

THIS ISSUE'S THEME

MOVEMENT BUILDING FOR GBV PREVENTION: RIGHTS-BASED APPROACHES FOR GBV PREVENTION

MANY INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS ARE DEVELOPING PROGRAMS ACROSS THE REGION TO ADDRESS GBV.

Since social, cultural and economic contexts are different in various countries, organizational approaches are also different. Yet the primary driver of GBV - the power imbalance between women and men - cuts across cultures, ethnic groups, socio-economic status, and religion. This issue is inspired by the last member's meeting held during the SVRI 2009 Forum; it focuses on rights-based approaches for GBV prevention programming.

NEXT ISSUE'S THEME

STRENGTHENING STRUCTURES FOR A GBV PREVENTION MOVEMENT

The next issue will discuss our use of human rights principles within our organizations as a way of strengthening structures for a GBV prevention movement within the region. The issue will examine power and our use of power within groups and organizations. This issue will also help us to reflect on our use of the human rights principles within our organizations. Contact us at info@preventgbvafrica.org if you would like to contribute.

MEMBER 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 NEW WITH OUR MEMBERSHIP? READ THIS SECTION AND CATCH UP WITH THE CURRENT NEWS!

CELA INITIATES WOMEN'S GROUPS MEANT TO UPLIFT WOMEN'S STATUS IN DRC

Centre for Youth Development and Adult Education (CELA) has encouraged formation of women's groups in five villages in the DRC. These groups are involved in GBV awareness raising and savings and credit schemes. CELA would like to share and learn more from members doing similar work, contact Atuu Waonaje at atuuwaonaje@yahoo.com

DOLPHIN ANTI-RAPE (KENYA) LAUNCHES A NEW DOCUMENTARY

"Making Waves, Saving Lives," is a grassroots documentary about Dolphin Anti-Rape. This is an organization in Kenya that works to deliver vital rape and AIDS awareness and education to girls and women. Dolphin Anti-Rape teaches girls, beginning as early as

elementary school, a self defense technique called 'rapid response' which teaches skills for escaping potential attackers. A documentary of this work has been made and is being launched in the USA. Congratulations Dolphin!

RAISING VOICES (UGANDA) HOSTS CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF VIOLENCE AND RECONCILIATION CSVR (SOUTH AFRICA)

Between July and August 2009, Raising Voices and CSVR had an exchange program that saw one staff from each organization visit the other. Evelyn Letiyo from Raising Voices spent some time at the CSVR Johannesburg offices. She engaged with activists working with survivors of the xenophobic attacks, and visited member organization NISSA who partners with CSVR on the violence against women prevention project. Similarly Collet Ngwane from CSVR's GBV Program visited Raising Voices from the 12th to 20th August

to learn more about Raising Voices' approach to preventing violence against women. She also facilitated a Speaker Event for Kampala-based Network members.

UGANDA PARLIAMENT TABLES KEY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEGISLATION

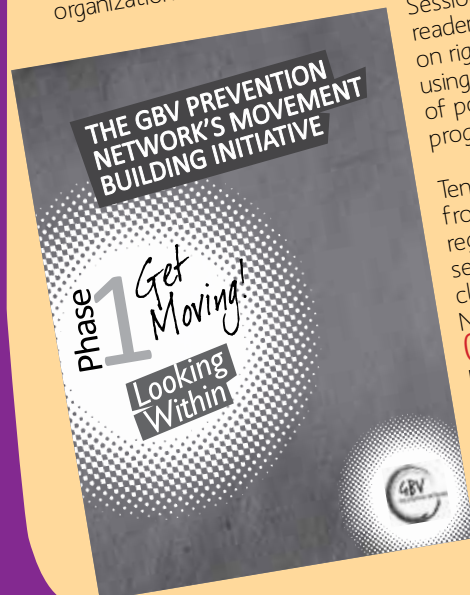
On 18 June 2009, in a historic move, the Uganda Parliament tabled the first-ever Domestic Violence Bill (DVB). This brings the Bill one step closer to passage. The Bill aims to prohibit domestic violence, which is defined as physical, sexual, economic, or psychological abuse committed in intimate relationships, and classifies it as a civil or criminal offense. The DVB protects not only women, but also men, children, family members, employees, and domestic workers. The DVB is an important step in the provision of protection and relief to victims and punishment for perpetrators of domestic violence. Congratulations to the Domestic Violence Bill Coalition

TAKE ACTION!

