

GBV Prevention Network

16 Days of Activism Campaign:

Power Point Presentation Notes

Introduction

During the 16 Days of Activism period, all GBV Prevention Network members will be calling upon leaders to show their leadership by recognizing violence against women and girls (VAWG) as a human rights violation and a barrier to social and economic development. We call on government technocrats, cabinet ministers, members of parliament, elected leaders at local government level, cultural and religious leaders to:

- Publically condemn violence against women and girls
- Develop an effective National Plan of Action for the prevention and response of VAWG
- Institute a national coordinating mechanism to oversee national efforts
- Ensure budget allocations to implement the National Plan of Action

One effective activity to engage leaders are advocacy meetings. These meetings can be used to highlight the issue of VAWG and its costs to social and economic development and to call on leaders to take action to end VAWG. The notes below and the Power Point Presentation provide a guide for organizations to facilitate advocacy meetings with their leaders.

How to use the Power Point Presentation

- These notes correspond to the Power Point Presentation provided in the Action and Advocacy Kit
- They provide details to guide your presentation
- Read these notes in detail before using the Power Point Presentation
- Use the worksheet provided in the Action and Advocacy Kit to contextualize these notes and the Power Point presentation i.e. to fill in some country specific information (instructions are given in italics within this document and in the Power Point Presentataion)

Presentation Notes

Violence against Women

The United Nations defines violence against women as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”¹

Magnitude of Violence against Women

Violence against women is a global pandemic where 1 in 3 women will experience violence in their lifetime.

¹ <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs239/en/>

In Africa 36.6 percent of women experience physical and / sexual violence by an intimate partner.² 11% of women in the African region have experienced sexual violence by a non-partner. It is estimated that about 100- 140 million girls and women have undergone FGM while more than 3 million girls in Africa are at risk of undergoing FGM every year and approximately 70 million girls worldwide have been married before the age of 18, many of them in forced marriage¹.

In the East and Southern Africa Region, the percentage of ever partnered women that experienced violence from an intimate partner stands at 38.83% in Eastern Africa, and 29.67% in Southern Africa² prevalence estimates for non-partner sexual assault are at 11.4% in Eastern Africa and 17.4% in Southern Africa³

(Please insert the national statistics of violence against women in your country- this can be found out from your Demographic and Health Survey or WHO Global Observatory on Health or other scientific national surveys)

Consequences and Costs of Violence against Women and Girls

There are multiple consequences of violence, having immediate, short-term and long-term effects. They impact the individual, family, community and wider society, which translate into costs at the national, regional and international level. Consequences and costs include the following:

Violence against women reduces productivity and drains public budgets. It has enormous direct and indirect costs for survivors, employers and the public sector in terms of health, police, legal and related expenditures as well as lost wages and productivity.

- According to a study in Uganda, about 9% of violent incidents forced women to lose time from paid work, amounting to approximately 11 days a year (ICRW, 2009)
- The estimated loss of productivity from domestic violence in Tanzania is 1.2% (WHO, 2008)
- The annual cost of intimate partner violence in South African has been calculated to cost South Africa R 28.4 billion
 - In Uganda, the annual cost for hospital staff treating women for intimate partner violence-related injuries is US\$1.2 million. (International Center for Research on Women-ICRW, 2009)
 - In Morocco, intimate-partner violence costs the justice system US\$6.7 million annually. (ICRW, 2009)

(Please insert the relevant national statistics of the economic costs of violence against women in your country)

Sexual violence deprives girls of education and diminish potential for growth and development of a nation. School-related violence limits the educational opportunities and achievements of girls.

- In a study in Ethiopia, 23 percent of girls reported experiencing sexual assault or rape en route to or from school.
- In South Africa, 33 percent of reported rapes of girls were perpetrated by a teacher. Many girls changed schools or left school as a result of hostility after they reported the violence³.

(Please insert the relevant national statistics in your country)

2 http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/85239/1/9789241564625_eng.pdf

3 <http://www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/301-consequences-and-costs-.html?next=302>

Violence fuels the HIV and AIDS pandemic. Violence limits women's ability to protect themselves from HIV, and women living with HIV or AIDS are often the targets of abuse and stigma. Young women are at especially high risk of both HIV and gender-based violence: they represent approximately 60 percent of all the 5.5 million young people in the world living with HIV and AIDS. Studies from Tanzania, Rwanda and South Africa suggest that women who have experienced partner violence are more likely to contract HIV than those who have not. Up to 14.6% of women in sub-Saharan Africa and south-east Asia reported that when they disclosed their HIV status, their intimate partners subjected them to violence, and fear of violence is a barrier to women disclosing their status and accessing appropriate care⁴.

