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DE LA CRIMINALIDAD



ICPC's 8th Annual Colloquium on Crime Prevention

Women's Safety

Queretaro, Mexico

Women's Safety: A Shared Global Concern

Compendium of Practices and Policies

2008



Secretaría de
**Seguridad
Ciudadana**



QUERETARO

Women's Safety:
A Shared Global Concern

Background Information for Colloquium

2008

Compendium of Practices and Policies:

Background Information for the 2008 Colloquium

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Foreword

Raymonde Dury, ICPC President

ICPC's 8th Annual Colloquium on "Women's Safety: A Shared Global Concern" is the second ICPC Colloquium to take place in Latin America, and as President of the Board, I would like to thank our Member government, the State of Querétaro, Mexico, and its Secretariat of Citizen Security & Safety (SSC), very warmly for hosting this event.

The issue of women's safety is indeed a global one, transcending borders and impacting people at all levels, including governments, policymakers, non-governmental organisations and citizens. In 2006, the United Nations Secretary General's report *In-depth Study of all Forms of Violence Against Women* emphasised that violence against women in the world constitutes a human rights violation, and continues to be an obstacle to reaching gender equality.

Lack of safety and fear of crime have particular impacts on women and on their ability to take advantage of their right to be able to participate in and move around freely in society. Women's activities are often limited as a consequence of insecurity and risk of violence, inhibiting daily activities such as going to work, their ability to use certain public spaces, or to go out at night. It also affects their freedom to be financially independent, and all of this has implications for their children and families. The recent death of the senior policewoman who was head of the department of crimes against women in Kandahar, Afghanistan, testifies to the difficulties facing women in some countries when they work to assert the rights of women.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, with the adoption of the Convention of Belém do Pará in 1994, violence against women whether in private or public domains, and the challenges of ensuring the safety of women and girls, has been clearly identified as a priority for the region. Yet much remains to be done.

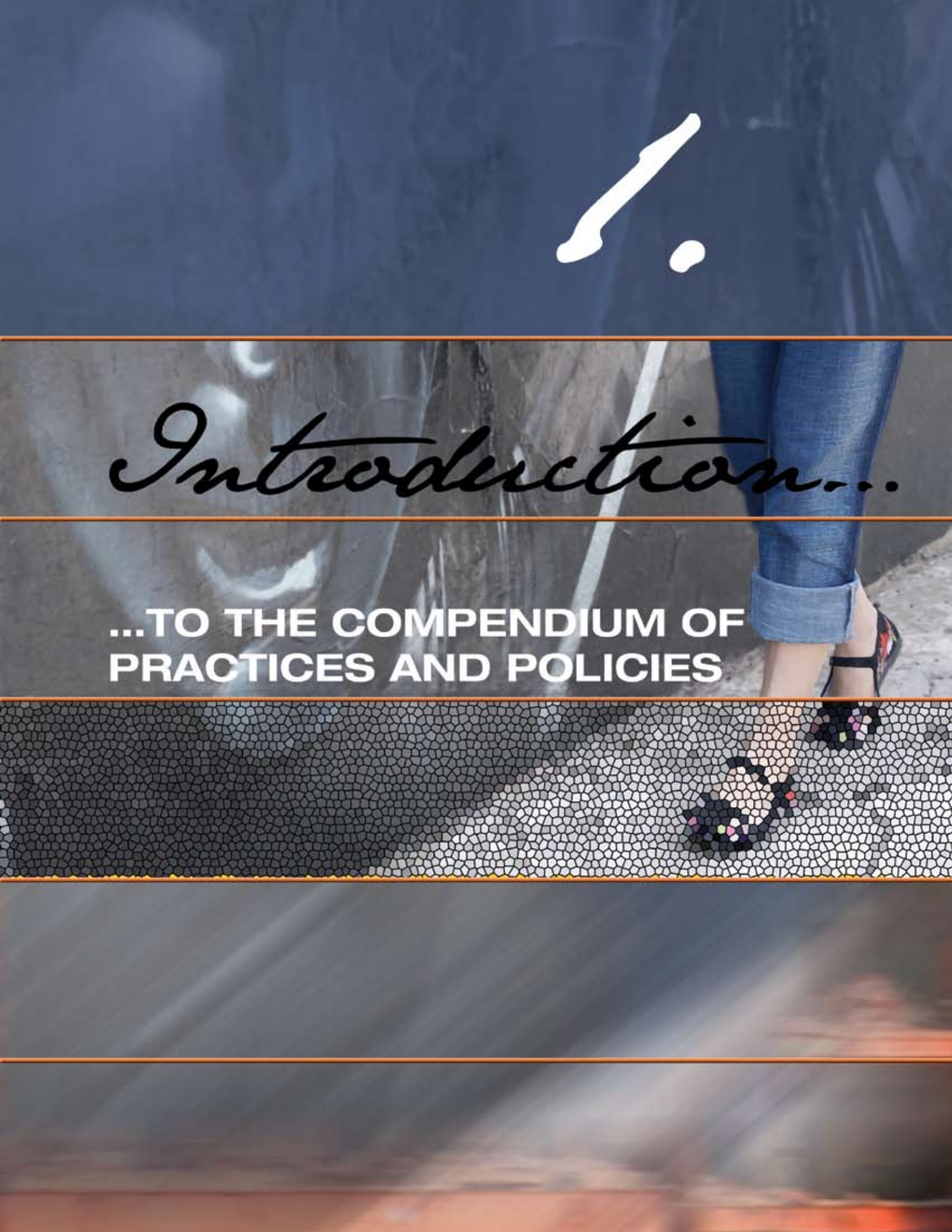
The Secretariat of Citizen Safety and Security places security and safety at the forefront of their agenda, and is working to enable the citizens of Querétaro to live in an environment where they are free to fully exercise their rights. The fact that the Secretariat has organised and hosted this important event, in partnership with ICPC, attests to their appreciation of the particular security needs of women and girls, as well as their dedication to learning more about their needs in order to respond to them better.

