

Engage your community:

Hold an awareness-raising event or march, or create street team activism. Show a relevant documentary or hold a speak-out at the event to generate awareness and a discussion

Ideas:

1. **Hold an event:** Bring together members of a community or campus to learn about and talk about street harassment. Include a time to brainstorm ways to address and combat street harassment. Here are three examples.

Each year, the University of California at Santa Barbara's (UCSB) Rape Prevention Education Program (RPEP) holds campus street harassment discussions called "[Don't Grab My Ass.](#)" At the opening of the discussion, the facilitator asks attendees to shout out stereotypes about how men and women are supposed to behave. They talk about how those strict gender roles relate to street harassment. Next there is a general discussion about street harassment. Last, attendees break into small groups to discuss a street harassment situation they have experienced or witnessed. They talk about how it made them feel, what they did, and what a bystander did or could have done.



Girls for Gender Equity (GGE) [hosted a free, afternoon street harassment summit](#) a few years ago. They were able to secure a free venue by holding it at a local school and were able to offset other costs through sponsorships from local businesses. More than 100 people of all ages, genders, and racial backgrounds attended and most were teenagers. GGE aired two documentaries at the opening of the summit, [War Zone](#), and they debuted their documentary [Hey...Shorty](#). After the documentaries, there were breakout interactive workshop sessions on a variety of topics. To wrap up, attendees further discussed issues of street harassment over snacks in the school cafeteria.



In early 2011, [Hollaback Baltimore founder Shawna Potter](#) hosted a fun event at a downtown gallery. The evening entailed several music sets from local bands, a comedy set about street harassment by [Lucé Tomlin-Brenner](#), and talks about street harassment and how to get involved with Hollaback Baltimore. There was a small suggested donation fee to help cover the costs, free food, cash bar, and a \$2 raffle with great prizes. The food was donated from local organizations and the bar gave Hollaback \$2 per Holla-tini that was ordered. A dozen like-minded local organizations and stores had tables with pamphlets and items for sale, bringing in a nice community feel. Nearly 100 people attended.



In 2012, male ally Alan Kearl took the lead on organizing a rally in New York City for Meet Us on the Street. There were a dozen speakers, including high school and college students, a city council member, and representatives from anti-harassment organizations. Anti-harassment organizations had tables with resources and about 100 people attended.

2. **Organize a march:** Make big splash and march down the streets of your community with anti-street harassment signs and chants. Make sure to secure a permit if you need it, invite lots of relevant organizations and groups to participate and invite media to attend. Consider having a few speakers at the beginning or the end to talk about why the march is taking place and why street harassment is an issue of concern.

During the summer of 2011, local activists in Washington, DC, organized a march called "[Our Streets, Too.](#)" The march kicked off with drumming from the all-women percussion group Batala, which helped to draw people in. Then about 70 people marched a mile through the streets of Washington, DC, holding signs and chanting about how the streets should be safe for everyone. The march ended at a park, where local activists led skill shares, such as how to use op-ed writing to raise awareness about street harassment and self-defense tips.



Also during the summer of 2011, brave activists with [Young Women for Change](#) in Kabul, Afghanistan, [organized a march of about 50 women and men](#) who also held signs and vocalized messages about how the streets should be safe for women. Because of the very unsafe conditions for women, their march garnered [international attention](#).



3. **Create street team activism:** Gather together people to go out in the streets and take action to raise awareness about street harassment through posting messages and handing out fliers.

In 2011, 20 people and in 2012, 50 people gathered in Philadelphia at different parts of the city to raise awareness. Armed with signs, drums and sidewalk chalk, they wrote anti-street harassment messages. Co-organizer Nuala Cabral said, "These messages on the ground combined with the signs in our hands and the drumming, drew people in and created opportunities for some important conversations." [Read about their efforts](#) in 2011 on her blog and view [video footage](#).



In 2012, women in Brussels, Belgium, organized a “Chalk Walk” and they walked through the city to places where they had been harassed. Then, with sidewalk chalk they wrote, “I was harassed here, I holla back!” They told their stories and verbally reclaimed the space. It was a powerful experience for them and engaged people walking by. [Read about it.](#)



In 2012, in Washington, DC, the Saartjie Project performed street theater outside the convention center. Despite the rain, they were able to engage many passersby and distributed 100 anti-harassment fliers. [Read about it.](#)

In December 2011, [Young Women for Change](#) held a poster campaign where anyone could submit anti-gender violence posters. A team of 25 volunteers then hung more than 700 fliers throughout Kabul, Afghanistan. [Read more on their blog.](#)

A Few Tips for Organizing a Community Event:

1. Low-cost or free locations for an event often include: the local community center or YMCA/YWCA, a high school or college campus, or a local park or library.
2. If possible, make the event free, or do “donation suggested” entry fee to make sure people are not left out from attending because of the cost.
3. Reach out to relevant organizations to be collaborators or to recruit attendees.
4. Create a Facebook event page and send details of the event to local media, schools, and relevant groups or organizations. Post fliers in relevant areas.
5. It’s always a good idea to have some food, either homemade or store-bought snacks. Sometimes grocery stores will be willing to donate food for an event in exchange for recognition during the event and on any printed materials.
6. If you have friends or colleagues who are interested in the event but don’t want to help organize it, ask them to help provide funds, food, or advertise the event to their networks.
7. Make sure you get a permit if necessary! (e.g. for a march or rally outside)