

# SAAM 2024 Partner Program Social Media Toolkit

## TALKING TO YOUTH ABOUT CONSENT

Key Ideas and Responding to “No”



#SAAM2024



## 4 FAMILY OR COMMUNITY AGREEMENTS

FOR HAVING DIFFICULT  
CONVERSATIONS BASED IN SAFETY,  
RESPECT, AND CONSENT

## HOW CAN AN ADVOCATE HELP ME?

#SAAM2024

- PROVIDE EMOTIONAL SUPPORT FOR YOU AND LOVED ONES
- ATTEND MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS WITH YOU
- SUPPORT YOU DURING A SEXUAL ASSAULT EXAM
- MAKE REFERRALS FOR THINGS LIKE LEGAL SERVICES, THERAPY, SUPPORT GROUPS, ETC.
- FOLLOW UP AFTER A REPORT TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OR SANE EXAM
- HELP YOU NAVIGATE THE CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM

NEED SUPPORT?

## ■ About the SAAM Social Media Toolkit

Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2024 is almost here! SAAM can be a big lift due to increased attention around sexual violence. This simple social media toolkit was created to support your awareness raising efforts.

## ■ Using the Partner Program Toolkit

This toolkit contains seventeen social media posts under four different themes: general advocacy, prevention skill building, developing shared language/having difficult conversations, and collective action after SAAM. Each post contains two different captions to choose from and corresponding graphics. Each image is linked and can be downloaded from [Coalition Manager](#).

Each graphic is available in two different color palettes. There is open space in each graphic or carousel cover graphic for you to add your own logo. Some of the graphics also have a space for you to add your program's contact information for victims/survivors seeking services. This can be done by uploading the image to Canva (free for nonprofits) or by adding it in Adobe Acrobat.

### How to Download the Images from Coalition Manager

You can download all images as a zipped file or individually, and copy the caption if you'd like to include it with your post for #SAAM2024.

#### Download All Images (Zipped Files)

1. Follow this [link](#) or click the button below to access [All Posts - All Images \(Zipped\)](#)
2. Click Download.

[Download All Graphics](#)

## Download Images By Post (Zipped Files)

1. Click on the teal “Download Graphics” button in each section.
2. Click Download.
3. Repeat for other posts you want to use.

## Download Images Individually

1. Click on the image you want to use in the Toolkit.
2. Click Download.
3. Repeat for other images you want to use.

If you have any issues with adding your logo or contact information, email Rachel Martin Asproth at [rasproth@mncasa.org](mailto:rasproth@mncasa.org).

## ■ Tag Us During #SAAM2024!

- Instagram: @mncasa
- Facebook: @MinnesotaCoalitionAgainstSexualAssault
- Twitter: @MNCASA1

# General Advocacy

## POST 1: ABOUT ADVOCACY

### Caption 1

Advocates provide free, confidential services to people experiencing violence and their loved ones. They can provide emotional support, help you navigate the criminal legal system, support you during a sexual assault exam, help with follow up after a SANE exam or report to law enforcement, connect you with other agencies, and refer you to legal services and therapy. Contact us at [\[program contact info\]](#). #SAAM2024

### Caption 2

How can our advocates help you? Advocates provide emotional support, help you navigate the criminal legal system, support you during a sexual assault exam, help with follow up after a SANE exam or report to law enforcement, connect you with other agencies, and refer you to legal services and therapy. You are NOT alone. Contact us at [\[program contact info\]](#). #SAAM2024

[Download Graphics](#)



## POST 2: I DON'T WANT TO REPORT

### Caption 1

You do NOT have to report to get support! You can still access free, confidential advocacy services no matter what you decide. Some of the things we help with: safety planning, crisis support, individual counseling, support groups, referrals, information regarding your options, and access to resources. Contact us: [\[program contact info\]](#). #SAAM2024

### Caption 2

I don't want to report—what services are available to me? Whether or not you report, you deserve to receive free, confidential support. An advocate can help you with safety planning, crisis support, individual counseling, support groups, referrals, information regarding your options, and access to resources. Contact us: [\[program contact info\]](#). #SAAM2024

[Download Graphics](#)

I don't want to report... what help is available to me?

- ✓ Safety planning #SAAM2024
- ✓ Crisis support
- ✓ Individual counseling
- ✓ Support groups
- ✓ Referrals
- ✓ Information regarding options
- ✓ Access to resources

**You don't have to report to get support.**

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- ✓ Safety planning #SAAM2024
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- ✓ Individual counseling
- ✓ Support groups
- ✓ Referrals
- ✓ Information regarding options
- ✓ Access to resources

**You don't have to report to get support.**



## POST 3: UNEXPECTED SERVICES

### Caption 1

You're not alone. Whether it's helping you purchase a rice cooker, set up a dental appointment, purchase bus passes, or communicate boundaries to friends and family, our advocates can help you. Contact us: [\[insert program contact info\]](#).

#SAAM2023

### Caption 2

A crisis can touch every area of your life and make it difficult to do things like find housing, arrange transportation, make medical and dental appointments, and purchase basics necessities to start over. You don't have to do it all alone. We're here to support you. Contact one of our advocates for free, confidential support: [\[insert program contact info\]](#).

