

# GBV PREVENTION NETWORK

# PERSPECTIVES ON PREVENTION

## TAKE ACTION! 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

## OUR STRENGTH IS THE SOLUTION: COMMUNITIES CAN PREVENT SEXUAL VIOLENCE!

### This Issue's Theme

### COMMUNITY ACTIVISM FOR THE PREVENTION OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

This year's regional 16 Days of Activism Campaign focuses on working with communities to prevent sexual violence. Sexual violence is rooted in deep-seated community norms where women are considered to have less value than men. To effectively address sexual violence, we need to not only respond to it, but to prevent violence before it occurs – this means challenging assumptions about women's status and power. For effective primary prevention of sexual violence, it is important to work with communities who will themselves question the community norms that perpetuate sexual violence and instead create new norms that promote non-violence and equality.

This newsletter encourages us reflect on activating communities to respond to sexual violence and also features Network members' sexual violence prevention programs that effectively engage communities on this issue.

We are also excited to offer you a 'guided tour' of the Network's new website that will be launched on 25th November 2008!

We have embarked on our dynamic annual 16 Days of Activism Campaign this season. Every year, the GBV Prevention Network joins thousands of activists, groups and organizations to emphasize that violence against women is a violation of women's human rights.

The 16 Days of Activism is an international campaign that originated from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute at the Center for Women's Global Leadership in 1991 where participants proposed the dates 25th November to 10th December to call for an end to violence against women.

This period spans various symbolic dates, the 25th November is the International Day against Violence against Women, 29th November is the International Women Human Rights Defenders Day, 1st December is the World AIDS Day, 6th December marks the anniversary of the Montreal Massacre and 10th December is the International Human Rights Day.

Every year, the Center for Women's Global Leadership suggests a campaign theme in consultation with women's human rights advocates worldwide. Regionally the GBV Prevention Network, in consultation with members, creates a theme in line with the international theme yet specifically tailored to issues within the regional context.

This year the regional theme is "Our Strength is the Solution: Communities Can Prevent Sexual Violence!" focusing on the need for long-term sustainable solutions to address sexual violence through community activism. This year's campaign emphasizes the need for practitioners and activists to strengthen the capacity of communities to identify the root causes of sexual violence and develop strategies that challenge norms that accept violence and reinforce women's low status in their communities.

The 2008 GBV Prevention Network Regional Campaign will involve various activities. Over thirty collaborating organizations from the Horn, East and Southern Africa will receive the Network's Action and Advocacy Kit full of exciting materials to facilitate their campaigns, including:

- Full color posters calling for collective community commitment to prevent sexual violence.
- "Prevent Violence Against Women" Purple Ribbons.
- Flyers with information about the purple ribbons.
- A press release about sexual violence.
- A community organizing seminar guide with activities and information for community members and organizations to understand more about sexual violence and take action.
- Quick Chats guides about marital rape and masculinity.

There's still time to get involved -- all materials can be downloaded from the website <http://www.preventgbv africa.org> and used by all.

### Teaching Boys to become Responsible Men - White Ribbon Campaign, Namibia

The White Ribbon Campaign Namibia (WRCN) reaches boys at an early age about violence and rape because they believe education is more effective if introduced at the age where boys are still impressionable. The WRCN School Violence Prevention programme reaches boys in grades 7 to 12 (between 12 and 19 years of age). Each school determines its own starting point in the process of creating positive change. For example, a school may identify issues such as sexual abuse, substance abuse, conflict, gender differences, vandalism, peer pressure, bullying, or health issues. Then, with support from White Ribbon Campaign, programs



### Next Issue's Theme

### MOVEMENT BUILDING AROUND GBV PREVENTION

Movements stimulate social change. Movement building means moving away from thinking just about specific GBV prevention projects toward longer term social change with a wide activist base. As many of you know, there will be a GBV Prevention Network satellite meeting after this year's AWID Forum in Cape Town with the theme of 'strengthening the regional GBV prevention movement'. The next issue will explore movement building around GBV prevention. All members are encouraged to contribute their personal or organizational experiences regarding movement building to this newsletter – write to us by January 30th 2009.

## Member's News

Want to know what our colleagues in the region are doing? Which new programs and publications are hot off the press? Which new energized sisters and brothers have joined the GBV prevention effort? And what's going on with our membership? Read this section and catch up with the current news!

### Ground Breaking Bride Price Ordinance Passed! – Mifumi Project, Uganda

Owing to the tireless advocacy of Mifumi Project, in a ground breaking development, Tororo District Council has unanimously passed the Tororo Bridal Gifts Ordinance. The bill was passed on 17th September 2008 after the District Councilors had effectively consulted with their constituencies. This ordinance declares bride price in Tororo district a bridal gift that is non-refundable thereby mitigating the abuses of bride price. The Ordinance also states that burial cannot be prevented if bridal gifts have not been given to the parents of the bride. Congratulations Mufumi!

### COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE GBV PREVENTION NETWORK 2008 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM REGIONAL CAMPAIGN

Name	Country	Name	Country
African Women's Development and Communications Network (FEMNET)	Kenya	Kivulini Women's Rights Organization	Tanzania
AIDS Legal Network (ALN)	South Africa	Men for Gender Equality Now (MEGEN)	Kenya
APFemme Organization	Tanzania	Namibian Voices for Development	Namibia
Bay Women Development Network	Somalia	Oxfam GB	Uganda
Center for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP)	Uganda	Rozaria Memorial Trust	Zimbabwe
Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW)	Kenya	Rwanda Men's Resource Centre	Rwanda
Coalition for Violence Against Women	Kenya	Sean Deveroux Human Rights Organization	Somalia
FAMSA Pietermaritzburg	South Africa	SHARE	Uganda
Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association (EWLA)	Ethiopia	Sisters Beyond Boundaries (SBB)	Kenya
Forum for Activists against Torture and Violence in Rwanda (FACT)	Rwanda	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	Sudan
Gender Equity Support Project (GESP)	Malawi	White Ribbon Campaign	Namibia
Good Hope Foundation	Uganda	Women Against Rape	Botswana
Isha Human Rights Organization (IHRO)	Somalia	Women in law and Development in Africa (WILDAF)	Tanzania
Karimojong Community Child Welfare Initiatives (KACOCI)	Uganda	Women's Information Services and Networks Organization (WINO)	Ethiopia
Kenya Female Advisory Organization (KEFEADO)	Kenya	Zambia Association For Research And Development (ZARD)	Zambia

In addition, the Network, in collaboration with Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET) will conduct a regional SMS campaign throughout the 16 Days of Activism. On each day, members all over the Horn, East and Southern Africa and global stakeholders, will send and receive text messages from their mobile phones. Messages will include suggested actions for particular groups, updates on various campaigns by members in the region and other issues relevant to the 16 Days of Activism theme. There's still time to participate! Send your phone number (including country code) to [info@preventgbv africa.org](mailto:info@preventgbv africa.org).

There are many ways to get involved in this year's 16 days of activism campaign!

You could try the following activities:

- discuss the existence of sexual violence in your community;
- discuss the root causes of sexual violence with small groups of opinion leaders, organized groups, and youth;
- challenge those around you who do not consider men and women as equal;
- post your materials, activities, photos and events on the Network website, and,
- share other ideas on [www.preventgbv africa.org](http://www.preventgbv africa.org)!

Where is your strength? Find it! Share it! Keep us informed of your exciting campaigns.

are designed around these issues. The programme is currently running in both primary and secondary schools in the country. Stay tuned for updates!

### Strengthening the Capacity of Service Providers – Musasa Project, Zimbabwe

Musasa Project recognizes the significance of police support in reducing domestic violence. As a result, they have embarked on an intensive training process to strengthen skills of survivor-friendly police services. The training includes basic counseling skills, gender awareness, gender-based violence and the Domestic Violence Act. The aim of the training workshops is for the police officers to understand gender dynamics, which helps them to professionally and ethically deal with issues of domestic violence.

### New Plans for Victim Support, Mauritius

Victim Support Mauritius (VSM) has designed various strategies, based on ten thematic areas of focus, to address GBV. VSM is in the process of engaging new development partners in this effort, to create a victim support taskforce, victim's rights awareness activities, victims charter, victims compensation scheme, victims security requirement, witness security requirement, free legal assistance for victims of crime, bereaved family financial assistance, offenders family financial assistance, and promotion of law and order. In addition, VSM intends to carry out an analysis of the gaps in service delivery.

# WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES TO PREVENT

## SEAN DEVEROUX HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION (SEDHURO)

– SOMALIA



SEDHURO is implementing a protection monitoring project in partnership with UNHCR/NRC, for investigation, documentation and reporting of sexual violence in internally displaced people's (IDP) camps. Activities include awareness raising via FM radios, cultural and sports events.

Initially SEDHURO builds a good relationship with different community groups in order to build trust. Community members are given various roles, from project design stage. During implementation, community members also participate in different roles including provision of security, and venues for meetings. They are also continuously consulted on progress.

SEDHURO believes involving communities in this way has yielded positive results. For example, they believe incidents of sexual violence have subsided among IDPs and the local community. In addition, results from a simple, internal study showed that 60 percent of the local community, including IDPs, have changed attitudes through the mobilization and training of community members.

