

THIS ISSUE'S THEME

FOSTERING ACTIVISM

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PREVENTION INVOLVES LONG TERM PROGRAMMING TO CHANGE THE ATTITUDES AND BELIEFS THAT RENDER WOMEN AS INFERIOR TO MEN.

To actually create sustainable change - of attitudes, beliefs and practices - in our communities we need to foster activism within ourselves, our organizations and our communities. Activists feel deeply connected to the injustice of inequality and consequently GBV. Activists understand the dynamics of violence, analyze it and feel compelled to take action against it. For activists, preventing violence is a personal mission, not a nine-to-five job.

NEXT ISSUE'S THEME

REACHING OUT

The next issue will focus on reaching out to like-minded organizations to strengthen the GBV prevention movement. We will explore how to foster effective partnerships, network and build solidarity with organizations that are also working to prevent GBV in the region. If you would like to contribute to this issue, contact us at info@preventgbv africa.org.

TAKE ACTION!

Get Moving!

The GBV Prevention Network's movement building initiative is on the move! Like all movements, our initial processes will involve fostering a common analysis among all member organizations. *Get Moving!* includes training sessions and readers that will be facilitated among NGO staff working on GBV in a six phased process. The process, to be done among staff of organizations addressing GBV fosters an identification and analysis of power imbalances, inequality and injustice that are at the root of gender-based violence.

Specifically, the Network has reached out to members interested in partnering to participate intensely in the *Get Moving!* process. Seven

organizations from Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Rwanda and Zambia have partnered with the Network to conduct *Get Moving!* sessions with their staff. These organizations will play a leadership role in strengthening the GBV prevention movement within the region; first, by starting with themselves and then reaching out to other organizations in their countries. Each organization has set aside time to conduct day long processes each quarter with staff of their organizations.

In Uganda, the Network Coordinating team at Raising Voices will conduct the sessions with key staff from Kampala-based member organizations. Participants will then facilitate

the process with their colleagues back at their offices. In August all partners in the process will meet in Kampala to further reflect and enrich the process. We shall keep you informed of the process as it evolves - and hope you get involved too!

Are you part of the regional GBV prevention movement? Would you like to walk through a process of reflection on power, equality and justice for women and men? Conduct *Get Moving!* sessions with your staff and write to us at info@preventgbv africa.org or find details at <http://www.preventgbv africa.org/content/overview-movement-building-initiative>

REGIONAL PARTNERS FOR THE *Get Moving!* PROCESS

1. Agisangang Domestic Abuse Prevention and Training (ADAPT) - South Africa
2. Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW) - Kenya
3. Kivulini Women's Rights Organization - Tanzania
4. Rwanda Men's Resource Center (RWAMREC) - Rwanda
5. White Ribbon Campaign - Namibia
6. Women's Legal Resources Centre - Malawi
7. YWCA - Zambia

2009 REGIONAL 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM CAMPAIGN



In 2009 the Network focused the regional theme on the benefits of non-violent relationships and having happier and healthier families. The slogan and all associated materials was based on the regional theme 'Happy and Healthy Relationships are Violence Free'

The Action and Advocacy Kit contained several exciting pieces including: a press release, a campaign launch guide, a flyer, a training guide for developing benefits based approach skills for violence prevention, a drama sketch, tips for conducting effective and ethical dramas, and the traditional 'prevent violence against women' purple ribbons. Materials were used by member organizations to create awareness by sparking dialogue, debate and reflection on an alternative life that is violence free.

Every year the campaign grows significantly and in 2009 the regional

campaign had 40 organizations collaborating with the Network from 16 countries (Botswana, Burundi, DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa, Southern Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe). Overall, the regional campaign served to draw attention to the issue of violence against women by focusing not on the violence itself but on the benefits of non-violence - happier and healthier families. Read the full report at <http://www.preventgbv africa.org/content/16-days-activism-2009-regional-campaign>

Do you want to collaborate with the Network in 2010's regional campaign? Contribute ideas for the regional theme? Write to us at info@preventgbv africa.org. Watch for the call for Statements of Interest that will appear in the e-bulletin in June. Start making plans and budgets for even more vibrant campaigns in 2010.

Since 2004 the Network, with member organizations, has coordinated the annual regional 16 Days of Activism against Violence against Women Campaign. This is a global campaign between the dates of 25th November and 10th December where attention is drawn to violence against women and is designed to inspire activism to prevent it.

The Network develops a regional theme and campaign materials for an Action and Advocacy Kit to inspire and enable dynamic, positive, rights-based activism.

Holding Leaders Accountable - Sonke Gender Justice Network, South Africa

Sonke brought a case of hate speech and harassment against ANC Youth League President Julius Malema. The Youth Leader while addressing students at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology in January 2009 insinuated as to how rape survivors should or should not behave after the crime. The Equality Court this month ruled in favor of Sonke. Congratulations Sonke for taking a public stand against abusive speech!

