

CHILD ABUSE ...NeVeR

Invite a **speaker** from your city or county social services department or a child-abuse prevention and assistance program to present a short talk on child abuse to the group. Ask the speaker also to bring written information for group members.

Encourage questions at the conclusion of the talk. You may wish to ask the speaker to respond to the following questions:

- What, in general, can today's teenagers do to fight child abuse?
- What, specifically, should we do if we know that someone (a sibling, relative, friend, etc.) is currently being abused?
- What can teenagers do if they feel that they have been emotionally, physically or sexually abused in the past?
- What can we do if we feel we are being abused *now*?

SEXUAL ABUSE FACTS

Sexual abuse experts estimate that 1 out of every 3 females and 1 out of every 4 males will be sexually abused by the age of 18.

Sexual abuse cuts across ethnic, socioeconomic and religious boundaries. Therefore, sexual abuse is likely to be a reality in the lives of several members of your group. The emotional, physical, mental and spiritual scars of sexual abuse last into adulthood, affecting self-esteem and the ability to relate to others.