



## EDUCATE

Education is often the first step in making a difference. We encourage you to watch *The Silent Partner* with your friends, family members, and colleagues. You can educate others by using the film in trainings, presentations, conferences, and the classroom. Another way to educate others is by hosting a screening. Because gender stereotypes—and HIV and AIDS—have an impact on all our lives, we can all benefit from seeing *The Silent Partner*.

Talking about the issues presented in the film plays an important role in understanding the messages of *The Silent Partner* and encouraging viewers to challenge some of the beliefs they hold about gender relations and norms. Discussion questions have been included to help start the conversation:

- 1 How does the film make you feel? What is your initial response to the film? What quotes or images stuck with you?
- 2 What do you think are the main messages of this film?
- 3 Does a married woman's status make her more vulnerable to HIV infection? Why or why not?
- 4 How have stereotypes about the way a man should act put men at risk for infection?
- 5 How have stereotypes about the way a woman should act put women at risk for infection?
- 6 Does a woman have the right to say no to sex? What if she is married or is in a long-term relationship? Does the inability to refuse sex put women at higher risk for infection?
- 7 Should a married woman have the right to request her partner use a condom? Why or why not?
- 8 Is it expected or acceptable for a man to have sex outside of his marriage or cohabiting relationship? Are there situations in which it is acceptable for a man to have sex with a partner other than his wife? Does the same apply to women?
- 9 How does a woman's HIV-positive status impact her husband? Her children? How does a man's HIV-positive status impact his wife? His children?
- 10 In what ways are the consequences of HIV-positive status different for married women and men?

Visit [www.silentpartnerfilm.com](http://www.silentpartnerfilm.com) to download promotional posters and factsheet; watch the “extras” video clips; and get tips on hosting a screening.

Don't forget to inform PAI about your screening—it is important to us to know how the documentary is being used! The website offers a place to invite others to your screening and share your experiences—go to the “Act” section.

## ADVOCATE

Are you inspired to take action after watching the film? There are several ways to make a difference and advocate for positive change. Additional information about and examples of each of the methods below are available on the “Act” section of the website.

- 1 Blogs are a tool for citizen journalists or advocates to share their opinions, report on news, and much more! The internet has expanded the opportunity to report on issues—whether to your friends and family or to the world. If you have a blog, we encourage you to write about the film and the important issues it highlights. If you do, let us know so that we can link to your article on the PAI Blog.

If you don't have your own blog, comment on or write for other blogs. You can also comment on online versions of local papers and web-based issue forums.

- 2 Writing a “Letter to the Editor” is a terrific way to share your opinion, educate your community, move others to action and support important issues. Government officials and other influential members of your community read Letters to the Editor.

- TIPS**
- Look up the contact information for your chosen publication
  - Note the submission criteria
  - Keep it short!
  - If possible, refer to a relevant recent or current article in the publication

- 3 Communicating directly with government officials is an important way to influence policy. Whether it is to local officials, parliamentarians, or the Prime Minister, writing a letter (or email) is a way to directly communicate with your political leaders. We encourage you to actively participate in your government and make your voice heard to improve policies.

- TIPS**
- Pick your topic
  - Choose an official
  - Look up the contact information
  - Use a formal letter format
  - Start with your most important point
  - Support it with a couple of paragraphs
  - Be polite and concise

- 4 Press releases are a fundamental tool in public relations. In this case, it could be that your group is going to host a screening or an event. Or you could release a statement about your position on an issue (such as “Group Asks Parliament for Increased Funding for Reproductive Health and HIV Prevention Services”).

- TIPS**
- Start with the main points—who, what, when, where and why
  - Use “announcement” style—concise, to-the-point (but catchy) language
  - Include a quote from someone within your organization or community
  - Write the headline with keywords from your main point

Further tips and information are on the “Act” section of the website.

## STAY INFORMED

Find out the latest news and information on what PAI and our partners are doing to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights globally. There are many ways to keep up-to-date on the issues and our work:

- Join PAI's email list: signup at [www.populationaction.org](http://www.populationaction.org)
- Become a fan or friend of PAI on Facebook, MySpace and Change.org:
  - [www.populationaction.org/facebook](http://www.populationaction.org/facebook)
  - [www.myspace.org/populationaction](http://www.myspace.org/populationaction)
  - [www.change.org/populationaction](http://www.change.org/populationaction)
- Visit PAI's channel on YouTube to watch more video clips—you can subscribe to our channel or become a friend at [www.youtube.com/paiwdc](http://www.youtube.com/paiwdc)

## DONATE

**Contribute to PAI's International Advocacy Small Grant Fund to help support organizations like those featured in *The Silent Partner*. Learn how you can donate to help women and their families at [www.silentpartnerfilm.com](http://www.silentpartnerfilm.com)!**