Management of Sexual Violence Guidelines, Liverpool VCT, Kenya

On the 25th of March 2010, Liverpool VCT together with the Division of Reproductive Health within the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation in Kenya launched National Guidelines for the Management of Sexual Violence. The Detailed guidelines will be provided soon. Well done LVCT!

'Soda's Haven' - SOS Femmes, Mauritius Opens a New Shelter

After years of being tenants, SOS Femmes now owns its shelter which has a capacity of up to 60 women and children. The house was donated by a Mauritian woman living in the UK. Funds for renovation were donated by the European Union, the Rotary Club of Grand Bay, individuals, embassies and corporate companies.

The organization also launched its website <http://sosfemmes.intnet.mu>, a new book 'Femmes et Représentations Culturelles' on the representation of women in the cultural field: media, literature and Mauritian songs, and published new flyers on domestic violence. Congratulations on all these achievements!

Thursdays in Black Campaign Shortlisted - Diakonia Council of Churches, South Africa

This Campaign was short-listed for the Gender Justice and Local Government Awards to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa. The Campaign promotes awareness about gender-based violence. For more

information visit: www.diakonia.org.za Good Luck Diakonia Council of Churches!

Training for Data Collectors - Rwanda Men's Resource Center (RWAMREC)

From 16th to 23rd March RWAMREC conducted a training of data collectors for a study on the perceptions of masculinity in relation to GBV. The study will be conducted at a national level in Rwanda and is an initiative of the Rwanda MenEngage Network coordinated by RWAMREC and funded by UNDP Rwanda. Keep us updated RWMREC!

INSAKA, Engaging Men and Boys for GBV Prevention - YWCA, Zambia

The Young Women Christian Association of Zambia started a program that aims to involve men as a preventive measure in the fight against GBV. This program is called YWCA Men's Network. It engages young men and boys in prevention of GBV and HIV through monthly discussion called 'INSAKA'. The discussions address masculinity, HIV and GBV facilitated by young people. Congratulations YWCA!

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!

**"I really care about equality
- it is an injustice for women
to experience violence,
something must
change! Am
going to do
whatever is in my
power to make a
difference!"**

ACTIVISM GBV P

**ACTIVISM SIMPLY MEANS
INTENTIONAL ACTION TO
BRING ABOUT CHANGE.**

These are often the sentiments that drive activists working to prevent GBV. Activists are committed to the vision of safety, freedom and autonomy for women.

Activists know that it is only when women are seen as equal to men - having the same value, worth and dignity that will they be able to live free of violence and the fear of violence. Many of us, working in the field of GBV prevention identify ourselves as activists, but what do we really mean when we say we are activists? What is activism? What role do activists have in GBV prevention? This article explores the concept and practice of activism and suggests ways in which we can foster activism within ourselves and others.

What is Activism?

Activism simply means intentional action to bring about change. Activism for GBV prevention involves taking action to promote equality between women and men. Because activism is based on a vision, it is deeply connected to our beliefs and values. This is why a few sporadic actions, while important, usually are not considered activism. Instead, activism involves living our beliefs, which means that at all kinds of opportunities and situations in our professional and personal lives we take action with the ultimate vision of social change.

Activism for GBV prevention involves a deeper understanding of the root cause of GBV and a belief in equality and fair treatment of all human beings regardless of their sex, race, ethnicity or religion. It involves a passion and commitment to social justice and a belief in an individual's ability to create change. It involves an acceptance of personal responsibility to take action, reaching out to join strengths with others, and a life time of taking action, however seemingly small, to reject inequality and work towards women's enjoyment of their right to live free of fear and violence.

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**TAKE
ACTION!**

IN OURSELVES

- Consciously think about how personal experiences are linked to or are a result of larger injustice. Link personal experiences and thoughts to events, norms, structures and systems in the world.
- Get clarity on what you are passionate about - make a list of what issues are really important in your life and reflect on how you are living your beliefs.
- Allow yourself to feel outrage at injustice and find a creative and productive way to channel the outrage to achieve change.
 - Reflect on what small actions you can take to change injustice around you.
 - Reinvigorate your inner strength by turning inward and finding a place of quiet rest within yourself each day. Consider setting aside specific times to read, meditate, or pray each day - whatever feeds your spirit
- Practice active thinking - think positive, and fill yourself with energy.
- Reach out, trust people, and build close relationships with other activists for support.
- Surround yourself with people who care about the same issues.

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IN ORGANIZA

Activists recognize that although change takes a long time, it is possible. Activists energize and inspire others around them to take action. They have a lifelong commitment to promoting equality that stretches beyond their professional life. They do not see GBV prevention activism as a nine-to-five job but as part of actions required to create change in their own life, their community and the world. Activism takes many forms, it is not only about being radical or rebellious, and it is not a one off event. It involves constantly raising our voices and those of others to challenge and reject injustice in society.