#SAAM2023

[Download Graphics](#)

## Things You Might Not Know An Advocate Can Help With

- ✓ Housing, employment, & government benefit applications
- ✓ Finding childcare
- ✓ Communicating emotional and physical needs
- ✓ Talking about experience(s) with family and friends
- ✓ Finding hobbies or routines that promote wellbeing
- ✓ Building support systems
- ✓ Processing feelings
- ✓ Setting up and/or attending appointments (such as dental appointments)
- ✓ Accessing transportation (such as help purchasing bus passes)
- ✓ Accessing basic needs (such as buying a rice cooker)



**Need Support?**

# SAAM2024

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**Need Support?**

# SAAM2024

# Prevention Skill Building

## POST 4: CONSENT AT SCHOOL

### Caption 1

Hearing the word “no” can be hard. But every person has the right to express their boundaries and be respected. We can help youth understand consent and develop healthy responses to “no.” See the graphics to get started. #SAAM2024

### Caption 2

How should we respond when someone says “no” to us? Hearing “no” can be hard so it’s important to give young people the tools they need to respond with respect and kindness. Swipe for three guiding consent principles to share with youth and examples of healthy responses to “no.” #SAAM2024

[Download Graphics](#)

## TALKING TO YOUTH ABOUT CONSENT

Key Ideas and Responding to “No”



## 3 KEY IDEAS TO SHARE

- Never seek to force or coerce the answer you want
- Responding respectfully to someone’s “no” can build trust
- Accepting “no” demonstrates kindness and understanding for others



## 5 WAYS TO RESPOND WHEN SOMEONE SAYS "NO"

- "It's good to know you don't want to do that."
- "Sounds good, I don't want you to do anything you don't want to."
- "I totally get that."
- "I hear you and I get how you feel."
- "Okay, I respect that."

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#SAAM2024



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## ■ POST 5: CONSENT AT WORK

### Caption #1

Creating a culture of consent at work means recognizing how power and hierarchy impact consent. It also means regularly checking in with others about what they're comfortable with. Check out the graphics for four guiding principles to creating a consent culture at work and phrases to try. #SAAM2024

### Caption #2

How do we practice consent at work? Here are four guiding principles around boundaries, task assigning, feedback, and divesting from white supremacy culture. Swipe to learn more. #SAAM2024

[Download Graphics](#)

# CONSENT in the Workplace

POWER + PRINCIPLES + BOUNDARIES

#SAAM2024



## Power + Hierarchy

Because most workplaces are hierarchical, it's important to recognize how power dynamics impact consent. For example, creating a culture of consent at work means interacting in a way that doesn't make people in low power positions feel like their jobs are at risk if they don't say yes to someone in higher power positions.

*This is an example of coercive power.*

## 4 Workplace Consent Principles

- Model and encourage boundaries
- Task delegation should be collaborative (ask what people are comfortable with and make it okay for them to say no or voice concerns)
- When requesting feedback, set clear and specific parameters
- Stop glorifying values rooted in white supremacy & the idea of “grind/hustle culture”

## 4 Statements To Promote Workplace Boundaries + Consent

- Would you be okay with me checking in with you later when you have more capacity?
- I appreciate you sharing with me that you don't feel comfortable taking this task on.”
- I acknowledge that it can be difficult to say ‘no’ in these circumstances and I respect your response.
- (After asking to take something from their workstation) “I definitely want to respect your space so I appreciate you being clear.

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## POST 6: INTIMATE PARTNER CONSENT

### Caption #1

Consent isn't just about getting permission to have sex. It's an ongoing, mutual conversation where partners communicate, learn from, and respect each other. See the graphics for three practices to try with your partner(s)! #SAAM2024

### Caption #2

Consent is about becoming even more in tune with your partner(s) and being curious, open, and responsive. See the graphics for three practices to try with your partner(s): creating a self-care cue, talking about boundaries, and open, shame-free discussion about what excites you and your partner(s). #SAAM2024

[Download Graphics](#)

# CONSENT

## with intimate partners

3 PRACTICES TO TRY WITH  
YOUR PARTNER(S)

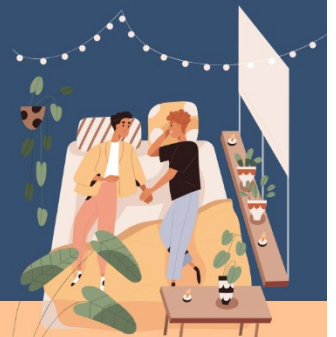
#SAAM2024



## First, let's talk about consent.

Consent isn't just about getting permission to have sex.

Consent is an ongoing conversation where partners communicate, learn from, and respect each other.



## Build Consent Vocab

### Create a self-care cue.

A self-care cue is a way to stop the action and clarify, redirect, and/or state a need (such as: I have to sneeze).

