



OBJECTIVES

Participants will be able to:

- Discuss and explore HIV stigma in relation to gender
- Develop ways of looking at perceptions of risk behavior in relation to gender
- Explain the factors that contribute to women being more stigmatized than men



TIME

1-2 hours



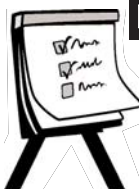
MATERIALS

Character pictures or character descriptions on cards (below).

Character Descriptions

Married working woman. Male bar owner. Female bar owner. Truck driver. Wife who sells goods in the next town. Daughter who meets her friends every week in the nightclub. Business executive. HIV counselor who attends a lot of workshops.

Note: Some characters are not defined as a man or woman. This can be used to challenge assumptions, if appropriate.



PREPARATION

Set up a "BLAME" CONTINUUM on the front wall—with GUILTY at one end and INNOCENT at the other

ACTIVITIES

Blame Continuum

WHO IS TO BLAME?

Hand out one picture/card to each participant. Ask each participant to describe his/her character and place the card on the continuum:

- Who is the character? What does s/he do?
- Where would this person be on the BLAME CONTINUUM? (Ranging from most likely to least likely to bring HIV into the family)

Discuss

- Why are the cards placed where they are?
- What makes someone more likely to be blamed?
- How does the blame link to gender?
- Are women blamed more than men?

Small Group Brainstorming

ATTITUDES TO SEX WORKERS

Divide into small groups. Ask participants to brainstorm all the words/labels/insults used by people to describe commercial sex workers.

Report back

Display the flipcharts. Ask participants to read the lists. Ask participants to explain words that are not clear.

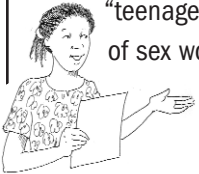
If you have already done this exercise (C1), use the flipchart for sex workers.

Sharing (pairs)

Ask pairs to share how they feel about these names.

TRAINER'S NOTE

You can do the same exercise, but focus on “teenage girls” instead of sex workers.



Large group: Analysis

- What are the feelings behind these names?
- How do these judgments link to attitudes and beliefs about women and sex?