Perspectives on Prevention
Issue No. 18, Dec 2011

TAKING ACTION!

The Network Movement Building Initiative 10 Network Partners Continue to Get Moving!!

Get Moving!

Uganda, Kenya Women’s Rights Organization in Tanzania, RAWMREC in Rwanda and White Ribbon Campaign in Namibia have conducted sessions with program partners and stakeholders. CEDOWP shared get Moving! with partners in relevant Coalitions of which they are members. These Coalitions engage a cross section of actors in the violence against women prevention field, such as the Domestic Violence Act Coalition of Uganda, CEDOWP reports that going through the get Moving! process with this group created a sense of common purpose and shared understanding of the causes of GBV as well as values around rights-based violence prevention work. RAWMREC, on the other hand, focused on internal staff sessions after realizing that including external partners did not have the desired effect and impact. RAWMREC conducted Phases 3 and 4 only among organizational, staff and have reported that the process has fostered a sense of belonging and solidarity among staff.

The process has proven to be deeply personal, both for the participants and the facilitators. Organizations like CEDOWP have described the sessions as therapeutic, with no one providing solutions, but the facilitators and not the participants, you find your own individual solutions.

This unique opportunity for实质性, personal, and professional reflection has been one of the major outcomes of the process for all ten organizations. All partners have reported a deeper reflection on how their work and lives are connected. This realization has led to transformative moments for many participants. Organizations such as Kenya Women’s Rights Organization have reported that after going through Phase 2, they are now able to make the link between prevention in the community and violence prevention work. Other organizations such as RAWMREC, MSUSA in Zimbabwe, KWAC, YAC, Cameroon and Zambia staff reflecting on their values, and recognizing the importance of linking personal, values and organizational, values for effective violence prevention work. Some organizations have reported an exciting and unexpected outcome, explaining that get Moving! has strengthened their organizational culture and lead to enhanced communication between management and staff.

Moving forward, the Network would like to further strengthen the process and help it to grow. You too can join this process! Write to us at info@perspectivesonprevention.org expressing your interest and let’s get Moving!

The 6 phases of Get Moving! are as follows:

Phase 1  Looking Within begins the process by encouraging participants to look within and time spent getting to know themselves.
Phase 2  Supporting Each Other introduces the idea of supporting each other and using our power together to foster social transformation.
Phase 3  Living Our Values explores how one lives their beliefs. This phase focuses on encouraging participants to reflect on their values and commitments.
Phase 4  Embracing Change works to deepen connections to GBV prevention and form a new level of commitment to take action against it.
Phase 5  Reaching Out encourages activists and staff to strengthen the GBV prevention movement in the region by reaching out to like-minded organizations.
Phase 6  Interconnection introduces this concept and encourages participants to reach across various movements to forge new alliances to harness collective power.

Next Issue’s theme

Have Your Say

In response to our Network evaluation in 2011, we would like to call out to members to be more participatory in planning for the network newsletters. Do you have any ideas for the themes for next year’s issues? Write to us at info@perspectivesonprevention.org and send us two ideas for themes that you would like to see featured in 2012. Share with us the reason why you are interested in that subject as an individual, or as an organization. In this way, the Coordinating Office can better serve the membership, and members can more directly shape the communication and activities of the Network.

MEMBER NEWS!

Kenyan Parliament Consents to Bill Condemning FGM

One of the GBV Prevention Network’s members in Kenya, Coast Women in Development (COWID) is happy to share the news of the Kenyan Parliament consenting to the Bill ending Mutations (FGM) Bill, which aims for the abandonment of the practice in the country. Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki has now passed the FGM Bill into law. The passing of the Bill will enable Kenyan women, especially those in rural areas where FGM is practiced, to enjoy their reproductive rights.

Although COWID feels that Kenya’s parliament took long to act on the Bill, they are nevertheless excited about it. They look forward to implementing it and increasing awareness on FGM, particularly in areas of high prevalence.

COWID has been active in campaigning for the passing of the FGM Bill in Kenya. This dossier will soon be available on their website www.cwcowin.org

Ecumenical Social Diacate Action (ESDA) Friendly Haven celebrates 25 years in existence

In Windhoek, Namibia, Network member Ecumenical Social Diacate Action (ESDA) Friendly Haven in Windhoek Namibia are celebrating 25 years in existence. They honored this momentous occasion with a gala dinner on the 25th November 2011. The celebration was planned to coincide with the beginning of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign. Namibian First Lady, Her Excellency, Madam Kalisho, graced the occasion and delivered a key-note address linked directly to the 16 Days of Activism against GBV Prevention Network’s 16 Days theme: titled “Everyone. Everyday. Everyway. Prevent Violence Against Women and Children”.