How does Activism Develop?

Is someone born an activist? Go to school and learn how to be an activist? Activism is more a spirit that emerges in oneself. It is often sparked by a transformative moment or experience in one's life. When growing from a personal experience, activism can emerge as a productive response to the outrage one feels about injustice or as a result of one's reflection and response to injustice.

To illustrate this let's take a look at Grace's life. Grace is an activist working with an NGO that addresses violence against women. While she was growing up Grace witnessed her mother experiencing violence and saw how it affected her mother, herself, and the rest of the family. She saw on a daily basis how the injustice and indignity of violence eroded her mother's self-esteem, her opportunities, and her sense of self. She witnessed the suffering and was profoundly moved by it. Grace recognized that her mother's personal experience was sanctioned by the community and continued because others felt this was an acceptable and normal way to treat a woman.

Thus, Grace made the connection between her personal experience and social injustice and saw all its linkages. Grace's experience compelled her to be an activist. She has a fierce belief in the rights of women and now, in her personal and professional life, is working toward this. Activism is triggered when we link our own personal experiences to broader injustice. We recognize that violence happens to women not because

of what women as individuals do or do not do – but because collectively women are considered less as human beings than men. Therefore GBV prevention activists work to change attitudes as well as systems and structures that perpetuate inequality.

Who can be an Activist for GBV Prevention?

You and I – and everyone can and should be activists! Activism does not require specialist knowledge or skills, it only requires the courage and commitment to become aware and take action. Activism lives in one's heart and comes in many forms. We all have the potential and power to be activists in our own way, in our own lives – every day.

We can be GBV prevention activists whether or not we work professionally on the issue of GBV. We can challenge injustice in and bring an activist spirit to our families, places of work, and communities.

ISM for PREVENTION



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ACTIVISM FOR GBV PREVENTION INVOLVES A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE ROOT CAUSE OF GBV AND A BELIEF IN EQUALITY AND FAIR TREATMENT OF ALL HUMAN BEINGS

er Activism!

Create regular and consistent spaces for personal and organizational reflection on power, justice and equality.
Make organizational values explicit.
Lead by example – demonstrate your commitment and passion for equality between women and men every day.
Foster mentoring programs so all cadres of staff are supported in their personal processes of change.
Hold your organization to high standards – ensure that principles of justice, non-violence and equality are lived in day-to-day operations by all staff.
Provide opportunities for self reflection, making sure the work is meaningful to staff and is a productive outlet for their outrage at injustice.

ATIONS

- Discover the potential within your organization to grow as an activist organization, join the Network's *Get Moving!* process find details at www.preventgbvafrica.org/movementbuilding

- Create awareness of injustice and consequences of inequality between women and men.
- Have dialogues that help people to link their personal experiences with a broad analysis of injustice.
- Encourage communities to question social norms that perpetuate violence, injustice and inequality.
- Create supportive environments that can foster and inspire activists within the community.
- Recognize that change comes about when women and men in communities see the benefits of change – and help them see these benefits.
- Focus on the strengths of a community and believe in community member's ability to be activists themselves – not just recipients of your activism
- Live the principles of solidarity, justice and respect in all your interactions with communities.

IN COMMUNITIES

NETWORK NEWS

HOT OFF THE PRESS -

Get Moving! PHASE 4

The forth phase of the *Get Moving!* process is now ready. This series of training sessions and readers is meant for NGO staff addressing issues of GBV to reflect on their commitment to power, equality and justice between

women and men. The phase is intended to foster activism among staff for the prevention of GBV. Download a copy at <http://www.preventgbvafrica.org/content/overview-movement-building-initiative>

SPEAKER EVENTS FOSTER SOLIDARITY AMONG MEMBERS

This year Network members' opportunities for connection and solidarity building have already increased. We are having more speaker events in more cities this year. So far we have had two events in Lusaka - Zambia and in Kisumu - Kenya.

On the 23rd January over 20 Lusaka-based Network members met and shared community mobilization strategies with Tina Musuya, the Executive Director of Center for Domestic Violence Prevention (Uganda) who was visiting in Lusaka. The event was hosted by the Men's Project of Zambia Women's Lobby.

On the 31st March 19 Kisumu, Kenya based Network members met and shared updates, current issues and challenges of researching GBV within the region with Mary Ellsberg the Vice President, Research and Programs of the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW). The event was hosted by Kenya Female Advisory Organization (KEFAAO).

Become a speaker! Write to us at info@preventgbvafrica.org

RECENT ADDITIONS TO WWW.PREVENTGBVAFRICA.ORG

Changing the Rivers Flow Series: Challenging Gender Dynamics in a Cultural Context to Address HIV, 2009, SAFAIDS.

