

Getting your faith community on board



Think About It

Take a moment to consider your role in your faith community when it comes to giving guidance on topics such as love, sex and relationships.



Talk About It

Discuss with members of your clergy team their thoughts and concerns about approaching topics such as love, sex and relationships with parents and youth in your congregation. Make sure all members of your clergy team agree on a unified message in order to maintain a clear, consistent view.



Make A Plan

Before young people come to you with questions about love, sex and relationships, make sure you and the clergy team are familiar with internal and external resources that can help them make healthy and safe decisions.

Find Out More: NotRightNowSC.org



@NotRightNowSC

About Not Right Now: Put Pregnancy on Pause

The Not Right Now campaign urges teens to think about the consequences BEFORE they have sex, make a plan for sexual health, and speak up for themselves. By giving teens frank information about preventing pregnancy and giving parents the tools to talk to their teens about sex, Not Right Now is demystifying teen sexuality. We are empowering teens to take control of their sexual health today, so that they can have a brighter, better future tomorrow.

TeenPregnancySC.org



@SCCampaign

About the South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy:

Founded in 1994, the mission of the South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy (SC Campaign) is to improve the health and economic well-being of individuals, communities and the state of South Carolina by preventing teen pregnancy. To achieve our mission, we work with a variety of programs- public, private, school and community based- in all regions of the state.

Generously Supported by:



Updated February 2017

tips for faith leaders



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TALK ABOUT IT

MAKE A PLAN

Don't just have the talk. Start a conversation.
NotRightNowSC.org

From singing in the choir to praise dancing down the aisles, **young people play a positive role in the success of faith communities.** A place for guidance and community connection, places of worship are not only instrumental in the spiritual success of young people, but in their decision making as well.

As a leader in your faith community, this guide offers you tools and tips to start addressing love, sex and relationships within your congregation. This guide does not have all the answers, so we encourage you to look to other sources such as **NotRightNowSC.org** to build your comfort level when communicating with others in your faith community about these tough topics.



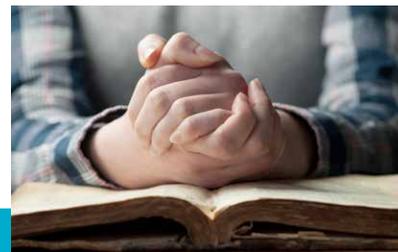
Why talk with my faith community about love, sex and relationships?

Talking to youth about love, sex and relationships within the context of faith can help provide clarity for those who have questions. As a faith leader, it is important to clearly define how these topics are viewed within the context of your faith tradition. Communicating openly can:

- Clearly define faith community values
- Build communication between parents and young people
- Help youth feel at ease about who they are and their sexuality
- Help youth cope with their feelings and deal with peer pressure
- Help youth take charge of their lives and have healthy, loving relationships
- Help protect youth from sexual abuse

10 tips to help faith communities address teen pregnancy

- 1 Acknowledge.** Address the need young people have for spiritual fulfillment and offer them answers to the many challenging problems they face.
- 2 Support.** Encourage parents to talk with their young people about sex and mortality within the context of their faith tradition.
- 3 Clarify.** Make sure youth in your faith community understand what your faith tradition says about sex, love, and marriage in general and teen pregnancy, in particular. Use clear and easy to understand language.
- 4 Observe.** Learn about contemporary youth culture—what young people are reading, listening to, and watching.
- 5 Connect.** Reach out to youth who are not involved in any faith community.
- 6 Welcome.** Provide an environment where sexuality, intimacy, and relationships are discussed openly and honestly with trained youth leaders.
- 7 Educate.** Provide age-appropriate and accurate information about sexuality, including its spiritual dimensions, from your particular faith tradition.
- 8 Embrace.** Recognize the diversity of young people in your congregations: those who are heterosexual, those who are sexual minorities, those who are abstinent and those who have had sexual relationships, and those who have experienced abuse.
- 9 Protect.** Implement policies to protect young people from abuse, harassment, exploitation and violence, both within the congregation and in the community.
- 10 Lead.** Model positive, healthy and joyful attitudes about human sexuality and relationships.



Find Resources

Trainings

The South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy (SC Campaign) offers trainings throughout the year for organizations across the state, including faith communities. Below are a couple of the trainings we offer that can help build your confidence in speaking about love, sex and relationships with youth in your congregation.

Askable Adult: Learning How to Talk with Teens about Tough Topics (5 contact hours)

Every moment with a young person is precious. This interactive workshop is designed to help make those rare moments positive and beneficial for youth. This is an excellent opportunity for youth-serving professionals to improve their communication skills so they never miss an opportunity to support a young person in making healthy decisions.

Roots 'N Wings

Learn how to engage parents and/or grandparents in conversations with young people, and help improve their confidence in talking with youth about sex and sexuality. This program also helps parents give young people a solid foundation of knowledge to make positive decisions regarding health and relationships.

Educational Materials and Promotional Items

The SC Campaign offers a range of publications such as Tips for Parents, Teen Health Bill of Rights, and Meeting Your Needs (a guide to health centers for young people). You can also request branded promotional items such as water bottles, pens, and more. For more information, contact communications@teenpregnancysc.org.

Making the Time

Faith leaders can use the power of the pulpit to address love, sex and relationships. Special times during the year provide an opportunity for addressing these topics.

Valentine's Day (February 14)	Mother's Day (3rd Sunday in May)
Women's History Month (March)	Father's Day (3rd Sunday in June)
Child Abuse Prevention Month (April)	Let's Talk Month (October)
Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month (May)	World AIDS Day (December 1)