PHASE 2 OF Get Moving! STRENGTHENING A GBV PREVENTION MOVEMENT FOR THE HORN, EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

Member organizations across the region are getting moving! In our last issue we launched the first phase of the *Get Moving!* GBV prevention movement building process. *Get Moving!* is a three phased transformative process that is designed to stimulate personal and organizational reflection about our GBV prevention work. It is also intended to promote an understanding and commitment to a rights-based approach to GBV prevention within member organizations. The process includes reflection sessions, exercises and readings that can be conducted within organizations and among groups interested in grounding their GBV prevention efforts within a social justice framework.

The first phase of *Get Moving!* focused on self-reflection about the power dynamics in our own lives and how we as individuals could be protagonists in the GBV prevention movement. The second phase focuses on strengthening a rights-based analysis of GBV for members and their organizations. This is in line with the newsletter's current theme. Sessions and readers will focus on rights and using an analysis of power in our programs.



Ten organizations from across the region are being selected to work closely with the Network in the *Get Moving!* process. Many member organizations are currently conducting the sessions and discussing the readers within

GET READY FOR THE 2009 REGIONAL 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM CAMPAIGN!

The Network is excited to announce the 2009 regional 16 Days of Activism campaign! Preparations have already started for this year's regional campaign; a call for applications was posted on the Network website for organizations who would like to collaborate in the campaign. This is the 6th year running of the Network's regional campaign and each year it gets stronger and more diverse!

This year's global campaign theme is "Commit, Act, Demand: We can end violence against women!" The network's regional theme will focus on the benefits of non-violent relationships using a variety of positive, dynamic materials.

The Network looks forward to collaborate with up to 30 organizations from 16 member countries. Each participating organization will receive an Action and Advocacy Kit containing:

- Full color posters
- "Prevent Violence against Women" Purple Ribbons
- Press Release
- Comic Sheet
- 16 Days Launch Guide
- Drama Sketch

For members who would like to fundraise for their campaigns please visit the Network website (www.preventgbvafrica.org) and check out the announcements section where there is a list of possible funders suggested by the Center for Women's Global Leadership.

their organizations and will come together for a meeting in Kampala to share, support each other and discuss how to get others moving too!

Commit to the cause! Join the movement! You too can be part of the *Get Moving!* process. If you would like your organization to be part of the *Get Moving!* process, please write to us at info@preventgbvafrica.org. In case you have not received the Phase 1 Kit of *Get Moving!* please let us know and we shall send you one right away or you can download it at <http://www.preventgbvafrica.org/content/movement-building>

WANT TO BE PART OF THE ACTION? WRITE TO US AT INFO@PREVENTGBVAFRICA.ORG

THEY SAID IT!



HOW DO YOU ENSURE RIGHTS-BASED APPROACHES ARE INTEGRATED INTO YOUR WORK?

"More than just providing for people's needs, the rights-based approach focuses on changing unequal power relationships that sustain injustice and inequality."

"To successfully integrate Rights-based Approaches, organisations must remain accountable to their "right holder", and be clear what rights are being violated, how these are violated and who the "duty bearer" is with responsibility to act."

"Goals of Rights-based Approaches are by their very nature ambitious and long term, requiring concerted effort beyond the remit and life of any one single organisation. Organisations must be prepared to take the risks that are inherent in power redistribution work, recognise that progress will be gradual and plan to take a long term view."

PATRICK NDIRA, DIRECTOR TRAINING AND LEARNING, MIFUMI



WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES OF USING RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO GENDER BASED VIOLENCE PROGRAMMING?

"This approach uses international human rights Law to analyze inequalities and injustices and to develop policies, programmes and activities aimed at redressing obstacles hindering the enjoyment of human rights, particularly the rights of women."