- This should be used outside of sexual contexts.
- Choose a word you find quirky or that makes you laugh. Consent doesn't need to feel like a heavy lift. By finding ways to make it fun, we can normalize pausing for self-care and practicing consent.
- Self-care cue word ideas = Button, bagel, racecar, tofu



## Talk Boundaries | Part 1

Boundaries change from day to day or moment to moment.

Try using these analogies to have conversations about consent:

### 1. Stoplight Analogy

- Talk about physical touch you are/are not comfortable with using green, yellow, and red lights.
- Green is “go ahead, I’m comfortable,” Yellow is a “maybe (let’s talk about it first)” and Red is “please don’t touch me like that/there.”

#### Examples:

“Just a heads up, my left shoulder is a yellow light today.”

If Partner A moves toward Partner B’s hip (a greenlight area), but Partner B avoids that touch, Partner A can acknowledge this: “It looks like your hip is a red light today.”

*Note: they can explain if they want, but they don’t have to.*

## Talk Boundaries | Part 2

### 2. Fences and Gates Analogy

Fences are a do not cross boundary.

Gates are a boundary that may be crossed depending on the context.

#### Examples:

- If Partner A moves toward Partner B’s hip, but Partner B avoids that touch, Partner A can say, “I noticed a fence around your hip today.”



*Note: they can explain if they want, but they don’t have to.*

## Openly Discuss What Excites Both You and Your Partner(s)

### Ask Your Partner(s) What They're Into!

This is an opportunity to not only talk about fantasy and ideas, but also specific physical acts, positions, types of touch.

- Frame conversations as “things we could/get to do” instead of treating those things as embarrassing or shameful.
- Being vulnerable with intimate partners about our desires and boundaries can be difficult, but can also be very satisfying!





# CONSENT

## with intimate partners

3 PRACTICES TO TRY WITH YOUR PARTNER(S)

#SAAM2024



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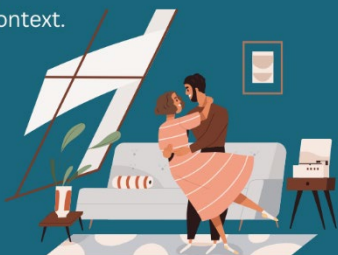
## Talk Boundaries | Part 2

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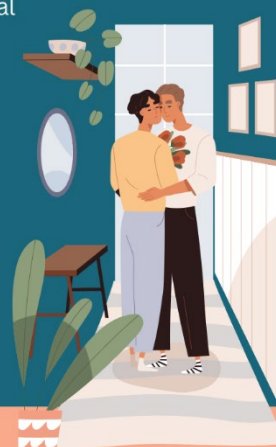
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## POST 7: CONSENT CONVOS 1

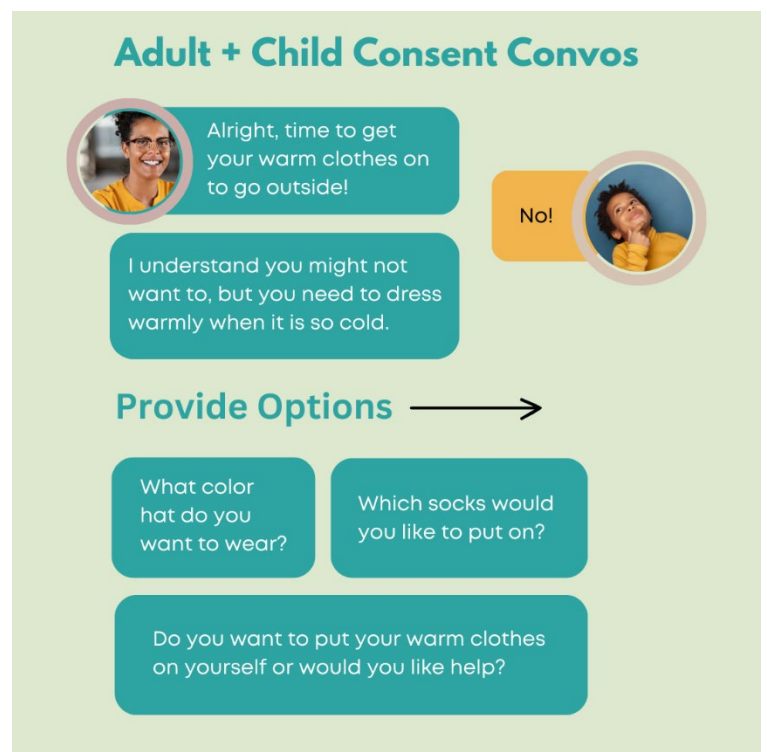
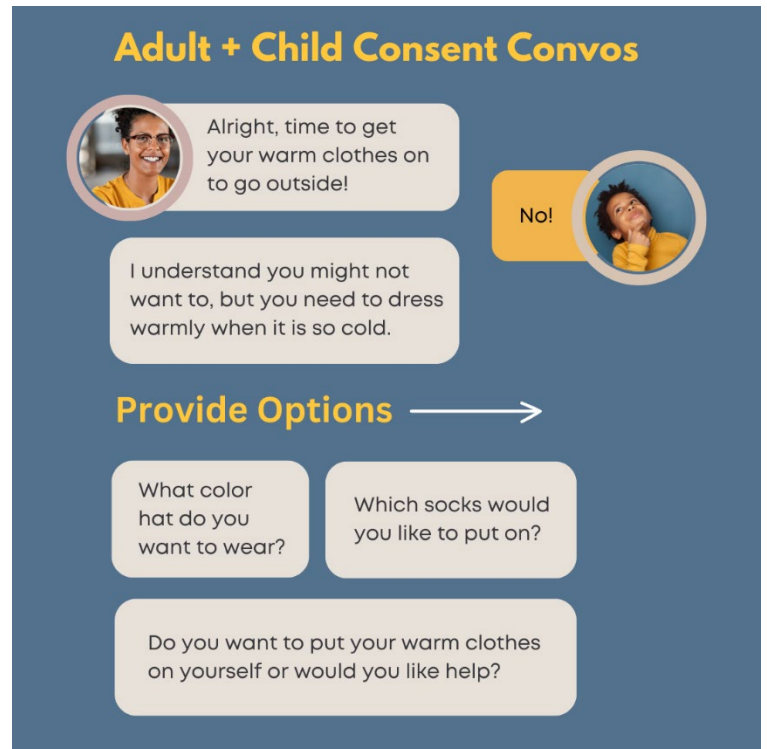
### Caption 1

