



OXFAM STORY DISCUSSION GUIDE

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2014

Oxfam is a global movement for change. We empower individuals, communities and organizations to build a future free from the injustice of poverty, where the rights of women and girls are promoted and respected.

This discussion guide is intended for use with Oxfam's [six true-life stories](#). Read through these short stories and bring together a group of friends or colleagues to learn more about violence against women and the ways in which violence can be stopped.

Oxfam believes that promoting women's rights requires a number of different strategies. Our work addresses formal (institutional), informal (social), individual and collective challenges to women's rights. We work to build a culture of equality, empower and transform individuals, and fight to ensure that systems and structures act in support of women's rights.

To learn more about Oxfam's work on Violence against Women, [read our global briefing note](#) and see details about [our work with partner organizations](#).

To learn more about Oxfam's work, visit www.oxfam.ca

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are examples of violence against women that you identified in one or more of the stories?
2. Was there one form of violence that was more prominent than others across the stories? Why do you think that is?
3. What were some of the similarities or differences between the women experiencing violence?
4. What are some examples you saw of people standing up to violence?
5. In the stories ***On the Road to Justice*** and ***People Now Know*** laws are discussed as a way to defend women's rights. What do you think could be done to ensure legislation is successfully used to defend women's rights?
6. In the stories ***Jacoba is now a feminist*** and ***Theatre after the Tsunami*** different people talk about their attitudes about violence and women's roles changing. Why do you think that happened in each of the stories – was it for the same reasons or different ones?
7. What are some examples from these two stories of tools that communities have used to change attitudes and beliefs about women's roles?
8. What are some simple actions you can think of that you could do to help change attitudes about women's roles and rights in your community?
9. Both stories ***A Brighter Future*** and ***Hope and Determination*** speak about issues of sex and sexuality. What is your understanding of sexual and reproductive rights in the context of these stories?

Discuss and then compare with this definition:

“The human rights of women include their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence. Equal relationships between women and men in matters of sexual relations and reproduction, including full respect for the integrity of the person, require mutual respect, consent and shared responsibility for sexual behaviour and its consequences.”

Paragraph 96, Beijing Platform for Action, 1995

Do you think there are things missing from this definition that should be included? Why or why not? Why is a definition of sexual rights important to end violence against women?

10. Considering what people did in the stories, what things could you do in your community to stand up against violence against women?