

# Preventing Gender-based Violence

in the Horn, East and Southern Africa

A Regional Dialogue



Preventing Gender-based Violence in the Horn, East and Southern Africa: A Regional Dialogue

Lori Michau and Dipak Naker of Raising Voices edited this publication. Soraya Smaoun and Cecilia Andersson of UN-Habitat's Safer Cities Programme provided substantive inputs.

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The participants of the Regional Dialogue who inspired these pages and provide rich examples of innovative prevention efforts underway in the regions are: Anna Mtani, Anne Gathumbi, Betty Akullo, Boitshepo Lesetedi, Cookie Edwards, Delphine Serumaga, Emma Kaliya, Enziel Mtei, Hope Turyisingura, Irene Khumalo, Jennifer Wagman, Joy Watson, Leah Ngunyi, Lucy Ole Kina, Maimuna Kanyamala, Natsnet Ghebrebrhan, Nerusha Naidoo, Nonhlanhla Dlamini, Pamela Tuiyott, Phoebe Gubya, Pontsho Segwai, Rada Gungaloo, Seblewongel Deneke, Tembi Tyuku, and Zainab Matitu Vulu.

We recognize and applaud their violence prevention programmes as well as their interest and willingness to begin a dialogue to bridge the gap between the NGO community and Local Authorities. Despite no specific tradition of collaboration, the coming together of these groups stimulated constructive debate and discussion.

# Background

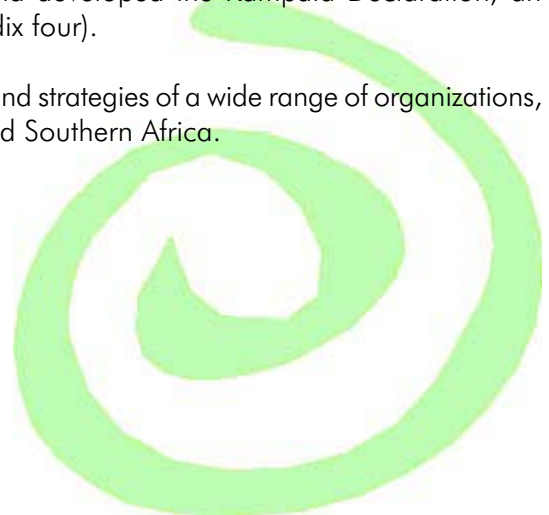
GBV prevention programmes are beginning to emerge throughout the Horn, East and Southern Africa. They represent a growing body of experience and show that through prevention efforts aimed at changing the attitudes and behaviours perpetuating GBV, homes and communities can become safer places for everyone. Raising Voices and UN-Habitat's, Safer Cities Programme developed a three-phased project to begin to build momentum for prevention of GBV in the Horn, East and Southern Africa. The process is an attempt to forge linkages between groups doing prevention work, to share experiences, and build on the successes and challenges experienced in the field.

The first phase was an extensive *field review* of organizations, individuals, and Local Authorities in the Horn, East and Southern Africa working to prevent gender-based violence (GBV). A survey was developed and sent to more than 400 groups addressing GBV as well as publicized widely on the internet (see appendix one). Over one hundred groups completed written surveys that described their objectives, key programme areas, and lessons learned in GBV prevention efforts. They all expressed a keen interest in becoming part of a supra-regional GBV prevention network, were included in the regional database, and are now members of the GBV prevention network ([www.preventgbvafrica.org](http://www.preventgbvafrica.org)).

The second phase involved a *Regional Dialogue* that brought together innovative practitioners who are implementing promising approaches to GBV prevention in their communities (see appendix two and three). Submissions of all groups participating in the field review process were analyzed and promising programmes were selected to participate. Selection was based on the degree of innovation and an emphasis on primary prevention. Efforts were made to ensure geographic and programmatic diversity. This forum was the first of its kind in the region for bringing together NGO leaders and Local Authorities to discuss the current state of prevention, to explore key themes and challenges, and to develop strategies for moving forward to implement stronger GBV prevention programmes.

The third phase is the development of this *publication* that captures the substantive themes that arose in the Regional Dialogue. It elaborates on GBV prevention as a strategy to combat the problem, and highlights current prevention programmes in the region. Participants of the Dialogue set forth the recommendations for preventing GBV in the region and developed the Kampala Declaration, an advocacy tool for GBV Prevention in Africa (see appendix four).

Collectively, we hope this process represents the thinking and strategies of a wide range of organizations, leading the way in GBV prevention in the Horn, East and Southern Africa.



# Introduction

Many groups recognize the importance of GBV prevention and are beginning to design programmes that address the root causes of GBV. Yet programme development in the region is still quite young. New approaches are being tried and tested, and important lessons are being learned. While there are few programmes that have been rigorously evaluated, there are many promising approaches being used throughout the regions.

This publication is an effort to document current practices in the region to help NGOs and Local Authorities learn about some of the promising prevention programmes underway in the region. It is hoped that this publication will:

- provide ideas and inspiration for others interested in GBV prevention;
- facilitate exchange and foster linkages between NGOs, Local Authorities and other groups;
- strengthen GBV programme design; and,
- contribute to the growing body of knowledge on GBV prevention.

While this publication is not meant to be a comprehensive summary of efforts underway, it does highlight various approaches and lessons learned from the field. It begins with a brief overview of GBV, explores GBV prevention and describes frameworks for prevention from the NGO and Local Authorities' perspectives. As organizations aiming to strengthen GBV prevention efforts in the region, Raising Voices and UN-Habitat's Safer Cities Programme have developed and herein describe conceptual models and practical tools used within NGOs and Local Authorities respectively. The publication goes on to highlight various approaches of NGOs and Local Authorities within the region under the following key thematic areas:

- Community Mobilisation
- Raising Awareness
- Media Efforts
- Working with Men
- Strengthening Community Institutions
- Bridging the Gap with Local Authorities

Each thematic area begins with a general description of the strategy, core concepts and practical concerns, and ends with key lessons that emerged through the discussion during the Regional Dialogue. The publication also highlights the linkage between GBV and HIV/AIDS as it is becoming increasingly clear that prevention efforts for both must work in concert. The *Kampala Declaration*, an advocacy tool that emerged from the Regional Dialogue concludes the publication with recommendations for future prevention work and calls to various stakeholders to take action to prevent gender-based violence.

We hope the publication adds to the growing body of knowledge about GBV prevention activities and provides impetus for more action.

## Exploring GBV Prevention

Gender-based violence is a pervasive problem throughout Africa. This fundamental violation of women's rights has devastating consequences for women and men, their families and the broader community. GBV increases women's vulnerability to reproductive health problems, negatively affects their general well-being and decreases their ability to freely participate in their families and communities. GBV also hurts children, men and families by creating a culture of fear and mistrust that leads to a lack of intimacy and safety within familial and intimate relationships. Communities also feel the negative consequences of GBV, which is a drain on the strength and development of micro and macro economic systems.

Women of all ages, religions, ethnic groups and economic status experience GBV. The term gender-based violence is often used because it emphasizes the reality that violence against women and girls is the result of an imbalance of power between women and men. The terms *gender-based violence* and *violence against women* are used interchangeably in this publication and the working definition is drawn from the Declaration of the Elimination of Violence Against Women (DEVAW) which states:

*"violence against women means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life" (DEVAW 1993:Art. 1).*

In Africa, as well as many other regions of the world, although there exists only limited statistical information on the prevalence and scope of GBV, the following table highlights studies that reveal that GBV is a pervasive and serious problem within the Horn, East and Southern Africa.

Country	Coverage	Sample size	Age	Percentage of adult women physically assaulted by an intimate partner		
				Past 12 Months	Current Relationship	Ever Experienced
Ethiopia (Deyessa et al. 1998)	Meskanena Woreda	673	15+	10		45
Kenya (Raikes 1992)	Kisii District	612	15+		42	
South Africa (Jewkes et al. 1999)	Mpumalanga	418	18-49			29
Uganda (Blanc et al. 1996)	Lira & Masaka Districts	1660	20-44		41	
Zimbabwe (Watts et al. 1997)	Midlands Province	966	18+			17

(Source: Heise et al. 1999: 4)

It is important to note that these numbers only include physical violence experienced. Yet women also suffer from sexual, emotional and economic violence and it is widely acknowledged that physical violence is rarely experienced without psychological abuse (Heise et al. 1999). Furthermore, a plethora of qualitative studies conducted throughout the continent also reveal that gender-based violence occurs at alarming rates (Smaoun 2000; Ravestijin 2002; CARE 2002; Human Rights Watch, 2003).

## Current Practice

In many countries, NGOs have responded to GBV by establishing services to address the needs of women experiencing violence. These services include shelters, hotlines, counseling and legal services, and referral systems. In other countries, local and national governments have responded with new, stronger legislation or by establishing women-friendly services within existing health care institutions, social services and law enforcement.

The work of *preventing* gender-based violence is also underway in many parts of Africa. NGOs and local governments are responding with innovative programmes and women and men in many communities are raising their voices against gender-based violence with conviction, clarity and commitment.

Many of the prevention efforts within the regions are relatively new and challenged to develop solid and effective prevention programmes. Currently, there tends to be little sharing of information, few opportunities to learn from others and only a handful of programmatic tools published to help guide efforts. As such, innovative ideas, effective responses and valuable experiences tend to remain in the hearts and minds of those who have been the driving force behind them, while in the next community or the neighboring countries, colleagues struggle with similar problems and face similar challenges. Therefore, it is important to share experiences, skills and promising practices to address commonly encountered challenges. It is also important to discuss responses developed in different parts of the continent and compare notes on how relevant and replicable these responses could be in other areas. This publication is an effort to share some efforts underway, to call others to join hands in solidarity, connect to a wider network and to join forces to accomplish the ultimate goal of preventing gender-based violence.

## Understanding Prevention

This publication focuses on primary prevention efforts that strive to change the underlying attitudes and behaviours that cause GBV, which includes women's low status, rigid gender roles and an imbalance of power in intimate relationships. Primary prevention strategies recognize that it is important not only to influence individuals (women and men experiencing/perpetrating violence) but also the broader community, which is influential in creating a culture of non-tolerance for violence. The prevention of GBV calls for a significant shift in the value system of individuals and communities.

Contrary to common perceptions, when discussing GBV prevention programmes, service delivery is not all together excluded. Instead, GBV programmes that emphasize prevention usually shift the programmatic focus from after a violent act to *before* the violence has occurred. This perspective recognizes that while working on prevention within a community or population, it is essential to have services available for women experiencing violence. It also recognizes that without a strong component of primary prevention, service delivery alone will not change the attitudes and behaviours that cause gender-based violence and allow it to continue within the community. Therefore, efforts at GBV prevention from the outset require integration of formal or informal services into a broader behavior change campaign.

*“To reduce the burden of violence on individuals and communities, action must move beyond providing services, detecting violence, and punishing perpetrators. Creative solutions must be found to address the underlying societal conditions that lead people to believe that violence is a reasonable alternative” (Bruntland in Health and Human Rights 2003:12)*



## Guiding Framework for Prevention Efforts

The following ideas emerged from the Regional Dialogue as a guiding framework for programme planners focusing on GBV prevention.

- a) *GBV is a complex problem that requires a comprehensive response* . Efforts must go beyond the individual to affect social change.
- b) *GBV is the community's problem* . It is important to shift the responsibility of addressing and preventing GBV from women to the whole community.
- c) *GBV as the context of life, not an event.* Approaching GBV through a primary prevention framework recognizes that violence is not limited to an event such as beating or forced sex, but includes an array of actions and behaviours that shape how a woman experiences life. Thus, GBV forms the context of, rather than an event in, a woman's life. The response therefore also needs to address the broader social climate rather than only responding to incidences of violence.
- d) *Addressing the root causes* . The work of GBV prevention involves promoting equity in relationships between women and men, a goal recognized by all development agencies. The root causes of GBV must be confronted and challenged if long-term sustainable change is to be realized.
- e) *Preventing GBV has far-reaching effects* . Influencing the nature of relationships between women and men has far-reaching effects. It affects how the community apportions resources, solves problems, the models of masculinity it presents to the community members, and the options it presents to girls and women for defining themselves and participating in the processes of their family and community.
- f) *From the Grassroots Up* . Many times, efforts to change behaviour are linked to policy and legislative reforms which are expected to filter down and create behaviour change. These efforts are crucial yet building bridges in the opposite direction is important as well. Promoting inter-personal change at the community level can provide impetus for the development of equitable laws that protect individual rights. Furthermore, grassroots prevention efforts create a climate in which equitable laws are likely to become effective.
- g) *GBV Prevention is a long-term commitment.* Changing long-held attitudes and behaviours is a long-term process. It requires sustained commitment, resources and momentum.

*"Both policy-makers and activists in this field must give greater priority to the admittedly immense task of creating a social environment that allows and promotes equitable and non-violent personal relationships." (WHO 2002:113).*



# Building Bridges: NGOs and Local Authorities

Partnership between the civil society and the local government is essential in combating the problem of GBV. Both partners could bring skills, experience, resources and opportunities for developing effective collaborative programmes. However, few such linkages exist that build on the strengths of each. This section describes the intervention frameworks developed by Raising Voices for NGOs and Safer Cities Programme for Local Authorities. They provide the context for the NGO and Local Authorities programmes highlighted within the publication and begin to identify how the linkages could be developed.

# Raising Voices Uganda

Founded in 1999, Raising Voices works to prevent violence against women and children through programmes that emphasize primary prevention strategies. Through the regional office in Kampala, Raising Voices works in the Horn, East and Southern Africa to influence the nature of GBV prevention and strengthen capacity of organizations to implement creative and sustainable responses to GBV. Programmes include the provision of technical support, development of programmatic tools and advocacy for community-based violence prevention efforts.

## Guiding Principles

Raising Voices aims to play a catalytic role in generating momentum within the region for longer-term programmes that facilitate individual and social change in communities. The work is based on the following guiding principles.

### 1. Prevention

In order to affect long-term, sustainable change, organizations need to adopt a proactive rather than a reactive stance. A primary prevention approach assumes it is not enough to provide services to women experiencing violence or to promote an end to violence without challenging communities to examine the assumptions that perpetuate it. Primary prevention involves addressing the root causes of violence against women by introducing a gender-based analysis of why domestic violence occurs. This means recognizing women's low status, the imbalance of power, and rigid gender roles as the root causes of domestic violence. Prevention work involves challenging the widely held belief that women are less valuable as human beings and therefore not worthy of possessing the same inherent rights and dignity as men. Efforts must expose this fundamental injustice and proactively challenge these assumptions.

### 2. Holistic

Preventing domestic violence requires commitment and engagement of the whole community. Ad hoc efforts that engage isolated groups or implement sporadic activities have limited impact. Efforts to prevent domestic violence need to be relevant and recognize the multifaceted and interconnected relationships of community members and institutions. This means it is important for organizations to acknowledge the complex history, culture, and relationships that shape a community and individual's lives within it. Efforts must creatively engage a cross section of community members, not just women or one sector (i.e. police or health care providers, etc.) in order to generate sufficient momentum for change. People live in community with others; thus, the whole community needs to be engaged for community wide change to occur.

### 3. A Process of Social Change

Changing community norms is a process, not a single event. Projects based on an understanding of how individuals naturally go through a process of change can be more effective than haphazard messages thrust into the community. Thus, efforts to try to influence social change must be approached systematically. Organizations that attempt this work can become skilled facilitators of individual and collective change by working with, guiding, facilitating, and supporting the community along a journey of change.

### 4. Repeated Exposure to Ideas

Community members need to be engaged with regular and mutually reinforcing messages from a variety of sources over a sustained period of time. This contributes to changing the climate in the community and building momentum for change. For example, in one week a man may hear a sermon about family unity in church, see a mural questioning domestic violence on his walk to work, hear a radio programme about human rights, and be invited by a neighbour to join a men's group to

discuss parenting skills. Repeated exposure to ideas from a variety of sources can significantly influence perception and reinforce practice.

#### 4. Human Rights Framework

A rights-based approach to preventing domestic violence is empowering to women and the community. It uses the broader framework of human rights to create a legitimate channel for discussing women's needs and priorities and holds the community accountable for treating women as valuable and equal human beings. It challenges community members to examine and assess their value system and empowers them to make meaningful and sustainable change. Without this foundation, projects tend to appeal to the goodwill or benevolence of others to keep women safe.

#### 5. Community Ownership

Effective projects aimed at changing harmful beliefs and practices in a community must engage and be led by members of that community. Organizations can play an important facilitative and supportive role, yet the change must occur in the hearts and minds of the community members themselves. Organizations can work closely with individuals, groups, and institutions to strengthen their capacity to be agents of change in their community. In this way, their activism will live long after specific projects end.

### GBV Prevention Programme Tool

After extensive field testing, Raising Voices published *Mobilising Communities to Prevent Domestic Violence: A Resource Guide for Organisations in East and Southern Africa* (Michau and Naker 2003). The *Resource Guide* is a programme tool created to assist organizations in designing and implementing a participatory community-based GBV prevention project. It describes a conceptual framework and provides extensive strategy and activity suggestions for NGOs interested in working systematically to affect social change within their communities.

#### *Facilitating Individual and Social Change*

Preventing domestic violence in homes and communities requires individuals to identify the problem of domestic violence, consider its importance, evaluate their own behaviour, and then begin making changes in their lives. Behaviour is a result of individual experiences, attitudes, and beliefs, and thus it is deeply linked to the prevailing belief system in the community. The attitudes and actions of neighbors, friends, co-workers, religious leaders, police, health care providers, etc. greatly influence an individual's behaviour choices and collectively create the climate in the community.

Although each individual is unique and will come to the issue of domestic violence differently, the process of how individuals change often follows a similar pattern. The process of change described in the *Resource Guide* is based on the Stages of Change Theory developed by psychologists in 1982 and further refined in 1992 (Prochaska et al. 1992). While there are many different theories of how people change, we have found this one to be intuitive, simple, and generally cross-cultural. The Stages of Change Theory provides a way of understanding the process of how individuals can change their behaviour.

*Stage 1 Pre-contemplation:* an individual is unaware of the issue/problem and its consequences for her/his life.

*Stage 2 Contemplation:* an individual begins to wonder if the issue/problem relates to her/his life.

*Stage 3 Preparation for Action:* an individual gets more information and develops an intention to act.

*Stage 4 Action:* an individual begins to try new and different ways of thinking and behaving.

*Stage 5 Maintenance:* an individual recognizes the benefits of the behaviour change and maintains it.

## *Process of Social Change*

The *Resource Guide* adapts this theory of individual behaviour change and scales it up to the community level. It proposes that a community also goes through a process of change before any given value system is adopted, and suggests that projects which recognize this process and operate in harmony with it are more likely to facilitate enduring change.

The process described in the *Resource Guide* suggests five phases for affecting social change. These five phases are based on the stages of individual behaviour change as described above, yet the phases are amplified to work at a broader community level. Recognizing what individuals and communities typically experience when changing behaviour, the *Resource Guide* suggests appropriate activities and materials to facilitate each stage of that process. The phases described below can provide structure and general guidelines for your organization when designing and implementing a project to prevent domestic violence.

*Phase 1 Community Assessment:* a time to gather information on attitudes and beliefs about domestic violence and to start building relationships with community members. This phase corresponds to *pre-contemplation* in individual behaviour change.

*Phase 2 Raising Awareness:* a time to increase awareness about domestic violence within the general community and various professional sectors (e.g., social and health services, law enforcement, local government, religious communities, etc.). Awareness can be raised on various aspects of domestic violence including why it happens and its negative consequences for women, men, families, and the community. This phase corresponds to *contemplation* in individual behaviour change.

*Phase 3 Building Networks:* a time for encouraging and supporting general community members and various professional sectors to begin considering action and changes that uphold women's right to safety. Community members can come together to strengthen individual and group efforts to prevent domestic violence. This phase corresponds to *preparation for action* in individual behaviour change.

*Phase 4 Integrating Action:* a time to make actions against domestic violence part of everyday life and institutions' policies and practices. This phase corresponds to *action* in individual behaviour change.

