

GUIDELINES FOR STARTING YOUR OWN GROUP

1. Have a passion for this cause.
2. Find a group of like-minded people.
3. Draw up a Mission Statement.
4. Form a steering committee to organise your group's activities and plan regular meetings. Ensure that you have a committee member who will take minutes of meetings.
5. Be methodical and business-like, e.g.
 - ensure that you will have funding for routine administrative expenses such as stationery and phone calls
 - if you intend to develop into a recognized body you will need a Constitution
6. Decide what your group's main focus of activity will be :
 - lobbying (e.g. speaking & writing letters to members of local & national government)
 - visiting shops: encouraging "family friendly stores" ; complaining to and educating the store manager (it is preferable to go in two's rather than alone)
 - educating / public awareness (this includes educating and becoming aware yourself)
 - support groups
 - counselling
 - writing Letters to the Editor of the daily newspapers
7. Guidelines for constructive letters of complaint:
 - be brief
 - be specific (e.g. name & date of publication or TV program)
 - state the specific reason for your complaint
 - if the law is being broken, point out where and in what way
 - suggest a specific course of action that could be taken
 - be courteous, not attacking, not bombarding with scripture
 - don't go overboard emotionally but state your personal view
 - your personal experience may carry weight
8. Become conversant with the laws :
Film and Publications Act of 1996 and amendments and regulations.
(www.fpb.gov.za)
9. Develop your own community's resource list to which you can refer in cases of need (see STOP list for some useful details)
10. Be aware that two or three people will probably carry the work and that it is likely to take over your life if you don't have enough helpers.
11. Pray and have other people support you in prayer.

S.T.O.P. (Standing Together to Oppose Pornography)

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