



# PERSPECTIVES ON PREVENTION

Issue No. 1

DECEMBER 2005-JANUARY 2006

## THIS ISSUE: BUILDING THE GBV PREVENTION NETWORK!

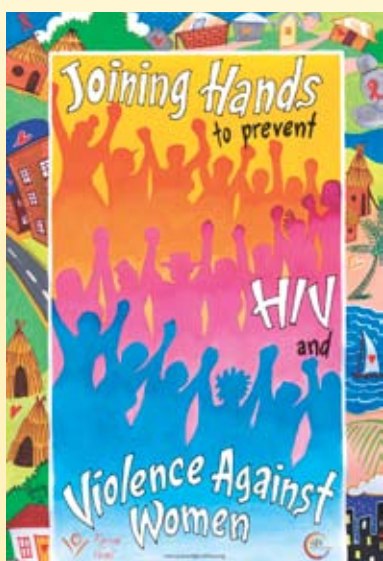
Greetings from Kampala, Uganda, home of the GBV Prevention Network offices! We are very pleased to officially launch the GBV Prevention Network Newsletter, Perspectives on Prevention.

Our theme for Issue No. 1 is Building the GBV Prevention Network. As such, this issue will focus on the work of the network and its member organizations. We will also celebrate the work of other networks and coalitions. We hope that this issue will inspire us all to strengthen and energize the GBV Prevention Network.

Following the theme of this issue, we are looking for ways to build the GBV Prevention Network so that it works better for you. We believe that we can make our network stronger, and since the network can only be what its members make it, we look forward to hearing from you! Please complete the brief survey at <http://www.preventgbvafrica.org/survey> and help us determine the network's focus and direction. We look forward to working together and sharing ideas!

**NEXT ISSUE'S THEME:** "The 16 Days of Activism: Men and Women Joining Hands to Prevent Violence Against Women and HIV/AIDS".

## NETWORK NEWS: 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM



The GBV Prevention Network has recently been very busy with preparations for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence, which run from November 25-December 10. This year's global theme is: "For the Health of Women, For the Health of the World, No More Violence".

Building on the global theme, the GBV Prevention Network's theme is "Men and Women Joining Hands to Prevent Violence Against Women and HIV/AIDS". Around this theme, the network created Action and Advocacy Kits, which were distributed to 20 member organizations from 9 countries, as chosen by a selection committee. The kits contained up to 200 mini-posters, 3000 purple ribbons, 20 flyers about the ribbons, 200 stickers, a newspaper article and a community dialogue guide. To download items from the Kit to use in your own campaign or prevention activities, please visit: [http://www.preventgbvafrica.org/take\\_action](http://www.preventgbvafrica.org/take_action).

Please let us know how your organization marked the 16 Days. Issue No. 2 will focus on our members' activities during this campaign and in connection with the campaign's theme.

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## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: WORKING WITH COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

It's 7:30 on the morning of Thursday November 10, 2005. Four community volunteers are waiting patiently outside the Center for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP) offices in Kampala, Uganda. Today is the opening day of the much-anticipated Uganda Social Forum and CEDOVIP is one of the participating NGOs. The community volunteers (CVs) assembled here will meet countless people from all over the country and will lead many activities over the course of the next three days at Mandela National Stadium.



Peter Damba (center) with community members

Photo: Heidi Jo Brady

CVs are able to select activities that match their skills and interests and are appropriate to reach the people in their area. Some of the best-liked activities include:

booklet clubs, community dramas, and impromptu discussions held at local gathering places. Peter enjoys doing door-to-door visits best. He feels that these visits are the most successful when the person who answers the door is home alone. When this happens, the person is able to express their opinions freely and openly. In a one-on-one situation, they are also more open to listening to Peter's point of view.

CEDOVIP is a local organization that works in partnership with communities to promote women's rights by influencing change of attitudes, behaviors and practices that perpetuate violence against women. CEDOVIP believes that everyone in the community is negatively affected by domestic violence and as such, that it is everyone's responsibility to prevent it. According to Josephine Kamisya, Local Activism Program Officer, the key to CEDOVIP's successful community-based approach is its 73 community volunteers. "The CVs are so important to our projects because they do the grassroots work of the organization." Says Josephine. "They are known to people in the community and the people believe in them and respect them."