ICPC brings together national governments, local authorities, public agencies, specialised institutions, and non-government organisations providing opportunities such as these, to meet together to exchange experience, and consider emerging knowledge in crime prevention and community safety. The 8th Annual Colloquium, through its Keynote Speeches, Roundtables, specialised Workshops, and Cities Forum will allow us to explore in some depth a variety of integrated strategies and programmes on women's safety from around the world.

This Compendium of Practices on Women's Safety will surely serve to enrich the debate and discussion, and to inspire others to create further innovative strategies and practices, to promote women's safety in their neighbourhoods, cities, and countries around the world. I wish you a very successful Colloquium.



1.



Introduction...

**...TO THE COMPENDIUM OF
PRACTICES AND POLICIES**

The International Centre for the Prevention of Crime's **8th Annual Colloquium** addresses the important theme of women's safety. This is a shared concern for many governments, policymakers, non-governmental organisations and citizens alike, and the Colloquium serves as a platform to explore the evolution in approaches to women's safety, and to identify responses to problems through the discussion of strategies and innovative practices implemented in different countries throughout the world.

Since the 1970s and 1980s, issues related to violence against women in private and public space and the challenges of ensuring the safety of women have increasingly become a central concern. The United Nations has placed significant emphasis on its implications for gender equality and female empowerment, viewing the prevention of violence against women as a step towards the achievement of gender equality. The UN Secretary General's 2006 *In-depth Study of all Forms of Violence Against Women*, for example, emphasises that violence against women constitutes a human rights violation and a significant barrier to the achievement of gender equality.

Among the foremost international agreements on women's equality is the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW), adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly. This document has often been described as an **international bill of rights for women**. Although the Convention does not directly address violence, by accepting the Convention, States commit themselves to undertake a series of measures to end discrimination against women in all its forms.¹ Another significant international initiative relating to women has been the on-going work of the World Health Organization (WHO) on issues of violence. They see all personal violence, including violence against women, as a public health issue, and their recent 2005 multi-country study highlights the extent of violence against women, as well as its very damaging health aspects.²

In Latin America, there has been some implementation of international conventions such as CEDAW, and the *Convention of Belém do Pará* (Brazil) of 1994, in many countries in the region. Nevertheless, levels of violence against women remain high, as in other regions, and it remains a priority for Latin American and Caribbean countries.

A shared global concern

Around the world, a number of campaigns have been led by international bodies, governments and NGOs to raise awareness about the importance of women's safety. On February 25, 2008, Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon launched the United Nations Secretary-General's Campaign to End Violence Against Women.³ The year 2008 marks the 18th anniversary of 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence, an international campaign originating from the Women's Global Leadership Institute and now recognized by many national governments, NGOs and the United Nations.⁴ The campaign runs from November 25th, *International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women* and December 10th, *International Human Rights Day*, highlighting the link between violence and human rights. The Council of Europe has led a campaign entitled Stop domestic violence against women since

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1. Currently, 185 countries, or over 90% of the members of the United Nations, are party to the Convention, with one more in the process of ratification. For the list of State Parties to the Convention, see: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/states.htm> [12 November 2007].
 2. *World Report on Violence and Health*, World Health Organization (2002); *WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women: summary report of initial results on prevalence, health outcomes and women's responses*. (2005), Geneva, WHO.
 3. See: United Nations, Secretary-General's Campaign to End Violence Against Women <http://www.un.org/spanish/women/endviolence/> [26 February 2008].
 4. See: UNFPA, 16 Day of Activism to End Violence against Women <http://www.unfpa.org/16days/> [1 February 2008]; Center for Women's Global Leadership, 16 days of activism against gender violence, <http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/16days/about.html> [1 February 2008].