"The major challenge for using rights-based approach in Africa is weak legal systems in many countries, as well as the lack of implementation of regional and international legal instruments; some countries are not signatories to international legal instruments and also do not recognize and respect human rights."

CARLYN HAMBUBA, COMMUNICATION OFFICER, FEMNET



WHAT DOES A RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PREVENTION MEAN TO YOU?

"The question we need to ask ourselves as women's rights activists, particularly as we move towards the third wave of Africa's democracy, is whether slow, incremental reform oriented agendas is what we need; or, whether we need to overhaul these structures by getting the numbers into a critical mass that can populate and begin to radicalize key instruments of governance, and this is not limited to Parliament!"

AWINO OKECH, GENDER & CONFLICT THEMATIC MANAGER, ACORD

RIGHTS-BASED APPROACHES TO GBV PREVENTION PROGRAMMING

In urban Zambia an organization is running a series of spot message prevention of domestic violence with the slogan "Respect women, respect your wives!"

In Botswana a national women's rights organization embarked on a campaign by the passing of new sexual offenses legislation.

A Tanzanian organization mobilizes rural communities to prevent violence by police, health care providers, cultural and religious leaders, and challenge social norms that keep men as superior and women as inferior.

An organization in the Democratic Republic of Congo provides free legal assistance toward the realization of women's rights.

Rights-based approaches for GBV prevention are diverse, and fall across a wide spectrum. While we often talk about rights-based approaches to GBV prevention, there remains confusion about what this actually means, how it evolved, and what it actually looks like in terms of practical programming. This article explores these ideas. We hope it might inspire discussion and deepening of meaningful rights-based prevention of GBV efforts.

WHAT IS A RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH?

A rights-based approach to GBV prevention is one that conceptualizes GBV as an injustice against women's basic human rights and thus has as its central goal achieving justice. The implications this has on GBV prevention programming are far reaching and complex. It requires:

- The identification of the root cause of GBV: the imbalance of power between women and men.
- The recognition that GBV is not the problem or 'fault' of an individual but is the result of a larger system of inequality at the community, national and international levels.
- The framing of a life free of violence as an entitlement which sees individuals as rights-holders and others (state and non-state actors) as duty bearers.
- Acknowledgement of the universality and indivisibility of women's human rights.
- Struggle, perseverance and sustained energy.

HOW DOES A RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH DIFFER FROM OTHER APPROACHES?

Rights-based approaches to GBV prevention

emerged as the idea for rights-based development gathered strength. A rights-based approach challenged the existing paradigms of development that were rooted first in charity and later, in meeting basic needs. In relation to GBV, a charity approach views women as victims who need assistance where the focus is on the manifestation of the problem.

Charity-based and needs-based approaches toward GBV view women as recipients of necessary services/programs not as active agents and participants in a process of change. There is no effort in either approach to address the root cause of GBV or to conceptualize the violence as injustice.

Rights-based approaches to GBV prevention challenge and change this dynamic, viewing GBV as an injustice and women as legitimate rights-holders. For every rights-holder there is a corresponding duty-bearer. A rights-based approach to GBV prevention seeks the empowerment of women as active rights-holders and participants in a process of holding state and non-state duty bearers responsible for change in the conditions that cause GBV.

In other words, rights-based approaches trigger obligations and responsibilities; charity and needs-based approaches do not.¹

WHAT DOES A RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH LOOK LIKE?

Rights-based approaches to GBV vary: There are, and must be, many pathways used

toward the realization of women's rights free of violence. The approaches are categorized as those that hold the state as duty bearer and those which hold individuals as duty bearers. Both of these approaches

States as Duty Bearers

Rights-based approaches to GBV work within a legal framework that focuses on the promotion of international human rights efforts aiming to hold the state accountable for the protection of their citizens' private life were among some of the earliest on GBV. Advocacy from women for the extension of the state's responsibility into the private realm was a key factor in the promotion and protection of women's rights. This pushed boundaries of state responsibility. GBV was a result of the large number of norms that maintain women's oppression - and that the state has a responsibility to take reasonable steps to protect citizen's rights - including women's rights.