InterAid Uganda Launches 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign

Network member InterAid Uganda implements GBV prevention programmes and campaigns in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. InterAid Uganda launched its GBV Prevention Network’s 16 Days campaign in Kampala. This year together with other stakeholders working in the same area, InterAid organized several activities to take place during 16 Days. These included community dialogues, drama, SMS campaign and film discussions.

Visit our new Facebook page at www.facebook.com and search for GBV Prevention Network and find out what other members are doing! Use this space to connect with members and friends, share ideas, talk about prevention and support each other in our actions.

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Ecumenical Social Diacate Action (ESDA) FRIENDLY

HAVEN CELEBRATES 25 YEARS IN EXISTENCE

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Intersectionality is a feminist theory, a methodology for research, and a foundation for social justice action that was first highlighted by Kimberlé Crenshaw, a professor and researcher of gender and race, in 1989. It was developed based on the idea that people live multiple, layered lives and therefore, do not have one simple identity. Rather, people have many different types of identity which make up who they are and how they experience the world. These identities are shaped by social relations, history and power structures.

People are also members of more than one community at the same time and therefore, can simultaneously experience oppression and privilege. For example, a woman may be a respected professional, yet suffer domestic violence in her home.

Intersectional analysis aims to highlight the multiple aspects of our identities, exposing the different types of discrimination and disadvantage that can occur for one person based on different aspects of her/his identity. It also seeks to address the manner in which racism, patriarchy, class oppression and other systems of discrimination create inequalities that influence the positions of women. Intersectionality recognizes that each individual experiences things uniquely as a result of their different identities and the historical, social, and political contexts around her/him. For example, the experience of a black woman in Cape Town is different than that of a white or colored woman in the same location. Similarly, the experience of being lesbian, an elder, poor, from the Global North, living with a disability, or any number of other identities, are unique.

The aim of an intersectional analysis is not to show that one group is more victimized or privileged than another. Instead, it aims to reveal meaningful distinctions and similarities in order to overcome discrimination and put the conditions in place for all people to fully enjoy their human rights.

As a consequence of multiple aspects of our identities, some women are pushed to the extreme margins and experience severe discrimination, while others benefit from more privileged positions. Intersectional analysis helps us to see different types of discrimination which different women experience and recognize the areas of overlap or
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Applying the ideas

We often focus on how we do things rather than how we think about things. Yet how we think is essential to our work, determining what we do and how we do it. First, using intersectionality in our work requires that we think differently about identity, equality, and power. It requires that we focus on points of intersection that influence our access to rights and opportunities, rather than on defined categories or isolated issues (see examples below). It requires that we see the end of discrimination and the celebration of diversity as fundamental to development and the enjoyment of human rights.

Secondly, using intersectionality requires valuing a ‘bottom-up’ approach to research, analysis, and planning. Information gathering should begin by asking questions about how women and men actually live their lives. The picture can then be built ‘upwards,’ accounting for the various influences that shape women’s lives. If we use intersectionality in an intersectional analysis, we can use it by women’s rights activists:

- In compiling research and statistics about the impacts of programs on women, ask specifically about the experiences of different categories of marginalized women such as those from different ethnic groups, immigrants or refugees, poor women, and women of other identified groups.
- When setting priorities for projects, analyze intersecting forms of discrimination. Try not to simply group all women or men into one category but rather assess the other aspects of their identities which make them vulnerable to discrimination. Empowering those who have the least access to rights may produce the greatest advances in terms of women’s rights and gender equality.
- Ask key questions such as:
  - What forms of identity are critical for this community/region (beyond sex, consider race, ethnicity, religion, citizenship, age, ability)?
  - Who are the most marginalized women, girls, men, and boys in the community and why?
  - What social and economic programs are available to different groups in the community?
  - Who does and does not have power in the community?

"Just as there are no human rights without women’s rights, there are no human rights without indigenous peoples’ rights, the rights of the disabled, of people of color, and of gays and lesbians, just to name a few."