As a parent to a young child, it's hard to balance honoring bodily autonomy with your responsibility to care for and keep your child safe. For example, your child may not want to have their diaper changed or be buckled into their car seat. But there are still many ways to practice consent, bodily autonomy, and boundary setting with young children. See the graphic for one example. #SAAM2024 #PreventViolence #Consent

### Caption 2

One way to make a young child feel empowered is to offer choices. Maybe they don't want to dress appropriately for school or to play outside on a cold day. You can't allow them to be unsafe—but you can still honor their bodily autonomy. Try letting them pick the color of their clothes or which silly socks they can wear. This simple practice shows they have power to make choices about their body. #SAAM2024 #PreventViolence #Consent

[Download Graphics](#)





## POST 8: CONSENT CONVOS 2

### Caption 1

Your child is constantly interacting with other children, family members, and adults. Although you may practice consent, bodily autonomy, and boundaries with your child, others may not. What should you do when you notice someone pushing your child's boundaries? Swipe for some strategies to try! #SAAM2024 #PreventViolence #Consent

### Caption 2

It is our responsibility as adults to step in when we see another adult pushing a child's boundary or not listening to their "no." These conversations aren't always easy—but they are vital to keeping kids safe. Swipe for some strategies for addressing other adults and caring for your child. #SAAM2024 #PreventViolence #Consent

[Download Graphics](#)

## Convos with Other Adults About Your Child's Bodily Autonomy

*Scenario: You overhear this conversation between your child and their grandparent.*



Come over here and give me a hug!

No but let's fist bump.



Don't you love your grandparent?

*Doesn't respond and looks uncomfortable*

If you really loved me, you would give me a hug!



## Talking to the Adult

Explain you have been teaching your child these skills.

Explain how their words/actions place an unfair burden on your child to ignore bodily autonomy to please others.

Address how loving someone doesn't include forced intimacy.

Let them know it is the role of adults to model boundary setting.

Prompt them to apologize.

## Caring For Your Child →

Check in to see how they are feeling and offer support.

Explain that their boundaries should not have been crossed and they didn't do anything wrong.

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## POST 9: CONSENT CONVOS 3

### Caption 1

A big part of building a family culture of consent is communicating boundaries and expectations to other adults—and responding firmly when those boundaries are violated. Sometimes, a family member or friend may not realize their actions can cause harm. Use those opportunities to uphold children’s boundaries.

#SAAM2024 #PreventViolence #Consent

### Caption 2

What should you do when you see another adult ignore a child’s “no”? Check out the graphic for some language to explain how you honor your boundaries and consent in your house.

#SAAM2024 #PreventViolence #Consent

[Download Graphics](#)

### Convos with Other Adults About Respecting A Child’s “No”

*Scenario: You witness tickling or rough housing in which another adult is not respecting a child’s “stop” or “no.”*



It sounds like Nick is saying stop, so we should probably stop, right?



Oh. Yeah. We were just playing. Nick, are you ok?

Ok, we want Nick to know that it’s important to stop if the person you’re playing with stays “stop.” And if Nick says “stop” we’ll always stop, too. Nick is really good at letting us know if he wants to start playing again or do something different.

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# Shared Language & Difficult Conversations

## POST 10 CONSENT & UNCOMFORTABLE CONVOS

### Caption 1

Kids often come across information, words, and ideas that may be uncomfortable or difficult to address. As a safe and trustworthy adult, you may be the first person a child goes to for answers and support. Common questions could be around sex, puberty, substances, loss of life, and much more. How you respond matters—swipe for some ideas. #SAAM2024 #PreventViolence

### Caption 2

It's important to respond to kids' questions with curiosity and openness rather than shutting down the conversation. Remember, it's okay to ask for time to think about your response or research their question. If you do, make sure to be accountable and follow up with your child. #SAAM2024 #PreventViolence

[Download Graphics](#)

## Consent and Uncomfortable Convos



*Scenario: Your child says they heard the word 'sex' on the bus ride home from school and they ask you to explain what it means.*

Tips for Responding and Problem Solving with Your Child



### Tips for Consent and Communication



Be curious and ask questions—avoid shutting down the conversation because it's difficult.