Why address violence against women

- To save cost at individual, family, community and national level
- To encourage equal participation of girl and boys, women and men in education and political sphere
- Boost social and economic development
- Fulfill commitments made to uphold the dignity and rights of every citizen in relation to the national and international legal frameworks.

Legal and operational frameworks to end VAWG

Several efforts have been put in place at global, regional and national levels to address violence against women and girls. There are number of legal and operational frameworks that have been put in place to provide a conducive environment with which to prevent and respond to violence against women. Several countries in the region have been signatories to these frameworks signaling their commitment to end violence against women. Some of the major legal and operational frameworks at the global and regional level include:

- **The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and its optional protocol (1979):** It is recognized as the International Bill of Rights for women because it recognizes injustices women experience and calls for state parties to take specific measures to protect and promote women's human rights. Although CEDAW does not explicitly mention violence against women, the CEDAW committee subsequently adopted General Recommendation 12 and 19 that include VAW and make detailed recommendations to state parties. In the region Sudan, South Sudan and Somalia have not ratified the CEDAW.
- **Declaration on the elimination of VAW (DEVAW) this was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1993:** DEVAW is the most comprehensive document to emerge from the UN on violence against women. It addresses systemic, cultural, public and private forms of violence that women experience.
- **The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action:** This was adopted in 1995 at the Fourth World Conference on Women. The Platform for Action that emerged from the proceedings includes violence against women as one of the critical areas of concern. It also identified specific areas of action for government to take in prevention and response to VAW/G.
- **The Vienna Declaration and Program of Action 1993:** It was adopted by consensus by representatives of 171 States at the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna. It emphasizes the equal status and human rights of women and advocates for human rights of women and girls to be protected.

⁴ <http://www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/301-consequences-and-costs-.html?next=302>

- **The International Conference on Population and Development 1994:** One of the principles on which the PoA is based (principle 4) clearly focuses on women's human rights and emphasizes the need for gender equality. It advocates for elimination of all kinds of violence against women and girls and states the need for them to control their own fertility.
- **Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa:** This protocol entered into force in 2005 and is a binding instrument. Currently it has been ratified by 36 African countries. It addresses the concerns of African Women; which did not exist in any other international treaty and guarantees comprehensive rights to women. It recognizes girls' and women's rights to be protected from sexual harassment (right to equality in education). Dedicated article on violence against women and reference throughout the document.
- **Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (2004):** This was undertaken by Heads of State of the African Union during an assembly in Ethiopia in 2004. They reaffirmed their commitment to gender equality as enshrined in Article 4 (I) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union.
- **AU Gender Policy and Action Plan (2010):** This policy "provides a framework within which to accelerate the realization of gender equality, fairness between men and women, non-discrimination and fundamental rights in Africa". It intends to accelerate gender mainstreaming, empower women and protect them from rape and violence.

Please insert the sub-regional legal and operational frameworks that apply to your sub-region e.g. the SADAC Gender Protocol, the East African Community Treaty etc. Research and include information about your own country's ratification and signing of the above i.e. which have been ratified and which have not

National Legal and Policy Environment

In this section please research and include the following information

- Check for provisions within your national constitution around gender equality. If there are none point this out as well
- Check for and include provisions in the Penal Code Act that address violence against women
- Include any other law, policies and national plans within the country that address violence against women
- Check for and include progress in implementing these mentioned above
- Check for and include gaps in implementation i.e. absence of operational plans, insufficient budgets, lack of knowledge and skills within implementing institutions etc

Leading the way to end violence against women and girls

During this 16 Days Period we are calling upon you to show leadership by

Insert your specific campaign asks (might include: publically condemning violence

against women and girls, putting in place an effective national action plans, instituting multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms and budgets to implement the national plan of action.)

Use your voice and power to take action and lead the way to end violence against women and girls!

Endnotes

- 1 Ellsberg M, Arango D J, Morton M, et al. Prevention of violence against women and girls: what does the evidence say?.2014:
- 2 Devries KM, Mak JY, García-Moreno C, et al. Global health. The global prevalence of intimate partner violence against women.2013; **340**: 1527–28.
- 3 Abrahams N, Devries K, Watts C, et al. Worldwide prevalence of non-partner sexual violence: a systematic review. 2014; **383**: 1648–54.