.

What would happen in our community if women were allowed to work outside the home?

QUESTION CARDS

PHOTOCOPY



13.

What happens in our community when women are not able to ask their partners to use a condom during sex?

14.

What would happen in our community if men and women made financial decisions for the family together?

15.

What happens in our community when women do not feel safe in their own homes?

COMMUNITY QUESTION BOARD 1

PHOTOCOPY



This **HURTS**
our Community

Card **GAME**

www.preventgbvafrica.org

COMMUNITY QUESTION BOARD 2

PHOTOCOPY



This **STRENGTHENS**
our Community