Service provider will fill in agency name and the services they provide.

**Newsletter Article for Faith Community Newsletters**

**April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month**

As we celebrate [Easter/Passover/Ramadan] this month, let’s remember that April is also Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). Although we’d like to believe that sexual assault doesn’t happen to anyone in our congregation, the truth is that it happens in every congregation and community.

Sexual violence is often considered shameful or swept under the rug, and that silence can make victims afraid to speak up for fear that they’ll be blamed. This explains why we don’t always hear from those who experience sexual violence, and it also explains why we should be learning more and spreading awareness this month. This congregation is a community that can talk about life’s hard realities. Join us in letting people who have experienced sexual violence know that they are not alone.

Survivors say that they need the support of their faith communities in order to find justice and healing. We all have a critical role to play. Please, talk to your friends and others in our congregation about your ideas, and contact our local sexual violence services agency, NAME OF LOCAL SV AGENCY and NUMBER HERE to learn more.

*If you are in immediate danger, call 911.  If you or someone you know has experienced or may be experiencing sexual violence, call the Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN) hotline at (800) 656-HOPE (4673). For resources about faith and sexual violence, visit* [*https://www.interfaithpartners.org/our-resources*](https://www.interfaithpartners.org/our-resources)*.*