RIGHTS-BASED APPROACHES FOR GBV PREVENTION WITH NON-STATE ACTORS RECOGNIZE THE NEED TO CREATE AND FOSTER A CULTURE OF HUMAN RIGHTS WITHIN COMMUNITIES.

led to the reform of legal systems, rape, domestic violence, trafficking, and other forms of violence.

Examples of this include the work of the African Women's Rights Movement and the African Women's Rights Movement, which provided a national platform for women's rights and a national funding mechanism for women's rights.

MANY MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS ARE USING RIGHTS-BASED APPROACHES THAT ENGAGE NON-STATE ACTORS IN GBV PREVENTION. SOME EXAMPLES ARE:

SISTERS FOR LIFE, IMAGE PROJECT - SOUTH AFRICA
<http://web.wits.ac.za/Academic/Health/PublicHealth/Radar/SocialInterventions/Intervention-withMicrofinanceforAIDSGenderEquity.html>

ONE MAN CAN CAMPAIGN, SONKE GENDER JUSTICE NETWORK - SOUTH AFRICA
<http://www.genderjustice.org.za/projects/one-man-can-campaign.html>

MOBILIZING COMMUNITIES TO PREVENT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, KIVULINI WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANIZATION, TANZANIA
<http://www.kivulini.org/prod0321.html>

APPROACHES FOR PROGRAMMING

...ges on a major FM radio that calls for the
...n's human rights: Husbands- stop beating

...advocacy efforts to have legal reforms

...domestic violence by working with
...community members to change the

...e legal aid for survivors of GBV.

...omen's right to live
...aches can be generally
...old the nation state as
...h hold non-state actors
...ese can be rights-based

...s: Traditionally, rights-
...were anchored within a
...ed on domestication
...s law. These legislative
...state accountable for
...ens both in public and
...ne of the first initiatives
...omen's rights activists
...state's responsibility
...a major leap in the
...f women's human
...es as it asserted that
...ger societal system and
...'s subordination and
...ate has a duty to take
...against violations of
...omen. These efforts
...significant legal
...n demonstrated in new
...tion on sexual offenses,
...domestic violence,
...king, etc across the
...ent.

...les programs that seek
...ease state responsibility
...countability include
...on of legal services
...men, policy advocacy
...e inclusion of a
...r-based analysis within
...onal health policy,
...g for a Child and
...Protection Unit of the

...national police force to handle cases
...of GBV, inclusion of modules on
...GBV for teachers within the national
...teacher training curriculum, and passage
...of new legislation or revisions of the
...penal code to uphold women's right to
...live free of violence, to name a few.

Non-State Actors as Duty Bearers: While the emphasis on the state as duty bearer remains an important aspect of GBV work, there is also increasing recognition of the essential role of non-state actors (individuals, communities, organizations, institutions, etc) in promoting and protecting women's right to live free of violence. Rights-based approaches for GBV prevention with non-state actors recognize the need to create and foster a culture of human rights within communities. This is a long-term goal that must be done with commitment and sincerity. It requires moving beyond use of slogans and the rhetoric of rights to opening up discourse about the imbalance of power between women and men to challenge the social norms that perpetuate GBV.

Fostering a human rights culture moves us beyond proclaiming and demanding women's rights to helping people understand the value and importance of equality, non-discrimination and fair treatment of all people - in other words: justice.

Community level, rights-based GBV prevention programming seeks to create social transformation, where beliefs and attitudes

ADVOCACY FROM WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVISTS FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE STATE'S RESPONSIBILITY INTO THE PRIVATE REALM WAS A MAJOR LEAP IN THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS.

towards women as subordinate human beings are shifted to create societal norms that value, protect and respect women's rights. Quality rights-based GBV programming promotes rights in a meaningful way, so that each community can recognize injustice in a context-appropriate way. Within this approach to programming, activists analyze a specific context, understand it, and build on positive social norms that exist in that community while trying to change norms that harm women and violate their rights.

