

The History of Sexual Assault Awareness Month

FACILITATION GUIDE

Description: In this program, participants will learn about the history of sexual assault prevention and advocacy in the United States. This program will explore both the prevalence of sexual violence in the U.S. today and how this is related to Alpha Chi Omega's philanthropy of domestic violence awareness. Participants will increase their awareness and understanding of the scope of sexual assault awareness and prevention work to inform their chapter efforts for Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Learning Objectives:

As a result of participating in this program, participants will be able to...

- Identify the origins of sexual assault prevention and advocacy work in the United States (Network of support and learning)
- Identify the importance of sexual assault awareness and prevention (Sense of responsibility for others)
- Explain why sexual assault awareness and prevention are related to Alpha Chi Omega's philanthropic mission (Network of support and learning)

Facilitator: Vice president philanthropy, chapter president, alumnae officer or other experienced facilitator

Audience: Members of a collegiate or alumnae chapter

Space: A meeting space, virtual or in person, that allows for small groups and pairs to discuss topics comfortably

Duration: 30 minutes

Materials Needed:

- The History of Sexual Assault Awareness Month PowerPoint, located on the Programs with Purpose webpage in the Resource Center of alphachiomega.org

Preparation:

- Be familiar with the program and concepts discussed prior to facilitation.
- Review national resources and insert local resources where needed.
- Prepare the program PowerPoint per session needs.


Follow-up: Be sure that every facilitator and participant of this program completes the Programs with Purpose feedback survey!

It is very important that we receive feedback for each of our Alpha Chi Omega programs to continue to improve our resources. This survey is designed to lead the facilitator and participant through questions relevant to their own experience, so the same link can be used for both parties.

Survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/D9BSHRS>

Note: In the left column of the facilitation guide below, the number to the left is the amount of time the facilitator will spend on that section of the program. The number on the right is the amount of time that has currently elapsed in the entire program.

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5/5	<p>INTRODUCTION</p> <p> <i>Set up PowerPoint, Slide 1: Title</i></p> <p><i>Introduce yourself and share a little about the chapter’s recent work for the local domestic violence shelter, crisis center or service provider.</i></p> <p>Alpha Chi Omega’s national philanthropy is domestic violence awareness.</p> <p>In this philanthropic work, our goal is not only to raise awareness about domestic violence and promote healthy relationships, but also to provide</p>
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resources and tools to educate about sexual assault and violence. Since the early 2000s, April has been nationally recognized as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and Alpha Chi Omega is proud to support this with our own programs, events and advocacy.

Today, we are going to spend a little bit of time learning about the history of Sexual Assault Awareness Month and why sexual assault prevention education is still so important today.

Before we begin, I want to share the following warning about the content of my presentation today:

 *Slide 2: Trigger Warning*

Today's program will focus on sexual assault awareness-related topics including the statistics surrounding populations of survivors and the history of sexual assault prevention and advocacy efforts in the United States. Some of the program may be emotionally and intellectually challenging to engage with. We completely understand that the program may be triggering for some members.



We hope Sexual Assault Awareness Month is a positive education tool for all and it is positively adding to the membership experience and not causing undue harm.



Please feel free to leave the program at any time if needed and utilize the resources shared on the following slide.

  *Slide 3: Local and National Resources for Survivors*

In advance of the program, gather contact information from different local resources and edit the PowerPoint where the pencil icon (above) appears.

This reference list may already exist, created by the college/university or your local community. If you are unaware of your local resources, you can search for them at raliance.org/rape-crisis-centers or metoomvmt.org/explore-healing/resource-library.

	<p>Our local sexual assault resource center is: <i>Speak about local resources shared.</i></p> <p>What they do to support survivors is: <i>Speak about their specific support services.</i></p> <p>On a national level, Alpha Chi Omega has worked to bring awareness to this issue by becoming the first sorority partner of the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network in 2018.</p> <p>RAINN operates the National Sexual Assault Hotline, where its volunteers offer support 24/7 to survivors and their loved ones. Whether you're looking for support, advice or a referral, you can contact RAINN at 800-656-HOPE or chat online with a trained support specialist.</p> <p>Now that we know the resources available, let's dive into the history of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.</p>
<p>7/12</p>	<p>UNDERSTANDING THE ISSUE</p> <p> <i>Slide 4: In order to advocate for a better future...</i></p> <p>In order for us to serve as the best advocates for a future free from violence, we have to first understand our current realities and the past that led us to this point.</p> <p>As members of Alpha Chi Omega advocating for all victims and survivors of violence, it can be helpful to understand the scope of the issue.</p> <p> <i>Slide 5: The Present</i></p> <p>According to our national partners at RAINN, one in six American women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime. These statistics increase when you look just at college-aged women ages 18-24.</p>