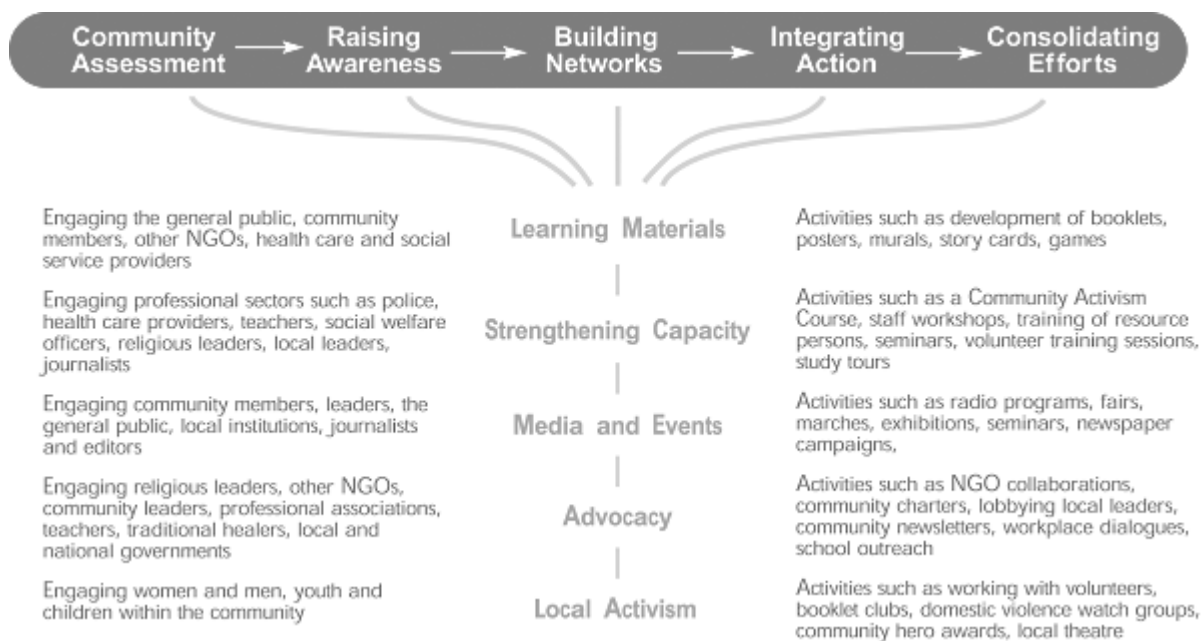
*Phase 5 Consolidating Efforts:* a time to strengthen actions and activities for the prevention of domestic violence to ensure their sustainability, continued growth, and progress. This phase corresponds to *maintenance* in individual behaviour change.

## *Strategies and Activities*

Each phase of the Project suggests five main strategies for organizing and conducting activities. These strategies were designed to help organizations reach a wide variety of people. Each strategy engages different groups in the community and thus builds momentum, increases community ownership, and improves the sustainability of positive change. Groups within your community include religious leaders, health care providers, general community members, shopkeepers, women's groups, other NGOs, governmental and community leaders, police officers, local court officials, etc.

For each strategy there are a variety of activity ideas listed and described within the *Resource Guide*. The activities are diverse and participatory and are designed to maximise the impact of the project and correspond to the phases of community social change. All activities are suggestions and will require adaptation and modification depending on the capacity of your organization and the context of the community. The activities are designed to help groups reach a critical mass of individuals and groups within the community to build momentum for change.

While all the activities in the Guide are meant to be adapted and contextualised, ideally, the sequence of the five phases of community social change, use of diverse strategies, and outreach to various groups would be maintained. These are the practical expression of the six guiding principles upon which community mobilisation to prevent domestic violence is based.



The approach outlined above is being used by NGOs throughout the region and was field-tested at the Center for Domestic Violence Prevention and Kivulini Women’s Rights Organization (see pages 16 and 18).



# UN-Habitat, Safer Cities Programme

## Kenya

The Safer Cities Programme was launched in 1996 and supports the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, which acknowledges the responsibility of Local Authorities in crime prevention (Habitat 1996:Para. 123). The Programme is in line with the ECOSOC Resolution 1995/9 of 24 July 1995 and the Millenium Development Goals adopted in 2000 by 191 UN Member States. The main objectives of the programme are to:

1. Build capacities at city level to adequately address urban insecurity; and thereby
2. Contribute to the establishment of a culture of prevention.

The programme's approach is based on the fact that violence does not happen spontaneously. It grows out of an unequal and exclusive society, and a lack of institutional and social infrastructure and support. An inadequate urban environment and lack of economic opportunities encourage crime and violence. If the criminal justice system, including police, courts and prisons, are poorly adapted to the rapidly changing urban environment, and are unable to respond to the concerns and needs of urban dwellers, particularly the poor, inevitably it leads to distrust, intolerance and in some cases violent reactions. However, the criminal justice institutions alone cannot stop the escalation of urban violence or even control it. Public safety should be considered as a public good that must be developed and promoted by all institutions and civil society. International experience shows that reducing crime is everybody's responsibility.

Local Authorities have a primary role in coordinating the activities aimed at reducing crime. Local governments are the key actors in coalitions and in the development of community-wide planning strategies for crime prevention. The International Conferences on the theme of urban violence and safety held successively in Barcelona (1987), Montreal (1989), Paris (1991), Vancouver (1996), Johannesburg (1998) Naples (2000), and Durban (2003) reaffirmed that the role of Local Authorities as leaders of local partnerships is crucial. Mayors and city councilors are in strategic positions to initiate and co-ordinate local action and adequately address the social demand. A partnership between local governments and other stakeholders can enable prevention and ultimately eliminate violence, crime and insecurity.

### The Safer Cities Strategy

In line with the Habitat Agenda and in collaboration with other UN agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO and UNODC), the Safer Cities programme provides support to Local Authorities by:

- Strengthening their capacity to address urban safety issues and reduce delinquency, violence and insecurity;
- Promoting crime prevention initiatives, implemented in collaboration with central and Local Authorities, the criminal justice system, the private sector and civil society;
- Reinforcing anchor institutions at the regional level which are able to provide expertise on urban crime;
- Encouraging city networks in order to facilitate the exchange of expertise and good practices, which will be replicable in other regions as well as encourage international exchange of knowledge and expertise on crime prevention;
- Preparing and implementing capacity building programmes, and disseminating lessons learnt in close collaboration with qualified partners from the North and the South;
- Targeting three main areas of prevention: actions aimed at groups at risk, situational prevention, and reform of the criminal justice system.

Safer Cities recognizes the crucial role for local authority in preventing violence against women by integrating a gender-based approach in its policies and programmes (sensitization campaigns, development of services and shelters and improving the city's physical environment in order to



make it safer). Safer Cities programmes also promote the partnerships between all the stakeholders concerned under the coordinating role of local government, women's groups, community, social institutions, and the police. The programme promotes deeper understanding of the phenomenon of VAW, the development of adequate tools and the documentation and exchange of practices and lessons learnt at the regional and international level.

### The Safer Cities Methodology

The Safer Cities Programme follows a structured process designed to nurture local crime prevention capacities:

- *Identification and mobilisation of key partners* at the local level who can contribute effectively to the reduction and prevention of crime;
- Creation of a *local safety coalition* led by a public figure and supported by a *technical coordinator*. The technical coordinator in *partnership* with the local authority, *co-ordinates*, ensures continuity and focuses on strategic objectives;
- A rigorous assessment of the crime situation through a *local safety appraisal* based on institutional, informal and social research data. The appraisal seeks to identify, assess and prioritize safety problems and policies. Furthermore, it aims to generate consensus among partners. If more in-depth information is required, scientific data gathering approaches are available, such as victimization surveys, women's safety audits etc.;
- Formulation and development of a *local strategy* that includes a detailed plan of action, including responsibilities and a calendar, setting out the social, institutional and situational measures to be taken;
- Implementation of the local strategy. This includes a range of short and long-term prevention initiatives or projects, which address the causes, manifestations and fears of crime;
- Institutionalization of the participatory local crime prevention approaches through the incorporation of *safety as a cross-cutting dimension* throughout the structures of local government and the criminal justice system. This often requires institutional reform.

### The Safer Cities Approach to GBV Prevention

Women's safety, addressed in Article 123 of the Habitat Agenda, guides the Safer Cities programming: It states

*"Enhance women's safety in communities through the promotion of a gender perspective in crime prevention policies and programmes by increasing in those responsible for implementing those policies the knowledge and understanding of the causes, consequences and mechanisms of violence against women."*

Key concepts that guide the work include:

- Women are at risk with regards to violence because of their sex.
- The hidden victimization of women in private and public spaces: violence is considered a private affair, under-reported and therefore difficult to assess the scale of the phenomenon. In public spaces as well, VAW has remained unrecognized for many years, although now a gender-based approach in some cities has been adopted.
- Invalidation of women's experiences from a statistical point of view.
- GBV cuts across social class, education, age or origin.
- There is a continuum between private and public violence and insecurity.
- Women are particularly affected by urban design choices, the organization of public services, the mix of urban functions, etc.
- Women experience a particular feeling of insecurity which can restrict their 'access' and 'use of the city'.
- Safety is also a question of participation and governance: greater involvement of women in city management is needed.



## Programme Areas

Safer Cities recognizes the crucial role for local authority in preventing violence against women through the following programme areas.

1. Integrating a gender-based approach in its policies and programmes (sensitization campaigns, development of services and shelters and improving the city's physical environment in order to make it safer).
2. Contributing to a better understanding of the phenomenon of GBV and the development of adequate tools. This includes the following.

- *Collection of disaggregated data.* The involvement of gender issues in urban management policies and access to data broken down by sex and age are essential to apprehend and to modify one's response to women's particular needs with respect to city's affairs. A gender-based approach becomes a requirement if it is recognised that it is women who suffer most from insecurity - compared to their male counterpart - and that, as a result, the solutions that are good for them, are also good for everyone. However, for this approach to be viable, it must be based on the experience of the women themselves. Access to data (social, legal, police, health) based on the sex of those involved is indispensable if we want to get a true picture of the situation. Processing this data by mixing the responses from both sexes masks fundamentally different realities and gives an abbreviated image that does not match the facts, either in relation to how women live, or to how men live. A differentiated approach according to the sexes into planning programmes allows city councils to better target their actions depending on the particular needs of both men and women.
- *Violence Against Women Surveys.* Qualitative surveys on VAW can fill in the information gaps that persist on the subject because of a variety of social and cultural reasons and low reporting. The aim of such survey is not to establish what percentage of women in a given area suffer from gender-based abuse and violence but rather to identify the types of violence and abuse women suffer from, as well as the characteristics of the abusers and of the victims and victim's suggestions regarding support services, the police, the justice system, government authorities, etc. The violence against women survey assesses four types of gender-based abuse of women: (a) economic abuse, defined as coercive acts that have adverse economic implications on the woman, such as drawing money from her bank account without her consent and preventing her from earning an income; (b) physical abuse, defined as any deliberate physical assault on an individual's body that harms the recipient in any way; (c) emotional abuse, defined as any act of psychological abuse that harms an individual's integrity, freedom of expression and well-being; and, (d) sexual abuse, defined as any unwanted physical or verbal invasion of an individual's body that is sexual in nature, such as rape, harassment and incest.
- *Safety Audits and Exploratory Walks.* The Women Safety Audit is a tool based on the fact that fear of crime for women is much higher than for men. The audit involves those who are most vulnerable (i.e. women, children, the elderly, the handicapped and people from ethnic minorities) in order to detect what corrective action needs to be taken in the urban environment to make it safer for all its inhabitants. The audit consists of exploratory walks in the field by groups of 3 to 6 people, mainly women. At each specific site, participants identify where the potential for a crime is high or

where women, or others, may feel unsafe. The audits are meant to increase awareness of violence against vulnerable groups and to help decision-makers to understand how men and women experience their environments. It gives legitimacy to women's concerns and is an effective tool to build community safety.

2. Promoting partnerships between all the stakeholders concerned under the coordinating role of local government, women's groups, community, social institutions, and the police. This is a pre-condition to successful prevention programmes or strategies to fight GBV as well as the consultation and participation of women at each phase of a project or activity.
3. Promoting the documentation and exchange of practices and lessons learnt as well as Women City networks at the regional and international level and between regions. Such as the following.
  - *Training of Safer Cities Coordinators.* The Safer Cities Coordinator stimulates, supports and promotes the implementation of the Safer Cities project and approach. He or she is therefore central to the development and institutionalization of a local safety strategy.
  - *Publications.* The Programme produces documents, guidelines and policy papers on the themes of urban crime prevention. Publications have been produced such as *Violence against Women in Urban Areas* (Smaoun, 2000), *Street Children and Gangs in African Cities: Guidelines for Local Authorities* (Ochola and Dzikus, 2000).

### Safer Cities in Action

Descriptions of Safer Cities Projects in the region supported by the Safer Cities Programme can be found in the Local Authorities sections of this publication. The programme has been implemented in cities in Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Mali and Senegal in Africa. Other cities in Asia and the Pacific and Latin America also benefit from the technical assistance of the programme and shows promising results in the participating communities.



# Community Mobilisation

“Community mobilisation is a strategy for involving community members in the process of defining and transforming social problems” (Transforming Communities, 1999). It involves introducing ideas, processes and concrete mechanisms within the community to raise awareness, inspire action and support positive change. In the context of gender-based violence, it is a long-term process aimed at creating social change within the community in order to change the attitudes and behaviours that perpetuate GBV. While GBV prevention is the ultimate goal, community mobilisation involves addressing root issues such as women’s low status, gender inequity and rights. This intense work within communities engages a cross section of individuals from women and men at the grassroots to leaders and local institutions (i.e., health, social welfare, police, local courts, etc.) that exist in the community. In this way, prevention of and response to GBV work in synergy. The process involves strategic thinking, building relationships within the community and strengthening the community’s capacity to respond to GBV.

## Core Concepts

- Recognize and respect the community’s capacity to make positive change.
- Become aware of how the community understands the issue and build from there.
- Accept that social change is an organic process that does not always go according to plan.
- Involve a cross section of community members.
- Strengthen existing community structures, instead of establishing new ones where possible.
- Work to ensure community ownership throughout the whole process.
- Commit to working in the community over an extended period of time.

## Key Practical Concerns

- Involve all stakeholders from the very beginning.
- Understand how the community leadership is organized.
- Reach out to all sectors and layers of the community.
- Take time to build personal relationships with ‘gatekeepers’.
- Use a variety of strategies and activities to reach people in many different ways.
- Strengthen capacity of communities to understand domestic violence and how it affects them.
- Carefully introduce new ideas over time.

# Center for Domestic Violence Prevention Uganda

The Center for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP) is a registered non-governmental organization that was formerly known as Domestic Violence Prevention Project, which began its work in 2000 as a partnership between the National Association of Women's Organizations in Uganda, ActionAid Uganda and Raising Voices. CEDOVIP is a pilot site for implementation of the community mobilisation approach described in the *Resource Guide*. CEDOVIP works in 22 parishes of Kawempe Division, a low-income area north of Kampala where the majority of residents live on under one dollar a day in congested communities with limited infrastructure.

## Objectives

1. Mobilise communities at the grassroots to change attitudes and behaviours that perpetuate violence against women.
2. Strengthen the capacity of community leaders and professionals to change policy and practice within their community and workplace that promotes women's right to safety.
3. Advocate for change within existing community institutions to create an environment supportive of women's rights.

## Programme Description

CEDOVIP's programmes are organized under three departments. Each department uses a variety of activities to reach out to and involve a cross section of community members.

*Local Activism* works with the community to develop local responses to the community's concerns about violence against women. 66 community volunteers (with equal numbers of women and men) were selected and are based in the community; they plan and implement activities with the support of CEDOVIP. 15 community counselors are also based in the community and they assist those who are affected by domestic violence by counseling and referring them to other institutions for assistance. Each of the community volunteers dedicates at least 5 hours a week to conducting activities in their local areas. Activities include: community dialogues, community theatre, impromptu discussions, distribution of learning materials, booklet clubs, video shows, development of various learning materials, etc. Most of these activities are held in busy places and engage a wide variety of community members. The events draw large numbers of people and are an important way of raising and keeping domestic violence on the community agenda. Domestic violence, once a hidden problem of women, is now talked about in public spaces, there is growing intolerance for violence and increased support to women experiencing violence. Men who choose violence are increasingly held accountable for their actions. Domestic violence is now seen as the community's responsibility and concrete mechanisms have been established in the community to prevent it.

*Strengthening Capacity* works with key stakeholders (i.e., community volunteers, police in the Family Protection Units, health care providers, social service providers, etc.) to increase their understanding of domestic violence and to take action within their personal and professional lives to support women's right to live free of violence. The department selected key professionals within existing community institutions and works with them over time through workshops, training sessions and one-on-one support as they implement activities in their places of work. Activities include sensitising their colleagues on domestic violence, improving quality of care, community education and outreach, establishing policies and protocols in their places of work that upholds women's right to non-violence, etc. This department is also responsible for supporting the ongoing training of staff members. This is a priority of CEDOVIP as we recognize that working on domestic violence with others first requires individuals to process and understand their own beliefs and attitudes about women's rights, gender and violence. Ongoing training and support also helps avoid burn out and maintains staff solidarity and morale.

*Advocacy* works for recognition of women's right to safety at the local and national levels and aims to inspire and support structural changes within local institutions and leadership. This department works with teachers in schools, local council leaders from the village to division levels, Christian and Muslim leaders and other relevant gatekeepers. National level advocacy is also done through participation in coalitions with other civil society organizations and organization of 16 Days of Activism activities. The advocacy department also works closely with the local and national print and electronic media. Radio programmes are broadcast in the local language to sensitise the community on the issue of domestic violence and newspaper columns are published regularly about women's rights, domestic violence and gender. The department also works closely with selected journalists and editors to improve the quality of reporting on violence and the portrayal of women in the media.

## Notable Innovation

### *Creating Community Ownership and Meaningful Participation*

- CEDOVIP selected a core group of 52 women and men from the community who were interested and committed to violence prevention and works with them closely to strengthen their capacity to carry out activities with their peers. Efforts are lead and sustained by community members, therefore, the project emerged from and grows organically from the community. The ideas and activities come from the community themselves which is more powerful and persuasive than coming from an NGO.
- Initially there was (and still remains) resistance and skepticism from some men. They felt threatened and worried that the message would 'make women big-headed'. This meant that CEDOVIP had to make special effort to reach out to men through different activities and clearly show the benefits of non-violence for men and clearly show the benefits of non-violence for men. This benefits-based approach and deliberate programming emphasized everyone's right to live free of violence. Thereby shifting the focus from blame to problem solving.
- The project emphasized the importance of collective responsibility for human rights protection instead of relying solely on the criminal justice system. While that is one alternative, the project instead emphasized the importance of community 'policing' of social norms, thus involving the whole community, not just police officers and officials.
- As the police work within such a hierarchal structure, CEDOVIP assembled a group of senior level officials from within the system. They sanction and promote the work to their 'subordinates'; this voice from above is a powerful mandate within the police system. CEDOVIP's engagement of the police is seen as an asset strengthening and improving their own work.
- It took sustained dialogue, endorsement from influential leaders and diversity of strategies to eventually break through the initial resistance of community members.
- Many leaders are supportive and have established local mechanisms to respond to GBV. It is important to work with them and support their efforts to operationalise some of the new ideas.
- Women were shy to participate in the community activities at the beginning of the project, however, CEDOVIP maintained a sustained presence in the community and committed to working there over time, trust was built and women and men began increasing their personal involvement and own commitment in the work.

# Kivulini Women's Rights Organization Tanzania

Kivulini was established in 1999 by six women who felt compelled to take action to prevent the violence happening against women in the community. Kivulini works to address the root causes of gender-based violence by mobilizing the communities (young people, women and men) over an extended period of time to change attitudes and behaviours that causes violence against women. The GBV prevention work is based on *Mobilizing Communities to Prevent Domestic Violence* developed by Raising Voices and co-published by UNIFEM. The *Resource Guide* assists Kivulini in planning a community-based project that aims to facilitate individual and social change.

## Objectives

1. To inspire and support communities in Mwanza region to prevent domestic violence.
2. To mobilise communities to change the attitudes and behaviour that perpetuate domestic violence.
3. To build the capacity of community leaders to understand the impact of violence against women and motivate them to initiate change within their own environments that uphold women's rights and priorities.
4. To advocate for change within existing community structures to create an environment supportive of women's rights and priorities, particularly the right to safety.
5. To improve women's socio-economic status through legal support, counseling and life skills training.

## Programme Description

*In the Community.* Kivulini works closely with women and men through Community Action Groups, Community Volunteers, and End Violence Groups. These groups are at the forefront of the efforts and play a key role in 'getting the word out' to other women, men, community leaders, and children. There are over 300 members who take the lead in organizing and conducting community dialogues, public events, community theatre, video shows, impromptu discussions, etc. within their own streets and communities. This means that the activities have incredible reach and all the organizing and planning comes from community members themselves. These community members also track cases of violence, help women experiencing violence, conduct family mediation and refer clients to Kivulini or other relevant institutions when additional support is needed. Their goal is to create dialogue about, and action against, domestic violence. The representatives of all the groups meet monthly with Kivulini staff to plan, review, discuss challenges, problem solve and get further training. These representatives then train and support other members in the groups.

*In the Institutions.* Kivulini works with local institutions and local government because they hold considerable influence in the community and community members rely on them for support and assistance. They also greatly influence how an issue is thought about in the community and are 'opinion' leaders within the community. These representatives from local institutions include: community leaders (at the street and ward level), police, social welfare officers, health care providers, religious leaders, and journalists. Through seminars, policy review committees, training and community dialogues Kivulini aims to increase their conceptual understanding of gender based violence and women's rights and strengthen their capacity to better address these issues within their own workplaces. Kivulini works with the same groups over a long period of time and sees this as an important step toward creating an environment in the community that is supportive of women's rights.