PRACTICAL REFLECTIONS

The GBV Prevention Network supports and encourages rights-based approaches to GBV prevention. The guiding principles which shape our efforts also inform the programming of the

majority of our members. To what extent is your organization using a rights-based approach to GBV prevention? We hope the following questions might inspire some dialogue, reflection and analysis of your GBV prevention efforts.

¹Kirkemann Boesen, J., & Martin, T. (2007) *Applying a rights-based approach: An inspirational guide for civil society*. The Danish Institute for Human Rights



© 2009 Heidi Jo Brady

START TALKING!

- To what extent do your GBV prevention programs foster a culture of human rights in your community?
- How do you help communities realize the injustice of GBV as a violation of women's human rights?
- How could existing efforts be deepened to further address the root cause of GBV?
- How are you documenting and sharing these for other people in the region to learn?
- How could we strengthen rights-based programming for GBV prevention throughout the region?

JOIN THE CONVERSATION! WRITE TO US AT
INFO@PREVENTGBVAFRICA.ORG

GOOD HOPE FOUNDATION, UGANDA
<http://www.preventgbv africa.org/member/good-hope-foundation-rural-development>

THE SHARE PROJECT, UGANDA
<http://www.preventgbv africa.org/member/rakai-health-sciences-program-%E2%80%93safe-homes-and-respect-everyone-share>

MEN AS PARTNERS, ENGENDER HEALTH - KENYA
www.engenderhealth.org/our.../men-as-partners.php

SASA! PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND HIV, RAISING VOICES AND CEDOVIP, UGANDA
<http://www.raisingvoices.org/sasa/index.php>

GEZAHO!: PREVENTION OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND PROMOTION OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE, CARE, BURUNDI
<http://www.care.org/careswork/projects/BDI061.asp>
BREAK THE CYCLE, KWAZULU NATAL NETWORK AND AIDS LEGAL NETWORK
www.aln.org.za

ARE YOU DOING RIGHTS-BASED GBV PREVENTION AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL? PLEASE SHARE YOUR WORK WITH THE NETWORK SO OTHERS CAN LEARN FROM YOUR EXPERIENCE. WRITE TO US AT INFO@PREVENTGBVAFRICA.ORG

NETWORK NEWS

FURTHERING CAPACITY FOR RESEARCH IN PREVENTION OF GBV AMONG MEMBERS

The Research and M&E Thematic Working Group of the GBV Prevention Network is pleased to announce a state-of-the-art training course on researching GBV. The course will be hosted by the GBV Prevention Network in collaboration with PATH, Medical Research Council, and Addis Continental Institute of Public Health from the 26th October - 6th November 2009 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Regional and global research experts will facilitate a dynamic, theoretically sound, hands-on learning experience for researchers and activists alike.

SATELLITE MEETING

On 8th July, the Network held a satellite meeting within the Sexual Violence Initiative 2009 Forum. Over 20 members from the Horn, East and Southern Africa were introduced to the Network's movement building initiative, reflected and shared their ideas on building a GBV prevention movement.

GBV RESEARCH INITIATIVE

The Research and M&E Thematic Working Group's GBV Research Initiative had their first skills building meeting from the 3rd to the 5th July, implementing organizations were partnered with technical assistance research institutions and began developing full research protocols. Find more details at www.preventgbv africa.org

SPEAKER EVENTS

The Network held two Speaker Events in Kampala and Nairobi. On the 18th of August 2009 Collet Ngwane of Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR) Gender-based Violence Program in, South Africa shared with Network members based in Kampala, CSVR's experience and lessons from tracking the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act in South Africa. On the 28th of August Sarah Harrison, a Consultant in Psychosocial Protection and Support in Emergencies for Amina Development Consultancy facilitated a discussion with Nairobi based members around community-based, psychosocial protection and support in preventing and responding to GBV. You too can be a resource person for the Speaker days, please write to us at info@preventgbv africa.org and let us know when you are traveling within the region.