	<p>If you feel comfortable sharing, by raising your hand, how many of you know someone who has experienced sexual assault or other sexual violence?</p> <p><i>Thank participants for sharing.</i></p> <p>As you can see, this is a widespread issue and deserves our time, attention and advocacy. We all have a role to play in making our community safer.</p> <p> <i>Slide 6: Sexual assault is not just a women's issue.</i></p> <p>It is important to note that sexual assault is not just a women's issue. According to RAINN, 21% of TGQN (transgender, queer, nonconforming) college students have been sexually assaulted, compared to 18% of non-TGQN females and 4% of non-TGQN males. Additionally, one out of every 10 rape victims is male.</p> <p>It can feel overwhelming when confronted with these statistics, so don't forget that you can use the resources shared at the beginning of the program for additional support. I share all of this to show you just how many people can be positively impacted by our work as Alpha Chi Omegas during April and beyond. It is important to understand the scope of the issue to build a personal connection to our philanthropic mission.</p> <p>What connects you to our philanthropic work as Alpha Chi Omegas?</p> <p><i>Encourage participants to share with the person next to them and then take a few responses from the group.</i></p>
<p>13/25</p>	<p>UNDERSTANDING THE HISTORY</p> <p> <i>Slide 7: The Past</i></p>


It is so great to hear about each of your connections to this cause. Sexual Assault Awareness Month has been formally recognized since 2001, but the roots of this movement actually go back into the early 1900s.

Organizing for equal rights started to gain momentum in the 1940s and 1950s, and advocacy for protections against sexual violence was part of these early movements.

 *Slide 8: Did you know?*

In fact, did you know that Rosa Parks actually got her start in activism organizing against sexual violence with the NAACP in 1944, well before her famous bus boycott in 1955? It's true! Much of the early activism for protections against sexual violence and justice for survivors coincided with the Civil Rights Movement and was led by Black women and other women of color. This movement transformed in the 1970s with the creation of the nation's first rape crisis center offering immediate victim services, Bay Area Women Against Rape, in 1971. States began forming coalitions, and groups began organizing events and advocating for legal protections.

The Violence Against Women Act was the first national law requiring law enforcement to treat gender violence as a crime rather than a private family matter.


 *Slide 9: VAWA Quiz*

Does anyone know when the Violence Against Women Act became law?

- A. 1978**
- B. 1991**
- C. 1994**
- D. 2001**

The answer is C) 1994! This law has since been reauthorized several times and is currently up for reauthorization again after expiring in 2019.

It was around this time in the 1990s that Alpha Chi Omega took up domestic violence awareness as our national philanthropy.

 *Slide 10: Alpha Chi Omega and DVA*

The 1992 Alpha Chi Omega National Convention marked the adoption of domestic violence awareness as our national philanthropy. Ever since, we have been working to fight against unhealthy relationships and build healthy relationships.

Share the history of any chapter-specific initiatives here. Examples may include events the chapter has hosted over the years or organizations that have benefitted from chapter fundraising.



 *Slide 11: The Creation of SAAM*

In 2000, the newly formed National Sexual Violence Resource Center collected data on various sexual violence coalitions and prevention efforts. In April of 2001, they launched SAAM as we know it today, teal ribbons and all! If you are interested in learning more about this history, the NSVRC has great resources available on their website, linked via QR code.

Since 2001, efforts have expanded from increasing awareness about the issue to providing education on healthy sexuality, consent and bystander intervention. The only person responsible for committing sexual assault is a perpetrator, but all of us can look out for each other and make a difference for survivors.

If you have additional programs like Challenging Bystander Behavior or other educational events coming up, share that information with chapter members here.

As you know, throughout the year we will have chapter activities and campus events that incorporate domestic violence awareness. I encourage

	<p>you to fully engage in these activities and to share your thoughts on how to improve existing activities or events or what new ideas we can try.</p> <p><i>Share additional suggestions for getting involved with your philanthropic endeavors.</i></p>
<p>5/30</p>	<p>CLOSING</p> <p> <i>Slide 12: What will you do?</i></p> <p>I want to reemphasize how important it is to understand the history and current realities of this issue to advocate for a better future.</p> <p>What do you feel empowered to do this month to support survivors, educate others or otherwise take action to end sexual violence in our community?</p> <p><i>Take two to three responses from participants. Thank participants for engaging.</i></p> <p> <i>Slide 13: Thank you!</i></p> <p><i>Before participants leave, ask them to complete the program evaluation accessible by the QR code on the PowerPoint.</i></p>

SAMPLE TRIGGER WARNING EMAIL TEMPLATE

During our [insert type of] meeting on [insert date, time], we will be honoring Sexual Assault Awareness Month by having a discussion about the history of SAAM!

This program will focus on sexual assault awareness topics including the statistics surrounding populations of survivors and the history of sexual assault prevention and advocacy efforts in the United States. Some of the program may be emotionally and intellectually challenging to engage with. We completely understand that the program may be triggering for some members.

We hope Sexual Assault Awareness Month is a positive education tool for all and it is positively adding to the membership experience and not causing undue harm.

There is no penalty for not attending the program. If you do feel like this may be triggering for you, please let me know if you are not able to attend.

REFERENCES:

[HTTPS://WWW.RAINN.ORG/STATISTICS/VICTIMS-SEXUAL-VIOLENCE](https://www.rainn.org/statistics/victims-sexual-violence)

[HTTPS://WWW.NSVRC.ORG/SAAM/HISTORY](https://www.nsvrc.org/saam/history)

[HTTPS://WWW.NSVRC.ORG/BLOGS/HOW-WE-GOT-HERE-HISTORY-SEXUAL-ASSAULT-AWARENESS-MONTH](https://www.nsvrc.org/blogs/how-we-got-here-history-sexual-assault-awareness-month)