From their work, SEDHURO has learned that community leaders are one key group to involve whether formal, traditional or religious leaders. As the gatekeepers in the community, their acceptance and endorsement of a project can facilitate entry into the community and greatly increase the level of community participation. Community leaders are often highly influential and can significantly influence beliefs and norms. They also act as first response to women and girls experiencing sexual violence.

For more information on SEDHURO's work contact Farah Aden Barre at: sedhuro@yahoo.com

Where is our strength? Let's find it and share it! In line with this year's 16 Days of Activism theme, we will reflect on community activism for the prevention of sexual violence. Why should we concentrate on the prevention of sexual violence? Why should we mobilize communities around the issue?

Sexual violence is a problem in all our communities. Various programs have been developed and implemented in different communities to prevent and respond to sexual violence. To understand sexual violence, many practitioners use the ecological model which explains influences at different levels that perpetuate sexual violence (CDC, 2004).

## THE ECOLOGICAL MODEL

This model points out the interconnectedness of the various influences that lead to sexual violence and analyze how individual experiences, relationships, community norms and broader societal influences can lead to sexual violence. The model also helps us to understand the need for sexual violence prevention efforts that comprehensively address sexual violence at all levels.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2004) Sexual violence interventions can be broadly categorized as follows:

- **Primary prevention:** this involves activities conducted before the violence has occurred e.g., community mobilization programs.
- **Secondary prevention:** this involves immediate response to sexual violence after it has occurred e.g., the provision of post exposure prophylaxis to survivors.
- **Tertiary prevention:** this involves responses after sexual violence has occurred to deal with the long term consequences, e.g., legal reform programs.

Using the "Moving Upstream" public health analogy of prevention, we see the importance of investing in prevention of sexual violence. Both prevention and response interventions to address sexual violence are essential. However, particularly in resource poor countries, the demand for services can be overwhelming and thus, an emphasis on stopping the violence before it starts may be particularly relevant in our settings.

## "MOVING UPSTREAM: UNDERSTANDING PRIMARY PREVENTION"

One day a fisherman was fishing from a riverbank. He saw someone being swept downstream, jumped in and rescued the person to shore. The survivor thanked him and left, soon he heard another cry for help and immediately jumped into the river again and saved that person. This continued all afternoon.

As soon as he would return to fishing he would hear another cry for help and jump into the river to save the person. Finally the fisherman said to himself, "I can't go on like this. I'd better go upstream and find out what is happening." (CDC, 2004)

Mobilizing communities removes the responsibility of preventing sexual violence from survivors and ensures the whole community takes responsibility and action. Organizations can work with communities on sexual violence prevention building on already existing community strengths and abilities of a community to solve a problem and shift community norms (Raising Voices, 2008).

## INVOLVING COMMUNITIES IN THE PREVENTION OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

First it is important to recognize that changing societal norms does not happen in a short time, it occurs in small ways, involving very many people, over a long period of time. Recommendations for program implementation are at least three to four years of regularly and frequently conducted activities (USAID, 2006). Community members must be involved right from the identification sexual violence as a problem, creating massive awareness of why sexual violence happens, designing actions to address the problem, and creating positive social norms (Family Violence Prevention Fund, 2003).

## PRINCIPLES FOR EFFECTIVE SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Strategies employed and activities conducted for mobilizing communities to prevent sexual violence may differ according to varying community contexts. However, the following principles underlie community-based interventions for the prevention of sexual violence (Raising Voices, 2003).

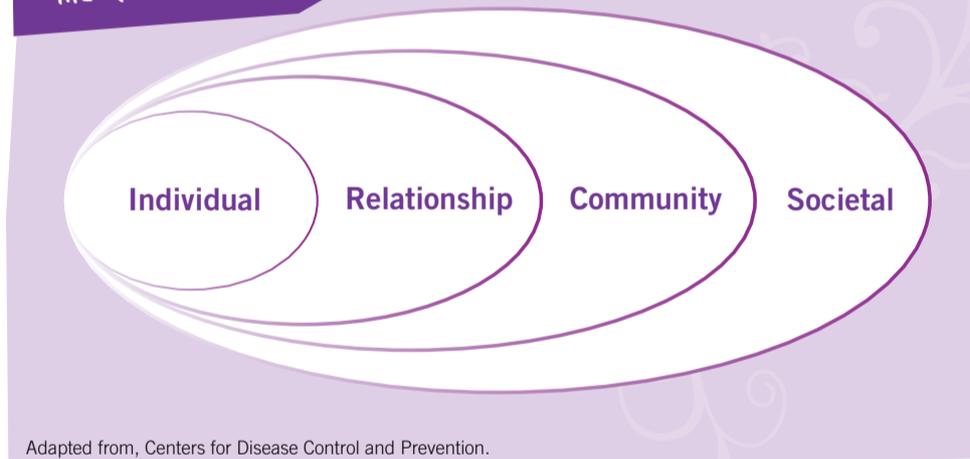
### Prevention:

Interventions that are designed to help communities address the root cause of sexual violence, challenging power imbalances and creating positive community norms

### Holistic:

Recognition of the interconnectedness of communities, relationships, and institutions and the impact these have on an individual, thereby engaging a cross section of community members

## THE ECOLOGICAL MODEL



Adapted from, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2004) Sexual violence prevention: beginning the dialogue. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO INVOLVE COMMUNITIES?

Sexual violence is rooted within the gendered dynamics of society, where women are perceived to have a lower status than men, which leads to power imbalances between men and women. When we involve community members in sexual violence prevention strategies, we help to change community norms regarding women and men's use of and access to power -- which in turn affects the acceptance of violence within communities (Raising Voices, 2008).

The WHO 2002 *World Report on Violence and Health* notes that globally, there are fewer primary prevention programs. While there are a growing number of primary prevention interventions in developing countries, the majority of these interventions address sexual violence at individual and relationship levels, responding to violence as it occurs. Herein lies a challenge for us all – to move beyond affecting change an individual level to influencing the social climate and social norms that allow sexual violence to continue.

## APFEMME (ACTION POUR LA PROMOTION DES FEMMES) – KIGOMA, TANZANIA

APFemme's GBV programme in Lugufu, Kigoma, seeks to address both the immediate and long-term needs of survivors of GBV, as well as the concerns of vulnerable women and children. Among their areas of focus is advocacy for greater protection of refugees against sexual violence.

Their project incorporates emergency responses to reduce suffering, and enhance recovery interventions addressing the long-term needs of survivors of GBV. Their activities also work to improve the position

of women and their participation in decision-making processes even in situations of conflict. APFemme produces information, education and communication materials to raise awareness around sexual violence and human rights.

APFemme involves displaced communities in planning, implementation and evaluation of its work. They select representatives in all their intervention communities and among local government leaders, who work closely with staff to implement activities.

The project has led to a marked increase in the active participation of community members and civil society as well as local government leaders in promotion of sexual violence prevention activities and advocacy even in refugee camps. As a result, the program is being expanded to the Democratic Republic of Congo. APFemme has learnt that it is necessary to involve all community members: women, girls, men and boys.

For more information contact Saidia Biloto at: saidiabiloto@yahoo.fr

## WOMEN AGAINST RAPE (WAR)

– BOTSWANA

WAR's prevention programs include educating young people through school programmes called Students Against Rape Clubs, and Girls and Guys Leading our World Clubs.



These clubs create awareness on the existence of abuse, the importance of reporting, and life skills to equip them with prevention skills. The young people are also stimulated to realize self worth, self respect as well as respect for one another.

In addition to this, research and advocacy activities are conducted among different groups. This has led to a national domestic violence bill draft and the protection of survivors in court by hearing of rape cases in private.