Don't be critical of the question. Your child could interpret this as you are being dismissive or not approving. It might also stop them from asking you questions in the future. They may search for answers elsewhere that could be misinformed or harmful.

Tell them you are glad that they asked this question!

If you don't feel prepared to have the conversation, ask if you can talk about it another time. This also models consent. Be sure to prepare and follow up on this conversation.

## Tips for Problem Solving →

You can also develop problem-solving skills with your youth by searching for information and resources that you have at your disposal. Search for educational and reputable sources together.

*Tip: Do this in advance to filter for any misleading or harmful content.*

Identify others your child can connect with who are trustworthy. This can be family members, educators, or community members that you already know and can count on.

## Consent and Uncomfortable Convos



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## POST 11: FORMING AGREEMENTS

### Caption 1

Talking about sexual violence in your family or community can be difficult. It's important to root those discussions in safety, respect, and consent. Here are five family or community agreements for having difficult conversations about sexual violence. #SAAM2024

### Caption 2

When we know better, we do better. Every conversation about sexual violence is an opportunity to model practices rooted in safety, respect, and consent. By creating shared agreements as a family/community, we are more equipped to have difficult conversations about violence. #SAAM2024

[Download Graphics](#)



#### AGREEMENT 1

**We will value safety, consent, and access.**

People need to feel safe in order to be vulnerable. That starts with consent. Work toward mutual agreement on the location of a difficult conversation, how you want to talk about it, and what common words you can agree on.





#### AGREEMENT 2

### We will use accessible, clear language.

Use clear and accessible language so everyone understands what is being said. Where there is misunderstanding, work to clarify and establish shared language. Consider who else is being impacted by the words you use, such as family members, community members, classmates, and victims/survivors.



#### AGREEMENT 3

### We will approach conflict with curiosity and ask questions before assuming intent.

Miscommunications may sometimes cause conflict. By allowing space for questions and encouraging curiosity, we can balance accountability with assuming the best of each other while moving through conflicts.



#### AGREEMENT 4

### We will care for ourselves and take breaks when we need them.

It's okay to ask for and take breaks from difficult conversations to care for our physical, emotional, and mental needs. By encouraging and practicing self-care, we are also promoting community care.



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FOR HAVING DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS BASED IN SAFETY, RESPECT, AND CONSENT





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## POST 12: STRATEGIES FOR DIFFICULT CONVOS

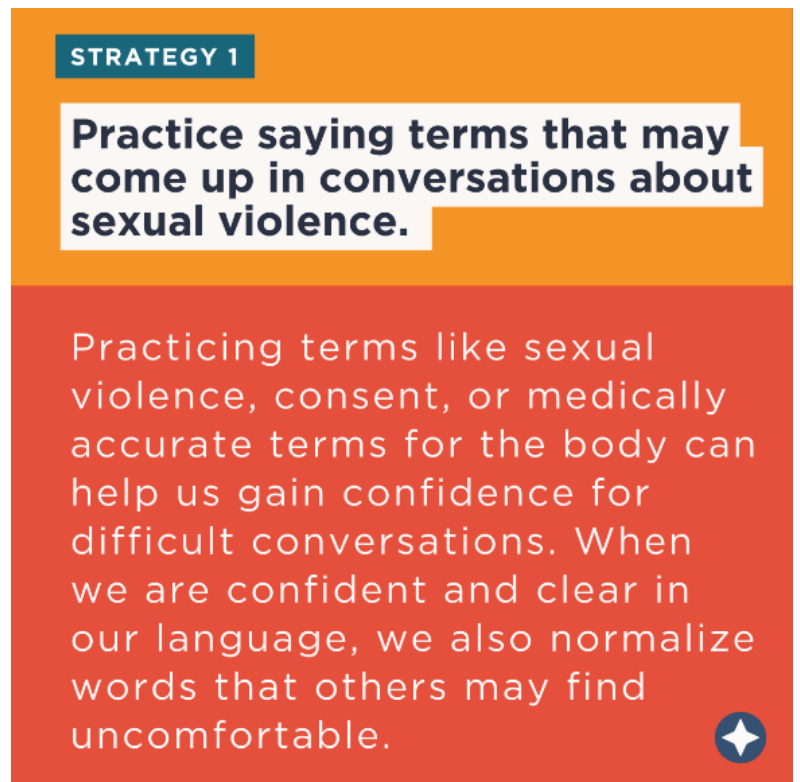
### Caption 1

It can feel like a lot to talk about sexual violence in your family or community—but these conversations are essential to preventing violence and supporting victims/survivors. It's important to set ground rules and know the difference between unsafe and just uncomfortable. Swipe for strategies to prepare for these convos. #SAAM2024

### Caption 2

Just because something is hard to talk about doesn't mean we shouldn't be talking about it. We need to have conversations about sexual violence with our families, communities, and workplaces. Here are four strategies to help equip you to tackle these conversations and be a force for positive change. #SAAM2024

[Download Graphics](#)





STRATEGY 2

**Set guidelines around conversations before they take place.**

Setting guidelines up front for the conversation can clarify expectations and prevent harm. Consider how much time you can spend on a conversation, what you are and are not okay discussing, and what language you will both agree to use.