CEDOVIP's commitment banner

Photo: Nathan Shields

When we arrive at the Uganda Social Forum, the CVs begin immediately preparing the activities for the day. Angella Nswaswa, a grandmother of three who has been a CV for 2 years, enjoyed working on the creation of the commitment banner the best. This banner, painted with the words "My Hands are NOT for Hitting", represents a commitment by community members to look for alternatives to violence in their daily lives. Through this activity, Angella was able to engage in meaningful discussions with the men and women at the Social Forum, "I said, 'Are your hands not for beating? Then prove it.' People knew that

their hands are not for beating. They did prove it." When an individual felt able to make the commitment to not use their hands for hitting, he/she was invited to place their hand in paint and leave their handprint on the banner, as a sign of this commitment. "It was very nice for them," Angela comments. "They loved it."

One of the CVs on his way to the Social Forum is Peter Damba. Peter is 28 years old and he has been volunteering with CEDOVIP for about two years. When he talks about his work in the community, he beams with pride. Peter was a community leader before he began working with CEDOVIP, but he feels that his volunteering has changed the way the members of his community see him. "I wasn't so much respected in my community as I am now. I'm being consulted, they come to me for advice, for counseling. I believe they take me now as someone special. I feel privileged."



Angella Nwaswa at the Uganda Social Forum

Photo: Nathan Shields

Peter and Angella agree that their work has helped people in the communities change their behaviors. "These activities bring the community together for one cause. When they gather, people realize that these things (domestic violence) are not just happening to them. People become close and share and open up to each other."



## THE GBV PREVENTION NETWORK: YOU CAN GET INVOLVED!

1. Tell us how you would like to see the network grow. Complete the brief survey (5 questions) at: <http://www.preventgbvafrica.org/survey.doc> or email us for a copy at: [newsletter@preventgbvafrica.org](mailto:newsletter@preventgbvafrica.org).
2. Become a focal NGO in your country (see the survey for more details).
3. Contribute publications, experiences, communication materials and announcements to: <http://www.preventgbvafrica.org>.
4. Suggest themes and submit articles for upcoming newsletters. The theme for Issue No. 2 will be: "16 Days of Activism: Men and Women Joining Hands to Prevent Violence Against Women and HIV/AIDS". Submit updates, articles, publications and photos to: [newsletter@preventgbvafrica.org](mailto:newsletter@preventgbvafrica.org) by January 30<sup>th</sup> 2006.
5. Provide program updates for the newsletter by completing the update form at: <http://www.preventgbvafrica.org/newsletter/update.doc>.

## IDEAS IN PREVENTION: WHAT HAVE OUR MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS BEEN DOING?

**Coalition on Violence Against Women – Kenya (COVAW-K)** has been working to strengthen the capacity of communities to respond to and prevent VAW and has also been advocating on the international instruments on VAW, including most recently, the Protocol for African Women's Rights. COVAW has been working on several projects in the areas of counseling and legal aid, research and communications and advocacy at the national and regional levels. Over the past 10 years, COVAW has worked to break the silence that surrounded VAW in Kenya. This year, with its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, COVAW is celebrating its success in this area and will now begin focusing on breaking the cycle of violence. COVAW is hoping to work closely with partners in Kenya and neighboring countries to develop solid strategies against VAW. COVAW believes that the regional networks should ultimately build a strong voice for influencing governments in the region to develop policies and structures that improve the lives of women.

**Liverpool VCT** is an organization based in Kenya that focuses on issues of sexual violence. Currently working

with the Ministry of Health and Hospitals, the organization aims to strengthen policy and practical responses to delivery of comprehensive care, including HIV prevention. Liverpool VCT has celebrated many achievements in the past year, including:

- Ministry of Health National Guidelines on the medical management of rape/sexual violence are in place in Kenya and are used by all service providers
- National forms for examination and legal documentation can now be used as clinical attachments in court
- Training manuals for health workers have been created and are in use
- Currently 6 District and 1 Provincial Hospitals are running post rape care centres, with plans to scale up to at least 5 Provincial Hospitals in the next year
- MOH commitment to delivery of post exposure prophylaxis and emergency contraceptives to health facilities. (Scale-up plan now being drawn)

## IDEAS IN PREVENTION: WHAT HAVE OUR MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS BEEN DOING?

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**Rakai Health Sciences Program**, based in the Rakai District of Uganda, is working on capacity building, counseling and community education and mobilization in the areas of VAW, HIV/AIDS and reproductive health. One of Rakai's major projects is the Safe Homes and Respect For Everyone (SHARE) project. This project, which has been 5 years in the making, was officially launched in August 2005 with great excitement. The SHARE Project works in partnership with community-

based residents, local leaders and professionals of Rakai District to raise awareness, build capacity and implement change toward the prevention and mitigation of violence against women and HIV/AIDS, and the promotion of improved reproductive health and respect for human rights. Rakai Health Sciences Program is looking forward to actively partnering with the Rakai District Police, the Rakai District Health Office and the Rakai District Office of Community Services on the SHARE Project.