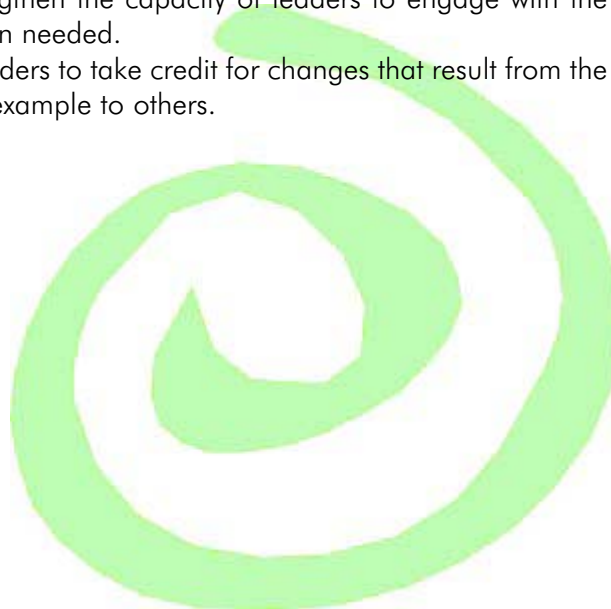
*At the Centre* . Recognizing that prevention efforts are not successful overnight, Kivulini also responds to the practical needs of women and families in the community through life skill training, counselling and mediation. Women and men can also access legal aid if they opt to pursue their cases in a court of law. Referrals are made to health care centers, police or social welfare department, if need be, and a Kivulini advocate often accompanies clients to provide support.

## Notable Innovation

### *Reducing backlash through constructive engagement with community leaders*

Kivulini actively engaged religious, traditional and community leaders and involved them right from the initial stages of the project. Getting them on board at the outset increased their support, meaningful involvement and participation in the domestic violence prevention efforts. Core component of the processes include the following.

- When beginning the project, Kivulini focused on identifying allies who were supportive, this helped a great deal as Kivulini was not trying to convince the most resistant and hard to reach people first.
- Creating a culturally sensitive entry point with different leaders meant appealing to the positive cultural practices and religious traditions that support the message of gender equity. This helped Kivulini avoid being unduly confrontational without compromising the core vision.
- Local leaders were involved in defining the problem, planning, implementing and monitoring activities.
- Keeping the authorities informed and involved helps create good working relationships built on trust and mutual respect.
- Creating opportunities for leaders to speak out in public fora such as community meetings or in the media builds their confidence and adds to their status in the community which is important motivation for them.
- Inviting articulate leaders to represent the community in regional or national fora to promote the communities priorities around violence prevention.
- Remembering to be strategic and to choose 'battles' carefully. Conflict certainly arose, but solid foundations built on trust and credibility helped overcome obstacles.
- Organizing trainings or meetings to strengthen the capacity of leaders to engage with the issues instead of only calling on them when needed.
- Wherever possible, allowing individual leaders to take credit for changes that result from the collective action and promote that as an example to others.





# Education Center for Women in Democracy Kenya

ECWD is a national and regional NGO registered in 1993. It was founded by women who participated in Kenya's first multiparty general elections in 1992 as a civil society support organization for women in politics, public life, power and decision-making. ECWD works towards the creation of a political, social and legal environment that is receptive to women's full and equal participation.

ECWD's primary activities involve civic education around various issues concerning Kenyan women. Civic education on women's rights has been conducted through the Preventive Human Rights Education (PHRE) Programme since 1998 and awareness raising continues presently through 150 trained and active district-based Paralegal Human Rights Educators. The programme has expanded to become instrumental in creating awareness on women's rights and providing basic legal advice for victims of human rights violations, particularly gender-based violence.

The Preventive Human Rights Education programme has undergone an organic evolution since its inception in 1998. The PHRE programme has trained and deployed 227 paralegal educators in more than 20 districts in 5 provinces in Kenya. Currently, 150 paralegals are active within the programme. The PHRE programme has developed by building on existing networks of paralegals and other trained community educators.

## Objectives

1. To promote the internalisation and sustainability of a culture of understanding and protection of (women's) human rights among all members of community.
2. To enhance rural women's access to justice.
3. To engage and network with institutions of governance and civil society constructively on matters of (women's) human rights
4. To build paralegals' capacity for efficient and effective community outreach.

## Programme Description

*Preventive Human Rights Education*. Educating women and the community in general on women's rights related to GBV and how to protect and claim them. Most of our cultures in Kenya are not gender sensitive and therefore biased against women. For this reason, the violation of women's rights is commonplace and even expected. Consequently, women are prone to such abuses as rape and wife battering just because of their sex. ECWD therefore found it necessary to educate women and the community in general on women's rights and channels of redress in case they are violated. Some of the issues ECWD focuses on include rape/defilement, sexual abuse and indecent assault, domestic violence, succession and inheritance rights.

*Advice to Victims.* Offering legal advice to women who are victims of GBV on how to claim justice. Also has a network of paralegal lawyers who on a pro bono basis, advise and assist victims of GBV during litigation.

*Economic Empowerment.* Encouraging and assisting women to form small groups and initiate income generating activities. Also link such women groups to various organizations that can financially support them initiate income generating activities.

*Precedent Setting.* To a minimal extent, ECWD assists women who have been subjected to GBV during litigation so that their cases set precedence for the communities from which they came.



*Radio Programme.* 'Wewe na Haki Yako' (You and Your Rights) that discusses a range of women's rights including the right to safety.

*Schools Human Rights Clubs.* ECWD realized that it would be more beneficial and sustainable if human rights are understood, recognized, appreciated and protected from a young age. Additionally, children's rights are frequently being abused without notice because most children are not aware of their rights and how to protect and claim them. ECWD therefore adopted the strategy of using primary schools as an avenue to educate the children on their rights and human rights in general. Human Rights Clubs in school have been formed and ECWD helps support and manage these groups.

## Notable Innovation

### *Strengthening capacity of stakeholders to prevent GBV*

ECWD engaged a variety of stakeholders and focused on strengthening their capacity to prevent GBV. Instead of ECWD taking on the responsibility of services and advocacy, stakeholders in the community took up the issue themselves. This included the following key activities and approaches.

- ECWD uses a multi-layered strategy to reach out to a broad range of community members. This includes awareness raising, consulting key leaders, programmes in schools, multimedia campaigns, bringing many individuals from different backgrounds on board.
- Improving access to justice for women experiencing violence. ECWD helps provide legal counsel and litigation assistance through a paralegal network of lawyers. This way, many more women felt they could speak out against GBV and receive assistance.
- Engaging institutions of governance and civil society constructively on matters on women's human rights.
- Working with relevant ministries to revise the national education curriculum to include human rights education. This captures the imagination of young people who are still forming their ideas and perspectives.
- Ongoing training and support of paralegal volunteers whom then act as resource persons in their community for GBV prevention. This involved developing a clear Memorandum of Understanding that articulates commitments expectations of each party.
- Ensuring women's access and participation in all capacity building activities.
- Training allies to take the message of GBV prevention to their own community.
- Monitoring and documenting progress on a regular basis to learn from ongoing experience.



# Community Mobilisation

## Lessons Learned

*Community Mobilisation is complex undertaking* . Activists need to recognize that comprehensive solutions need to be sought if meaningful impact is to occur. In this way, community mobilisation is better understood as the overall programme rather than one strategy within a programme.

*Delineate between awareness raising and community mobilisation.* The latter is broader and has a longer-term objective while the former can be one-off campaigns or a single-issue focus. Community mobilisation also recognizes the importance of moving beyond awareness raising to action and ensuring the sustainability of the new actions.

*Be aware of what you are taking on.* Community mobilisation can cause 'burn out' if an NGO tries to take on too much or tries to do everything itself. It might be more useful to use extensive networks of community volunteers (as shown in the programme examples above) or to network and join forces with other NGOs, Local Authorities or community-based institutions to contribute to an overall goal of the mobilisation.

*Recognize the importance of local leaders* . Formal and non-formal leadership structures in the community carry great influence and power. The support and action of these leaders can greatly facilitate positive change.

*Mobilisation efforts must be rooted in the experiences of and lead by community members.* NGOs and Local Authorities can play an important coordinating and facilitative role in community mobilisation, yet the effort itself must be owned and ultimately sustained by community members. Activist NGOs can consider playing a catalytic role of inspiring and supporting others to take action.

*Aim for a comprehensive response.* Avoid narrow approaches of working only with one or two stakeholder groups (i.e., women or health care workers, etc.). Connect with the bigger picture of what needs to happen for GBV to end in the community and then plan for the long term. If your organization does not have the capacity to create a comprehensive response, partner with others to create a more holistic programme.

*Construct a benefits-based approach* . Promote the benefits of preventing GBV instead of relying on fear of the law or negative sanctions. Convince stakeholders of the advantages of violence-free homes and communities.

*Reach out to a cross section of community members.* Community mobilisation requires involvement and action on the part of a wide range of community members – women and men, elders and youth, professional and non-professionals. Effective programmes attempt to engage all these groups through various strategies.



# Raising Awareness

Raising awareness is an important step in the process of preventing GBV. It requires systematic development of a message, understanding of the perspective, language and culture of the intended audience, and employment of creative methodologies. An effective awareness campaign requires practical thinking and resource mobilisation to ensure that the ideas engage as many members of the intended group(s) as possible. Awareness raising activities include community theatre, dialogues, publications, fairs, marches, etc.

## Core Concepts

- Create awareness that is not just a narrow message but aims to influence attitudinal change.
- Awareness efforts that strive to provoke thinking are more effective at changing behavior compared to information-based messages.
- Embed awareness efforts into broader prevention programmes.
- Creativity is essential!
- Provoke personal reflection by avoiding telling people what to think.
- Repeated exposure to new ideas is more likely to affect change than one-off activities.
- Messages that place blame alienate people, use persuasion instead.

## Key Practical Concerns

- Understand the group that you aim to reach.
- Avoid giving messages and instead engage people with an idea.
- Use a language, style and tone that engages the intended audience.
- Involve groups you aim to reach in the development of ideas and implementing activities or designing materials.
- Get feedback and assess impact, be willing to reformulate and readjust approach.
- Tailor the type of awareness activity to the type of audience you intend to reach.
- Use a range of activities to raise awareness. This will reach out to more people and the ideas will reinforce each other.
- Support stakeholders to be at the forefront of awareness raising activities, this will increase ownership.

# Care International

## Eritrea

In 2001, Care International and Haben, a local NGO, developed a GBV prevention and response programme in two rural areas of the country: Gashbarka and Senafe. In Senafe, the programme targets war-affected populations which either fled conflict or remained in enemy-occupied territories during the recent war. In Gashbarka, the programme targets returnees from Sudan most of who are moving into newly established villages in remote areas. Currently, the project focuses on communities in Gashbarka, bringing the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS) into the partnership.

Using a multi-sectoral, community-based approach, the project raises community awareness on gender-based violence, increases community knowledge of human rights, particularly women's understanding of their rights, and contributes to the sustainable development of appropriate responses for survivors of gender-based violence.

### Objectives

1. To increase awareness of gender-based violence.
2. To train service providers to more effectively handle cases of GBV.
3. To empower women in the chosen communities to become self-supporting.

### Programme Description

*Raising awareness* activities include culturally appropriate methods tailored to the communities such as drama and radio programmes. The methods for raising awareness were chosen based on a qualitative study conducted during the first phase of the project, and include activities that are known to be effective in the target communities for communicating health messages and reaching large populations. Activities include the following.

*Drama and music.* Drama volunteers play live music to attract a large audience and then perform a full-scale drama about GBV and related issues to a typical audience of three to five hundred people.

*Drama and discussion.* Drama volunteers perform a short, incomplete drama of less than thirty minutes to a small, same-sex audience of less than twenty people. The community workers facilitate a discussion about the drama.

*Radio programmes.* Ten-minute radio programmes are produced and aired every two weeks on the youth radio.

*IEC materials.* Leaflets and posters are produced and distributed within chosen communities. The project team determines specific messages, and distribution, if possible, coincides with presentations of drama shows containing the same messages.

*Training of community service providers.* The National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS) clinic staff and peer educators are trained on gender, gender-based violence, GBV response mechanisms, HIV/AIDS awareness (as it pertains to rape victims), crisis intervention/emergency counseling, and referral mechanisms. A vital aspect of the training is building information-sharing networks and coordination between area service providers, community workers, and formal and informal community leaders.

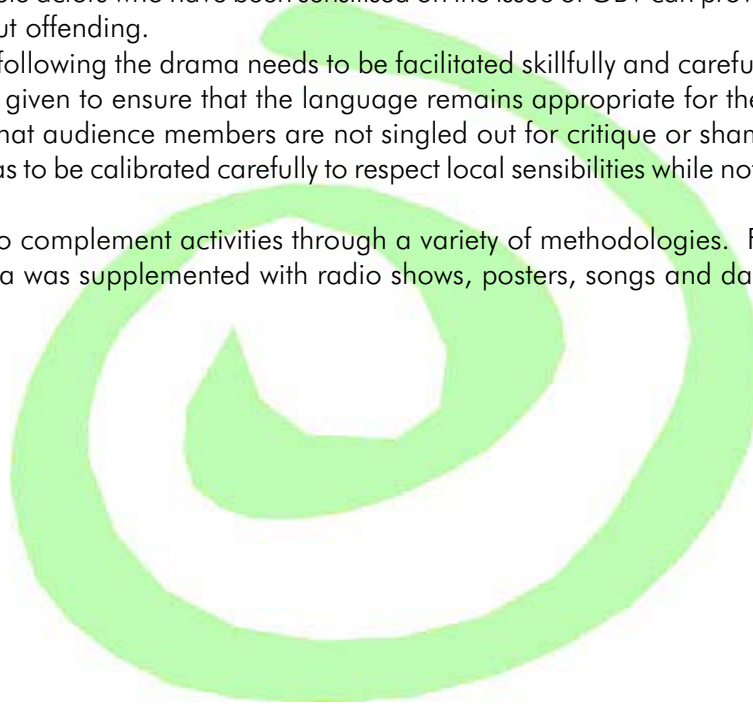
*Empowerment of Women.* The project is also introducing a new component of women's empowerment to enable women to become self-supporting by diversifying their income generating capabilities using two methods: training women in community savings and credit association (CSCA) methods and by training women in income-generating activity (IGA) methods, such as sewing and tailoring.

## Notable Innovation

### *Increasing public dialogue on GBV within traditional communities*

Violence against women is a highly sensitive subject to raise in communities in Eritrea. CARE has been effective in initiating public dialogue through community-based drama. Core components of the approach include the following.

- Drama coupled with a discussion-based follow-up activity is a powerful combination in engaging the community members.
- The story narratives have to be developed carefully, reviewed frequently for relevance and delivered in a humorous but credible manner.
- Music and singing can attract a wide range of community members whereas if they are invited to an event specifically on violence, they are likely to feel reluctant to attend.
- Skilled and flexible actors who have been sensitised on the issue of GBV can provoke meaningful dialogue without offending.
- The discussion following the drama needs to be facilitated skillfully and careful attention paid to ensure to be given to ensure that the language remains appropriate for the audience.
- It is important that audience members are not singled out for critique or shamed publicly.
- The message has to be calibrated carefully to respect local sensibilities while not compromising core messages.
- It is important to complement activities through a variety of methodologies. For example, in this case, drama was supplemented with radio shows, posters, songs and dance.



# People Opposing Women Abuse (POWA) South Africa

POWA was established in 1979 by a group of volunteers with only a pager and a referral book to assist women experiencing domestic violence in the Johannesburg area. Then, in 1984, POWA opened the first shelter in South Africa for women and their children. However, due to apartheid laws, it catered mainly to white women and at times, women of color, when possible. Since the new dispensation in South Africa in 1994 the client base and staff have changed and new branches were opened to reach out to other disadvantaged communities. Historically, POWA's core activity has been counseling (telephone and face-to-face) in Gauteng Province for women experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault, rape and childhood sexual abuse (mainly incest) and telephone counseling to women in the other 8 provinces.

POWA's work has expanded over the years to include lobbying, advocacy, legal advice, sector research and consultation with government on sector issues.

## Objectives

1. To conduct public awareness campaigns on GBV from small community groups to legislative bodies.
2. Civil society involvement by providing volunteer training and programme development to encourage private citizens in mobilizing around the issue of domestic violence.
3. Collaborate with government bodies to improve policy and legislation in regards to GBV such as setting up police services, housing programmes, social welfare programmes (grants, etc.) accessible to women in need, and safety programmes that prioritizes women and their children in domestic violence situations.
4. Lobbying government on provision of health programmes for survivors of rape including provision of antiretrovirals (ARV's).
5. Provide sheltering and support programmes for women and children in need of safe environments.

## Programme Description

POWA's engages in both primary and secondary prevention programmes.

### Public awareness campaigns

*Outreach activities* are conducted on a monthly basis. This includes setting up stalls in various venues from malls to government buildings.

*Poster campaigns* are created with governments and with 'in kind' funders. An annual review of the messages and development specific posters and banners of awareness is done.

*Media campaigns* publicize the services POWA offers on a regular basis. Talk shows are also conducted on community radios in the Sebokeng area (mining township) on gender-based violence.

*Victim Empowerment Programmes* are strengthened as each POWA office targets the police stations within their area and creates a close relationship with the Chief Commander. The Victim Empowerment Programmes within the police stations provides quality services to women experiencing violence.

*School outreach* with at least six schools per year within the areas POWA provides services. The programmes involve the children in workshops on GBV and encouraging them to volunteer.

### *Training*

- Conducting gender sensitivity training with volunteers for awareness programmes, this includes corporate bodies and government including police services, departments of social welfare and the judicial systems up to magistrates.
- Providing training to incarcerated perpetrators of gender-based violence in order to deepen their understanding of power and control and GBV.

### *Empowerment Programmes*

- Economic empowerment for women to help enable them to become financially independent and avoid having to return to abusive situations.
- Peer group counseling sessions where women examine their situation and learn how to make safer life choices.

### *Legal Advice*

- Providing court support and preparation to women to avoid re-victimization.
- Court campaigns to ensure fair convictions

## Notable Innovation

### *Developing partnerships for public awareness campaign*

POWA has been effective in garnering the support from the for-profit sector. Through creative and deliberate partnerships, POWA succeeds in getting its ideas out to a wider audience and defrays the cost of expensive media campaigns. Key lessons learned in creating partnerships are as follows.

- Reach out to the for-profit sector, appeal to their sense of civic duty and show how their support for the campaign will improve their social standing as well as contribute positively to the community.
- In partnerships, ensure your credibility is not compromised. If you accept money from government sources, they may want to edit your message. If you get corporate sponsorship, they too might want to slant your message to suit their corporate image. It is essential to work with them to develop the messages and images and make a formal agreement that your organization will approve and sign off on all materials before they are used.
- Be strategic about who you can persuade to pay for and promote the campaign. Think beyond traditional donors and grants by considering government or corporate sponsorship.
- Use local volunteers and events to publicize your campaign. A message promoted locally by community members has implicit credibility.
- It is important to speak to your environment. The language as well as the level of sophistication of the message has to be carefully calculated with the needs of the audience and limitations of the environment.
- Choose images carefully. Ensure that that your intended audience identifies with the image.
- Develop guiding principles that enable you to judge if your campaign is woman-centric and does not contribute to the problem. Be aware of the broader politics surrounding your message.
- Use statistics credibly. Carefully check the numbers you quote and if possible refer to the source. Do not invent numbers or exaggerate the problem to get attention.
- Create inclusive messages (i.e., reach both men and women) to avoid alienating men who can be part of the solution.



# SOS Femmes Mauritius

SOS Femmes is a women's NGO established in 1989 to give assistance, legal advice, support and a shelter to survivors of violence and their children. SOS Femmes symbolizes hope and courage for women in Mauritius. It is an association of women, for women, set up to protect women from gender based violence, defend and promote women's human rights, and to help build a culture of zero tolerance where non-violent values and practices prevail.

SOS Femmes prevention activities began after recognizing that while the services we were providing were important and necessary, alone, they were inadequate as they were provided most often after the violence had occurred. SOS became increasingly conscious that in addition to protecting women from violence, the organization had to become pro-active and devise ways and means to confront and challenge GBV and change traditions and cultures that condone and reinforce that violence.

## Objectives

1. Protect victim-survivors.
2. Prevent and eliminate GBV within families and society.
3. Empower women and girls.
4. Change social attitudes, norms, values and traditions that perpetuate or justify GBV.