RECENT ADDITIONS TO WWW.PREVENTGBVAFRICA.ORG

20 Years of Service to survivors of Gender-based Violence, 2009, Musasa Project

On their 20th Anniversary Musasa Project reflects on responding to survivors of GBV as an organization.

Domestication of the Protocol on the Suppression and Prevention of Sexual Violence against Women and Children in the Great Lakes Region, ICON Academy, 2009.

A summary of a capacity building workshop by ICON, held to strategize on the promotion of the domestication and implementation monitoring of the Protocol on the Suppression and Prevention of Sexual Violence against Women and Children in the Great Lakes Region.

News Flash: Grandmoms bare their soul on complexity and struggles for caring for positive kids, 2009, Rozaria Memorial Trust

A summary about the plight of elderly women that member organization, Rozaria Memorial Trust engages with through their work.

The Safe Homes and Respect for Everyone (SHARE) Project Brochure, 2009, Rakai Project

Update on member organization, SHARE project's activities.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVISM AND FEMINISM? INSIGHTS FROM DR. HILDA TADRIA

On the 17th of August 2009, Jean Kemitare from the Network's Coordinating Office interviewed Dr. Hilda Tadria, a renowned feminist activist, to gather her insights about the language, identity and activism.



Hilda is a co-founder of the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) whose board she presently chairs. She has worked as a Regional Advisor on Economic Empowerment of Women at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, and as consultant on gender and development World Bank, UNDP, UNIFEM and the Ugandan government. She founded Action for Development and Mentoring and Empowerment Program for Young Women (MEMPROW), a new organization based in Uganda that builds the capacity of young women focusing on increasing their leadership capacity and social analysis skills. Below are excerpts from the interview, for entire interview see www.preventgbv africa.org.

JEAN KEMITARE: WHAT DOES FEMINISM MEAN TO YOU?

DR. HILDA TADRIA: Feminism for me means I recognize that I actually do have rights that I am able to recognize when I am being discriminated; when my rights are being abused as a woman, and with that recognition I am determined to fight for my rights and those of all women.

JEAN KEMITARE: IS THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BEING A FEMINIST AND A WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVIST?

DR. HILDA TADRIA: You can not be a [woman's rights] activist without being a feminist, when you are an activist you are fighting for gender equality. You can not fight for gender equality unless you recognize that at the bottom of all this is a system which maintains inequalities, so as a feminist, you are fighting the patriarchal system and ideology.

I think the distinction is if you do not question patriarchy as a system that maintains sustains and justifies inequality. The ideology within patriarchy is hierarchy; there are distinctions in privileges, statuses, rights, and entitlements. If, as an activist, you say you want to eliminate inequality but you do not recognize patriarchy as the root cause, I do not think you can be an effective activist. I always introduce myself as a feminist, gender equality activist; mainly because even though I realize there is no difference, I do not want people to think that because I am a activist I am not a feminist.

JEAN KEMITARE: IS FEMINISM FOREIGN AND NOT AFRICAN?

DR. HILDA TADRIA: I think that is a misconception, because if there is any culture that is dictated by patriarchy it is the African culture and once you recognize the impact of patriarchy then you are a feminist. Control of women's bodies, women's sexuality, and women's reproductive rights are all part of what we live in. Feminism is about recognizing rights; making sure there are equal opportunities, so western or not women need the same rights - we are human beings. Feminism is not western because the feminist concerns are right here with us. People will stand up and fight racism, fight capitalist oppressive systems but within that they do not mind maintaining gender inequality, it is double standards.

JEAN KEMITARE: WHY DO YOU THINK THERE IS FEAR IN USE OF FEMINIST LANGUAGE IN OUR REGION?

DR. HILDA TADRIA: Feminism should be explained to mean that one is passionate about claiming women's rights and are passionate about transforming the underlying causes of gender inequality. I think it [the fear] is mainly a misunderstanding of what a feminist is; most people just zero down on sexuality. Feminists believe in fighting for each one's rights whether for homosexuals or heterosexuals, this scares off people, they imagine there are rights other people should not have, and yet everybody is entitled to human rights.

