

*Sexual Assault
Awareness Month Packet*

**INDIVIDUAL
MEMBERS**



Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence

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#EMBRACEYOURVOICEOHIO

This April, we'll ask you to Embrace Your Voice! We'll ask you to dig even deeper than you already do, to think about the many ways that survivors speak out (or don't), and how we can continue working to be supportive of these different journeys and approaches to healing and justice.



How You Can Use This Resource

Throughout this packet, you'll find various tools for brainstorming and planning how you can engage with your community during this year's Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

We hope these tools will allow you to spark conversations in your communities with the ultimate goal of serving and supporting survivors, engaging co-survivors and community members, and raising funds to support the sustainability of local programs in your area. In this packet, you'll find some examples of what we've created for you, and on the [member portal](#) of our website you can access and download all the files.

These tools have the capability of connecting us in solidarity all across Ohio, linked by our commitment to ending sexual violence. Toward the end of the month, we also have the opportunity to be in community with one another virtually for our annual [Advocacy Day](#), where #TheTimeIsNow to engage our legislators—and each other—in deep discussions about our state's needs!

Mark Your Calendars

- SAAM Kickoff Webinar, 4/1
 - Join us for a webinar to kick off SAAM! Save the date and watch out for more information.
- SAAM Day of Action, 4/7
 - You know it—you'll never see more teal than on April 7th! Break out all of your favorite teal items, share some photos and videos on social media (don't forget #EmbraceYourVoice), and, when the time is right, engage in discussions about the realities of sexual violence in Ohio.
- OAESV Advocacy Day Prep Webinar!, 4/15
 - We're very excited to connect with you to talk all about Advocacy Day! Come find out all that you need to know in order to make sure we all get the support we need from the Ohio legislature—#TheTimeIsNow!
 - Registration information coming soon. Please note that if you are registering to attend Advocacy Day, it's very important for you to attend this webinar or to watch the recording. Let's all get on the same page so we can be even more powerful at the statehouse!

- Gear Up for Advocacy Day, 4/20—4/22
 - In the days leading up to our time with legislators, join us online and share posts on your social media pages that represent your responses to these prompts. Be sure to tag us and use #EmbraceYourVoice!
 - Monday, 4/20 and Tuesday, 4/21
 - What does it mean to you to #EmbraceYourVoice?
 - If you're participating in OAESV's Advocacy Day on Wednesday, how will you use that to #EmbraceYourVoice?
 - Wednesday, 4/22 (Advocacy Day!)
 - Share a picture of yourself taking part in virtual Advocacy Day! This can be at your desk or computer, outside in your SAAM t-shirt, etc. Just because we're not together in space doesn't mean we aren't together in spirit. You can also tweet throughout the day to keep your friends up-to-date on the most impactful parts of your experience. Include #EmbraceYourVoice, #TheTimeIsNow, and maybe an original hashtag created by you!
- Denim Day, 4/29
 - Join the national moment! For over 21 years, supporters have engaged in wearing jeans as a form of protest against an all-too-common issue of victim blaming. According to DenimDayInfo.org, this came after "a rape conviction was overturned because the justices felt that since the victim was wearing tight jeans, she must have helped the person who raped her remove her jeans, thereby implying consent." You can use this as an opportunity to have expanded discussions about the various ways survivors face victim blaming, and provide your community with proper responses to disclosures of sexual assault. Again, use your creativity in incorporating your denim while social distancing.

Now, Mark *Our* Calendars, Please!

Are you holding online events throughout SAAM? Fill out [this form](#), and we'll add your event to our [promo calendar](#) that we'll share throughout the month. This gives people all over Ohio a chance to find a space where they can in this powerful month of encouraging the

The form is titled "SAAM 2020 -- Ohio Events" and includes the text: "Are you holding an event in Ohio to honor Sexual Assault Awareness Month? Let us know so we can add it to our events calendar and share it far and wide!". It contains two questions:

1. What kind of organization are you? *

- Rape crisis center
- Systems-based program
- Community group
- Statewide organization
- Other

2. What is the title of your event? *

provide support and participate raising awareness and prevention of sexual violence.

Share Away!