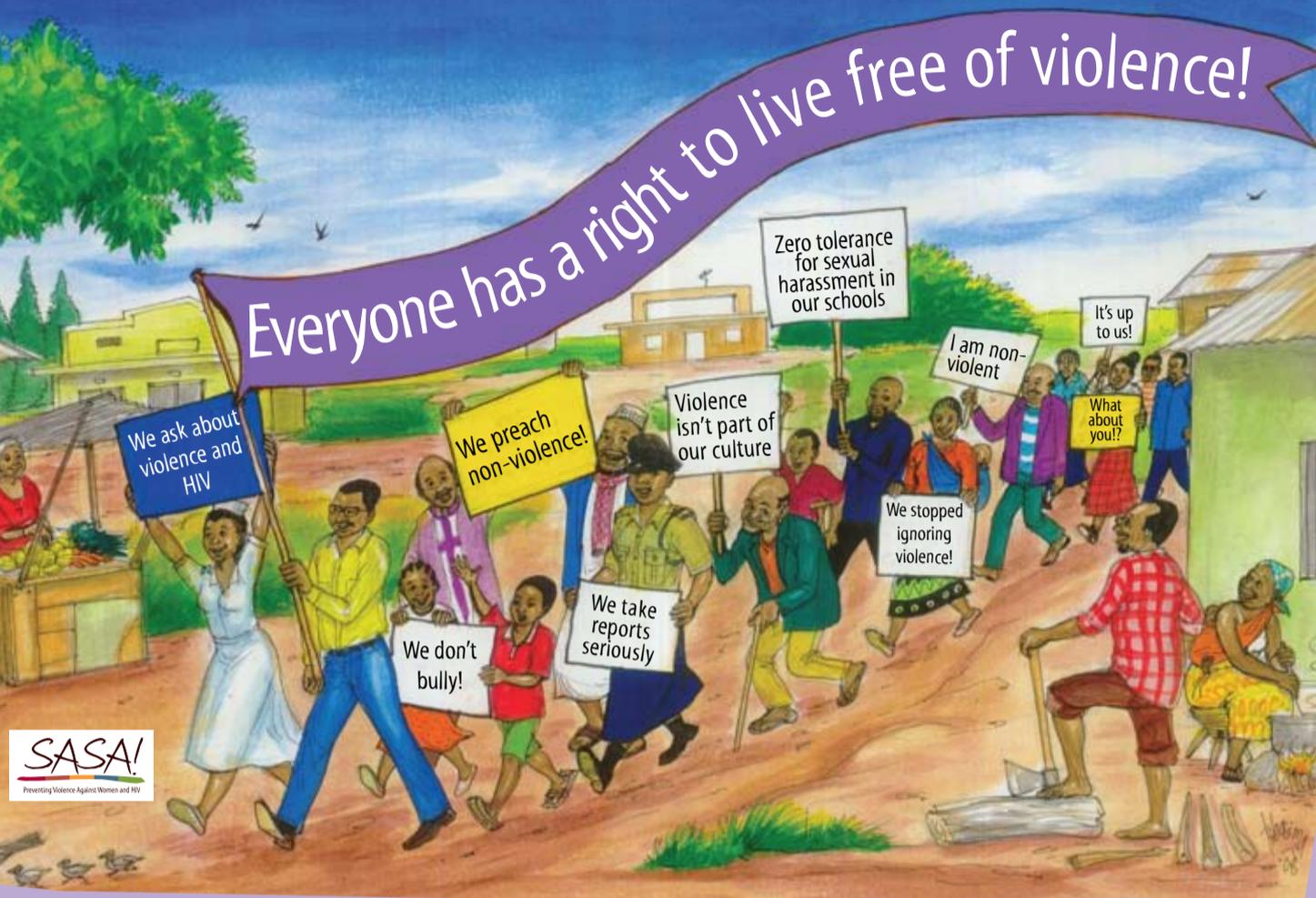
WAR works closely with communities for their interventions. They begin by conducting a process, whereby each ward nominates community members who are trained in skills to identify abuse and basic counseling. The trainees then become the eyes, ears, and hands within their communities. Community leaders are involved from the beginning and a network of cultural gatekeepers is formed. These leaders help to discuss sexual violence and how it can be fueled by culture, belief systems and values as well as gaps in parenting skills.

Community members have opened up and can freely discuss issues which were taboo in the past. WAR has learnt that work with sexual violence is very sensitive and can be very challenging. A lot of commitment and passion is needed both from staff and community volunteers. Networking and relationship building is essential at community and organizational level.

For more information on WAR's work contact Mpho Mahopollo at: mphomahopollo@yahoo.com



# IT SEXUAL VIOLENCE



## CENTER FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION (CEDOVIP) - UGANDA



CEDOVIP and Raising Voices through the use of the *SASA! Activist Kit* seek to challenge and expand people's perceptions of power in Kampala District. *SASA!* is a new approach which addresses the issues of violence and HIV at their root, through focusing on changing norms about power. *SASA!* is about inspiring social change.

*SASA!* engages community members, local institutions and policy makers to rethink their use of power – particularly in intimate relationships to foster more equitable and safe relationships. Through the strategies and activities of *SASA!* all community members contribute to enhancing norms that reject violence against women.

In Kampala, a committed group of 56 community activists (equal numbers of both men and women) spearhead efforts in the community on a daily basis with their peers, neighbors, friends and other community members. They guide the community through a process of change utilizing the four phases of *SASA!* (start, awareness, support, action). Community activists use community conversations, quick chats, poster facilitations, soap opera listening groups, community action groups, peer to peer discussions, and more to engage the community. CEDOVIP plays the role of strengthening the capacity of community activists who seek to engage their own community members to reject sexual and all forms of violence against women.

This approach is already beginning to yield encouraging results. Community members are taking a lead in reporting cases of sexual violence. Many of the local leaders now appreciate that sexual violence is a serious problem and forward these cases to the police and courts of law. CEDOVIP has learnt that there is need to engage community members to break the silence around sexual violence and to end the blame and stigma to those survivors of sexual violence. It is also essential to engage and work with leadership at all levels.