**Southern African Media & Gender Institute (SAMGI)**, is an organization that works in the Southern African Region on VAW and HIV/AIDS. SAMGI has been working on their Women, Turn up the Volume! Project. This project involves a facilitated discussion with women from three rural areas of the Western Cape. The goal is to raise rural women's awareness of their rights as enshrined in the South African Constitution. In 2005, SAMGI also facilitated a strategic planning workshop with the Western Cape Department of Health. The aim of this workshop was to produce a gender-sensitive HIV and AIDS/STI Policy for this Department. This policy has since been adopted by the Provincial Bargaining Council and has come into effect. Furthermore, it has been identified by the National Department as a best-practice policy.

**World Health Organisation (WHO)**, which has its Regional Office for Africa in Brazzaville, Congo, and covers 46 countries, has been working on all issues surrounding VAW in an holistic manner. Some of the current major projects of the WHO include: developing a violence and injury prevention project in Ethiopia, Kenya and Nigeria, medico-legal care for victims of



From "Changing the Face of Violence"

sexual violence in Mozambique and improving data collection on violence in several countries. The WHO has recently published Changing the Face of Violence Prevention, highlighting to work of the WHO since the launch of the World Report on Violence and Health.

What has your organization been working on? We would love to share your projects and achievements with the other member organizations in the next newsletter. Please send us a quick email or fill out the program update form at <http://www.preventgbvafrica.org/newletter/update.doc> and tell everyone what you've been up to!

## FAST FACTS: ABOUT YOUR NETWORK

- There are currently 116 member organizations in the network.
- 16 different countries from the Horn, East and Southern Africa are represented.
- Our network emerged from a Regional Dialogue on GBV Prevention hosted by Raising Voices and UN-Habitat's Safer Cities Programme in 2003.
- The purpose of the network is to provide member organizations with the knowledge and access to resources that will help them to strengthen their programs, build solidarity between organizations working on violence and to advocate for increased interest and investment for preventing violence against women in the regions.
- The website was launched in July 2004. So far, it has received almost 25,000 hits.
- Membership is free and open to any organization, group or individual working on GBV prevention in the Horn, East or Southern Africa.



## HOT TOPIC: A COALITION'S ROLE IN THE AFRICAN PROTOCOL ON RIGHTS OF WOMEN

On October 26, women's rights organizations across Africa celebrated the announcement that the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (hereafter referred to as the Protocol) had been ratified by Togo. Happily, this benchmark 15<sup>th</sup> ratification means that the Protocol will have come into force by the time this newsletter is distributed.

their mobile phones. At the time of this writing, almost 4500 signatures had been collected.

In another project, the 15 countries that have ratified the Protocol have all received green cards from SOAWR, acknowledging their work in signing and ratifying the protocol. Similarly, SOAWR has sent yellow cards to leaders whose countries have signed the Protocol but

**"THIS MOMENT IS A TESTAMENT TO THEIR WORK AND THE WORK OF OTHER CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS WORKING ACROSS AFRICA FOR RATIFICATION"**

One coalition, Solidarity for African Women's Rights (SOAWR), is to be celebrated for keeping the Protocol on the agenda of many African governments. "The 19 national, regional and international organisations of SOAWR have been working tirelessly since July 2003, when the Protocol was adopted for ratification," said Muthoni Wanyeki of FEMNET, a coalition member. "This moment is a testament to their work and the work of other civil society groups working across Africa for ratification".

The Protocol is the culmination of 8 years of collaboration by women's rights groups and the African Union. It explicitly sets forth many rights of women. Of particular interest to those of us working on GBV prevention are Articles 4 and 5. Article 4 focuses on the rights to life, integrity and security of the person. This article specifically sets out ways in which the states must act to protect women. Article 5 focuses on the elimination of Harmful Practices, including all forms of female genital mutilation.

