

TAKING ACTION

The issues raised by the film are so complex - the problems are so large. It's hard to imagine what to do at first. So, start small and your influence will grow. Pick one or two small activities that you can do as a start, or join organizations that already work in your community. Get your friends involved. Use the Internet, it's making our world smaller. Act local, think global!

For Students and Teachers

Students: Is there a friend in your own life in trouble? Kids your own age are facing difficult decisions everyday. Listen and help them seek out information and adult mentors. Be an example for your peers.

Teachers: Think hard! Are there teens you know who need advice? There are girls all around you who are facing difficult questions about education, careers, and daily life. Listen, spend time, and discuss openly their issues and options. Help seek out information and resources appropriate to your teen. Seek to improve guidance counseling. Stay in touch and be reliable.

Use *DESIRE!* Contact orders@wmm.com for the Home Video version and show it to friends and colleagues through living rooms or other small, no-charge screenings. Let the film be a tool for opening up discussion and awareness in your community. Women Make Movies offers small non-profits low-cost rates for larger public or benefit screenings (See "Ordering Information").

If your friends or groups have limited funding sources, you may also contact DesireDocumentary@gmail.com. We have discount options for eligible users. Show other films about teenage girls and women (See "Film Recommendations").

Connect with local adult groups that volunteer or work with teens: You may find these organizations through your church, local chapters of Girls Inc, NOW, YWCA, Big Brother, or Big Sister. Find out what programs they have that you or your family members and friends can join. Join a Work Day or chaperone an outing. Make a small donation to a cause you care about.

Ask your school or university to host women speakers and films. Visit history and social studies teachers; ask them to consider teaching more about gender, class and race.

Visit an organization, neighborhood or school that you have never been to. Widen your circle of acquaintances and friends. Fundraise for girls' causes, or attend sports events and other activities for girls.

Do research, and collect images and oral histories to create a video, book, or poetry project in school. Make a documentary or produce a play. Set up an information table at a dance, club, or sports event that promotes girl power and teaches teens about body image, self-esteem, etc. Design bracelets, pins, and T-shirts that show that teens care. Affirm and empower young women (and men) around you!

Use the Internet: Create a website or join a blog that relates to teen issues. Use our "Discussion Questions" section as a starting point for conversations and debates.

For Community Groups & Parents

For busy organizations and parents, find simple ways to incorporate these issues into your family lives and existing work and organizations.

Talk to your teens and pre-teens about sex, pregnancy, and other life choices. Listen to what they have to say, and advise them. There are many resources available on-line and in print for advice on opening such a dialogue.

Organize a small, age diverse, group discussion (one-time meeting or on-going) about how home life, parental support, and economic circumstances impact classroom performance. Explore creative ways for single mothers to continue their education and be supported by the peers and families.

Contact the school board members and principals of your middle and/or high schools. Open a dialogue about the scope and perspective of the school's health and sex education curriculum, guidance and psychological counseling programs. Discuss how career aspirations in your school community are proscribed by teachers and administrators for students of different economic classes and racial backgrounds.

Collaborate with the PTA. Join a Work Day or chaperone an outing. Arrange visits to workplaces of successful women, job fairs, and school forums. Stay in touch with other people who care about teens. Make an email list of concerned parents, and forward interesting articles and links. Sponsor living room conversations or phone trees with your friends and neighbors. Create a short list of what each participant can do. (Copy this Section of Study guide and email it to your contact list.)

Arrange conversations on topics raised by the film with your church, teen organizations, women's organizations, or other professional clubs. Ask for speakers or teen symposiums. Also ask local schools, medical facilities, or religious organizations to participate or advise. Set up support services and meetings for teen parents; ranging from baby-sitting services to career counseling and parenting discussions. Widen your circle of acquaintance and friendship.

Organize film screenings of *DESIRE* and other related films (See "*Film Recommendations*"). Contact www.WMM.com or www.DesireDocumentary.com to arrange low-cost use of the film for eligible users. Organize follow-up discussions and/or arrange additional screenings (See *previous page* and "*Ordering Information*").

Use the Internet (See "*Website Recommendations*") to explore national organizations. Learn about their research and fact sheets. Discover their legislative initiatives, conference events, and other links. Choose one to join, go to a conference, and find or start a local chapter. Spread the news!