For more information on implementation of the *SASA!* approach in Kampala, contact Tina Musuya at: [tmusuya@raisingvoices.org](mailto:tmusuya@raisingvoices.org)

### A process of social change:

Recognition that existing community norms can not be changed by one event but by using a systematic, sustained approach that scales up the stages of individual change to the community level

### Repeated exposure to ideas:

Mobilizing change agents to engage their community with regular and mutually reinforcing ideas from different sources over a long period of time e.g., on the radio, posters, murals, community dialogue and sermons in places of worship, etc.

### Human rights framework:

Using the human rights and justice framework to hold communities accountable for treating women as valuable and equal human beings

### Community ownership:

Strengthening the capacity of groups and individuals in a community, to ensure interventions are led by members of that community, while NGOs act as facilitators of changemembers of that community, while NGOs act as facilitators of change

Adapted from *Mobilizing Communities to Prevent Domestic Violence: A Resource Guide for Organizations in East and Southern Africa*, Raising Voices, 2003

## PRACTICAL IDEAS FOR PREVENTING SEXUAL VIOLENCE

The Family Violence Prevention Fund suggests the following useful tips for involving communities in the prevention of sexual violence (FVPF 2003):

- Facilitating processes that enable communities to see sexual violence as unacceptable with serious consequences
- Guide local activists, community volunteers and the general community to address sexual violence in ways that do not lay blame on survivors or perpetrators
- Have an all-inclusive approach that involves men but does not make men feel defensive and blamed
- Find out and work within the context of each particular community
- With community members, devise strategies of accountability for men who use violence that are not heavily reliant on state institutions
- Integrate issues of sexual violence within regular community activities like sports events, dramas, worship sessions, and market days
- Build the skills of key individuals to support survivors of sexual violence and hold perpetrators accountable
- Work with local residents, because 'people listen to those they trust'

Become proactive in addressing sexual violence within your community – during the 16 Days of Activism and beyond! Share how you prevent sexual violence with Network members at [www.preventgbvafrica.org](http://www.preventgbvafrica.org).

## DOLPHIN ANTI RAPE AND AIDS CONTROL OUTREACH (DARACO) - KENYA

DARACO's sexual violence programs include training primary school teachers as trainers on sexual violence prevention. So far they have trained 250 teachers in Nairobi. DARACO also conducts school-based activities in Laikipia District and have so far reached over 22,000 pupils in 53 schools.

Among their activities is sexual violence prevention education. They also provide training in self protection skills for girls within and outside schools. In order to create impact of their programs, local leaders are engaged from the beginning. Leaders are sensitized on the content of the trainings and asked to organize at local level. The local leaders then organize schools for visits and sometimes contribute venues for community visits.

From responses they receive in the community DARACO feels the results of this project have been important. They have learnt that sexual violence incidents can be prevented through education and training of the community, and empowerment of women, and girls. Police and legal action, in most cases, come in after damage has already happened which cannot be reversed. DARACO notes the need to network in order to learn from each other and strengthen existing interventions and the importance of engaging the community--especially the leadership.

For more information on DARACO's work contact Duncan Oundo Ochieno Papa at: [dolphin2002ke@yahoo.com](mailto:dolphin2002ke@yahoo.com)

## CARE-BURUNDI



CARE Burundi has addressed sexual violence since 2004, specifically through three projects financed by the European Commission for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), the US Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM) and the Norwegian Government. CARE Burundi is specifically addressing sexual violence through its GEZAHO (STOP!) projects.

CARE's experience in sexual violence prevention in Burundi has demonstrated that mobilizing community facilitators against sexual violence has a deterrent effect and provides an extremely important support for the social reintegration of survivors. They work with at least two resource persons

(one man and one woman) per community in the zone of intervention, building their skills and resources to respond to the needs of survivors and to be able to sensitize their respective communities on the negative impact of sexual violence.

Community facilitators monitor rights abuses in communities and inform the general community, sexual violence survivors, and their families about the legislation for the repression of sexual violence crimes that exist in the penal code, as well as the judicial procedures to follow cases of sexual

violence. These community facilitators also play a critical role in promoting attitude and behavior change toward gender equality.

Other activities carried out by this project together with local communities include: awareness raising reaching men using *Abatangamuco* (a group of enlightened individuals women and men who have gone through a process of internal reflection and behavior change) as role models. Radio broadcasts are aired with specific messages in regards to sexual violence in order to reach the maximum number of communities. Sports, cultural days, and participatory approaches such as interactive theatre on market days which are used to facilitate discussions around GBV.