A multi-purpose package with a series of training materials and tools on gender.

Getting Schools on the Team, 2009, Resources aimed at the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (RAPCAN).

An article published in the Mail and Guardian newspaper, November 20th to 26th.

Men's Campfire Conference Report, December 2010, Zambia National Women's Lobby - Men's Network Project.

A report detailing the second Men's Campfire Conference was held from 15th to 16th December 2009 in Lusaka as part of the 16 Days of Activism against violence against women.

SASA! An Activist Kit to Prevent Violence against Women and HIV, 2009, Raising Voices.

A community mobilization approach that engages everyone in the community using different strategies to prevent violence against women and HIV.

PERSPECTIVES FROM GBV PREVENTION ACTIVISTS



Nelson Banda, Men's Project Zambia Women's Lobby

DO YOU IDENTIFY AS AN ACTIVIST?

I believe in gender equality between women and men. I believe that men and women have the same capacity to achieve their full potential in life. I started human rights advocacy work as a young student in secondary school in the late 1980s. I was inspired by the challenges of single parents having to witness my mother struggle to sell tomatoes in a little stand to raise funds for my school fees after her divorce. I felt women were special and should be treated in a dignified manner. It was then that I decided to make a contribution to join the gender equality movement and fight gender violence. Fighting GBV has become part of my identity. Men of our generation must stand up and denounce gender violence. In every woman, I see the face of my mother and I will not condone GBV in my life. My hand will never be used for violence against women. Yes, I am a GBV prevention activist!



Natsnet G. Zerezhgi, IRC, Sudan

WHAT DOES BEING AN ACTIVIST MEAN TO YOU?

As an activist - I am deeply concerned about the issue of gender based violence, and want to see the problem wiped out of the universe! I have committed myself to creating a better world where no one will be subjected to gender based violence. I try to lead by example through respecting people's dignity and demonstrating non-violent behavior. I do engage family members and friends to reflect on the current situation and help them to challenge wrong beliefs and practices and seek out and join like minded people to

tackle the issue on a bigger scale. This is what being an activist means to me!



Prossy Nakanyako, Raising Voices, Uganda

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR MOST DIFFICULT MOMENT AS AN ACTIVIST?

Being an activist has put me in the limelight. Being a public figure can be challenging because media can easily use your name to make headline stories or to push for their own agenda. Sometimes this agenda might be contradictory to the values one stands for. One of my most difficult moments as an activist was when one of the leading daily newspapers decided to misrepresent a peaceful march for children's rights and ending child sexual abuse that I was involved in, as a march in support of the draconian anti-homosexuality bill in Uganda. It had nothing to do with homosexuality.

This was painful because it misrepresented my values and beliefs as a human rights activist. I passionately believe that human rights are indivisible for everyone, irrespective of their sex, age, sexual orientation or race. What gives me strength as an activist is the support of like-minded people, who believe in the same values that I believe in and are there to stand with me amidst such challenges.



Fairouz Nagia-Luddy, Resources Aimed at the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (RAPCAN), South Africa

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES OF BEING AN ACTIVIST?

As an activist for children's and women's rights, I most certainly feel a deep connection to the issue of GBV. We know that our goal as activists is to try to bring about social, economic and political change - so while we loudly advocate for equality and better services in public spaces, and while we frown upon and express disapproval at cultural stereotypes and practices that are harmful to children and women in our private spaces, we are brought back to our centre by the realization that, yes, change takes time. Change is a process that organically takes on a life of its own. The hardest thing that I have to face at the end of each day, after all the neat documents and memos have been written to government recommending possible ways to better the service, when I am at home safe and warm in bed, glad that my children are safe and loved - it's that little voice that always asks: Am I, are we, doing enough?



Anna Mutavati, UNFPA, Uganda

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BEST MOMENT AS AN ACTIVIST?

I believe we cannot meaningfully talk about protection and promotion of rights of women, as long as societies believe it is OK to batter a woman and nothing will happen to you. As an activist

trained in law and women's law, I believe in contributing to ending this impunity. I have used my experience in working on women and law in Zimbabwe and in Uganda to influence policy and legal reforms on GBV.

My best moment was when I successfully mobilized partners in civil society, United Nations and government to form a coalition and advocate for the passing of the Domestic Violence Law in Zimbabwe. The combined voice of this coalition was too strong for Parliament to ignore! The Law was passed in 2006 after more than ten years of lobbying - this was my highest moment!

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 regional and international resources on GBV; strengthen the discourse and practice of rights-based GBV prevention; increase skills in GBV prevention; and, foster cohesion, collaboration and increased activism within the region. The network is currently coordinated by Raising Voices and supported by HIVOS.



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