2006, uniting European Parliaments in the combat to end violence⁵. The human rights organization Amnesty International has led, since 2004, a campaign Stop Violence against Women⁶, while the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) announced the launch of an internet Say *No to Violence against Women* campaign in November 2007⁷. These are only a few of many such campaigns.

The continuing interest in the subject is highlighted by recent initiatives and publications by a number of organizations on a broad spectrum of related issues. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) chose to focus their annual *State of the World's Children 2007* report on the role of women in development, citing the "double dividends" of gender equality for both women and children⁸. A number of recent conferences feature violence against women as the topic of discussion. A conference on *the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking*⁹ was organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in October 2007. It focused on women as the primary victims of human trafficking, and highlighted action to address the issue. A summit of female world leaders in New York in November 2007 issued a call for action on women's security, among other topics. The European Crime Prevention Network's 2007 conference in Lisbon focused on domestic violence¹⁰. The City of Brussels was host in December 2007 to a conference entitled "Dynamic Cities Need Women: Actions and Policies for Gender Equality"¹¹, a joint initiative of the Government of the Brussels Capital Region and the Metropolis Women International Network.

More recently, the thematic topic of the 17th Session of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held in Vienna in April 2008 was eliminating violence against women. It was also the subject of the workshop organized in the context of the Commission by the Programme Network Institutes affiliated with the Commission.¹² That Session also reached a decision to review and update the UN *Model Strategies and Practical Measures to eliminate violence against women in the field of criminal justice and crime prevention*, originally adopted in 1997.

Women's safety is also one of the main topics selected for ICPC's first biennial *International Report on Crime Prevention and Community Safety: Trends and Perspectives*, which was launched in September 2008¹³.

5. See : Council of Europe, Stop domestic violence against women, http://www.coe.int/t/pace/campaign/stopviolence/Default_en.asp [1 February 2008].

6. See: Amnesty International, Stop Violence Against Women <http://www.amnesty.org/en/campaigns/stop-violence-against-women> [14 January 2008].

7. See : UNIFEM, Say No to Violence against Women! <http://www.unifem.org/campaigns/vaw/> [1 February 2008].

8. See: UNICEF, *The State of the World's Children 2007. Women and Children: the Double Dividend of Gender Equality*, <http://www.unicef.org/sowc07/>, [16 September 2008].

9. See: United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, Official Website: <http://www.ungift.org/>, [16 September 2008].

10. See: European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN), 2007 European Crime Prevention Award 2007 entries, <http://www.eucpn.org/eucp-award/2007-entries.asp>, [16 September 2008].

11. See: Dynamic Cities Need Women, Conference Website: http://www.dynamiccitiesneedwomen.eu/site/EN/01_welcome.html [16 September 2008].

12. See the report of the PNI workshop *Eliminating Violence against Women: Forms, Strategies and Tools*. April 2008, UNICRI, Turin.

13. See: International Centre for the Prevention of Crime to download a copy of the International Report and the supporting Compendium of Practices, available in English, French, or Spanish: www.crime-prevention-intl.org.

What is women's safety?

The United Nations has defined violence against women very broadly to include such issues as interpersonal violence in the home, violence against women in public space, trafficking, violence in post-conflict situations and harmful gender-based practices (UN 2006). There are, however, many different terms used in different countries and different languages to refer to violence against women, including domestic violence, family violence, women's safety and gender-based violence, and this often complicates discussion and comparison.

Globalization has facilitated transnational organized crime, resulting in a considerable increase in transnational crimes affecting women, such as trafficking, forced labour, sexual exploitation, and violence against migrant and immigrant women. Thus although women's safety is a concern worldwide, different countries face unique situations and diverse realities. Varying cultural, political and economic contexts have made it difficult to measure and compare violence against women in different settings, as well as evaluate the efficacy of implemented strategies and practices.

There have been a number of recent developments which attempt to standardize data collection and develop indicators, including the International Violence Against Women Survey (IVAWS) and the work of the UN Special Rapporteur on indicators of violence against women.¹⁴ Much of the work which has been accomplished by countries has focused on domestic or intimate violence, with the development of legislation and sentencing to make it illegal, punish perpetrators, establish domestic violence courts, and provide support services for the victims. In a number of countries and cities, sexual assault and violence against women in public space has also received greater attention, and attention is increasingly being given to trafficking affecting women. Such initiatives are essential, but they are targeted primarily to dealing with violence after it has occurred, or to deter. There is clearly a major role for the *prevention* of violence against women before it takes place.

"Women's safety... strategies, practices and policies which aim to reduce gender-based violence (or violence against women) including women's fear of crime."

