

Stop it Before it Happens



Strengthening The Family

A Cultural Based Approach to Child Sexual Abuse Prevention

Purpose Statement:

Present a culturally sensitive approach to sexual abuse prevention. Word and Action's program, "Strengthening the Family" aims to prevent and/or decrease occurrence of sexual abuse within the Haitian community.

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WORD & ACTION, INC.
"Hear The Silent Cries"



You Don't Have to
go Through it Alone

There is
HELP



STRENGTHENING THE FAMILY

A Cultural Based Approach to Child Sexual Abuse Prevention

Vision:

Culture plays a very important role in the recovery of sexually abused victims. For instance, a person's ability to cope with sexual abuse may differ depending on his/her culture and environment. Further, parents' behaviors and attitudes toward sexual abuse incidents may have significant impacts on the children's recovery process.

Child Sexual Abuse

Is a Taboo Subject

Based on our observations and reports from numerous clinicians and health care professionals, in general, Haitian parents seem to have more difficulties dealing with sexual abuse. Sexual education seems to be less prominent within the Haitian culture. Like in many cultures, sex is taboo and almost unspoken within the typical Haitian family. Because of the aforementioned, sexual incidents seem to be unreported, ignored, and totally repressed. The complexity of the Haitian culture may prevent, both children and their parents to openly deal with sexual abuse, which sometimes may lead to revictimization.

It Hurts Badly



Furthermore, the Haitian community is underserved when it comes to social services. Many reasons may explain this lack of service delivery. One of them may be the fact that numbers of clinicians and professionals may not be culturally competent when it comes to the Haitians.

It is generally expected for clinicians and health care professionals to be culturally competent in order to accurately diagnose and effectively treat clients of different ethnic background and culture. Thus, knowledge of the Haitian culture, mentality, and perception may help clinicians to accurately diagnose and effectively serve this particular demographic.

Because of the aforementioned, we have found it important and useful to develop a curriculum/program that is culturally sensitive in terms of strategies and approach to sexual abuse. It comprises of three major categories: **Prevention, Education, and Treatment**. It is worth noting that our curriculum includes "**Cultural Competence Training**" for clinicians and professionals who are providing services to Haitian clients.

DISCLAIMER:

CHILDREN AND ADULTS DEPICTED IN THIS BROCHURE ARE VOLUNTEER MODELS AND NOT ACTUAL VICTIMS. WE THANK THEM FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION AND THE PARENTS WHO GAVE US PERMISSION TO USE THEIR PICTURES.

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NO MORE SILENCE