People may be scared of the word feminist because they believe there are certain entitlements that women are not entitled to, every human being is entitled to their rights, freedoms and entitlements as a human being.

JEAN KEMITARE: CAN A MAN BE A FEMINIST?

DR. HILDA TADRIA: Men can be feminists, I have worked with male feminists, I have a favorite male feminist in one of the ministries in Uganda. I work with him all the time he does not make excuses for men and he is able to explain for us some customs that we think a man can not talk about.

I live with a man who is a feminist; unless your partner is a feminist and understands that you are a feminist, you can not do what you need

to do and you then separate. There is a belief that feminists can not sustain marriages. However, unless a man has a clear understanding and respect for rights; women's rights; he will be a difficult man to live with. So feminists are not man-hating women, they know who they are as human beings and that everyone has rights which must be protected.

JEAN KEMITARE: HOW WOULD YOU ADVISE WOMEN TO GAIN THE COURAGE AND CONFIDENCE TO IDENTIFY AS FEMINISTS?

DR. HILDA TADRIA: Women need to understand and question: 'why are we treated differently from our brothers, husbands or male friends' we need to help people understand, analyze and question the patriarchal system, then they will boldly declare themselves feminists.

JEAN KEMITARE: WOULD YOU ADVOCATE FOR WIDER USE OF FEMINIST LANGUAGE IN THIS REGION?

DR. HILDA TADRIA: I personally have no problem and I use the term feminist but before I use it I explain to those who seem uncomfortable. I would advocate for use of the language so that we all can understand the concepts; it is by using feminist language that we would understand issues like patriarchy. So if you can get people to understand it, please use it.

Feminism should be explained to mean that one is passionate about claiming women's rights and transforming the underlying causes of gender inequality. Even in MEMPROW, we are helping young women analyze the underlying causes of gender inequality, and understand patriarchy; and how it affects their own lives.

JEAN KEMITARE: DO YOU THINK IT IS STRATEGIC TO USE FEMINIST LANGUAGE IN THIS REGION?

DR. HILDA TADRIA: Strategic means many different things, what is not strategic is leading people down a path which you know is not correct. Pretending that feminism is not an appropriate strategy within our region is leading people down the wrong path. Practically, I have also met women who say "that organization has become feminist, they are talking about abortion, they are talking about lesbians, I am not going to belong there". Do we want everybody on the band wagon? Is that strategic? If numbers is what we want, then maybe it is not strategic to use feminist language, but we can have numbers and still not achieve equality because then we are going one direction but using a route that is not going to take you there.

I believe that we can not all agree 100 percent on everything and am one of those who within the African Feminist Forum, or within the Uganda Feminist Forum, who said that we can not all agree that we all support abortion [for example], but, I know that most of the women I work with do not like the unsafe abortion; some are working to stop girls getting pregnant because they hate the idea of them getting to abortion, so I want to work with those. I think within the feminist movement we all also need to align with others if they are doing work which is contributing to the general goal even if in a different way.

JEAN KEMITARE: SO SHOULD MOVEMENT BUILDING AROUND GBV PREVENTION, BE ALL ABOUT THE NUMBERS?

DR. HILDA TADRIA: This is the contradiction, if we [feminists] become an exclusive class we will not make head way, but in our inclusiveness we need to be clear whether everybody involved contributes in different ways towards what we are all driving at.

We can not all have the same methods but must look at our goals; respect for women's rights, whether sexuality, reproductive rights, women's integrity. So we can have numbers that go in different directions or we can have numbers that move in the same direction and that is what I want, I would not like to be in an exclusive club.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? Read the full transcript of Hilda's interview and let us know what you think about feminism, language, and strategic movement building on <http://www.preventgbv africa.org/blog>

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.



The Gender-based Violence Prevention Network
Plot 16 Tufnell Dr., Kamwokya, P.O. Box 6770, Kampala, Uganda
Phone: (+256) 414 531186 Fax: (+256) 414 531249
Email: info@preventgbv africa.org
www.preventgbv africa.org