## Programme Description

*Media Campaigns.* SOS Femmes conducts yearly public awareness campaigns to raise the issue of GBV and to maintain the visibility of the issue. Each year, a different strategy is used. For example, one year, a poster was designed to subvert the commonly held belief that men's violence is a natural and acceptable way to express masculinity. Instead of distributing posters through the regular channels, SOS Femmes organized a group of over 40 women to work at night (itself breaking a taboo) to cover the island with the posters. The island was divided up and smaller groups of women took responsibility to cover specific areas. In a country where women hardly go out alone at night, these women invented and planned strategies to enable them to carry out the job. The whole island, from the most remote village to the large towns was covered. The next morning the whole country woke up with the messages on their doorstep. Women's voices were all over the street, strong and determined. The campaign received extensive media coverage and women were greatly empowered to break the silence. SOS Femmes conducts yearly media campaigns such as the one described above to break the silence on GBV and challenge the attitudes and behaviours that perpetuate violence.

*Advocacy.* Lobbying for laws and policies for the elimination of GBV. SOS Femmes takes a lead in lobbying for laws and policies on the elimination of GBV. An extensive research study was conducted on domestic violence on the island in 2001 and this informs our advocacy efforts at the local and national level.





## Notable Innovation

### *Using campaigns to create impact*

SOS Femmes, through a well-planned and focused poster campaign, woke islanders up to the issue of GBV through a creative, grassroots campaign. Suggestions for effective campaigns are as follows.

- In an environment where women are silenced and systematically oppressed over a long period of time, a single dramatic protest can have a profound impact on the public imagination.
- The vehicle you choose for this 'outcry' has to be impressive and comprehensive in coverage.
- The message has to be simple yet uncompromising.
- The message has to have popular relevance. The community had deeply held views about the import of this message and as a result it provoked substantial debate.
- Make women the central protagonists. This campaign was entirely designed and executed by women, in many cases, at a considerable risk to their personal safety.
- Exploit the element of surprise. This campaign was mounted overnight and was not publicized prior to the event. Thus the shock of visual challenge ensured that it could not be deflected in silence.
- Such intense campaigns can channel energies and creativity of a broad range of women who have been forced into silence. In this case, young and old, as well as women from all races and strata of the society participated. It created a powerful platform for registering outrage in a meaningful way. It was empowering to women.
- Capitalize on the momentum. Be prepared for and fully exploit subsequent media attention to generate further discussion on GBV.

## Raising Awareness Lessons Learned

*Measuring impact of awareness raising activities is challenging.* When a person's perception or understanding is influenced, is that an impact or does it have to manifest in behaviour change. It is difficult to measure with precision what affect an awareness raising activity has on an individual.

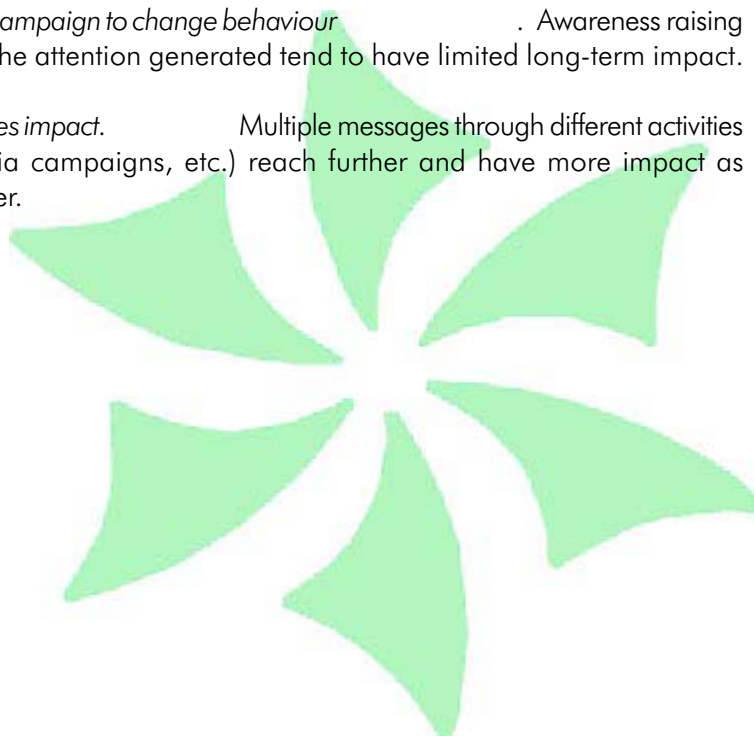
*Don't expect attitudes or behaviours to change immediately, introducing an idea in a person's consciousness is important.* Often messages are perceived without conscious awareness yet at some level it affects an individual's perspective. Furthermore, explicit statements that proclaim gender equity can affect the broader social climate and have cumulative value.

*Raising awareness activities need to be creative.* Campaigns are competing for mental space of an audience that is bombarded with many other ideas and messages. This means programmes need to get creative and learn a little from commercial marketing strategies.

*Relying on fear or guilt to elicit long-term behaviour change is less effective.* Thought-provoking, benefits-based messages are more meaningful.

*Awareness raising is only the first step in a campaign to change behaviour.* Awareness raising without follow-up processes to exploit the attention generated tend to have limited long-term impact.

*Using various awareness strategies increases impact.* Multiple messages through different activities (i.e., drama, posters, billboards, media campaigns, etc.) reach further and have more impact as ideas build on and reinforce each other.



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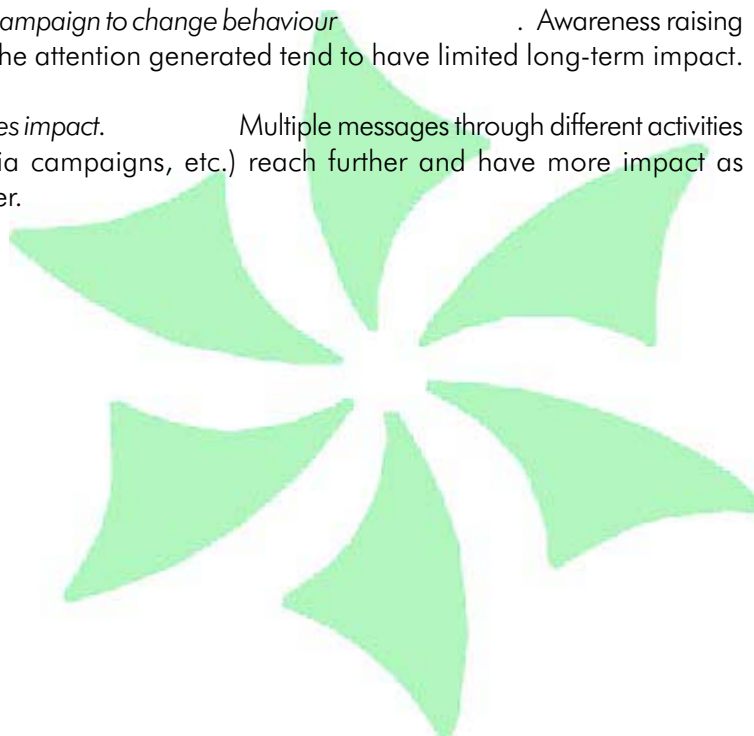
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# Media Efforts

Working effectively with and harnessing the power of the media is an essential part of the efforts of any agency that aims to influence broader social norms. Some groups create their own media while others work to influence journalists and media institutions in order to improve portrayal of women in the media and foster a human rights culture. Many organizations are also expanding their understanding and use of traditional and new media in order to reach out in new and innovative ways to communities.

## Core Concepts

- The media is a powerful tool for communication.
- Recognize that the media institutions are focused on profit and efforts to influence them need to appeal to the industry's ethics as well as profit margins.
- When possible, it is important to work with existing media institutions.
- The media is influenced by the kind of society we live in.
- Media can be an expensive way of getting your message across.

## Key Practical Concerns

- Be proactive (as opposed to being reactive e.g., press releases/conferences, info packages), have someone in the organization work directly with the media.
- Pretest messages to ensure they communicate what you intend.
- Include members of the media in the planning process of your communication strategy.
- Be creative and opportunistic.
- Take time to sensitise media groups and individuals through training.

# Coalition on Violence Against Women (COVAW) Kenya

COVAW is a Kenyan women's human rights organization committed to the eradication of all forms of violence against women and girls within the domestic, public, private and political spheres, and the promotion of women's rights. COVAW's strategy is to move the issue of violence against women from the private sphere to the public domain: 'Breaking the Silence'.

COVAW's main area of work is service provision to victims and survivors of GBV. However, it also undertakes activities that aim to prevent the occurrence of GBV. Main prevention activities involve working with the media to break the silence on GBV, programmes with in-school youth in order to influence their belief and value systems about male/female relations, challenging the socialization process and demystification of myths on GBV.

Since its inception in 1995, COVAW has spearheaded several campaigns aimed at moving the issue of GBV from the private to the public domain. As a result of the campaigns, women have come forward to request more information on the issue, legal help, counseling services and support in general.

## Objectives

1. Promote women's rights through facilitating the collective work of individuals and organizations that want to eradicate GBV.
2. Undertake campaigns aimed at raising public awareness on issues of GBV.
3. Provide psychological support to survivors of VAW and referrals to appropriate agencies.
4. Offer legal aid and support to survivors of GBV.
5. Advocate and lobby for gender sensitive legal and policy frameworks that facilitates the realization of women's rights.
6. Create a process of change for perpetrators of GBV through addressing the psychosocial, political and cultural factors that support the practice.

## Programme Description

In addition to counseling services, COVAW works to prevent GBV through the following programmes.

*Outreach and Training.* COVAW works to stimulate public dialogue through extensive media campaigns, publications and community-based activities. The programme goal is to promote awareness on women's human rights and to ensure that debate on women's human rights is conducted. Specific activities under this programme are: sensitization and training workshops for women, men, youth, community facilitators, law enforcement agents, volunteers and health care providers; production of user friendly materials on violence against women; drama performances on GBV, and, essay and poster competitions for youth in learning institutions.

### *Advocacy and Lobbying*

The programme goal is to enable a more responsive social, political, legal and economic support mechanism for women at community and national level. Specific activities under this programme are: marking several campaigns that are relevant to women's rights (i.e., Sixteen Days of Activism, St Kizito Commemoration, International Women's Day, etc.); conducting research and surveys on violence against women; carrying out media campaigns on various selected cases of gender-based violence; rapid response and rescue of women and girls in cases of violence against them; and networking with other groups in highlighting women's human rights issues nationally and internationally.

### *Public Interest Litigation*

The programme goal is to enhance the legal status of women in Kenya through the promotion and protection of women's rights. Specific activities under this programme are: advising women on their legal rights; following up cases involving violence against women with the police to ensure the due process of the law takes course; filing matters involving women's rights violations in court where law is not clear; attending court to watch briefs and litigating on public interest matters; research on relevant laws; conducting mobile legal aid clinics and conducting sensitization and awareness on women's legal and human rights.

### *Publications*

The programme goal is to design user-friendly publications that provide a solid basis for advocacy and awareness raising work.

## Notable Innovation

### *Building constructive relationships with the media*

COVAW has been successful in establishing positive relationships with journalists and editors in the national media in Kenya. While they are often considered a challenging group to engage meaningfully, COVAW offers the following suggestions for building effective relationships with the media.

- Recognize that GBV is hardly discussed in the media despite it being rampant in communities. There is an underlying assumption that GBV is part of the culture or even religion and therefore does not require media's attention. The assumptions of journalists will reflect the broader community. A useful place to start is strategically challenging these assumptions through raising awareness, dialogue and training.
- There is a clear need to chart women's human rights discourse. Journalist and editors need to be engaged in a process of learning the new 'language' and helped along the process. Avoid thinking it a change in journalist's attitudes will come about naturally, be proactive with them and help facilitate their learning.
- Listen to the concerns and reservations of journalists and editors about covering violence against women or portraying women more objectively/sensitively. Understand their reservations and within your organization, brainstorm key responses.
- Accept the fact that engaging the media constructively takes time.
- A multimedia campaign that involves, print and electronic media institutions can create synergy and bring journalists together.
- Incorporate media engagement into all programmes instead of having isolated activities for the media.
- Involve journalists in planning of some of the activities and encourage investigative journalism to expose GBV.
- Select your medium based on the intended audience e.g., TV for reaching the middle class but radio for poorer communities and newspaper for a broader reach.
- Package your message carefully to maximise the chance of reaching and having the desired effect on your intended audience.
- Monitor the effect of your campaign and adjust based on the feedback.

# Soul City Institute for Health and Development Communication South Africa

The Soul City Institute for Health and Development Communication is a South African NGO that uses the power of the mass media for social change. Soul City is a national multi-media 'edutainment' project which aims to impact people's quality of life through integrating health and development issues into prime time television and radio dramas backed up by full colour easy to read booklets which combined, reach over 16 million people. Six series have been produced to date with two of them focused largely on domestic violence and on rape. Soul City has adapted the media on domestic violence into training manuals for community organizations, police and health workers. In 1999, Soul City 4 highlighted violence against women.

## Objectives of Soul City 4

1. Increase awareness and accurate knowledge about violence against women.
2. Increase interpersonal and public dialogue and debate.
3. Convey information on women's rights, raise societal discussion, shift attitudes, practices and social norms on gender-based violence.
4. Connect audiences to help through a toll free helpline, providing crisis counselling and referral to community-based support structures.
5. Promote individual and community level action.
6. Advocate for enabling legislation to create a supportive environment for change.
7. Develop a GBV training manual for counsellors, police, judiciary and health care workers
8. Work in collaboration with the National Network on Violence against women to expand the reach of the campaign.

## Programme Description

The Soul City 4 core multi-media edutainment vehicle comprised of a 13 primetime television drama, a 45 part radio drama in 9 languages and 3 full colour information booklets – one million of each were distributed nationally. Soul City 4 extended the core Soul City vehicle to include a partnership with the National Network on Violence Against Women (NNVAW) to address violence against women with an emphasis on domestic violence. The NNVAW has a presence in all the provinces in South Africa includes a coalition of 1500 activists and community organizations from rural and urban areas. The NNVAW brought together many sectors including government, NGOs and civil society. The partnership between Soul City and NNVAW included training of social services providers, health care workers and police, an advocacy campaign toward the national and provincial governments for speedy implementation of the Domestic Violence Act, media advocacy, and community mobilisation. Each of the various aspects of the campaign reinforced and built on each other creating significant momentum within the general population and key institutions.

In collaboration with the NNVAW, Soul City's Series 4 activities included:

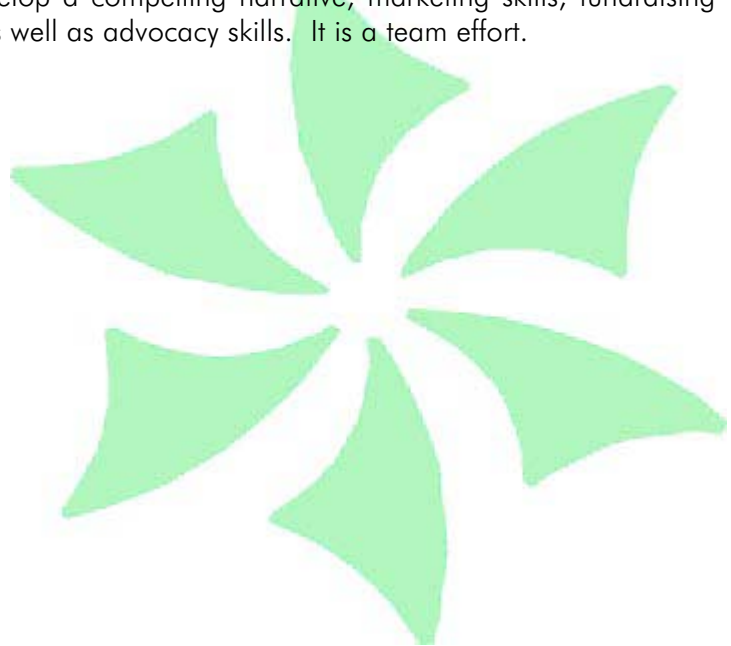
- < The production of a domestic violence training video.
- < The establishment of the Stop Abuse Helpline.
- < Training of NNVAW members with a strong focus on media advocacy.
- < A resource book on shifting attitudes and beliefs.

## Notable Innovation

### *Creating an effective multi-media campaign*

Lessons learned from the Soul City 4 campaign, including suggestions for other groups interested in the approach are as follows.

- Embed your multimedia campaign in a broader framework. This means having clear objectives for each component of the campaign making sure that all the components add up to a coherent strategy rather than haphazard thrusting of 'good sounding' messages.
- Soul City's campaign involved prime time TV drama, radio drama and accompanying print materials such as booklets, life-skills material and newspaper inserts. This diversified the audience it could reach and reinforced messages between complementary media.
- Create mechanisms for the audience to react to the message. In Soul City's campaign, audiences could ring a toll free help-line, crisis counseling or referral to community-based support.
- Implore individuals and community to take action. This is a crucial part of any campaign. It is not enough to impart a message but also what a person can do about it.
- Incorporate evaluation and impact assessment as part of your campaign design. This will enable you to justify your approach and provide meaningful data to convince others of the impact the strategy is having.
- Cost is a major consideration and therefore careful budgeting and resource forecasting is required. It also requires resource mobilisation skills.
- Link up with broader networks or coalitions who can use the materials and reach communities beyond the scope of one organization.
- Executing an affective multimedia campaign on a large scale requires a broad range of expertise including ability to develop a compelling narrative, marketing skills, fundraising skills, good management skills as well as advocacy skills. It is a team effort.





# Nisaa Institute for Women's Development South Africa

The Nisaa Institute for Women's Development is a non-profit, non-governmental organization, which focuses on violence prevention and the empowerment of women who have been abused at the hands of their partners. The organization offers services to the survivors of domestic violence and their children. Nisaa was started by a group of committed women activists, in response to the growing problem of violence against women. The organization was initiated at the end of 1993 and launched in April 1994. Nisaa is opposed to all forms of oppression, exploitation and violence against women and subscribes to the principle of non-sectarianism and social transformation.

Nisaa believes that raising public awareness is the first step in persuading people to change their behaviour, and in improving legal polices and services for women.

## Objectives

1. Encourage women to gain control over their lives in ways that they deem appropriate.
2. Provide refuge for women survivors of violence and their children when their lives are endangered by interpersonal violence.
3. Establish organizational links and mechanisms that enable the use of the community, municipal, national and international resources for women's emancipation.
4. Lobby for appropriate legislation and resources that protect and maintain the dignity of survivors of violence.
5. Raise awareness on violence against women through public awareness education, media intervention and a range of training.

## Programme Description

Nisaa's work has been consolidated into 6 programmes each containing a number of ongoing projects. The programmes are as follows:

- ⟨ Providing emergency shelter for women and children whose lives are endangered by violence perpetrated against them by intimate partners/husbands.
- ⟨ Conducting various forms of counseling services for adults and children as a form of intervention. This includes crisis telephone counseling, individual and group counseling.
- ⟨ Promoting public awareness and education on violence against women to relevant stakeholders and to a broader audience locally, nationally and internationally, including the SADC region.
- ⟨ Developing and conducting training on specific competencies, gender issues and violence against women.
- ⟨ Producing and developing publications at a range of levels and disseminating relevant information to a broader national and international audiences.
- ⟨ Consolidating and expanding outreach services to Orange Farm and Soweto.

## GBV Prevention Activities

### *Date Rape Campaign*

This campaign includes a small booklet, posters and stickers for adolescents. It alerts teenagers to the high incidence of date rape and abuse among youth. It also offers information on how best to prevent date rape and more general information on sexual rights and sexuality.

### *Peace on Earth begins at Home*

This campaign developed during the holiday season, included a billboard, posters and greeting cards. The campaign makes the connection between domestic violence and global violence.

### *Radio Campaigns*

Nisaa's services are advertised regularly on different radio stations. Also on radio is a 30 episode drama that aims to increase awareness of violence against women and HIV/AIDS. It reaches rural communities in hard to reach provinces in South Africa.

### *Nisaa Resource Center and Website*

Provide information for other civil society organizations, activists, women experiencing violence and other interested partners. The campaigns are highlighted, as well as Nisaa's services and outreach. This programme is also linked to [www.womensnet.org.za](http://www.womensnet.org.za) where Nisaa offers online counseling and education services via the internet.

### *Anti-Rape Bus Campaign*

Posters, booklets, billboards, 20 buses, 12 taxis, and major daily newspapers carried the message of 'You're only half a man if you rape a woman'. This campaign was seen all over town and took the message to large numbers of people. It sparked public debate and strongly stated that rape will not be tolerated in our communities.

## Notable Innovation

### *Diversifying use of media*

Nisaa has expanded beyond traditional media outlets to deepen the scope of their public awareness campaigns. Key recommendations to other NGOs considering diversifying their use of media may consider the following.

