

Starting a SASH* Club

*Students Against
Sexual Harassment



Starting a School Club to Combat Sexual Harassment and Assault

Coming soon: an expanded version of this guide!

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Part 1: What is SSAIS and SASH?

[Stop Sexual Assault in Schools](#) (SSAIS) is a U.S. non-profit organization created to address the impact of sexual harassment and assault on K-12 students. Founded by parent educators whose daughter was sexually assaulted on a school fieldtrip, SSAIS.org offers a wide range of innovative resources to educate the public about students' rights, how to create safe learning environments proactively, and how to hold schools accountable when students' rights are violated. SSAIS has streamlined their comprehensive website information into a [toolkit](#) that enables communities to take immediate action.

Students Against Sexual Harassment (SASH) is the youth branch of SSAIS. It's a coalition of young activists and allies working to end sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence. SASH has a [Facebook page](#) where members discuss and share resources on range of topics, including gender inequality, the intersection of racism and sexual violence, toxic masculinity, individual activism among other topics. Both SASH and SSAIS want to show all young people that they have a voice and can help put an end to sexual harassment and assault.

Part 2: What Would a SASH Club Look Like?

Like any school club, a SASH club is a student-based organization for those with similar interests to discuss topics, create activities, and to bond. A SASH club brings together students passionate about justice and ending sexual harassment/assault in their communities. It provides students of all genders a safe place to share opinions and personal experiences, to ask questions, and to educate one another about gender equity, harassment, and sexual assault.

A SASH club provides an important link between students and school staff to address gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment or assault in schools. It can connect students with community organizations devoted to these issues. Being part of a SASH club empowers students through education: they learn about their right to an education free from sex discrimination and how schools must respond in cases of sexual harassment/assault and other forms of sex discrimination.

Creating a SASH or gender equality club is one way to fight sexual harassment and violence at school. This will require some work, but activities can be sustained throughout the school year and for many school years to come.

Part 3: A Sample SASH Club Constitution

Many schools require a constitution to form a club. Even if your school does not require a constitution, viewing a sample may help structure your club.

SASH Constitution

Leadership

- The club can be led by one leader or a group of co-leaders.
- The club will have an adult advisor.
- Other potential positions include treasurer, secretary, and vice president if there are no co-leaders.
- New positions can be made as needed by the club or by the school rules. Possible positions: social media coordinator, community project coordinator, student recruiter.

Meetings

- Weekly meetings will generally consist of a pre-determined discussion topic related to gender equity, consent, sexual harassment, etc. Conversation will be allowed to grow organically, incorporating all points of view or questions.
- Special days are allowed. These may include club election days, project-based meetings, guest speakers, etc.

Amendments

- Constitutional amendments can be proposed and discussed at any time as long as at least two members have discussed them together; the members must then declare their proposals to at least one officer. Officer(s) may decide when to discuss the amendments as a club.
- Discussions will be respectful, and all opinions will be heard as time allows.
- Officers and advisor will act as moderators in a discussion if needed.
- Following discussion, there will be a secret vote.

- Majority (51%) opinion will become the new amendment. If there is no majority, or there still are questions, the club members can come to a consensus whether to continue discussion or to abandon the proposed amendment.

Club Identification

- Club colors will include teal and purple, the colors used to raise awareness of sexual and domestic violence.
- Any symbol associated with gender equality is acceptable. Exceptions include images depicting obscenity, violence, superiority of any one gender, or otherwise unkind or inappropriate material. Advisors and administration will reserve the right to determine what is appropriate and inappropriate

Club By-Laws

- SASH club will decide on by-laws in the same manner as amendments: new laws must be declared by at least two members, proposed to the officers, and then to the entire club. Discussion can occur as needed. A final vote or consensus will determine if the by-law goes into effect.
- By-laws will be written or rewritten when determined necessary either by the officers or a committee of club members.
- Any student will be allowed to join the club.
- Students will only be disallowed for disrespectful, disruptive, or otherwise harmful behavior.
- In discussion, members must refrain from hateful speech or slurs.