*Example: We will balance assuming positive intent with the importance of impact over the intention.*



STRATEGY 3

**Recognize the difference between uncomfortable and unsafe.**

We resist talking about things that make us uncomfortable. Pay attention to when you are avoiding a conversation and call-in other community members when they do the same.

Remind community members of shared values, especially improving community care for survivors of sexual violence!



STRATEGY 4

**Ground yourself before, during, and after hard conversations.**

By practicing grounding activities such as deep breathing, listening to music, and other forms of mindfulness, we can have a steady body when working through difficult conversations. By prioritizing our own self-care, we can walk into challenges feeling more confident.




**4 STRATEGIES FOR**

**DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS ABOUT SEXUAL VIOLENCE**



STRATEGY 1

**Practice saying terms that may come up in conversations about sexual violence.**

Practicing terms like sexual violence, consent, or medically accurate terms for the body can help us gain confidence for difficult conversations. When we are confident and clear in our language, we also normalize words that others may find uncomfortable.



STRATEGY 2

**Set guidelines around conversations before they take place.**

Setting guidelines up front for the conversation can clarify expectations and prevent harm. Consider how much time you can spend on a conversation, what you are and are not okay discussing, and what language you will both agree to use.

*Example: We will balance assuming positive intent with the importance of impact over the intention.*



STRATEGY 3

**Recognize the difference between uncomfortable and unsafe.**

We resist talking about things that make us uncomfortable. Pay attention to when you are avoiding a conversation and call-in other community members when they do the same.

Remind community members of shared values, especially improving community care for survivors of sexual violence!



STRATEGY 4

**Ground yourself before, during, and after hard conversations.**

By practicing grounding activities such as deep breathing, listening to music, and other forms of mindfulness, we can have a steady body when working through difficult conversations. By prioritizing our own self-care, we can walk into challenges feeling more confident.



# Collective Action/Awareness After SAAM

## POST 13: PREVENTION STARTS

### Caption 1

Sexual violence prevention starts at:

- Home
- Work
- School
- Synagogue, Church, Mosque
- Community Events
- Online
- School Board Meetings
- Anywhere We Are

Strong, connected communities help to prevent violence. #SAAM2024

### Caption #2

The more connected we are, the more tools we have to prevent violence. Each sphere of our lives—each community—offers unique opportunities to create stronger relationships, build safer support structures, practice bystander intervention, and curate spaces where young people have access to trustworthy, caring adults when they feel uncomfortable or unsafe. #SAAM2024



[Download Graphics](#)

## POST 14: WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CRISIS CENTER/ADVOCACY ORG

### Caption 1

We need your support to provide life-saving, critical services to victims/survivors of violence. What can you do to help? Swipe for 5 ways you can sustain our services!

Donate: [\[link\]](#)

Volunteer: [\[link\]](#)

Upcoming Event: [\[link\]](#)

#SAAM2024 #InvestInSurvivors

### Caption 2

We can't do this work without you! Your support empowers us to provide critical, life-saving services to victims/survivors in our community. There are so many ways you can be a force for change in the community, from donating to us at [\[link\]](#) to attending our events to hosting a book club. Swipe for some ideas.

[Download Graphics](#)





## Attend our events.

### EXAMPLES

- Attend our fundraiser
- Attend our community events such as 5ks, candlelight vigils, car washes, etc.
- Invite your family and friends to join you at our events
- Share our events on social media



## Donate to sustain us.

### EXAMPLES

- Make a donation via our website
- See our most-needed donation list and make a donation



## Volunteer with us.

### EXAMPLES

- Check our website for volunteer opportunities.
- Share volunteer opportunities with friends, family, your workplace, and social media.



## Believe survivors.

### EXAMPLES

- Believe survivors.
- Believe survivors.
- Believe survivors.
- Believe survivors.





**5 WAYS TO SUPPORT**

**YOUR LOCAL RAPE CRISIS CENTER  
OR VICTIM SERVICE PROGRAM**



**Help us raise awareness.**

**EXAMPLES**

- Follow us on social media.
- Share our posts/calls to action.
- Host a book club discussion with relevant texts
- Highlight sexual violence and its impact in research and class projects



**Attend our events.**

**EXAMPLES**

- Attend our fundraiser
- Attend our community events such as 5ks, candlelight vigils, car washes, etc.
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**Donate to sustain us.**

**EXAMPLES**

- Make a donation via our website
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**Volunteer with us.**

**EXAMPLES**


- Check our website for volunteer opportunities.
- Share volunteer opportunities with friends, family, your workplace, and social media.