One year after the Protocol's adoption in Maputo, Mozambique, only one country, The Comoros, had ratified the Protocol. In response to this, SOAWR was formed in April 2004 with the goal of encouraging governments to ratify and domesticate the Protocol. Now, 19 months later, thanks in no small part to the coalition's various projects, the Protocol has come into force. The coalition's most talked-about project was a large petition campaign. Signatories to the petition were invited to add their names by pen, via email, online or through text messaging on

not yet ratified it, and red cards to those whose countries have neither signed nor ratified the Protocol. Faiza Jama Mohamed the Executive Director of Equality Now, one of SOAWR's member organizations, credits the colored card campaign with several of the ratifications. She attributes the coalition's success to the continuous pressure they were able to put on governments, as well as the coalition's technique of using specific moments, such as the upcoming AU treaties week and the current 16 Days of Activism, to remind governments about their responsibilities to women.

In an aim to encourage organizations and governments to begin thinking about implementation of the Protocol, SOAWR, with the African Union, organized a conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in September 2005. Member organizations whose countries have not yet ratified the Protocol will keep pressuring their governments to ratify and those organizations whose countries have ratified the Protocol will now begin the work of domesticating and implementing the Protocol.

SOAWR's significant work on the ratification and implementation of the Protocol should be a powerful reminder to us all of the opportunity that networks and coalitions have to use the combined voices of their member organisations to create significant social change. How can the GBV Prevention Network learn from SOAWR's success and work to strengthen violence prevention in the region? See page 3 to learn how you can share your ideas.

## RECENT ADDITIONS TO WWW.PREVENTGBVAFRICA.ORG



ELCT posters. The poster shown here is one in a series of four produced by ELCT. Each poster focuses on a different type of domestic violence. This particular poster addresses the issue of economic violence.

Download the poster at: [http://www.preventgbvafrica.org/whats\\_new\\_november](http://www.preventgbvafrica.org/whats_new_november)

FEMNET Training Manual Gender-Based Violence. FEMNET, 2005. Download the document at: [http://www.preventgbvafrica.org/whats\\_new\\_november](http://www.preventgbvafrica.org/whats_new_november)

Guidelines for Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings, Focusing on Prevention of and Response to Sexual Violence in Emergencies. The IASC Taskforce on Gender in Humanitarian Assistance, September 2005. Download the document at: [http://www.preventgbvafrica.org/whats\\_new\\_november](http://www.preventgbvafrica.org/whats_new_november)



Kivulini Posters. The poster shown here focuses on the link between VAW and HIV/AIDS. The words at the top read: "Violence increases our chance of contracting the HIV virus", while the words at the

bottom say: "We talk about how to protect ourselves. Do you?"

Download the posters at: [http://www.preventgbvafrica.org/whats\\_new\\_november](http://www.preventgbvafrica.org/whats_new_november)

Making Schools a Safe Horizon for Girls: A Training Manual on Preventing Sexual Violence against Girls in Schools, by Millie Akoth Odhiambo and Jeffrey Maganya, The CRADLE - The Children's Foundation and ActionAid International Kenya, 2004. Download the document at: [http://www.preventgbvafrica.org/whats\\_new\\_october](http://www.preventgbvafrica.org/whats_new_october)

Milestones of a Global Campaign for Violence Prevention 2005: Changing the Face of Violence Prevention, World Health Organisation, 2005.

Download the document at: [http://www.preventgbvafrica.org/whats\\_new\\_november](http://www.preventgbvafrica.org/whats_new_november)



Multi-Country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence Against Women (Full Report & Summary Report), World Health Organisation, 2005. Download the document at:

[http://www.preventgbvafrica.org/whats\\_new\\_november](http://www.preventgbvafrica.org/whats_new_november)

Young Men and the Construction of Masculinity in Sub-Saharan Africa: Implications for HIV/AIDS, Conflict, and Violence; by Gary Barker and Christine Ricardo, World Bank, Social Development Papers, Conflict Prevention and Reconstruction, Paper No. 26, June 2005.

Download the document at: [http://www.preventgbvafrica.org/whats\\_new\\_october](http://www.preventgbvafrica.org/whats_new_october)

Women's Human Rights: A Manual for Education & Action on Women's Human Rights, Coalition on Violence Against Women – Kenya (COVAW), 2004. For a copy of this publication, contact COVAW at: [info@covaw.or.ke](mailto:info@covaw.or.ke)

PERSPECTIVES ON PREVENTION is the newsletter for activists and practitioners committed to preventing gender-based violence in the Horn, East and Southern Africa. It is the official newsletter of the GBV Prevention Network.

The GBV Prevention Network aims to: provide member organizations with the knowledge and access to resources that will help them to strengthen their programs; to build solidarity between organizations working on violence; and to advocate for increased interest and investment for preventing violence against women in the regions.

The Network is currently coordinated by Raising Voices.