

Break the **SILENCE** Break the **BARRIERS!**

How will you make education safe for girls?

GBV Prevention Network

16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence 2016

Campaign Worksheet



Building Momentum • Fostering Activism

Introduction

Break the Silence, Break the Barriers! How Will You Make Education Safe for Girls? is the 16 Days of Activism Campaign theme. This year the global campaign which marks 25 years in existence will continue to make the links between gender-based violence and militarism, as an encompassing patriarchal system of discrimination and inequality based on our relationships with power.

The campaign theme will focus on making education safe for all, specifically girls and young women, by highlighting structural discrimination of women and girls throughout the education system right from the home, community, and the school setting including government policy that impacts girls experience at school. It will run from 25th November to the 10th December 2016.

We encourage you to use this opportunity to break the silence in your communities. During these 16 Days create awareness among community members, schools and government authorities around the barriers that prevent women and girls from accessing and completing their schooling.

The aim and goal of this worksheet is to organize, contextualise and clarify your demands using the regional campaign's advocacy asks. Please note: completing this worksheet should be the very first activity you conduct well before the campaign actually commences. If you have difficulties using this worksheet please write to info@preventgbvfrica.org for assistance.

How to use this Worksheet:

1. Read the Campaign Overview Document and the 'Campaign Worksheet' in detail
2. As an individual leading the 16 Days Campaign in the organization read and compile information within the section 'Worksheet' ensure you look for relevant information from schools, government officials and published literature (you could ask colleagues to help you with compiling this information)
3. Arrange a meeting for the 16 Days Campaign with colleagues (preferably well in advance before 25th November the start of the campaign)
4. In that meeting with colleagues share the background information collected in 2 above
5. Divide staff into groups and make a first attempt to respond to the questions in the table under the section 'Worksheet' (ensure you respond to the 'Actions Required' column in detail this will help you develop a specific and effective work plan)
6. Read and discuss the campaign advocacy asks in detail and select one that you (as an organization) are best placed to highlight in your community
7. Agree the objectives you want to meet within the campaign period and what will indicate the objectives you have selected have been met
8. Together with colleagues create a detailed work plan for the campaign period. Ensure activities you plan correspond to the objectives you would like to meet. Use the Campaign Activity Guide for ideas
9. You are now ready to start your campaign, break the silence by highlighting barriers to girl's education and demand for action!

Campaign Asks

This year, the GBV Prevention Network's campaign will focus on asking community members, parents, schools and policy makers to make access to education safer for girls and women. We will break the silence by highlighting and publicizing issues within our homes, schools and communities that act as barriers for women and girl's access to education and issues that make educational spaces unsafe.

Choose from and highlight any one or combination of the following issues (**Access, Safety and Systemic Issues**) that act as a barrier to education for girls in their own community (explained below). Plan your campaign around calling attention to the issue (s) you have selected for action.

- 1. Access to Education:** girls and young women should access education equal to boys and young men. This includes families enrolling girls and supporting them to focus on their studies and keeping girls in school as opposed to marrying them off
- 2. Safety at School:** girls have special needs that should be catered for within the school setting for example separate toilet facilities, menstrual hygiene supplies and individuals within the staff to address these special needs. In addition eliminating safety hazards that girls face on their way to school
- 3. The Educational System:** within the educational system at policy and operational level there exist systems that reinforce negative stereotypes and power imbalances faced by girls. Ensure the curriculum and text books encourage and portray gender equality

Worksheet:

After you have selected the issue you would like to highlight for the 16 Days Campaign read the questions below and search for relevant information to complete them so you can customize your campaign to address the most relevant needs for your community. Use your responses to craft out a work plan for the campaign period

Campaign Ask	Worksheet Questions	Responses (please complete this section)	Actions required and by who to address this issue in your community (please complete this section)
<p>Access to Education</p>	<p>Do girls and young women access school equally in your community?</p>		
	<p>What are the numbers of female and male students at different levels of education in your community? Does the proportion change at higher levels? Why?</p>		
	<p>Are there policies that are discriminating against girls (i.e. expulsion of pregnant girls, lack of privacy/ sanitation for girls, etc)</p>		
	<p>Even when girls access education are they allowed to complete school? What are the barriers to girl's completion of education?</p>		
<p>Safety at School</p>	<p>What are the available school facilities (and how do they meet the special needs of girls/ young women?) e.g. what are the provisions in place for menstrual hygiene management? Separate toilets for girls and boys?</p>		
	<p>As girls go to school what are the safety hazards they face in your community? e.g. sexual harassment, rape, kidnaping</p>		

Campaign Ask	Worksheet Questions	Responses (please complete this section)	Actions required and by who to address this issue in your community (please complete this section)
The Educational System	<p>What is the content that is taught at school does it reinforce discrimination of girls and young women – later denying them opportunities? (is the education content setting up the seeds of power imbalance? Does it reinforce the notions that boys are more valuable than girls?)</p>		
	<p>Are girls and young women encouraged to participate as their male counterparts are?</p>		
	<p>Do girls and young women face sexual harassment/sexual violence from teachers and other students?</p>		