For more information on the GEZAHO (STOP!) Project's work contact Jimmy Mategeko at: [mategeko@yahoo.fr](mailto:mategeko@yahoo.fr)

# Network News

# NEW GBV PREVENTION NETWORK WEBSITE!

## Skills building: Researching Violence Against Women

The GBV Prevention Network in collaboration with University of Dar es Salaam, PATH, Medical Research Council, Addis Continental Institute of Public Health and Kivulini Women's Rights Organization hosted a training on researching violence against women from the 18th - 29th August 2008 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Twenty-three members participated in this 2 week course. The course aim was to strengthen the capacity of service providers, activists, practitioners and researchers to participate in research by developing an understanding of all the factors associated with the planning and the implementation of research on GBV and how to use it effectively.



Participants were selected through a competitive process from the countries of Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. This is the second skills building initiative of the Research and M&E Thematic Working Group.

## Skills building: Developing Effective GBV Prevention Communication Materials



The GBV Prevention Network in collaboration with Raising Voices conducted an intensive training on the development of effective GBV communication materials. This training contributed to building a new understanding of effective communication materials among participants, facilitated the development of new print materials, and provided participants the opportunity to see how communication materials are used in community organizing efforts in Kampala communities. Twenty-seven members participated in the training from Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe. This is the first training for the Communications Materials Thematic Working Group.

## Network's Exchange Visit

The Network is providing member organizations an opportunity to reach out across national borders and visit a member organization of their choice, share and learn from them and member organizations in the same city. Through a very competitive process, three Network members were selected by the Leadership Committee. Selected candidates are:

- Hedwick Afandi from Coalition on Violence Against Women (COVAW) in Kenya who will visit Forum for Activists Against Torture (FACT) in Rwanda.
- Josia Elifas Helmut from White Ribbon Campaign in Namibia, who will visit Sonke Gender Justice Network in South Africa.
- Peter Lwanga from Center for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP) who will visit Men for Gender Equality Now (MEGEN) in Kenya.

After the visit, they will share their experiences via the GBV Prevention Network website.

In response to member requests to make the Network's website a comprehensive, a 'one-stop shop' for GBV prevention information in the region and a space where members can connect and share experiences and information, the GBV Prevention Network website ([www.preventgbv africa.org](http://www.preventgbv africa.org)) has been revamped!

The website has been recreated and redesigned by an India-based group, Feminist Approach to Technology. There are various, exiting new features on the website will make it easier for us to connect share, create solidarity and feel like over 230 individuals and organizations are sitting in the same room!

This new site is for YOU – use it to reach out and share with other like-minded practitioners and activists! It's a platform for all members to share, shine and express yourselves!

Upload your reports, publications, experiences, communication materials, and photos with ease. Instantly, connect with hundreds of other individuals and organizations within the region and beyond.

Starting 25th November, members will benefit from the following features on the new site:

**A WHAT'S NEW SECTION:** Stay in touch and up-to-date with all the happenings and news from the Network right on the home page.

## Network Members Participate in Sexual Violence Conference in Nairobi

Recently, a conference was concluded on Strengthening Linkages between Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV Services hosted by Liverpool VCT, Care and Treatment. During this conference, two network members participated in another member's satellite panel discussion hosted by Coalition on Violence against Women (COVAW), discussing the status of women's rights in East Africa. Brenda Kugonza of Center for Domestic Violence Prevention in Uganda and Anna Kulaya of Women in Law and Development in Africa, Tanzania represented the Network in this panel. Details will be posted on the website.

## Movement Building after AWID

On November 18th and 19th the GBV Prevention Network will hold a Satellite Meeting in Cape Town that will build on synergies generated at the AWID Forum. Participants will share and reflect on what it means to have a politicized approach to violence against women work, and how we can build a strong GBV prevention movement in the region. In addition, thematic working groups will engage in issues of interest to them and draw plans for 2009. The groups that are scheduled to meet are, Research and M&E, Communication Materials and Working with Men for Gender Equality.

**A GBV LIBRARY:** Members can access the most current GBV information from the region sorted by themes including community mobilization, conflict, domestic violence, girls and youth, HIV&AIDS, policy advocacy, sexual violence, other harmful practices and working with men. Resources include articles, communication materials, evaluations, research, guidelines and protocols, training materials, program tools and reports.

**ONLINE MEMBER REGISTRATION:** Individuals or organizations can fill a form and join the network creating their own webpage profiles.

**MEMBER PAGES:** Existing members can login and create a unique page with their most relevant information, experiences and contacts. Whether or not you have an existing website, this page is yours to create, change and expand as you wish!

**A DISCUSSION FORUM:** Members will be able to hold discussions on topical issues of their choice across vast geographical regions, and comment on issues on the agenda within the region.