- It is important distinguish between the 'vehicle' used to promote the message and the message itself.
- NISAA considers any form of mass communication as working with the media and not just the traditional radio, TV and newspaper approach.
- 'Letter box media', such as using postcards, pamphlets, posters, cards, billboards and stickers to communicate messages to a vast number of the community members is a useful strategy.
- Mainstream media such as radio and television can be used to consolidate the ongoing messages located in other sources. The variety of methods is complementary as they reinforce the message as well as broaden the range of audience reached.
- Personal and traditional media such as petition collection, film screening followed by discussions, protests and demonstration marches adds a live energy to the message and enables a whole range of people to participate in the campaign.
- New media that harnesses the power of information technology is also a powerful tool that any organization interested in creating a broader network should consider.

## Media Efforts Lessons Learned

*Effective media campaigns are carefully planned.* Mass media campaigns need to be systematic with carefully worded messages focused on relevant issues. If the messages are diffuse and unclear, the campaign will have minimal impact.

*Tap into mainstream media institutions.* Commercial newspapers and TV stations are set up as businesses not public service vehicles, yet they have powerful influence and reach. NGOs and local authorities can tap into these institutions and encourage and convince them to support GBV prevention campaigns. However this also requires caution so as to avoid trivializing the message to simply make it entertaining.

*Speak to your audience* . Effective use of the media means competing for people's attention and using it well once it is captured.

*Most mainstream media sensationalize GBV.* The aim for the mainstream media is to sell a product and thus it often resorts to sensationalizing and blaming women for violence against them. It is essential, therefore for activists to put forward an incisive critique and challenge the trivialisation of GBV.

*Engage mainstream media, avoid blaming individual journalists.* NGOs and local authorities can promote deeper analysis and encourage more responsible reporting instead of criticizing and dismissing journalists when violence receives poor coverage. It is important to begin developing relationships of trust and respect with influential journalists.

*Create partnerships with for-profit institutions.* Collaborations can be beneficial to both groups: extending the reach of non-profits and reducing cost as well as promoting a positive social image for corporations.

*Influencing Media Institutions.* This longer-term strategy can be powerful and sustainable. While it requires significant time and commitment, effects can be long lasting.

# Working with Men

If the work of preventing GBV is about influencing the nature of relationships between women and men, then men must be engaged as allies in the work. There is a need for clarity of intent and approach when working with men to avoid marginalizing women, especially on an issue where they need to be the central protagonists. The active involvement of men as allies in GBV prevention is crucial if we are to see real and meaningful change in the lives of women. This work needs to be approached carefully with clear parameters that men are responsible for their violence. Yet bridges need to be built using benefits-based approaches that reach out to men in constructive, non-confrontational ways. Often, men working with other men is an effective strategy but women's concerns, safety and rights need to remain at the fore.

## Core Concepts

- Begin from the starting point that most men are good people. Divisive and excessively judgmental attitudes are likely to antagonize.
- Use a benefits-based approach for working with men, showing men the positive aspects of living free of violence.
- Hold men accountable for violence while avoiding blaming them.
- Collaborations between groups and between men can bring stronger and more innovative approaches and solutions.
- Men's involvement can encourage them to reclaim their dignity.
- Public disclosure of violence can reinforce positive behaviour patterns.
- Work with individual men as well as the broader community so new concepts of masculinity can be practiced and supported.

## Key Practical Concerns

- Conduct an audit of what is underway to find out what works with men.
- Use men to reach other men, it can be a powerful approach.
- Have clear guidelines and philosophy for working with men so messages do not become compromised.
- Coordinate and plan efforts in concert with women's organizations in the area.
- Incorporate activities during programme planning that reach individual men and the broader community.

# Men as Partners Programme Planned Parenthood Association of South Africa

Planned Parenthood Association of South Africa (PPASA) is the largest and oldest South African NGO in the field of sexual and reproductive health. It is affiliated to the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), which works in more than 80 countries around the world. Now over 70 years old, PPASA continues to develop innovative programmes.

Work on gender-based violence began in 1998, after a study of men's knowledge, attitudes and practices in reproductive health was conducted by the Reproductive Health Research Unit. The results of this survey showed high prevalence of GBV in South Africa. The low use of condoms and non-existence of health seeking behaviour emerged as a justification to embark on working with men. PPASA and EngenderHealth developed the Men as Partners (MAP) programme to challenge the attitudes and behaviours that perpetuated gender-based violence and women's vulnerability to HIV/AIDS.

## Objectives

1. Improve men's awareness and support of their partner's reproductive health choices.
2. Increase awareness and responsibility for prevention of STI/HIV/AIDS.
3. Increase understanding of the benefits of gender equity and health relationships.
4. Increase awareness of and strive to prevent domestic and sexual violence.
5. Improve men's access to reproductive health information and services.

## Programme Description

The PPASA Men as Partners programme centers around a training manual: *Men as Partners: A Program for Supplementing the Training of Life Skills Educators* (EngenderHealth and PPASA 2001). It is an extensive, participatory training manual for use with men that discusses a broad range of reproductive and sexual health issues. It aims to create awareness and facilitate attitudinal and behavioural change among participants. The MAP programme recruits and trains MAP educators. As master trainers, these individuals conduct training through their own NGOs and institutions in Gauteng, Western Cape and the Eastern Cape. The manual includes sessions on gender-based violence such as:

*Relationships* . Exploring different types of relationships and what constitutes a healthy or unhealthy relationship

*Examining Violence* . Analyzing definitions of violence, contextualising it within men's lives and try to help participants feel free and comfortable to share their own experiences and feelings.

*Awareness of Sexual Violence* . Emphasises sexual abuse issues ranging from rights to harassment and rape. The training helps participants explore why rape occurs as well as looking at myths and facts about rape.

*Domestic Violence.* Intimate partner violence is discussed and contextualised. The analysis is based on power and control. Socio-legal issues are also explored.

While much of the MAP programme focuses on reaching men at an interpersonal level, the programme is expanding to include community mobilisation techniques.

## Notable Innovation

### *Using an interpersonal approach to affect change*

Participants in the MAP training programme report significant changes in their attitudes and behaviours about women's rights and GBV. Issues highlighted as cornerstones of this approach are as follows.

- Interpersonal approaches recognize that men are socialized to be violent. Working with men to deconstruct this legacy can affect profound personal change.
- Using a well-defined process (i.e., a manual) that engages men in the process of healing and assists trainers in this complex process of influencing behaviour change.
- Helping men understand how they have developed their identity as men and how that may be contributing to how they relate to women in their lives can lead to a reexamination of concepts of masculinity.
- Men tend to respond more to men. As a result MAP has utilized male trainers and role models to promote this work.
- It is also important to recognize that men's mental health is an issue that has not been addressed adequately. This may be an important additional strategy in preventing gender-based violence.



# Agisanang Domestic Abuse Prevention (ADAPT) South Africa

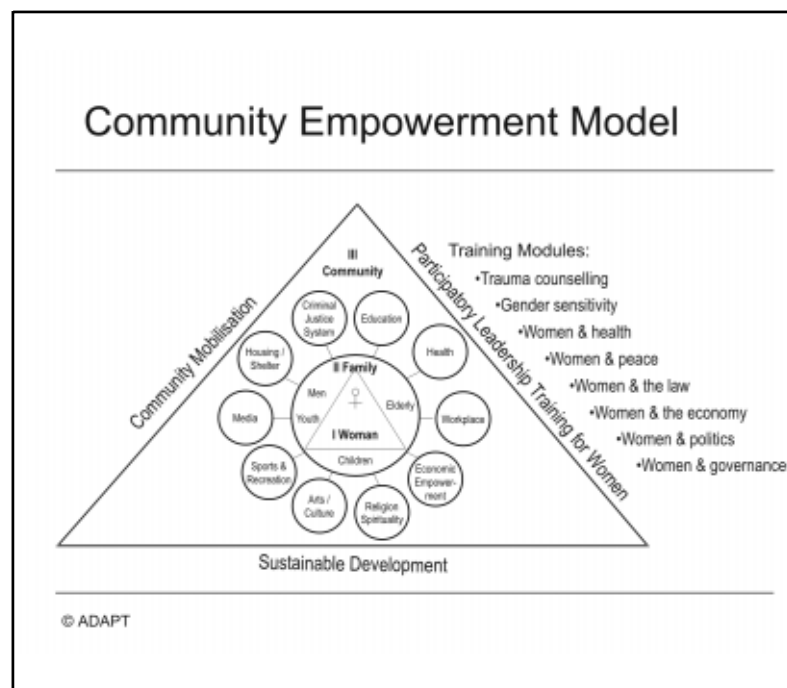
Agisanang Domestic Abuse Prevention and Training (ADAPT) is a non-profit organization that started operating as a small entity in 1994. At the beginning, the focus was on providing counseling and support services for abused women. Although the initial emphasis was on women, the beneficiaries of the services have expanded to include men, young people and the elderly.

ADAPT seeks to achieve a society free from domestic and sexual violence against women, through the creative participation of both men and women. ADAPT's approach emphasizes healing and recognizes the inherent goodness in everyone. ADAPT is committed to changing the social values and structural factors that perpetuate violence against women by promoting a spirit of interdependence, mutual respect and co-existence between women and men. The organization is particularly concerned with the black family that has been most affected by violence in the home and in the society.

## Programme Description

From the beginning, ADAPT has adopted a holistic approach to dealing with the causes of domestic violence. The majority of ADAPT activities that occur at the community level focus on prevention while service delivery and broader level advocacy at the local and national level is also done.

ADAPT's strength lies within their innovative community-based prevention efforts. A community empowerment model was developed that emphasizes the influence and responsibility of the whole community in GBV prevention. The core of the approach is facilitating change within individuals and the community. It emphasizes the importance of changing attitudes and behaviours that perpetrate violence and that this change must occur at an individual level with women and men as well as within local institutions.



The community empowerment model recognizes that while

men are the primary perpetrators of GBV, they also need to be central in the solution. By adopting the model, communities can address the problem through combined individual efforts and collective institutional change. Recognizing the importance of working with men at the community level in order to affect meaningful change, ADAPT established the men's programme in 1997.

## Objectives of the Men's Programme

1. To end men's violent and aggressive behaviour toward women and other men.
2. To create healing circles for men.



3. To help men take responsibility for their violence and develop alternative ways of dealing with conflict.
4. To increase men's understanding of the root causes of violence in society.
5. To develop intervention programmes that focus largely on preventing violence from occurring.

## Activities

*Counseling and support services for men.* This includes one-on-one support, couple counseling and men's support groups within the community.

*Gender sensitivity training for men.* Community-based participatory workshops provide forums for men to examine concepts such as gender, masculinity, relationships, violence and rights.

*Trauma counseling training for men.* ADAPT trains interested male volunteers on trauma counseling to enable them to effectively assist men who are not comfortable or find it difficult to accept counseling services from a female counselor.

*Public events.* High profile events such as drama and men's marches can help put new ideas and issues into the public domain. When large numbers of people are involved, it generates considerable interest and momentum.

*Mentorship for boys in local schools and youth groups.* Responsible male adults who adhere to positive family values, hold responsible jobs and participate actively in community initiatives are requested to mentor young boys who are in local schools and youth clubs.

*Engaging men in community development issues.* As it is typical for women to be involved in issues relating to community development, ADAPT encourages men to be active in community initiatives, e.g., safety audits, cleaning campaigns, economic empowerment initiatives, etc.

*Outreach to taverns/shabeens.* These drinking places provide ideal opportunities to engage men in a relaxed and informal way. ADAPT staff discuss alcohol abuse, violence and masculinity in these venues where men feel non-threatened.

## Notable Innovation

### *Working with men to promote healing*

ADAPT's analysis begins by seeing the woman as the focal point of the community's development yet also recognizes that men play a critical role in defining women's experience and as such need to be involved. Thus the following are recommendations based on our experience of working with men.

- Many men resist taking responsibility for their actions because they do not understand where their violence is originating from and what to do about it. Organizations can create safe space where men develop trust and can begin to take responsibility for their actions. This can help men take responsibility for their behaviour.
- It is important to encourage men to begin to 'own' their violence as a problem and as a result, begin the healing process. Part of the healing process is for the men to become active participants in preventing and ending GBV. They become part of the solution rather than remaining as part of the problem.
- Many women's organizations are reluctant to begin working with men. Our own stereotypes and prejudices must be examined.
- Recognize that it is often difficult for some men to volunteer because of other time commitments. Be flexible and work with, not against them.
- Meeting men in their own spaces (shebeens/taverns) can be very useful in engaging them in positive, non-threatening discussions.
- It is important to have a variety of consistent activities that reach out to and support men. Ideally, men's programmes are embedded in broader efforts to prevent GBV.

# Malawi Human Rights Resource Center Malawi

Malawi Human Rights Resource Center (MHRRC) formerly known as the Danish Center for Human Rights is a local human rights capacity building NGO whose main focus from inception in 1996 was to strengthen local human rights NGOs through resource (technical and financial) support, capacity building, networking and community mobilisation.

MHRRC is committed to promoting a sustainable human rights culture by working with civil society organizations and other institutions through resource provision, networking and research in Malawi and the SADC region.

The GBV prevention work in the Center started in 1999 after several studies conducted between 1997 –1999 collectively confirmed that violence against women was a serious problem affecting the majority of women and girls in different ways throughout their life cycle. While the focus groups and victim testimonies revealed that some men are also victims of violence at the hands of women/families, the vast majority of violence is male to female.

## Objectives

1. To increase male involvement in GBV prevention.
2. To raise awareness about GBV among men.

## Programme Description

The Network against Gender-based Violence, launched in 1999 was created after the Malawi National Platform for Action was developed and accepted. The Platform includes violence against women as one of the four key areas of action for Malawi. The first Men-to-Men Symposium brought together men from all over Malawi to discuss and strategise about GBV prevention and male involvement within the efforts. The group consisted of men from communities, civil society organizations, the policy, religious institutions, the judiciary and prisons. The diversity of members was very important as it meant that in all these sectors and groups, sensitization would be occurring on GBV prevention. All of the participants in the Men-to-Men symposium committed to working in their own community and/or workplaces to prevent GBV. This created an extensive network of male activists throughout the country. The members of the Network conduct a variety of activities such as:

- Men to Men Symposiums.
- The establishment of a Men-to-Men Networks on GBV at the village level.
- Publication of civic education materials on GBV such as Breaking the Silence, a comic strip magazine produced by the Network Against Gender-based violence in Malawi.
- ARISE: Breaking the Silence a newsletter for the Network Against GBV.
- Community sensitization and Education. This includes drama, traveling theatre, mobile van campaigns during the 16 Days of Activism.
- Traveling police campaigns to sensitise rural communities on GBV and how cultural traditions negatively impact women's health and lives.
- Formation of village action groups on GBV that now cover most of Malawi.

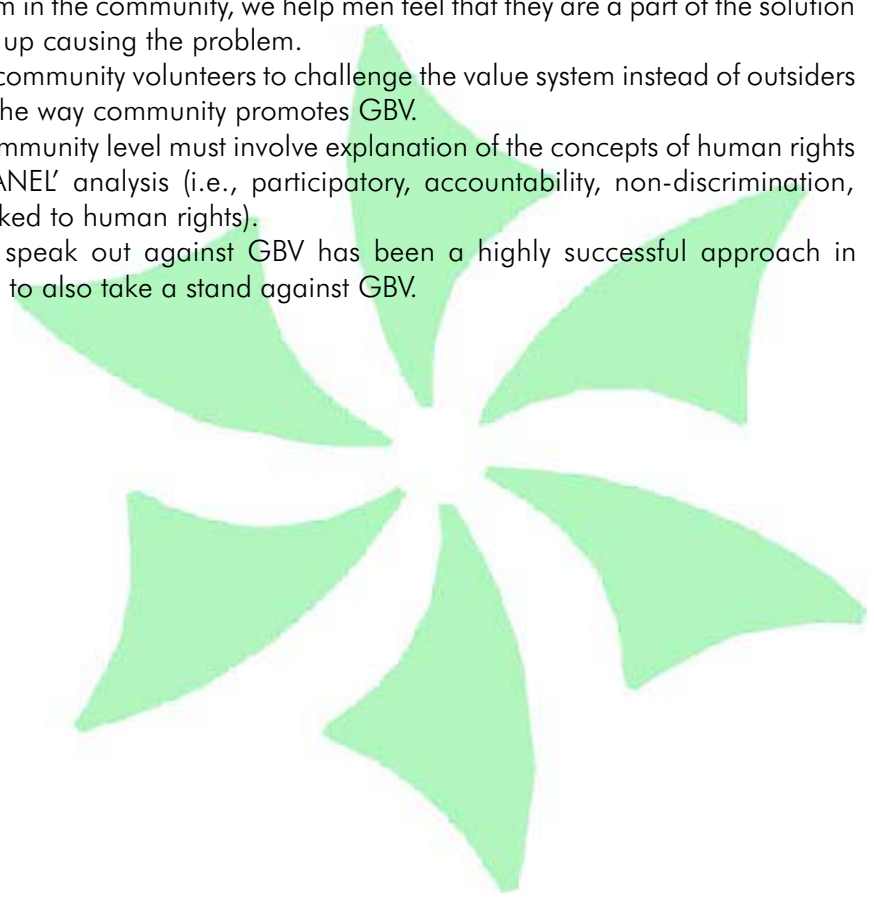
The range of activities and the diversity of men taking on the responsibility of preventing violence have created considerable momentum within the country. The men involved feel proud of their effort and other men are recognizing that change is positive and can occur. The national level meetings foster solidarity and support for the men. At these forums, they have an opportunity to share ideas, problem solve, and further their determination to prevent GBV.

## Notable Innovation

### *Constructing GBV as a community problem*

MHRRRC has made considerable effort to ground the GBV prevention programme at the community level and to shift the dialogue from GBV as a women's problem to a community's problem. The process included the following.

- It is important to conceptualize GBV as resulting from the way we socialize men and women. GBV is a result of the community's definition of how a man should behave and how a woman should submit to him. Therefore, the community must be involved in redefining gender roles.
- Men are often leaders in the community and they can be instrumental in shifting the community's opinion.
- By locating the problem in the community, we help men feel that they are a part of the solution even though they end up causing the problem.
- It is important to train community volunteers to challenge the value system instead of outsiders coming in to critique the way community promotes GBV.
- Interventions at the community level must involve explanation of the concepts of human rights and be based on 'PANEL' analysis (i.e., participatory, accountability, non-discrimination, empowerment and linked to human rights).
- Encouraging men to speak out against GBV has been a highly successful approach in persuading other men to also take a stand against GBV.



## Working with Men Lessons Learned

*Deconstruct gender roles and stereotypes.* Much of the gender socialization that men inherit encourages them to be violent. Gender based roles and skewed constructs of what a 'real man' is traps many men in a cycle of violent behaviour. Help men see the benefits of breaking free of this cycle.

*Highlight the benefits of non-violence.* Focus on the positive aspects of behaviour change for men such as increased intimacy and better familial relationships.

*Men can reach out to other men effectively* . Men tend to listen differently when hearing about GBV from fellow men than women. While women's safety and concerns must remain at the heart of discussions, men working with other men on sensitive issues can help reduce defensiveness and resistance.

*Start from the assumption that men are good.* Demonizing men and their violence does little to bring men on board. Approach working with men with an open mind and the presumption that most men want to be part of the solution rather than the problem.

*Hold men accountable for their violence.* While always striving to understand the complex context that influences male behaviour and choices, it is essential to avoid collusion with their violent behaviour and the attitudes that lie behind it.

*Women's concerns remain at the fore.* While working with men, it is essential that the voices, concerns and needs of women remain at the forefront of all activities. While all-male space is important, women must be included and meaningfully involved in the planning, implementation and monitoring of programmes that work with men.

# Strengthening Community- based Institutions

Strengthening and extending existing community-based institutions and services is an important component of designing and implementing sustainable GBV prevention programmes. Strengthening community institutions can have a long-term influence on how the community responds to the issue of GBV. This strategy, however, requires careful assessment of the status quo and perseverance when progress seems slow despite intense investment. Sometimes the politics of the situation, as well as practical considerations, may determine which institutions to engage and if it is a productive approach for the organization. Furthermore, Local Authorities can contribute to the coordination of NGO's efforts.

## Core Concepts

- Strengthening existing community institutions can be more cost effective and sustainable than creating new ones.
- Strengthening institutions requires efforts to include individuals as well as systems.
- Community institutions can include the law enforcement systems, health care, social services, tertiary institutions, national and local governance, schools, civil society organizations, media, political leaders.
- This work requires long-term commitment and engagement. One-off workshops/seminars have limited impact.
- Community-based institutions are often burdened with considerable bureaucracy. Understanding this at the outset and creating realistic timeframes can help reduce frustration.

## Key Practical Concerns

- Identify the gatekeepers and cultivate relationships with them.
- Develop sustainable partnerships by being clear from the outset about what each group commits to and is responsible for.
- Involve senior leaders in the institutions so that support for the work is throughout the institution.
- Ensure that all partners feel the benefits of the partnership.
- Make direct links between how the programme can assist participants in their work.
- Working with many individuals from one institution usually results in greater impact than a few individuals from many different institutions.

# Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) Kenya

The Federation of Women Lawyers in Kenya was established in 1985. In 1992 a secretariat was created and ever since has been working toward the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. Gender-based violence is one significant manifestation of existing discrimination and consequently is a major focus of FIDA's work.

FIDA Kenya works to empower women through provision of legal aid services. Through this programme, women receive legal advice and information and where necessary legal representation. For those who are able and interested, training on self-representation is undertaken.

At the community level, FIDA Kenya strengthens capacity of local institutions. Key sectors where gender inequities are likely to be advanced are the main focus, such as the local chiefs, the police force, heads of schools, medical and health institutions. A strong monitoring of violations by these groups strengthens the sustainability potential for our interventions by ensuring that the actors take responsibility to reduce GBV.

Lobbying with policymakers and legislatures with a view to reforming the legal and policy terrain is another area of focus. Quite apart from being informed by the legal clientele and the community-based monitors on the status of violations, FIDA Kenya seeks to monitor government compliance with international human rights instruments with a view to ensure they are domesticated so as to benefit Kenyan women and men.

## Objectives

1. To strengthen mechanisms redressing sexual and gender-based violence by police and chiefs
2. To conduct policy advocacy and grassroots sensitization to enhance women's ability to access, protect and promote their rights.
3. To strengthen efforts to increase the participation of women in entrenching a constitutional order that promotes the rights of women.
4. To increase awareness and understanding of gender issues and women rights with a view to influencing positive behaviour change in schools, health institutions, religious institutions and local leadership organs.

## Programme Description

*Legal Services.* FIDA offers legal counseling and emotional support for the clients who visit our clinics and legal suits are filed in court to seek protection from the batterer. The majority of cases are resulting from GBV.

*Police Training Curriculum.* In recognizing the biased and patriarchal nature of our society, efforts to create awareness on women's human rights have been strengthened. The local chiefs and police force are regularly receiving training on how to handle gender-based crimes. FIDA Kenya's collaboration with the police started in 1994 and has culminated in the production of a curriculum to train police recruits on handling gender-based crimes. The integration of FIDA training in the police training school is a great milestone.

*Lobbying and Advocacy.* As FIDA Kenya was established by lawyers, the absence of sufficient laws to handle gender-based violence preoccupies the rights programme. Interaction with policymakers and legislators with a view to influence gender sensitive laws and policies is continuously nurtured.

The office of the Attorney General in preparing the Family Protection (Domestic Violence) Bill sought FIDA Kenya's technical expertise. In addition, the lobbying of parliamentarians is a main focus of our work. The current constitutional conference is an opportune time for Kenyan women to shape the framework for recognition of women's rights, gender based violence. Once the legal status of women is uplifted and laws that promote and ensure respect for human rights and community are informed about the centrality of respect for women's human rights, we may see a transformation and a reduction on the incidences of gender based violence.

## Notable Innovation

*Working with police and legislators to promote GBV prevention*

FIDA has successfully raised the profile of GBV within the criminal justice and legislative systems. Their long-term approach emphasizes working with and through the system to affect change.

Lessons learned from the processes include the following.

- Gender sensitive policy documents can empower women to seek justice.
- Legislators and the police, if trained and engaged on an ongoing basis, can be powerful allies and a sustainable pro-woman mechanism for GBV prevention.
- Law reform and policy analysis can be a powerful awareness raising mechanism as well as catalyze positive long-term changes for women.
- The local chiefs and police are very useful allies as they shape opinion and will gradually lead the fight against GBV.
- To eradicate GBV there is a need for a partnership between the community and the institutions that support them.
- Empowering members of parliament to use the language of rights can affect resource allocation, policies, laws and influence public opinion.
- Local institutions are important service providers to women. Local chiefs (traditional leaders) and police are very useful allies as they shape public opinion and can spearhead changes.
- When working with the police, try not only to influence individuals within them but help establish women-friendly policy and procedures that will remain long after they are gone.





# Kwa Zulu Natal Network on Violence Against Women South Africa

The National Network acts as an umbrella body for the nine provincial networks, which, in turn, act as an umbrella body for the provincial networks involved in GBV programmes and activities in their respective provinces. The Kwa Zulu-Natal Network alone consists of 200 organizations working in this field. The Network's core function is to co-ordinate, share information and experiences through networking, capacity building, advocacy and lobbying on issues of gender based violence, as well as to hold government accountable for implementing legislation and to ensure effective service delivery.

Initially, the Network focused on interventions aimed at women. However, it has now recognized the need to include men in all intervention strategies. Most initiatives relating to gender-based violence are aimed at women, and in a sense portray it as a 'women's issue', and thus have marginalized men from the process. There seems to be an increasing awareness amongst men on gender-based violence, and some even are starting to get involved in advocacy work in this regard, but the trend needs strengthening. The Network has now taken a more inclusive approach.

## Objectives

1. To act as a linking body between member organizations and relevant government departments to facilitate networking between these constituencies
2. To support regional, provincial, national and international initiatives in the field of gender based violence and encourage the establishment of relevant structures and networks.
3. To encourage and promote the training and sensitization of service providers and the public, regarding issues of gender based violence
4. Lobbying for legal and policy reform on gender based violence issues.
5. To develop training initiatives and educating member organizations, relevant government departments/agencies, as well as the public.
6. Co-ordinate strategies on changing societal attitudes towards gender based violence.

## Programme Description

The Network's core function is to be a unified, effective and supporting structure that leads and co-ordinates initiatives towards the prevention and eradication of all forms of gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS. At times, given limited financial resources activities are prioritized accordingly.

In South Africa, a National Network on Violence Against Women (NNVAW) was established whose main function is to coordinate overall activities for preventing violence against women. The national network developed provincial networks that are each responsible for coordinating violence prevention activities in their respective provinces. This mechanism has been successful in engaging the community including community-based institutions in developing a coherent response to GBV. The provincial network has a secretariat that is responsible for working with the local institutions including the police, health care workers, community leaders and local government.

The strength of the KZN Network lies in the connections it maintains with the many civil society groups (large and small) throughout the province. Often, civil society organizations work in isolation with limited connections to or support from others. The KZN Network builds solidarity and helps groups stay strong.

The Network develops healthy partnerships with the many civil society groups (large and small) throughout the province. Often, civil society organizations work in isolation with limited connections or support from others. The Network builds solidarity by initiating different collaborations and projects between different groups. An extensive referral system facilitated by the Network for service providers improves quality of services delivered and ensures that a broader range of services is available.

The KZN Network also provides information to member organizations through workshops and information sessions. This also strengthens the capacity for member organizations that can in turn provide more effective and efficient services to women and girls experiencing GBV.

The Network values the experiences of organizations working on GBV prevention and uses the experiences of groups to feed into the national level decision-making bodies. Lobbying is done with government bodies to influence policy and promote gender mainstreaming.

## Notable Innovation

### *Strengthening linkages between civil society organisations*

Many civil society organisations remain isolated without a central organising body to coordinate their efforts, disseminate information or facilitate the building of supportive relationships with others. KZN Network has been successful in organising the civil society organisations in the province. Benefits of this type of network are as follows.

- The network has credibility, local knowledge and presence and thus forms an effective body to engage government and local institutions.
- Networks ensure that the voices of smaller groups are represented and heard.
- Planned activities are greatly amplified when announced throughout the network.
- The network can bring together a broader pool of skills and talents that is difficult for an independent NGO to accumulate.
- Actions of many groups speak louder than actions of one. When activities are conducted through networks, it means even hundreds of groups can do the activity, greatly increasing impact.
- A well-managed network with an activist agenda can be a powerful tool.



# Swaziland Action Group Against Abuse (SWAGAA)

Swaziland

The organization was established in 1990 by a group of Swazi women who were concerned about the increasing rate of abuse against women in the country, and the lack of services to support them. The main objective was to provide counseling support to women experiencing violence. Originally, the organization operated through volunteers and as the number of people seeking counseling services increased, there was a need to set up offices. The organization started with one counseling site and has now expanded to eleven counseling sites through out the country.

## Objectives

1. To empower survivors of abuse through counseling.
2. To bring about positive change in behaviour and attitudes through education and thereby preventing and equipping people to deal with abuse.
3. To bring about change in social, cultural norms.

## Programme Description

SWAGAA provides extensive training to various community institutions in order to strengthen their capacity to respond to women and children experiencing violence as well as contribute to a climate that is supportive of women's right to live free of violence.

*Health Care Providers* . Nurses have constant and direct contact with survivors of abuse and as such, SWAGAA is committed to strengthening their capacity to provide quality care for women experiencing violence. A core group of nurses have been extensively trained on gender-based violence.

*Teachers* . An intense training was conducted with teachers to deepen their understanding about gender-based violence. They are now able to identify children affected by abuse as both primary and secondary survivors. They provide referrals to SWAGAA and support those students experiencing violence at home. In a collaboration with the Strategic Education Committee, teachers were also equipped with information on HIV/AIDS and how they can best support the girl child in HIV prevention.

*Police, Prosecutors and Social Workers.* SWAGAA has created links with the police who are now strong stakeholders in the referral system and SWAGAA's programmes. They depend on SWAGAA to assist in training workshops within their institution. A core group of police officers, prosecutors and social workers have also been trained to handle sexual violence cases effectively with an emphasis on decreasing secondary victimization.

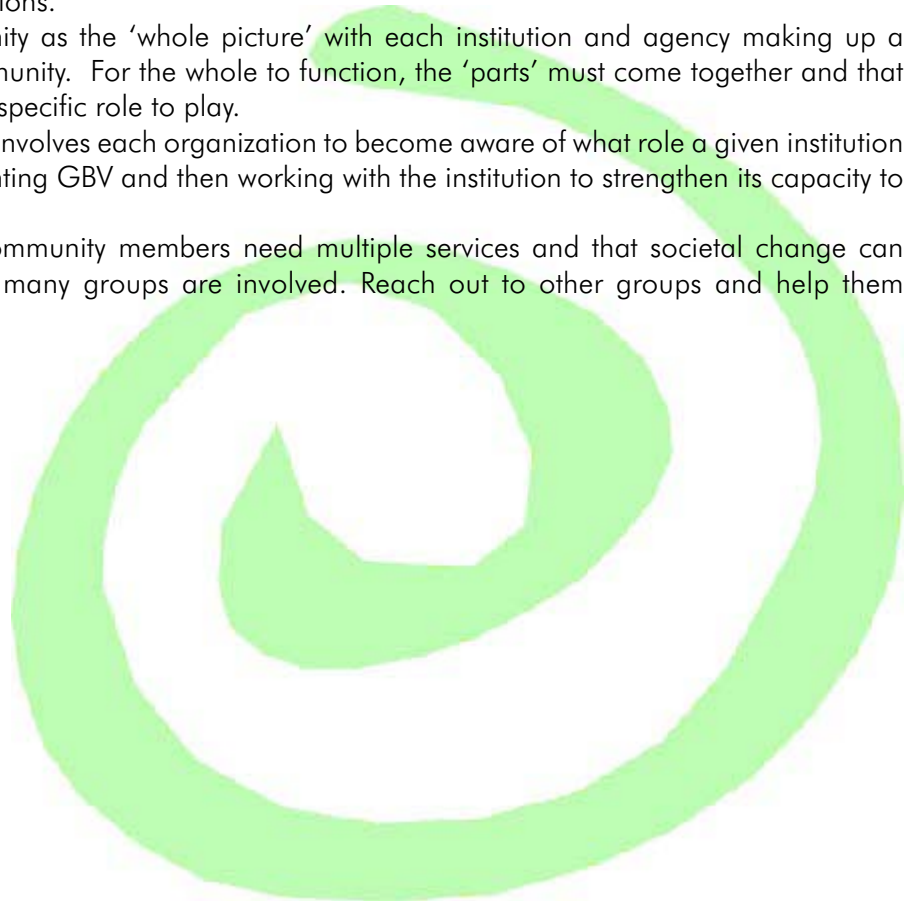
*Traditional Healers.* Leaders of the two major traditional healer associations are working with SWAGAA to prepare a training process for their colleagues. The training will include gender, HIV/AIDS and violence.

## Notable Innovation

*Working with a cross-section of stakeholder agencies*

SWAGAA approaches community institutions holistically, recognizing that the experiences and skills of one, can build on and support others. They offer the following suggestions for other organizations working with multiple stakeholder institutions.

- Each organization brings its unique strengths and skills that can strengthen different community institutions. Choosing sectors based on an organization's unique skills will produce more meaningful partnerships.
- Each organization has its perspective and identity, which may differ from how others perceive them. It is important to be aware of how this affects an organization's reputation with the community institutions.
- View the community as the 'whole picture' with each institution and agency making up a 'part' of the community. For the whole to function, the 'parts' must come together and that each 'part' has a specific role to play.
- Strategic thinking involves each organization to become aware of what role a given institution can play in preventing GBV and then working with the institution to strengthen its capacity to play that role.
- Recognize that community members need multiple services and that societal change can occur only when many groups are involved. Reach out to other groups and help them understand GBV.



Panos is an international organization with regional offices worldwide. Panos Ethiopia is a country office that operates under the Eastern African Regional Office. The organization works to raise awareness of neglected issues and strengthen the ability of marginalized sections of the community to assert their priorities in public policy and debate.

The End Violence Against Women Project of Panos Ethiopia was established in 2001 with the intention of stimulating informed debate and discussion on development issues both at country and regional levels. The project's strategy includes informing the public about GBV and in particular, those who have the mandate to protect the rights of women in the community. The project uses different information dissemination strategies to reach a variety of target groups. The project was designed in partnership with The Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association and the Ethiopian Media Women Association. Bringing together three different, but strong organisations to put their efforts together in the fight against violence against women generated synergy.

## Objective

1. To raise awareness on violence against women and increase its profile to induce changes in attitude and behaviour within the community and the government machinery.

## Programme Descriptions

*Public hearings* are public events where victims of violence give testimonies of the abuse they have faced. They are designed to raise awareness within the public, the legislature and other public institutions of legal and support aspects of VAW and gaps in legislation. The public hearings also enable victims of VAW to speak out and stimulate public debate on issues

*Workshops for law enforcement agencies* aim to sensitise law enforcers on issues of violence. The workshops are designed to create opportunities for participating individuals and institutions to review the current situation and systems from a broader perspective (e.g., police and judiciary do not often meet and discuss together); to identify problems in the system – practical, attitudinal, information etc – and identify solutions; in combination with media coverage and advocacy, to initiate steps to change culture, support victims and reduce VAW.

The activities focus on discussing basic gender issues, forms of violence and how they are looked at from the existing law and the constitution, international convention signed and the problems faced in the process of dealing with violence against women cases. The participants include prosecutors, judges and the police and the intention is to increase knowledge of women's rights, as well as encourage reflection on the practical implications of this knowledge within their places of work and then to help the institutions think about how to operationalise new knowledge.

*Workshops for journalists* sensitise journalists so they can develop more informed publications and news on violence against women and other issues related to women's rights. Since the media has a large influence on all people in the country, PANOS aims to influence the portrayal of women and violence in the media in order to stimulate positive change.

A *Radio programme*, The Voice of Eve, has aired 52 programmes primarily dedicated to violence against women. Though it deals with providing information, it also has become a forum for discussing options, discovering alternatives and holding existing serviced providers (usually government) accountable. It includes topics which are of immediate application in the other parts of the country.

It is also being used as an also an avenue to compare experiences in the use of the existing machineries thereby monitoring the government and its institutions that deal with violence throughout the country.

## Notable Innovation

### *Choosing community institutions carefully*

In a country like Ethiopia, working with community's institutions such as the police, judiciary or lawyers is a choice that has to be made deliberately because meaningful work involves a long-term commitment that is often challenging. Panos has learned important lessons in their journey of working to strengthen community institutions, they are as follows.

- The customs and social values of the community or institutions may undermine your work (e.g., acceptance of child marriage, women as property of men) and many of the leaders within the institutions that you may be working with, may also be leaders who uphold these social customs. Accept this and work to influence attitudes at a personal level first.
- Working with the people who 'run the system' requires a long-term commitment to build their capacity to develop a new conceptual framework. This entails beginning the training process with the broader gender analysis and focusing on establishing a fundamental shift of perspective before any practical skill building can occur.
- Organisations accepting this challenge must recognize that this is a time-consuming strategy that requires resources and perseverance.
- If an organization does invest the resources and time, the impact can be substantial and sustainable.

# Strengthening Community-based Institutions

## Lessons Learned

*Community institutions encompass a broad range of people.* Communities are composed of a large number of institutions (e.g., police, local government, churches and mosques, hospitals, schools, etc.) whose role it is to ensure that the community functions efficiently. The institution or groups an organization focuses on depends on their expertise, experience and objectives.

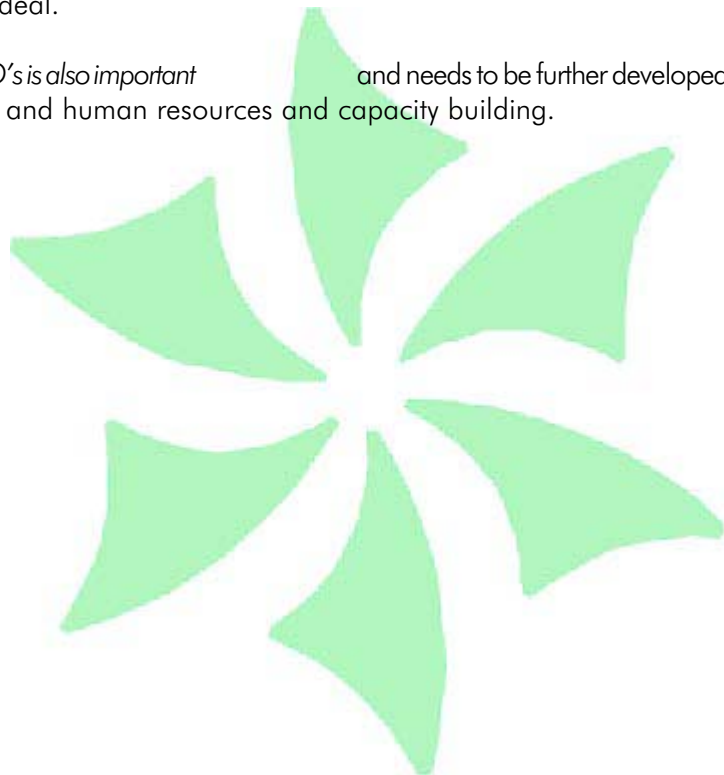
*Distinguish between long-term and short-term work.* Some organizations work to ensure that the institution they are addressing simply respects women's rights or follow procedure. NGOs in this role act as a 'watchdog' or pressure group. Other groups focus on fundamentally affecting how institutions operate. This requires relationship building, operating through allies and investing in skill building. Both can be effective approaches, however, it is important to be clear about which approach should be utilized.

*Longer-term approaches require active involvement of allies within the institutions so that they (not the organization) are the central protagonists of change.* This means encouraging influential leaders to endorse and promote the change or building capacity of resource persons who then build capacity of their colleagues.

*Take care to build credibility* . Avoid 'creating enemies' and make your critique of local institutions realistic and specific. Begin from the perspective of strengthening, not criticizing the institution. Use facts and testimonies to create a compelling case rather than level broad allegations that may alienate.

*Recognize that most institutions are overburdened.* In developing countries, many community institutions are under-resourced and therefore the morale is likely to be low. Often the staff members are expected to perform tasks for which they have had little training and for which there is minimal pay. It is important to operate from a realistic and compassionate perspective, focusing on what is achievable and realistic instead of the ideal.

*Local government's role in strengthening NGO's is also important* and needs to be further developed through the allocation of both financial and human resources and capacity building.





# Bridging the Gap with Local Authorities

Local Authorities can play a key role in community crime prevention initiatives that protect women's right to safety. The tasks of Local Authorities in the area of GBV are manifold, including: a) establishing a partnership between all the social services and the criminal justice system; b) involving gender issues in urban management policies; and, c) encouraging the participation of women in the decision-making process.

Yet this remains an untapped resource in many communities. New GBV prevention efforts are underway within local government that recognizes the link between violence in the public and private spheres. Local governments are based right in the community they serve and as such can be key catalysts for change. Linkages between NGOs and Local Authorities could further GBV prevention efforts as both groups have specific skills, resources and expertise needed in GBV prevention efforts.

## Core Concepts

- Local government is strategically located close to the people, has mobilizing power and controls resources. It has the legitimacy and responsibility to work on GBV prevention.
- The link to the central government can be positive, building a bridge between policy and practice.
- Strengthening the role of local government in social crime prevention and violence against women needs to include education, women's involvement, and community ownership.
- Local governments can work effectively in partnership with NGOs, media and other stakeholders.

