

# the smallest steps

Screening Activities, Actions,  
& Discussion Questions

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Filmed on unceded Algonquin Territory  
2018–2021



# Take Action to End Violence Against Women (VAW)

the  
smallest  
steps

**So you're screening *the smallest steps*?** This is great news! We're excited that you're sharing our very important film with others. Since our film is all about taking action, we've compiled a list of activities you can do before and after you've watched the film!

## Actions / activities **PRIOR** to screening the film:

- Share information on anti-violence services, events, & resources.
- Facilitate online conversations about healthy relationships
- (With permission) share / uplift survivor stories
- Send a press release engage the media
- Partner with organizations beyond the anti-violence sector (e.g. affinity groups) to expand the reach of your message
- Host an anti-violence training session (online or in person) on activism tactics, healthy relationships, VAW warning signs, etc.
- Establish an (in)formal activist mentorship program & collect applications. Announce the mentorship pairs at the screening
- Ask locals to nominate an inspiring community activist & give out a ChangeMaker or Shero award at the screening.
- Run a contest or hackathon for marketing agencies in support of anti-violence orgs. Announce the winner at the screening.
- Start a #RoleModelAlert accountability chain online where participants nominate others whose activism inspires them.
- Run an art challenge & encourage (Instagram) artists to create and share art based on activism or ending VAW.
- Promote letter-writing campaigns & make it easy for folks to send their emails / letters (i.e. prepare a template for them!)

*"For every hockey player that gets a concussion, **7000 women** will get a concussion from gender-based violence."*

*-Bonnie Brayton, Executive Director, DAWN Canada  
As quoted in the smallest steps*

Image: Designing t-shirts as part of the Clothesline Project



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"When we were able to create and hold space for different groups of women to be with themselves and talk about things that they really couldn't talk about with everybody else's eyes, to me, that was one of the great successes of the anti-violence movement."

-Dr. Delores V. Mullings, Associate Professor, Memorial University  
As quoted in the smallest steps

## Post-Screening Activities

### Actions / Activities **Immediately After the Screening:**

- Host a "speed networking" session or small group or world café-style conversations with anti-violence activists to help build community connections
- Organize an "activist ideas" brainstorming session to inspire action. Have folks share their ideas on a poster board or banner set up in the screening venue or in a virtual setting
- Host a panel or Q&A featuring local anti-violence experts to deepen viewer's knowledge about VAW or activism
- Organize a feminist fair to promote and support local feminist organizations, artisans, and activists
- Host an awards ceremony and hand out awards to valued community activists (e.g. SHEro awards!)
- Have viewers complete a survey asking them to commit to one action towards ending VAW. Follow up one month later.
- Set up an "activist commitment" photobooth where attendees can write down their commitment(s) or actions to end VAW and post a photo to social media (#OurSmallSteps)
- Conduct quick "red carpet" interviews via livestream asking attendees to share their biggest learning from the film
- Share details about upcoming protests, events, and actions in your community and encourage viewers to get involved
- Hand out anti-violence postcards attendees can complete and mail to their representatives (or leave with you to mail!)
- Collect names and emails of attendees interested in participating in upcoming anti-violence committees, volunteer opportunities, protests, etc.
- Collect donations for a local women's shelter or organization

Image: Brainstorming activist actions at the Ottawa premiere of the smallest steps





Image: the smallest steps social media team shares our goals: To equip, elevate, & activate folks to end VAW

## Post-Screening Activities

### Actions / Activities Days or Weeks After the Screening:

- Collect reviews, reflections, or opinion pieces (written by students, community members, etc.) about the film or VAW and share them on your website (or ours: VAWdoc@gmail.com)
- Survey attendees at anti-violence events that happen after the screening to learn where they heard about the event
- Follow up with screening attendees to see what actions they've taken since the screening. Encourage them to promote these actions publicly so others are inspired to do the same.
- Start a Feminist Conversations series focused on ending VAW
- Share impacts from the screening (e.g. new partnerships, activities, actions, etc.)

## Discussion Questions

### Questions viewers have discussed & teachers have shared after screening *the smallest steps*:

- At the end of the film, how did you feel? Why?
- What was the main message of the film? Explain with reference to images, dialogue, or testimony from the film.
- What surprised you? What did you learn from this film that others should know? Explain.
- What different forms of gender-based violence were discussed in the film? Provide examples.
- How have attitudes about gender-based violence changed or stayed the same over time? Explain.
- What were the activism themes explored in the film? What actions do you think work best to create change? Why?
- In what ways does violence against women impact you?
- What did you want to do, change, or have happen after watching the film? What small step could you take?

**"We are the movement.**  
*I think that was the big realization for me. I kept going, well what is this movement? What is this? What is this? We are the movement."*

*-Sheri, Survivor of Violence  
 As quoted in the smallest steps*

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Image: Activists and survivors Sheri & Ashley speak truth to power in the smallest steps

"Ce n'est pas en restant  
'low profile' et en ne  
dérangeant pas qu'on  
gagne. Je crois qu'en fait,  
**il faut se battre.**"

-Andrée Côté, Former Director of  
Legislation & Law Reform, NAWL

## Thank You!

Thank you for helping to end violence against women by encouraging viewers to take action after watching the film!

We'd love to hear about the activities and actions you've taken, and the impacts your actions have had. Share them with us by emailing us at [VAWdoc@gmail.com](mailto:VAWdoc@gmail.com)



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