- Alison Symington

This article is drawn from Phase 5 of the "Making It Work". It uses excerpts from "Intersectionality: A Tool for Gender and Economic Development" by The Association for Women's Rights in Development, 2004.
Network News

UPDATES FROM THE NETWORK

IN HER SHOES TOOLKIT FOR SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

After nine months of intense work with contributions from women all across Africa, the Network unveiled the new In Her Shoes Toolkit for Sub-Saharan Africa from 24th-26th October. 46 participants met in Kampala to see the final product of their hard work, participate in the newly adapted activity, and formulate dissemination plans for the Toolkit in their home countries.

The In Her Shoes Toolkit for Sub-Saharan Africa enables participants to walk in the shoes of 19 different women experiencing many different forms of violence against women. It has been crafted for service providers and members of the general community to enable them to take on these women’s stories as their own, experience the hurdles they come across as they seek support and make choices for their lives. The Toolkit has been adapted from the Latin American version to make it relevant and powerful, for a sub-Saharan African audience. Participants expressed sincere appreciation for the Toolkit; they found it to be a moving and provocative exercise which is greatly reflective of the sub-Saharan context. The Toolkit will be available for dissemination in early 2012, we will keep you informed of dissemination plans as they unfold.

NETWORK’S RESEARCH AND M & E THEMATIC WORKING GROUP PRESENTATION AT SEXUAL VIOLENCE RESEARCH INITIATIVE (SVRI) FORUM

From 30th to 13th October 2011, the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) Forum held its second international conference in Cape Town, South Africa. Researchers, policy makers, funders, survivors, gender activists, service providers and others all came together to network, share ideas and strategies, and feed into important international campaigns currently underway to prevent and respond to sexual violence around the world.

In 2009, the Network’s Research and M & E Thematic Working Group partnered with the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) for a capacity building initiative on assessing violence against women. Six members were selected from Uganda, Malawi, Tanzania, Rwanda and South Africa. The organisations selected were partnered with other institutions that provided in-depth technical support to carry out action-oriented research on violence against women. This projected culminated with each member presenting their research findings at the SVRI forum on 12th October to a panel entitled Building Gender Violence Research Capacity in Africa reporting on a Collaborative Experience. You can download their presentations and learn about their findings on the Network website at www.preventgbvinafrica.org/whats-new. Other SVRI presenters can be found on the SVRI website at www.svri.org/forum2011/programme.htm.

The Network also used this opportunity to organize a get-together for more than 20 members attending the SVRI forum or residing in the area. The members met at the Cuban restaurant where they enjoyed dinner and conversation. It was a great opportunity for the Coordinating Office to give members an update on Network activity including the ‘What’s Your Way?’ competition and the development of the In Her Shoes Toolkit for Sub-Saharan Africa. It was also a unique opportunity to celebrate our wonderful members by sharing time together and getting to know each other better.

"This exercise is so different. It’s not the same as someone coming to your desk and telling you a story. For sure I felt like I was the woman experiencing so much suffering.”
- Participant

“The story was so realistic. I felt like I was watching a movie of my life.”
- Participant

“I am happy with this Toolkit and the process that was used to develop it. We are really feeling a sense of ownership.”
- Participant

MAXWELL FROM ZAMBIA

Maxwell from Zambia feels that “Get Khomo!” is a positive process that has a lot of rich messages particularly for people who want to grow and explore as activists. He thinks that the process is useful for activists, social workers and service providers. On a personal level, Maxwell feels that he has gotten to a level where he has realized that certain beliefs and values, which he originally did not think about at all, were actually negative and affecting his work negatively. He therefore thinks that “Get Khomo!” by affecting him as an individual, ‘half in essence also affected his work.

SINDISWA FROM SOUTH AFRICA

Sindiswa from South Africa thinks that the most important aspect of “Get Khomo!” is the opportunity it provides for staff and for the entire organisation to reflect on both a personal and a programme level. With “Get Khomo!”, there is an opportunity to reflect on the impact that one’s work has on the community in which they are working. She also believes that it provides immense growth at a personal level. “When you engage with the exercises contained in the Get Khomo series, you can discover your strengths and weaknesses and know what you need to do to become a better person.”

LOMA FROM MALAWI

Loma from Malawi feels that “Get Khomo!” has given her a chance to reflect on her weaknesses and strengths. Loma thinks that, “If I can feel bad about how a friend has treated me, it means that I should also be careful not to treat her like that.” These reflection sessions have assisted Loma to feel more personally and deeply for women who have been affected by gender based violence.

whats new on www.preventgbvinafrica.org


Now you can also join the GBV Prevention Network on Facebook! Share ideas, connect with friends, and get inspired.