**Believe survivors.**

**EXAMPLES**

- Believe survivors.
- Believe survivors.
- Believe survivors.
- Believe survivors.



## POST 15: ACTION AFTER SAAM 1

### Caption 1

Sexual Assault Awareness Month is a great opportunity to talk about prevention and highlight the needs of victims/survivors of sexual violence. But our advocacy needs to continue all year. One important way you can take action after #SAAM2024 is talking to your elected officials. Swipe to learn more!

Helpful Tools:

- [Meeting with Your Legislator for Beginners](#)
- [Back to Basics Policy 101: Action Steps for Political Involvement Resource Package](#)

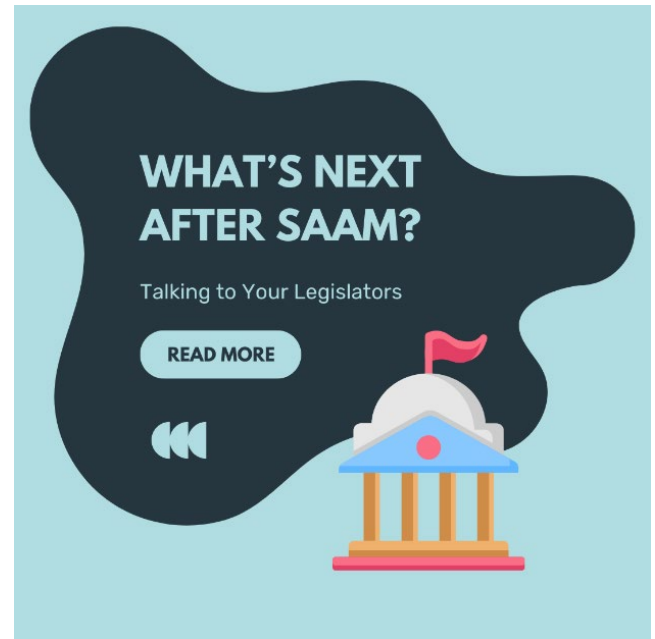
### Caption 2

Awareness months like #SAAM2024 are important because they shine a light on injustices like sexual violence—but we can't stop advocating for victims/survivors after April. The fight for justice, safety, and healing must go on.

Helpful Tools:

- [Meeting with Your Legislator for Beginners](#)
- [Back to Basics Policy 101: Action Steps for Political Involvement Resource Package](#)

[Download Graphics](#)



## SET UP A MEETING

Legislators need to understand exactly what crime victims services do for victims/survivors of violence in Minnesota. You can inform your legislators about the positive impact of victim services in your community.

**The perfect time to meet with representatives is spring/summer after the legislative session ends**

## HELPFUL TOOLS



MEETING WITH YOUR LEGISLATOR FOR BEGINNERS

See caption.

BACK TO BASICS POLICY 101: ACTION STEPS FOR POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT RESOURCE PACKAGE



See caption.

## WHAT'S NEXT AFTER SAAM?

Talking to Your Legislators

[READ MORE](#)



## WHY TALK TO YOUR LEGISLATORS?

01

State legislators make decisions that impact violence prevention and services for victims/survivors of violence.

02

Legislators are more likely to make policy and dedicate resources that benefit victims/survivors and programs if they hear from people in their districts that these issues are important.

03

Advocacy for victims/survivors requires relationship building over time. You can meet with your legislators and educate them about the importance of sexual assault resources.



## SET UP A MEETING

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## HELPFUL TOOLS



MEETING WITH YOUR  
LEGISLATOR FOR BEGINNERS

See caption.

BACK TO BASICS POLICY 101: ACTION  
STEPS FOR POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT  
RESOURCE PACKAGE



See caption.

## POST 16: ACTION AFTER SAAM 2

### Caption 1

Let's keep the momentum going after #SAAM2024! One important way you can take action after #SAAM2024 is engaging in local elections. Swipe to learn more!

Helpful Tools:

- [Meeting with Your Legislator for Beginners](#)
- [Back to Basics Policy 101: Action Steps for Political Involvement Resource Package](#)

