

Violence Against Women and Girls in the United Kingdom:

- 1 in 5 women in the UK will be raped in her lifetime
- 52% of women have experienced unwanted sexual behaviour at work
- 9 women and girls are raped every hour of every day – approximately 85,000 per year
- 2 women are murdered by their intimate partners every week
- 31% of young women (nearly 1 in 3) report having experienced sexual abuse in childhood
- It is estimated that less than 15% of rapes are reported and that conviction rates for rape are far lower than for other crimes – only 5.7% of reported rape cases end in a conviction for the perpetrator
- Approximately 90% of those who are raped know the perpetrator prior to the offence

About Action Breaks Silence:

Action Breaks Silence is an educational charity, established to create a world free from the fear of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and the threat of such violence. To achieve this, a multi-pronged approach is adopted and actioned through the delivery of the Action Breaks Silence Community Intervention.

Our Founder and CEO, Debi Steven has worked alongside an international community of activists, academics and youth to design the Community Intervention aimed at profoundly changing the narrative on VAWG. A “Whole Schools Approach” (developed by AVA) is used to engage, educate, and empower “all members of the school’s community, including school governors, senior management, staff, students and parents” to end VAWG in schools and the surrounding communities.

The Action Breaks Silence Community Intervention which tackles sexual harassment and sexual violence also includes strategies to address gender equity and unhealthy masculinity that underpin this behaviour. The design and delivery of the intervention is guided by the Social Norms and Active Bystander Theories.

Action Breaks Silence is a registered charity in the UK. Action Breaks Silence is also separately a fully recognized charity in South Africa and India. All funds raised from this workshop will enable us to continue to deliver our community interventions, free of charge, at disadvantaged Primary Schools in London. Since 2013, Action Breaks Silence has engaged, educated, and empowered over 100,000 beneficiaries.



What happens in the Empowerment Through Self-Defence Workshop?

The workshop is designed to provide women with empowerment and physical self-defence training. The workshop is very practical both in terms of advice given and the tools that are taught. No prior experience is necessary, and all the content derives from the context of the world we live in today.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SELF-DEFENCE WORKSHOP



The Workshop aims to:

- Prevent abusive and violent behaviour against women and girls, in the long term
- Break down the myths around violence against women and girls and "stranger danger"
- Dispel the "monster myth" and understand who the real perpetrators are
- Reframe ideas of femininity; and girls and women's bodies, empowering participants to own their bodies and explore their dynamic strengths both mentally and physically
- Build confidence in their own individual capacities and unleash their "inner warrior"
- Reframe victimisation and fear
- Educate around fear, the adrenal dump and verbal diffusion skills
- Identify target points on the perpetrators body and resistance strategies

Venue Requirements:

An empty, medium-sized meeting room with sufficient space. A larger venue is required for groups of more than 40 participants. No fitness requirement necessary. We require participants to advise us of any medical condition they feel may require consideration during training. All participants are required to sign an indemnity form. Action Breaks Silence will provide all necessary training equipment. Participants are required to wear comfortable clothing and exercise shoes.

The workshop is between 2-2.5 hours in duration, depending on the number of participants.

Costing and Timing:

- £1000 up to 40 participants Duration 2 - 2.5-hours

About our CEO:

All workshops are designed by Action Breaks Silence Founder, Debi Steven. As a survivor, Debi is driven by the belief that all girls and women should live a life free from the fear of sexual violence. She holds a master's degree in Women and Child Abuse from London Metropolitan University and has worked in South Africa, India, the United Kingdom and Curacao delivering Train the Trainer workshops and teaching individuals, schools, universities and blue-chip companies. Debi won the European Diversity Award for the most Inspirational Role Model and was voted as one of the Top 100 International Trailblazers. Action Breaks Silence won the National Diversity Award for Gender in the United Kingdom.



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