While many schools do not require a club constitution, it's good to outline rules to make the SASH club a safe place. Here are sample rules which could appear on a poster:

- Respect each other and what others have to say
- Don't share others' stories
- Knowledge does not equal experience
- Allow everyone to speak

Part 4: Sample Club Projects

Projects are exciting for a SASH club. Members get to participate, the projects' results are positive in the school or community, and the school itself can see that a club is productive. Projects are also a memorable part of the club experience and can be referenced as an enticing aspect of the club when inviting new members.

Here are some sample club projects. You can find more ideas on the Stop Sexual Assault in Schools action guide at SSAIS.org/video.



- Start an anti-sexual-harassment campaign at school with posters, brochures, and flyers. These posters could feature resources such as SSAIS.org, RAINN, Sexual Assault Resource Centers, etc.
- Start a social media campaign through hashtags, videos, or pictures.
- Partner with local groups advocating for gender equity or consent culture to host an event such as a bake sale, an art auction, or fundraiser.
- Host a consent event for students at your school or in the larger community
- Go to a protest together as a club.
- Partner with other groups in your school to combat sexual harassment, such as Gay Straight Alliance, Gender Equity, Feminism Club.
- Put on a school assembly based on equity; Partner with Prevention, Bullying Prevention, Youth Suicide, or Diversity Club.
- Show educational videos such as *Sexual Harassment: Not in Our School!* at your school or clips from the SSAIS.org YouTube [channel](#).
- Reach out to your parent teacher organization to share the SSAIS [Toolkit](#) and [parent video](#) on the dangers of sexual harassment and assault.
- Educate teachers and administrators about Title IX, the reporting process, and how they can best support students. Share the resources on the SSAIS website.
- Interview school staff to see what your school is doing about gender equity using the SSAIS Title IX [guide](#).
- Put up posters about gender equity laws such as Title IX. These posters could also include resources such as SSAIS.org, RAINN, and Sexual Assault Resource Centers.
- Present lectures about consent and rape culture
- Bring in speakers from organizations, parent teacher groups, school staff or the Title IX Coordinator to address sexual harassment.
- Consider volunteering with Stop Sexual Assault in Schools.
- Write an article about your club for the school paper. Feature artwork, poetry, music, etc. created by club members.
- Volunteer or intern with Stop Sexual Assault in Schools.

Part 5: Sample Club Discussions

A SASH club can focus on educating members and sharing your perspectives with peers. Here are some topics you may discuss as a group.

- What does “gender equity” mean to you? How do you feel about terms like “feminist,” “women’s empowerment,” “egalitarian?”
- What is rape culture? How do we make a consent culture?
- What is intersectional feminism?
- Discuss the intersections of sexism and the treatment of LGBTQ+ individuals. Is this discrimination based on gender? Do traditional gender roles hurt our perception of LGBTQ+ individuals?

- Discuss the intersections of homophobia/transphobia and sexual violence. Discuss the frequency of sexual violence against indigenous people.
- How can you be an ally for LGBTQ+ students and or victims of sexual violence?
- Who are your social justice role models?
- What are the unique challenges for girls of color at school?
- Why do we discuss sexual violence as a gender-based discrimination issue? Do you know of any laws that are related to gender equity? What can we do to fight sexual violence?
- How do media depictions of people of all genders affect society's view of individuals?
- How does gender identity relate to gender equity?
- What is "toxic masculinity?" What does this mean for us as gender equity advocates? What is "healthy masculinity?"
- How might your feminism look different from the feminism of a young person in a different state? Country? Religion?
- What does a healthy relationship look like? What do relationships have to do with gender equity in our culture?
- What would you change about our school to make it more equitable and safer?

Additional resources to help create a SASH club

Check out the National Organization for Women Guide [How to Become a NOW Activist in High School](#).

Check out the work of an award winning group of high school activists, Berkeley High School Stop Harassing in the SSAIS [blog](#).

SSAIS invites you to share our materials and the SASH logo. Please use the disclaimer that "Our club does not represent Stop Sexual Assault in Schools but uses many of their resources."

Thanks to Chellie Labonette and Tori Siegel for their contributions to this guide.



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