#SAAM2024 #InvestInSurvivors

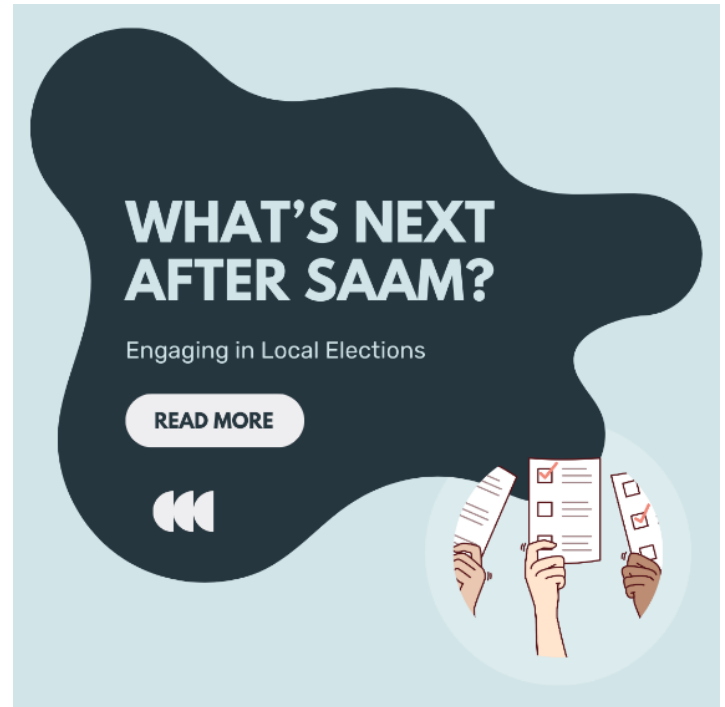
### Caption 2

Local elections matter! As a voter, you can help amplify the voices of victims/survivors and ask questions to understand how candidates would prioritize the needs of victims/survivors. Take action after #SAAM2024 by getting involved in local election. Swipe to learn more!

Helpful Tools:

- [Voting Support](#)
- [Survivors Vote: By the Issues Guide](#)
- [Offices Up for Election Tool](#)

[Download Graphics](#)



## WHY LOCAL ELECTIONS?

01

Election season offers lots of opportunities for people to ask candidates questions. Use those questions to highlight the needs of victims/survivors and decide which candidates will best serve victims/survivors in office.

02

Individuals can engage in volunteerism for candidates and make donations to candidates. 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations like us cannot make endorsements, donations, or work on behalf of candidates.

03

You can help amplify the voices of victims/survivors and ask questions to understand how candidates would prioritize the needs of victims/survivors.

## LEARN WHAT OFFICES ARE UP FOR ELECTION

- Use this tool to find out more about the elections in your area: [sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/whats-on-my-ballot](https://sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/whats-on-my-ballot)
- A sample ballot may not be available for all local elections.
- You may need to contact the local government (city, town or school district) holding the election.

## ATTEND COMMUNITY FORUMS + TOWNHALLS

- Visit candidate websites and watch/read your local news to determine when there are candidate forums in your area.

## POSSIBLE CANDIDATE QUESTIONS TO ASK:

- What experience do you have working with victims/survivors of sexual violence?
- In our county last year, there were X reported sexual assaults. Only 21% of victims/survivors of sexual violence report. If elected, what will you do to address the epidemic of sexual violence in our community?
- Do you think our local law enforcement does a good job of handling sexual violence cases? Why?
- If elected, do you commit to fully supporting the needs of [name of program]?

*Share a personal story about the impact that sexual violence services on your life.*

## HELPFUL TOOLS



### VOTING SUPPORT

See caption.

### SURVIVORS VOTE: BY THE ISSUES GUIDE

See caption.



## WHAT'S NEXT AFTER SAAM?

Engaging in Local Elections

READ MORE



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## HELPFUL TOOLS



### VOTING SUPPORT

See caption.

### SURVIVORS VOTE: BY THE ISSUES GUIDE

See caption.



## POST 17: ACTION AFTER SAAM 3

### Caption 1

What can you do to support survivors of violence after #SAAM2024? Local agencies such as school boards and city councils have a lot of power to create survivor-supportive policies. Here's some ways to engage with them!

Helpful Tools:

- [Meeting with Your Legislator for Beginners](#)
- [Back to Basics Policy 101: Action Steps for Political Involvement Resource Package](#)

#SAAM2024 #InvestInSurvivors

### Caption 2

Change doesn't only happen at the local level. Agencies in your community—such as city councils and school boards—make decisions, policies, and budgets that impact victims/survivors. Learn more about how you can connect with local agencies and take action after #SAAM2024:

Helpful Tools:

- [Voting Support](#)
- [Survivors Vote: By the Issues Guide](#)
- [Offices Up for Election Tool](#)

[Download Graphics](#)



## WHY FOCUS ON LOCAL OFFICIALS?

01

While State and Federal legislators have power to make decisions that impact victims/survivors of violence, local agencies also have a lot of power.

02

You can engage with your local agencies to advocate for the needs of victims/survivors.

## SCHOOL BOARDS

- School boards make decisions relevant to sexual violence prevention and services for victims/survivors.
- Ask your school district members to meet with you to discuss issues or changes.
- Talk to your school board about comprehensive sex education and sexual violence prevention.

## CITY COUNCILS

- Local city councils direct city agencies and make city policy related to the needs of victims/survivors.
- Talk to your city council about:
  - a. Law enforcement response to sexual violence
  - b. Local services available for victims/survivors of sexual violence

## HELPFUL TOOLS



A GUIDE TO MULTI-LEVEL POLICY CHANGE  
See caption.

HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR CITY COUNCIL OFFICIALS

See caption.



IDENTIFY YOUR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS  
See caption.

## WHAT'S NEXT AFTER SAAM?

Connecting with Local Agencies to Effect Change

READ MORE



## WHY FOCUS ON LOCAL OFFICIALS?

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See caption.

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See caption.



IDENTIFY YOUR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS  
See caption.



# Have a great SAAM 2024!

Questions about this toolkit?

[Contact Us](#)