We love the amazing content provided by the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (seriously, [check it out](#) if you haven't!). But we thought you might also want some Ohio-specific material to share online. Consider scheduling posts using the content we've created; this can help your followers understand what's going on in Ohio and how we can join together as a state against sexual violence. You'll see some examples of the posts below, and all you have to do is go to the [member portal](#) of our website to download the materials you need. We've got everything ready to go with some posts covering the following topics:

- General "April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month" graphic as well as a graphic giving some context around the meaning of SAAM
- Ohio-specific statistics
- Ohio legislation that's relevant to survivors
- Impactful quotes that we hope will inspire our communities
- Definitions of common verbiage used in relation to sexual violence

Example of content available

Image (for Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook):



Suggested Caption: April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month! Watch my page to find out more about sexual violence in Ohio and how you can help me end it. #EmbraceYourVoice #TheTimeIsNow

Frame Your Message

SAAM is a great time to take advantage of the fun tools provided by the various social media platforms. You can utilize hashtags on all platforms, fun story tools on Instagram, and even use the custom photo frames created by your local rape crisis center (and by us)! If you want to show support and use ours, just click here: [Profile Frame](#) – [Story Frame](#).

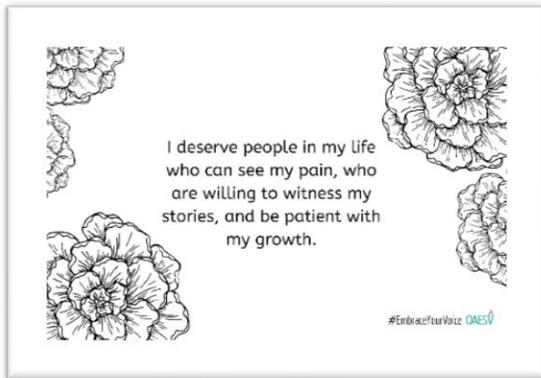


#SAAM Affirmation Coloring Cards

It's no accident that these designs involve plants—we're excited to provide this reminder of the theme of our upcoming Annual Conference, "Restoring Our Roots: Accountability. Bravery. Community." We hope you can:

- Share with survivors, co-survivors, and advocates as a self-care activity
- Make extended use of them by using your finished design as a bookmark
- Post them on social media to start a discussion (after all, that's what SAAM's all about!)

We've included one printed copy of each of the cards, but feel free to download and print as many copies as you'd like to share with your community. These are particularly important right now as many folks are looking for healthy coping mechanisms as they spend a lot of time at home.



An Opportunity to Fundraise

During SAAM, many people want to know how they can help. There are various ways they can take part in this movement to support survivors and end sexual violence, including volunteering, learning more about advocacy and prevention, sharing knowledge with their family and friends, and more. Another important way that people can help is by donating money or items to their local programs. Don't be shy! This is a real need, and all you need to do is tell your friends about why this issue is important to you and why their local program deserves their support. Their dollars have a huge impact! Connect with their humanity by thinking about the reasons why you care, why you're an OAESV member, and why you know this is a worthy cause. Using the Facebook donate features are a really great way to do this! If you need any technical assistance on this, don't hesitate to reach out to communications@oaesv.org.

Engage!

We hope you have multiple opportunities to engage with survivors, advocates, co-survivors, community members, and partners during SAAM. Social media can be extremely helpful and a powerful way to facilitate discussions and to share information. Consider these ideas for content:

- Write and post blogs that show why this cause is important to you
- Highlight the ways you're involved in the anti-sexual violence movement
- Suggest ways that your friends and community members can act against sexual violence
- Suggest effective, empathetic ways to respond when hearing someone disclose that they're a survivor of sexual violence
- Explain what it means to you to #EmbraceYourVoice
- Tell your friends about your local rape crisis program
- Use our hashtags to see how many people we can connect across Ohio – #EmbraceYourVoice and #TheTimeIsNow – and create your own that are specific to your community!

And most important of all, prepare. You are very likely to see an increase in questions and discussions on SV overall during SAAM. And this is what we want, right?! But be sure you're prepared for that influx and brush up on advocacy best practices as well as self-care so that you can help your friends, family, and other community members understand this broad issue.

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