## Key Practical Concerns

- Internal and external lobbying of Local Authorities is important so that GBV is included as a priority issue in municipality budgeting and allocating appropriate human resources
- Review the by laws and laws/policies to ensure effective access and implementation of laws and by laws/policies.
- Initiate research to assess the needs, direct programme development and measure impact
- Institutionalize GBV prevention efforts for sustainability.
- Conduct a stakeholder analysis (define who does what), consultation meetings and create a database that analyzes the gaps.
- Ensure synergies between central, provincial government and local government
- Invest in capacity building with Local Authorities and partners.
- Encourage networking e.g., Women and Cities Network – Montréal Conference, etc. so practitioners can find support and exchange ideas.

# Safer Cities Project Tanzania

Safer Cities is an initiative that works to build the capacity of Local Authorities to address issues of urban insecurity in partnership with local communities and other stakeholders. While working with communities to develop local initiatives for crime prevention, it was found that women's safety is often overlooked in the general approach. When women are involved in activities that are of concern to them, such as the safety audits, they are able to identify the factors that contribute to fear of being victims of crime which policing cannot address. Such issues include the environment in which women live and work.

The gender component of the Safer Cities project in Dar es Salaam has begun with safety audits for women. The approach is based on the fact that fear of crime for women is much higher than for men and often restricts them from participating fully in community activities and inhibits their freedom. The audit tool works on the premise that the experts on the security of a particular area are those who frequent it. It is a participatory tool used to examine specific locations in the community to assess how safe it is for women. As a result, the women are consulted at each stage of the walk about. The audits involve those who are the most vulnerable, women, children, the elderly, etc. The audit guide helps the user to detect what corrective actions need to be taken in the urban environment in order to make it safer for its inhabitants.

In this context, *exploratory walks* are one way of critically evaluating the urban environment. An exploratory walk is an audit conducted in the field by a group of 10-15 people, mostly women and key stakeholders. At each specific site, participants identify areas where the potential for an attack is high or where women may feel unsafe.

*Women's Safety Audits* increase awareness of violence against vulnerable groups and helps users and decision-makers to understand how men and women experience their environments. It gives legitimacy to women's concerns and is an effective tool for building community safety.

Two areas (Kurasini and Manzese) have implemented the safety audit exercise and have identified: (i) areas that are perceived as unsafe and recommended what can be done to address the problem. (ii) alternative safer economic activities for women instead of the previous ones that forced the women to stay out when dark exposing them to possible victimisation.

## Objective

1. Creating a safer environment for everybody to live and actively participate in the development activities, especially women.

## Programme Description

Women's groups have been trained in how to conduct women's safety audits in the community to identify prevalent types of crimes and suggest the most appropriate ways to address insecurity problems affecting their daily life. The audit reports on the findings are compiled and the results are presented to the Ward Development Committees for implementation of the audit recommendations. Below are some of the results from the audits that are being implemented:

- Safe employment through income generation activities e.g., selling of cereals instead of local brew, food vending, tailoring.
- Environment cleaning where women participate in clearing of open spaces, cemetery sites and footpaths which are hide-outs for criminals.

- Neighborhood campaign on household lighting where each household is sensitised to put up a bulb outside their verandas (front and rear and on the sides) to light up the surroundings. Similar lighting campaigns have been directed towards industry owners including cutting hedges.
- Organizing unemployed youths.

## Notable Innovation

### *Practical steps to create a climate of safety for women*

The Safer Cities Programme in the three municipalities in Dar es Salaam has been able to take concrete steps toward increasing women's safety by making specific changes in the environment. The perspectives that informed the initiatives are as follows.

- Women's safety in their community depends primarily on the decisions made at the local level. From the environment in which they earn their living to the environment in which they live, women are vulnerable to opportunistic violence simply because they are women. Thus the entire community needs to be mobilised to address women's safety concerns.
- Women's biggest concern is lack of safety that limits their earning potential. This ranges from their earning being confiscated by their partners to them being robbed.
- Women experienced the process of articulating their fears through a systematic process as empowering. While many practical solutions were developed, the greatest benefit was derived from openly talking about their concerns, a sense of being heard and taken seriously.
- The perception of safety is an individual matter influenced by many environmental concerns (i.e., dark, unlit roads and places) as well as psychological factors (i.e., feeling vulnerable as a woman). Thus there is a need for Local Authorities and women-centered NGOs to collaborate to build a social climate that promotes women's sense of well-being.

# Nairobi City Council Kenya

The Nairobi City Council (NCC) is a statutory organ charged with the responsibility of service delivery in Nairobi. To achieve its objective, the council formulates policies and programmes or projects responding to various needs of the community.

The NCC is actively involved in the campaign to prevent domestic violence against women and children which is a major concern that creates fear, insecurity and lack of participation in development. The main focus of the GBV component within the Nairobi City Council is to strengthen violence prevention initiatives through the involvement of all relevant stakeholders.

## Objectives

1. Development of local policy measures to protect of women and children against violence.
2. Establish a department within local government dealing with gender, youth, and children issues.
3. Develop a sustainable approach addressing violence against women.
4. Influence positive attitude and behaviour change in our society.
5. Strengthening the capacity building of clients and the Local Authorities staff.
6. Establish organization links, NGO's, CBO's etc.

## Programme Description

As part of the Safer Nairobi Initiative, the NCC is involved in community organization initiatives aimed at improving the living standards of the community which includes, communication, mobilisation, development meetings, seminars and workshops. Counseling services are also available and income generating activities are underway. The Nairobi City Council is committed to creating a violence free environment for women and children in the society, this involves working with men to ensure that they recognize women's input in matters pertaining to development and the negative effects of violence against women.

## Activities

*Educating women on their human rights.* The Council works closely with women's groups and community volunteers to whom they offer basic skills to understand and respond to GBV. These groups then go share information with organized peer groups through forums, public events, mobile theater recreation activities, discussion and drama groups. This approach has shown great impact.

*Referrals.* The Department of Social Services and community volunteers conduct family interventions and referral to the relevant institutions. They also hold monthly meetings at the community level to monitor progress and problem solve.

*Community Outreach* . The Council organizes exchange programmes from different divisions and areas in the community where groups and leaders visit, learn from, and share their practical experience on preventing violence against women.

*Counseling Training.* Since violence prevention is a long-term goal, the Council offers counseling skills to the community so they can better approach and assist women experiencing violence.

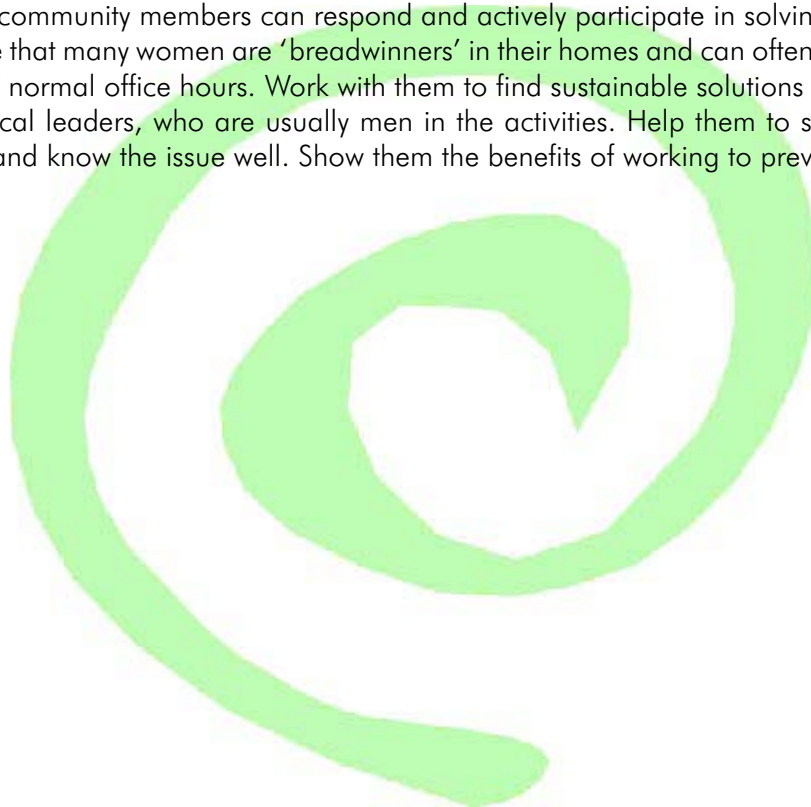
*Rehabilitation Centers.* In Nairobi, there is an enormous problem of women and children living on the streets. Many are there because they are fleeing violent homes or are victims of violence themselves. The Council has established rehabilitation centers for street families.

## Notable Innovation

### *Involving community members in GBV prevention*

NCC's GBV prevention programme is meeting success. A key component of this success is the active involvement of community members. Suggestions for facilitating their participation are as follows.

- Ask questions to community members and listen carefully to their opinions.
- Recognize that they are the experts in their own lives, they know the GBV situation in their communities best.
- Trust that community members can respond and actively participate in solving the problem.
- Recognize that many women are 'breadwinners' in their homes and can often volunteer more outside of normal office hours. Work with them to find sustainable solutions to scheduling.
- Involve local leaders, who are usually men in the activities. Help them to successfully lead activities and know the issue well. Show them the benefits of working to prevent GBV.



## Local Authorities Lessons Learned

*The Safer Cities Programme is a catalyst.* The role of the UN-Safer Cities Programme is not to implement initiatives but to inspire and guide Local Authorities to take leadership in development of crime prevention strategy. The local initiatives are implemented through specific Safer Cities projects in various cities. The Safer Cities Programme can provide tools such as safety audits and violence against women surveys. It also plays a crucial role in terms of reinforcing the capacities of Local Authorities, developing exchange of expertise and fostering city networks.

*Local Authorities should develop crime prevention strategies that take into account women's safety.* Both locally and internationally, the role of cities in crime reduction has only recently received impetus in the last few years. In 1994, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development brought together, for the first time, delegates from twenty seven different countries to discuss the theme of "Women and cities: housing, facilities and urban environment". In Europe, the publication of the 'European Charter on Women in Cities' in 1995, led to one of the first real attempts to seriously consider women's safety in cities and villages and generated debate on the issue of citizenship, cities and public safety. The United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in 1996 marked an important turning point in locating women's safety within the role of city governance. The City Summit of Habitat II placed great emphasis on women's concerns around their safety in cities, leading to a series of commitments by national governments within the framework of the Habitat Programme (Smaoun, 2000). This involves creating infrastructure for interaction with civil society and setting up forums for exchange of ideas. It also means the Local Authorities must find credible ways of involving the local community in articulating needs and developing solutions.

*Local Authorities should ensure the participation of women in the decision-making process.* In order to apprehend and modify one's response to women's particular needs with respect to city affairs, their participation in the decision-making is vital. Thus, it is essential that women are encouraged to participate in the management of municipal services. City councils must develop various measures to encourage women into key positions within its administration. Equally, these measures must ensure that the workplace is secure and non-discriminatory, with clear policies against sexual harassment and towards a safe working environment.

*Women are also key players in implementing prevention strategies* to fight against the lack of security for women in urban areas. They are thereby in a position to channel the action and energy of those in local associations and city networks involved in these issues

*It is important to develop an activist culture within the Local Authorities.* Identify influential allies within the local authority who can track down budgets and advocate for specific plans that address women's safety and proactively reach out to NGOs. Also, the role of local government in promoting public safety needs to be anchored within the broader context of its role in social development. Social crime prevention programmes are meant to be pivotal to and integrated into the developmental initiatives of all local government directorates and departments.

*The link between civil society and Local Authorities needs to be developed and strengthened.* This means specific mechanisms must be developed by both parties to exchange ideas, information and expertise (including capacity building mechanisms).

# Bridging the Gap: NGOs & Local Authorities

## Opportunities and Challenges

### Opportunities

- Local authorities are strategic opportunities for action, their services are often the first point of contact for many poor women.
- Programmes of Local Authorities and NGOs could support and enhance each other.
- Both groups are concerned about the welfare of the populations and therefore have a common goal.
- Local Authorities and community-based NGOs are both on the ground. Working together could avoid duplication and strengthen the overall work of GBV prevention.
- Local Authorities are influential and have the mandate to control a variety of services to the community. Linking GBV concerns to the planning and delivery of some these services could enhance the reach of the ideas in the community.
- NGOs are often trusted by the community, especially if the population has concerns with the current government. Thus a partnership with the local authority could create a mutually beneficial collaboration.
- Local Authorities can affect policy change and thus NGOs could work with them to ensure they are gender-sensitive and protect women's right to live free of violence.

### Challenges

- More women activists who are sensitized to women's rights and GBV are needed in the local authorities.
  - NGOs often see Local Authorities as ineffective and bureaucratic, and feel working with them means slowing down level of programming and at times getting stuck. Local Authorities may seem ineffective and bureaucratic, but this may be due to lack of management and vision/direction.
  - Local Authorities often consider NGOs much better funded and this can create tension, competition and lack of transparency between the groups.
  - Cannot assume that women in Local Authorities in particular are gender-sensitive and this at times frustrates NGOs.
  - Local authorities may be challenged, for instance, with regard to allocation of financial and human resources specifically to GBV issues, but may also lack capacity-knowledge of how to deal with GBV.
- NGOs fear compromising their independence and autonomy by associating too closely with government programmes.
- Civil society and government often have very different priorities. Collaborations could require too much compromise.



# Linked Issues: GBV and HIV/AIDS

Prevention of GBV begins with a broader analysis of power imbalance in intimate relationships and the social norms that relegate women's status as lower than that of men. In this broad conceptualization, a whole range of issues become linked to GBV prevention, particularly HIV/AIDS. Women's vulnerability to HIV infection is clearly related to their autonomy and status in their intimate relationships, their ability to negotiate safer sex with their partners, and the level of communication, respect and mutuality in their partnership. Women's vulnerability to both GBV and HIV is a result of a core set of issues including gender inequity, imbalance of power in their personal relationships and their low status in their community. Activists and practitioners working both on GBV and HIV could greatly benefit from linking the issues if it means, in turn, that causes of infection would be better understood and prevention efforts could be facilitated. At the same, however, there are challenges with overlapping the two areas of work. It is important that we analyze the linkages, conceptualize them within the framework of prevention and invest further in creating practical programmatic responses that take into account the context and constraints of both groups.

## Core Concepts

- Violence against women and women's vulnerability to HIV are both rooted in gender inequity.
- Women's vulnerability to HIV infection is closely linked to the levels of violence in their intimate relationships.
- HIV prevention efforts must address GBV.
- There is an ethical responsibility to discuss GBV and HIV with women accessing services.
- There are advantages to linking GBV prevention to HIV prevention. In the current climate, there is considerable momentum for addressing HIV/AIDS. GBV programmes could benefit from the impetus.

## Key Practical Concerns

- HIV/AIDS organizations are not always equipped with the skills required to deal with the special needs of GBV cases and vice versa. Attempts to deal with both issues may overwhelm NGOs and reduce the quality of services.
- Close linkages between the issues may distort an organization's identity in the community.
- *It is important to make a strategic choice about how groups conceptualise and present the issue.* For groups committed to GBV prevention, it is important to address HIV transmission through within the context of GBV prevention.
- HIV/AIDS organizations often lack the rights-based frameworks that typically underpin women's organizations and GBV programmes.

# Rakai Project Uganda

The Rakai Project represents a collaboration between the Ugandan Ministry of Health through Uganda Virus Research Institute, researchers from Makerere University (Kampala), Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (Baltimore, USA), Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health (New York, USA), and the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR). The Rakai Project was initiated in 1988, with a focus on population-based reproductive health research. The Project conducts extensive epidemiological and behavioural studies to document the HIV/STD epidemics and risk factors, implements HIV/STD preventive services, and undertakes large community randomized intervention trials for AIDS prevention, STD control and prevention of adverse outcomes of pregnancy.

Rakai Project has an ongoing longitudinal study with a cohort established in 1994/5. Data collection is done annually and takes 10-14 months to complete. With an interest in assessing the prevalence of domestic violence and its potential contributory role to HIV transmission in the Rakai Project study population, a special module of questions was fielded in 2000-2001.

During the data collection round conducted between March 2000 and February 2001, research respondents were asked a series of detailed questions concerning experience with domestic violence including experience of abuse within their lifetime as well as within the 12 months preceding the survey, the specific acts of violence experienced, the precipitating factors for such violence, as well as the nature of any resulting injuries. Both male and female respondents were asked their views on the circumstances under which a man would be justified in beating his wife or female partner.

## Select Findings

Analysis of data from the 2000-01 data indicate that domestic violence is a significant public health issue in this study population. Findings from survey data collected from 5109 reproductive-aged women in the Rakai District of Uganda indicate that 30 percent of women in the study had experienced physical threats or physical abuse by the current partner, 20 percent during the year preceding the survey. Among women reporting recent physical threats or abuse, three in five reported three or more specific acts of violence during the preceding year, and just under one-half reported resulting injuries. An analysis of risk factors highlights the pivotal roles of alcohol consumption and perceived HIV risk by the male partner in increasing the risks of male-to-female domestic violence. A majority of respondents – 70 percent of men and 90 percent of women — view wife/partner beating as justifiable in one or more circumstances, posing a central challenge to violence prevention efforts in settings such as Uganda.

Of the same 5,109 women (interviewed during the 2000-01 survey), 97.8 percent were in a consensual union or marriage and 2.2 percent had at least one current sexual relationship. Women reporting physical threats and/or violence in the past 12 months with a current partner were significantly more likely to have received HIV test results during the same interval. Of those who received their results in the past year, 47.5 percent discussed their HIV status with their partners. Of the 1,016 women who reported any physical threats or violence in the past year, 57 percent had received their HIV results in the past year among whom, 28 percent discussed their HIV status with their partners, 23 percent did not discuss their HIV status with their partners and 53 did not disclose information about couple communication. Of the women who decided to get tested for HIV and receive results, physical violence in the past 12 months was significantly associated with less discussion about the women's HIV status with her male partner.

## Conclusions from Rakai Project

- < Women who perceive their current partner to be at higher risk of HIV infection are more susceptible to physical and sexual violence.
- < Although women try to protect themselves from HIV, such efforts might be negated by violence.
- < Women who reported experiences of physical violence in the past 12 months are more likely to have received their HIV results but less likely to have discussed their HIV status with their current male partner.
- < Fear of domestic violence might prevent women from using VCT services and/or discussing VCT results with their partners.

## Objectives

As a result of the data linking domestic violence and HIV, the Rakai project is establishing a new project to respond.

The project objectives are:

1. To develop interventions that incorporate the issues of domestic violence, including physical abuse and sexual coercion, into HIV prevention programmes.
2. To encourage community members to change the community norms and cultural attitudes that perpetuate domestic violence.
3. To sensitise HIV testing and counseling procedures to the possibility of physical domestic violence and the ways that such circumstances may influence a woman's decision to discuss VCT results with partner.
4. To incorporate services and referral for cases of domestic violence into VCT procedures.

## Programme Description

*Capacity Building.* Train basic health and social protection service providers to understand the impact of DV and motivate them to initiate change within their own environments; Train Rakai Project's HIV/AIDS counselors to understand the link between DV and VCT and equip them to handle cases in their daily work and make referrals; Train community opinion leaders to spread DV prevention messages.

*Establishing a local support network for domestic violence victims.* Develop system of referral between RP and local health and social protection service providers; Establish relationship between and system of referral among community-based service providers, NGOs, and other related organizations in Rakai.

*Raising Awareness* . Among men about the importance of preventing DV; Among women about their rights; Among youth about healthy male-female relationships and delayed sexual initiation; Among couples about improving partner communication; In the community by addressing cultural norms and practices condoning violence and violating women's rights.

*Economic Empowerment of Women* . Through training on business skills.

# GBV Prevention

## A Summary of Lessons Learned

*Primary prevention is crucial for long-term change.* Addressing the root causes of violence against women is the essence of primary prevention. In order to affect social change, it is important that programmes begin to systematically address deeply held beliefs and attitudes that underpin GBV.

Prevention emphasises popularisation of human rights. Moving beyond codification of human rights principles, prevention efforts underpinned by human rights principles can be empowering for women and increase male accountability. Promoting a human rights culture at the community level holds significant potential to affect wide-scale social change.

*Prevention efforts often increase reporting of GBV* . The increase in numbers of women reporting abuse during prevention programmes can often be seen as a success of prevention work as it reflects the ability of more community members to speak out. It should be noted that increased reporting does not necessarily imply that the incidence is increasing, rather that fewer people are choosing to remain silent.

*Promoting equitable relationships is the core of prevention.* Ultimately the work of GBV prevention is to influence the nature of relationships between women and men, the models of masculinity and femininity acceptable in the community, and increasing women's status in the community. At a programmatic level, this means that underlying issues such as gender, inequity, status, communication, etc, need to be explored before GBV is addressed directly.

*Move beyond raising awareness to action.* Raising awareness is only the beginning of the processes of influencing change. Helping individuals think through alternatives to violence and creating informal and formal systems of accountability and support is essential for individuals to sustain a change in attitude and behavior.

*Partnering with local government.* For sustainability in the long-term, developing a stronger relationship with local government can be strategic as they are well-positioned to effect change by facilitating city-level action and also mobilizing resources to this effect.

