

CONVERSATION MATERIAL FOR INFORMATION ON HONOUR-RELATED OPPRESSION AND VIOLENCE

1. Explain that you will now talk about honour-related oppression and violence, and that you will start by watching a film about it. Explain that the film will include drawings of naked bodies.

2. Watch the film together.

3. Explain that you will now discuss the topic together, and that the participants may ask questions. Feel free to let the participants themselves decide what the conversation focuses on. Below are examples of questions for discussion that you may use.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- Ask the participants to summarize what they thought the film dealt with – was there anything unexpected, new or interesting?
- Summarize together:
 - What is violence? (Discuss various kinds of violence)
 - What is honour-related oppression and violence?
 - What might it look like?
 - Who may be subjected to honour-related oppression and violence?
 - What can the spreading of rumours result in for the person who is living in an honour-based society?
- The concept of a girl having to be “a virgin” until she marries is central in the context of honour. This often results in girls being controlled by their family/relatives. How can violence and oppression in the name of honour be counteracted? How can you support a person who has been subjected to this?
- There is a myth claiming that there is a membrane inside the vagina that ruptures the first time a woman has sexual intercourse, which then bleeds. This is not true. It does not show whether a person has had sexual intercourse or not. Why does this myth exist?
- How do norms and expectations for girls and boys differ in the context of honour?
- How might it feel for a boy to be forced to “be responsible” for their sisters or female relatives? How can support be given to a young boy in this situation?
- Children are entitled to make decisions regarding their own lives. For example, they have the right to choose their partners, and the right to privacy. What are the limits on a parent making decisions on behalf of their children?
- What kind of support is there in society for persons living under the context of honour? What can make it easier or more difficult to ask for support and speak up about one’s own situation?



IMPORTANT TO DISCUSS:

- Honour-related oppression and violence appears different to different people. All restrictions on the individual’s right to make decisions regarding their own lives, their own body and their own sexuality is a violation of human rights.
- Girls and women and LGBTQI-people are the most vulnerable in the context of honour. But boys and men can also be victims. People with disabilities are also particularly vulnerable.
- What can make it easier or more difficult to ask for support, and to speak up about one’s own situation? Concern that it will not help, that the situation can get worse, or a feeling of being let down by one’s family may all affect the decision to speak up. It may be necessary to talk about these thoughts. One may e.g. turn to the school, youth-friendly clinic or special organisations that work with this issue.

RFSU was founded in 1933 and is a pioneering Swedish organisation working in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

RFSU is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation without party-political, trade union or religious affiliation. Our aim is to spread a knowledge-based and open view of sexuality and relationships issues to overcome prejudices, bridge knowledge gaps and improve sexual health and wellbeing. We run projects and programmes to promote access to sexual and reproductive health and rights — both in Sweden and internationally. Much of this work is done with partners and other organisations. RFSU has a rights perspective of sexuality based on everyone's freedom to be what they want to be, to choose to live as they want and enjoy what they want. The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) was founded by RFSU and other actors, and RFSU remains IPPF's Swedish member association

**You can read more about RFSU's activities at
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