**EVENTS CALENDAR:** With this feature members can publicize their upcoming events and activities

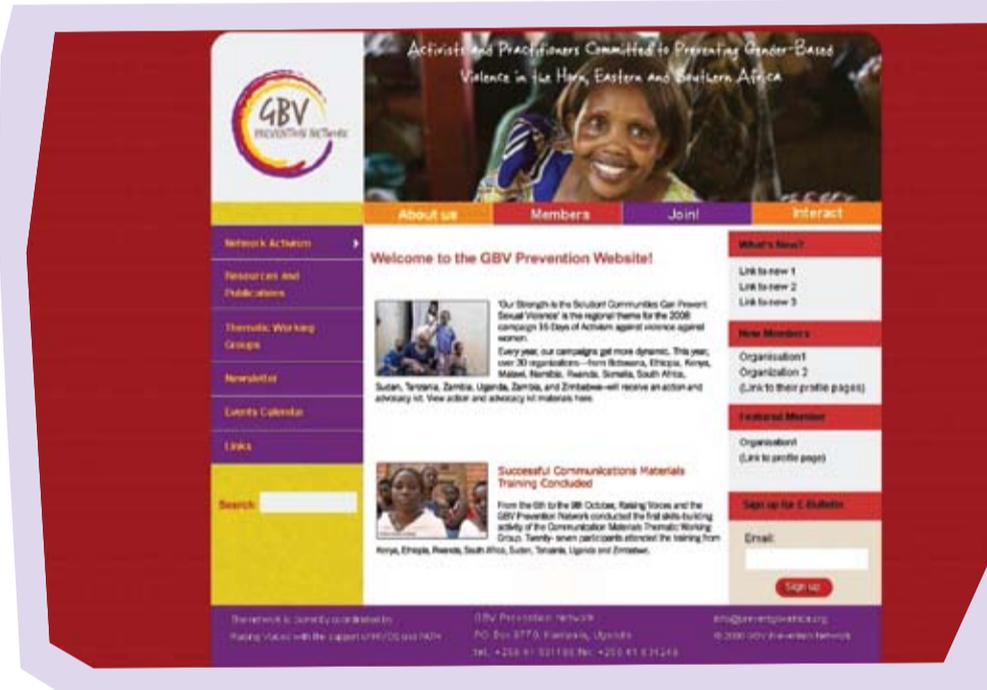
directly onto the website, sharing your events with the rest of the world.

**FLICKR PHOTO LINK:** Share your images! Members will be able to load their photo albums of events and any other photos depicting the benefits of non-violence for the whole world to see.

**MONTHLY E-BULLETIN:** This feature will enable anyone interested to sign up for our monthly electronic news updates.

We are very excited to launch the new website on the 25th November which is the International Day against Violence against Women. Visit the website and stay informed about the most current research, evaluations, program approaches, advocacy initiatives, community mobilization efforts, legal reform initiatives and communication materials.

You can also use the website to share your experiences with individuals and organizations far beyond your geographical borders and build solidarity for GBV prevention in the region. So on 25th November 2008, at the beginning of the 16 Days of Activism, make it a point to log on to [www.preventgbv africa.org](http://www.preventgbv africa.org)



## RECENT ADDITIONS TO WWW. PREVENTGBVAFRICA.ORG

**Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW):**  
The status of women and girls in Kenya.

**Population Council:**  
Sexual and Gender based Violence in Africa: Key Issues in Programming.

**Gender Based Violence Prevention Network and ACORD:**  
Unpacking Compensation and Protection for Survivors of Sexual and Gender Based Violence: A Regional Consultation Report.

**United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA):**  
Ending Violence Against Women: Programming for Prevention, Protection and Care, 2007

## End Notes:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2004) *Sexual violence prevention: beginning the dialogue*. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
 Family Violence Prevention Fund, (2003) *Preventing family violence: Community engagement makes the difference*. San Francisco: Family Violence Prevention Fund  
 Interagency Gender Working Group (IGWG) of USAID. (2006). *Addressing gender-based violence through USAID's health programs: A guide for health sector program officers*. Washington D.C.: IGWG of USAID.  
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*Perspectives on Prevention* is a newsletter for activists and practitioners committed to preventing gender-based violence in the Horn, East and Southern Africa. It is the newsletter of the GBV Prevention Network. **The GBV Prevention Network aims to:** provide member organizations with relevant information about and access to resources on violence prevention; build solidarity between organizations working on violence; strengthen capacity of members on critical issues and methodologies; and advocate for increased interest and investment for preventing gender-based violence prevention in the regions. The network is currently coordinated by Raising Voices and supported by HIVOS.



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