*Involving men is critical.* GBV cannot be prevented without the active and direct involvement of men. Lack of support from men can increase women's vulnerability to violence and create a backlash against the work. While the level of male involvement can be controversial because of the concern that it can take already scarce resources from women, it is clear that excluding them from GBV prevention efforts is not a viable option.

*Make it personal.* GBV issues cut to the core of what individuals and communities hold dear about women and men. Prevention work must encourage personal reflection and action. Women and men involved need to be supported to make changes in their personal and professional lives.

*Ensure meaningful action* . Leaders and community members often adopt the rhetoric of women's rights, however, prevention efforts must help translate the rhetoric into real change at a personal and institutional level. This includes developing policies, protocols and mandates that operationalise good intention.

*Prevention is a sustainable response to GBV.* While it is challenging to measure attitude and behaviour change in the short term, prevention provides an opportunity for long-term sustainable change at the individual and community level.

## Recommendations

Many innovative prevention efforts are underway throughout the Horn, East and Southern Africa. These efforts are initiated, designed and maintained by activist NGOs and Local Authorities who have vision, passion and commitment to prevent GBV. Regional Dialogue participants suggest the following recommendations to strengthen GBV prevention efforts in the region.

*Increase access to technical assistance and funding for operations research.* Many promising efforts have not been rigorously evaluated and therefore, their effectiveness remains unknown. NGOs often lack the skills and funding to establish solid monitoring and documentation systems which are crucial for effective evaluation.

*Indicators and programme standards need to be established for longer-term, social change GBV prevention approaches.* This would allow for more effective analysis of programme approaches and increase cross-cultural replicability.

*Broad distribution, adoption and use of the Kampala Declaration,* as a concrete outcome of this Dialogue (see appendix 4) to advocate for increased interest and investment in GBV prevention in Africa.

*Increasing funds available for GBV prevention efforts.* This would avoid cutting back on essential components of a comprehensive response and allow NGOs and Local Authorities to sustain longer-term programmes.

*Coordination of the GBV Prevention Network.* A mechanism proposed by the participants to create a regional forum for all groups identified in field review in order to create a dialogue between NGOs working on GBV prevention and to facilitate learning.

*Establish a website for the GBV Prevention Network* to highlight members, programmes underway and relevant resources in the regions.\*

*Continue the dialogue between NGOs and Local Authorities* in the identification of practical mechanisms of collaboration and exchange to strengthen prevention of GBV.

*Initiate collaborations between NGOs and Local Authorities in other parts of the continent* and other parts of the world to identify the variety of initiatives that have proven to be successful. Inter-regional exchanges would also be useful.

*Further documentation of experiences of preventing GBV* is needed of both successful and those that have not been effective, to facilitate learning and avoid duplication of less successful strategies and activities.

\*A site is being established at [www.preventgbvafrica.org](http://www.preventgbvafrica.org) and is planned for launch in May 2004.

# Appendices

Appendix One:	Field Review Questionnaire
Appendix Two:	Regional Dialogue Schedule
Appendix Three:	Regional Dialogue Participants
Appendix Four:	Kampala Declaration: Prevent Gender-based Violence in Africa
Appendix Five:	Bibliography

# GBV Prevention in the Horn, East and Southern Africa Field Review Questionnaire

Name of Organisation:

Address:

Telephone:

Fax:

Email:

Website:

Director/Coordinator:

Email (if different):

1. When was your organization/institution founded?

2. When did your work on GBV begin?

3. Please tick which best describes your work on gender-based violence (GBV)

Service delivery: counseling, legal advice, shelter/refuge, referrals, etc.

Prevention at the community-level: community education, mobilisation, awareness raising, etc.

Law reform or enforcement

Advocacy

Research

Media/Publications

Other, please describe:

4. What type of violence do your programmes focus on? (tick all that apply)

Domestic violence

Rape/sexual assault

FGM

Child sexual abuse/defilement

Sexual harassment (work or community level)

Other, please describe:

5. What are the primary groups your programmes aim to reach? (tick all that apply, circle most relevant)

Women experiencing violence

All Women

Men

Youth

Children

Elderly

Judges

Health care providers

Police

Local authorities/leaders

Religious Leaders

Traditional leaders

Politicians / policy makers

Other NGOs

Other, please describe:



6. Please describe the mission and key objectives of your organization/institution?
7. What strategies do you use to prevent GBV?
8. Are men involved in your work to prevent GBV? If so, how?
9. What are your key successes in preventing GBV?
10. What are the key challenges faced in working to prevent GBV?
11. Do you work in collaboration with any local authorities on violence prevention?  
If so, please describe:
12. Do you work in collaboration with any national authorities on violence prevention (e.g.,  
criminal justice system)? If so, please describe:
13. Has your project been evaluated?  
If so, are you willing to share the results? *(please attach copies of evaluation)*
14. Are you involved in any GBV networks? If so, please give us the name and contact  
information.
15. Do you know of other organizations/institutions in the region working on gender-based  
violence that we should contact? If yes, please give name and contact information
16. Are you interested in becoming involved in a regional GBV network? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

Thank you very much for your time!

# Preventing Gender-based Violence: Sharing Experiences, Breaking New Ground

## A Regional Dialogue

4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2003  
Kampala, Uganda

### Objectives

1. To share practical experiences and lessons learnt in working on GBV prevention.
2. To build a common conceptual framework for GBV prevention work.
3. To develop a dialogue between local authorities and NGOs working on GBV prevention.
4. To develop recommendations and key principles for working on GBV prevention.

### Day One: Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> of September

09:00 - 10:30	Welcome, Introduction and Overview	Raising Voices and UN-Habitat
10:30 - 11:00	Break	
11:00 - 13:00	Exploring Prevention	Raising Voices
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 - 15:30	Practical Experiences: Communitiy Mobilization	Kivulini, CEDOVIP, ECWD
15:30 - 16:00	Practical Experiences: Raising Awareness	CARE, SOS Femmes, POWA
Evening	Optional Activity	

### Day Two: Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> of September

09:00 - 10:30	Practical Experiences: Media Efforts	Soul City, NISAA, COVAW
10:30 - 11:00	Break	
11:00 - 13:00	Practical Experiences: Working with Men	MAP, ADAPT, MHRRC
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 - 15:30	Practical Experiences: Community-based Institutions	KZN, SWAGAA, PANOS
15:30 - 16:00	Practical Experiences: Local Authorities	Safer Cities Programmes
Evening	Optional Night Out	

### Day Three: Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> of September

09:00 - 10:30	Linked Issues: GBV and HIV	Rakai Project
10:30 - 11:00	Break	
11:00 - 13:00	Lessons Learned	Raising Voices
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 - 16:00	Recommendations and Next Steps	Raising Voices
16:00 - 16:30	Evaluation and Closure	Raising Voices and UN-Habitat

# Regional Dialogue Participants

Anna Mtani  
Project Coordinator  
Safer Cities, Dar es Salaam Programme  
Dar es Salaam City Council  
P.O. Box 9084,  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania  
Tel: 255-022-2130959  
Fax: 255-022-2130961  
E-mail: [safersdm@raha.com](mailto:safersdm@raha.com)

Anne Gathumbi  
Coordinator  
Coalition Against Violence Against Women  
PO Box 10658 – 00100 GPO  
Nairobi  
Tel: +254 2 574357/8/9  
Fax: +254 2 574253  
Email: [covaw@iconnect.co.ke](mailto:covaw@iconnect.co.ke)  
Website: [www.covaw.or.ke](http://www.covaw.or.ke)

Betty Akullo  
Coordinator  
Center for Domestic Violence Prevention  
(CEDOVIP)  
Plot 16 Tufnell Drive, Kamwokya  
Box 6770, Kampala, Uganda  
Tel./Fax: +256 41 531249  
Email [cedovip@raisingvoices.org](mailto:cedovip@raisingvoices.org)  
Website:  
[www.raisingvoices.org/kawempe.shtml](http://www.raisingvoices.org/kawempe.shtml)

Boitshepo Lesetedi  
National Coordinator, Men as Partners  
Planned Parenthood Association of South  
Africa (PPASA) Men as Partners (MAP)  
Programme  
172 Oxford Road Melrose Johannesburg  
P.O. Box 1023 Saxonwold 2132  
Tel: +27 11 880 1191  
Fax: +27 11 880 1162  
Email: [sipho.d@ppasa.org.za](mailto:sipho.d@ppasa.org.za)  
Website: [www.ppasa.org.za](http://www.ppasa.org.za)

Cecilia Andersson  
Urban Safety Expert  
Safer Cities Programme, UN-HABITAT  
PO Box 30030  
Nairobi, Kenya  
Tel: +254 20 624570  
Fax: +254 20 623536  
Email: [Cecilia.Anderson@unhabitat.org](mailto:Cecilia.Anderson@unhabitat.org)  
Website: [www.unhabitat.org/safercities](http://www.unhabitat.org/safercities)

Cookie Edwards  
Coordinator  
Kwa Zulu Natal Network on VAW  
PO Box 62245  
Bishopsgate 4008  
Kwa Zulu Natal, South Africa  
Tel: +27 031 304.6928  
Fax: +27 031 304 6930  
Email: [kznetwork@nnvaw.org.za](mailto:kznetwork@nnvaw.org.za)

Delphine Serumaga  
Coordinator  
People Opposing Women Abuse (POWA)  
PO Box 93416  
Yeoville 21248  
South Africa  
Tel: (011) 642 4345  
Fax: (011) 484 3195  
Email: [info@powa.co.za](mailto:info@powa.co.za)  
Website: [www.powa.co.za](http://www.powa.co.za)

Dipak Naker  
Co-Director  
Raising Voices  
PO Box 6770  
Kampala, Uganda  
Tel: +256 41 531186  
Fax: +256 41 531249  
Email: [dipak.naker@raisingvoices.org](mailto:dipak.naker@raisingvoices.org)  
Website: [www.raisingvoices.org](http://www.raisingvoices.org)

Emma Kaliya  
Project Officer  
Malawi Human Rights Resource Center  
(MHRRC)  
Plot 9/190  
PO Box 891  
Lilongwe, Malawi  
Telephone: +265 01 752 629  
Fax: +265 01 751 390  
Email: [hrrc@sndp.org.mw](mailto:hrrc@sndp.org.mw)

Enziel Mtei  
Project Coordinator  
Temeke Municipal Council, Safer Cities  
Programme  
PO Box 46343  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania  
Tel.: +255 222851054  
Fax: +255 22 2850640  
Email: [enzielwilly@hotmail.com](mailto:enzielwilly@hotmail.com)

Hope Turyasingura  
Programme Officer  
Center for Domestic Violence Prevention  
(CEDOVIP)  
Plot 16 Tufnell Drive, Kamwokya  
Box 6770, Kampala, Uganda  
Tel./Fax: +256 41 531249  
Email [cedovip@yahoo.com](mailto:cedovip@yahoo.com)  
Website:  
[www.raisingvoices.org/kawempe.shtml](http://www.raisingvoices.org/kawempe.shtml)

Irene Khumalo  
Director  
Agisanang Domestic Abuse Prevention And  
Training (ADAPT)  
P.O. Box 39127  
Bramley 2018  
Johannesburg, Gauteng Province,  
South Africa  
Tel: +27 11 885 3332  
Fax: +27 11 885 3309  
Email: [adapt@worldonline.co.za](mailto:adapt@worldonline.co.za)

Jennifer Wagman  
Associate Research Investigator  
Rakai Project  
Virus Research Institute  
PO Box 49  
Entebbe, Uganda  
Tel: +256 77 721700  
Fax: +256 41 320276  
Email: [jwagman@infocom.co.ug](mailto:jwagman@infocom.co.ug)  
Website: [www.mailman.hs.columbia.edu](http://www.mailman.hs.columbia.edu)

Joy Watson  
Researcher  
Parliament of South Africa  
12 Country Club Road  
Kenilworth, 7708  
Cape Town  
South Africa  
Tel: +27 083 496 4944  
Email [jwatson@parliament.gov.za](mailto:jwatson@parliament.gov.za)

Leah Ngunyi  
Social Services  
Nairobi City Council  
P.O. Box 30075  
Nairobi, Kenya  
Tel: +254 20 212651  
Email: [leahhasdo@yahoo.com](mailto:leahhasdo@yahoo.com)

Lori Michau  
Co-Director  
Raising Voices  
16 Tufnell Drive, Kamwokya  
PO Box 6770  
Kampala, Uganda  
Tel: +256 41 531186 / 71 839626  
Fax: +256 41 531249  
Email: [lori.michau@raisingvoices.org](mailto:lori.michau@raisingvoices.org)  
Website: [www.raisingvoices.org](http://www.raisingvoices.org)

Lucy Ole Kina  
Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA Kenya)  
P.O Box 46324-00100  
Nairobi, Kenya  
Tel: +254 2 570444 / 573511  
Email: [info@fida.co.ke](mailto:info@fida.co.ke)

Maimuna Kanyamala  
Coordinator  
Kivulini Women's Rights Organization  
PO Box 11348  
Mwanza, Tanzania  
Tel. /Fax: +255 28 2500961  
Email: [kivulini@africaonline.co.tz](mailto:kivulini@africaonline.co.tz)  
Webpage: [www.raisingvoices.org/  
kivulini.shtml](http://www.raisingvoices.org/kivulini.shtml)

Natsnet Ghebrebrhan  
Project Officer  
CARE International, Eritrea  
Ksad St. 187, Tiravolo  
P.O. Box 6561, Asmara, Eritrea  
Tel: +291-1-151317/151000  
Fax: +291-1-151339  
Email: [care.eritrea@care.org.er](mailto:care.eritrea@care.org.er)

Nerusha Naidoo  
Ombudsman  
Ethekwini Municipality  
PO Box 30075  
Durban, South Africa  
Tel: +27 31 3114001  
Email: [naidoonerusha@durban.gov.za](mailto:naidoonerusha@durban.gov.za)

Pamela Tuiyott  
Programme Manager  
Education Centre for Women in Democracy  
PO Box 62714  
00200 – City Square  
Nairobi, Kenya  
Tel: +254 2 570386/575539  
Fax: +254 2 561316  
[ecwd@swiftkenya.com](mailto:ecwd@swiftkenya.com)

Phoebe Gubya  
District Environment Officer  
Kampala City Council  
Kampala, Uganda  
Tel: 071 886637  
Email: [gubya@hotmail.com](mailto:gubya@hotmail.com)

Pontsho Segwai  
Outreach Manager  
Nisaa Institute for Women's Development  
PO Box 1057  
Lenasia, 1820,  
Johannesburg  
Gauteng, South Africa  
Tel: +27 (0) 11 854 5804/5  
Fax: +27 (0) 11 854 5718  
Email: [contact@nisaa.org.za](mailto:contact@nisaa.org.za)  
Website: <http://www.nisaa.org.za/>

Rada Gungaloo  
President and Legal Advisor  
SOS Femmes  
22 Bis Trotter Street  
Beau Bassin, Mauritius  
Tel: +230 454 2789  
Fax: +230 466 0470  
Email: [sooria@intnet.mu](mailto:sooria@intnet.mu)

Soraya Smaoun  
Urban Safety Expert  
Safer Cities Programme, UN-HABITAT  
PO Box 30030  
Nairobi, Kenya  
Tel: +254 20 624570  
Fax: +254 20 623536  
Email: [soraya.smaoun@unhabitat.org](mailto:soraya.smaoun@unhabitat.org)  
Website: [www.unhabitat.org/safercities](http://www.unhabitat.org/safercities)

Nonhlanhla Dlamini  
Director  
Swaziland Action Group Against Abuse  
(SWAGAA)  
P.O. Box 560  
Matsapha, Swaziland  
Email: [swagaa@realnet.co.sz](mailto:swagaa@realnet.co.sz)  
Website: [www.swagaa.org.sz](http://www.swagaa.org.sz)

Tembi Tyuku  
Education, Training and Development  
Coordinator  
Soul City Institute for Health and Development  
Communication  
Parktown 2193  
P.O. Box 1290, Houghton 2041  
South Africa  
Tel: +27-11-643 5852  
Fax: +27-11-643 6253  
Email: [Tembi@soulcity.org.za](mailto:Tembi@soulcity.org.za)  
Web: [www.soulcity.org.za](http://www.soulcity.org.za)

Zainab Matitu Vulu  
Councilor  
Kinondoni Municipal Council, Safer Cities  
P.O. Box 31902  
Dar es Salaam  
Tel.: +255 022 217 2951  
Email: [zmvulu@yahoo.com](mailto:zmvulu@yahoo.com)

Seblewongel Deneke  
Coordinator, PANOS  
PO Box 1570  
Code 1110  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Tel: +251 666359/60/62/64  
Fax: +251 666361  
Email: [panos@telecom.net.et](mailto:panos@telecom.net.et)  
Website: [www.panos-easternafrica.org](http://www.panos-easternafrica.org)

# Kampala Declaration

## Prevent Gender-based Violence in Africa

We are representatives of NGOs, women's groups, cities, municipalities and United Nations agencies from 10 countries in the Horn, Eastern and Southern Africa.

We gathered in Kampala, Uganda from September 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>, 2003 to conduct a Regional Dialogue: *Preventing Gender-based Violence: Sharing Experiences, Breaking New Ground*, organized by Raising Voices and UN-HABITAT's Safer Cities Programme.

We call for action to prevent and eradicate gender-based violence in Africa.

GIVEN THAT:

- ❑ Gender-based violence is a violation of basic human rights.
- ❑ Gender-based violence results from an imbalance of power between women and men and is deeply entrenched in some cultural practices and intimate relationships.
- ❑ Gender-based violence is not a private issue but one that involves society as a whole and therefore calls for a holistic approach promoting preventive solutions.

WE RECOGNISE THAT:

- ❑ Efforts must focus on preventing rather than merely responding to gender-based violence since prevention addresses the root causes of violence, has farther-reaching effects and is ultimately more cost effective.
- ❑ Prevention efforts must be holistic in conception and comprehensive in design. They need to engage a broad cross section of the community through a range of methodologies.
- ❑ Programmatic tools need to be developed in order to implement effective programmes, to document practical experiences, to monitor and evaluate progress, and support practitioners and Local Authorities.
- ❑ The civil society has a catalytic role to play in mobilizing communities, promoting women's rights, building the bridge between policy and practice and facilitating change at the grassroots.
- ❑ Local Authorities have a crucial role to play in mainstreaming gender in safety policies, supporting and allocating appropriate resources to gender-based violence initiatives, and promoting women's access to strategic positions within local government.

WE RECOMMEND:

- ❑ **Community Mobilisation:** Strive to engage the whole community from women, men, youth and children at the grassroots to community leaders and professionals within local institutions. Address gender-based violence as a community's responsibility instead of making it a 'women's issue' and use multiple strategies to reach out to all sectors in society.
- ❑ **Awareness Raising:** Harness community creativity, expertise and resources and tailor initiatives to different cultural contexts in order to make them more successful in changing attitudes.

- ❑ Develop sustained follow-up activities to take advantage of momentum generated and link awareness with action.
- ❑ Media: Forge positive relationships with the media establishment. Proactively and constructively involve them in the process of planning communication strategies. Pay close attention to the intended audience and use traditional, mainstream and new media to reach out to diverse groups.
- ❑ Working with Men: Work *with* rather than against men to develop more inclusive, relevant and cost effective responses to violence prevention that will benefit entire communities. Use benefits-based approaches and identify male allies in communities, local government and non-government organizations to improve impact and institutionalization.
- ❑ Strengthening Existing Community Structures: Harness communities' social capital by involving all community stakeholders such as citizens, traditional and religious leaders, lawyers, police, and other professionals. Work with these structures to integrate the work of violence prevention in their policies and practice.
- ❑ Encourage Partnership between NGOs and local governments : Develop stronger relationships with local governments who are well positioned to effect sustainable change by facilitating city-level action and mobilizing resources to this effect.
- ❑ Local government capacity building : Strengthen local governments' role and ability in social crime prevention, fighting violence against women, and increasing women's involvement through training and sensitization activities.

#### WE THEREFORE, CALL UPON:

- ❑ The United Nations , through its mechanisms and agencies, to promote such initiatives and to document the progress made in gender-based violence prevention.
- ❑ All members of the African Union to ratify and take concrete measures in their respective countries to operationalise the Women's Rights Protocol, with specific attention to Article Four on the Rights to Life, Integrity and Security of the Person which calls for the prevention and elimination of gender-based violence.
- ❑ Governments, at the central and local level, to commit to actualize policy and legal provisions on gender-based violence at the grassroots level.
- ❑ Funding agencies to support prevention efforts of NGOs recognizing that changing attitudes and behaviour is a long-term process.
- ❑ Practitioners and activists to continue building partnerships between stakeholders working on gender-based violence through dialogues, exchanges and networks.

Such efforts would allow us to monitor our progress, reaffirm our commitment and lead the way in preventing and eradicating gender-based violence throughout Africa.