*Global Assessment on Women's Safety Preliminary
Survey Results 2007 UN-HABITAT*

It is for this reason that ICPC has used the term **women's safety** to encompass the range of preventive approaches which can be used to promote the safety of women, whether public or private violence, or fear and insecurity in a range of contexts. Insecurity and fear of violence or harassment can limit the mobility of women and girls, restrict their work or education choices, and violence itself has huge social and economic costs for all of society. As the World Health Organization has pointed out, high levels of violence by men against women tends to occur in situations where gender relations are unequal, and women have limited civil, political and economic participation in society.¹⁵ In understanding women's safety, therefore, it is important to consider the role of gender, to look at how far gender has been mainstreamed in policy decision-making at national and local levels, to encourage municipalities, for example, to collect data about both men and women so that their routines, experiences and vulnerabilities can be examined separately. It is also important to examine the role of women in local government decision-making and consultation, and to consider the behaviours and cultural attitudes of women and girls and men and boys, and how they might be changed to reduce the incidence of violence against women.

14. Johnson, Ollus and Nevala (2008) *Violence Against Women: An International Perspective*, New York, Springer.; OHCHR (2008) Report of the Special Rapporteur on Indicators on Violence Against Women and State response. A/HRC/7/6.

15. WHO (2008). *Preventing violence and reducing its impact: How development agencies can help*. Geneva.

The role of governments and civil society

Considerable research, practice and experience have accumulated over the past ten or more years on the prevention of violence against women.¹⁶ This experience includes not only policies and strategic approaches developed by national governments, but also the major role played by lower levels of government, especially **cities and local authorities**. By working in an integrated manner with the range of local services and institutions, health, education and social services, as well as the police, with NGO's and civil society and the private sector, they have been able to develop preventive programmes eg. from a health perspective, combining situational and environmental solutions, public education campaigns, and school curriculum programmes to change attitudes and behaviour. Some of the most innovative projects come from civil society, and the **role of non-government organizations** in women's safety has been a very important one. In some cases, they have played a crucial role in raising attention to violence against women, and increasing women's participation in local decision-making and local government.¹⁷

Moving from policy development to the implementation and sustaining of projects on the ground is always a challenge, and this Colloquium and Compendium hope to stimulate action and debate.

The Colloquium

The Colloquium itself will outline innovative comprehensive approaches at the national and local level, as well as highlighting a number of innovative practices at the community level. These will illustrate the importance of partnerships between sectors and stakeholders, including government, the private sector, civil society, non-governmental organisations and others. Building inclusive and safe communities for women through informed urban design and accommodation for diversity will also be discussed, with special attention given to vulnerable populations. Further, the role of women's leadership in preventing crime and building communities that are sensitive to women's issues will be examined, responses to trafficking, as well as discussion of the role of gender roles and masculinity. Specific tools that have been developed, including women's safety audits, will also be presented.

In addition to workshops and presentations, a cities forum including senior representatives from cities around the world will discuss the role of municipalities in creating safe living environments for women. These discussions will underline the importance of integrating gender at all stages of prevention and the link between women's safety and overall community safety.

The Compendium

This Compendium has been completed for the purpose of the Colloquium to feed the debates. It is still a work in progress and will be enriched by the presentations and exchanges during the Colloquium, and published again in electronic format in January 2009.

16. See eg. Shaw & Capobianco (2004) *Developing Trust: International Approaches to Women's Safety*, ICPC, Montreal; Shaw in UNICRI, 2008; and ICPC's International Report 2008.

17. See for example Jenny Pearce (2007) *Violence, Power & Participation: Building Citizenship in Contexts of Chronic Violence*. Brighton: Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex.

The Compendium includes 69 examples from 32 countries. It is divided into four main sections:

- municipal strategies,
- non-government initiatives,
- national government strategies and policies, and
- tools and resources.

The **municipal strategies** often demonstrate strong leadership from local government and elected officials, and include well-orchestrated public information campaigns, the development of a local observatory or monitoring centre on violence against women, and good participatory partnerships with civil society to improve public safety of women and girls.

The **non-government organizations** target a range of issues, some of them focusing on victim support services, or health and social support for marginalized women, others on gender mainstreaming and equality, providing support and training to empower young mothers, working on gender issues with girls under 18 or with men and boys, or using women's safety audits or exploratory walks as a tool to sensitize local governments to concerns about safety in public space and increase women's voice in decision-making. Many organizations may have begun with providing victim services such as rape crisis centres or shelters for women, but have expanded over a number of years to provide a broader range of services including training for local service workers or the police, and working on changing attitudes to the use of violence.

The **national strategies** demonstrate the willingness of national governments to implement international conventions, to tackle issues such as the trafficking of women, develop national public education campaigns, harm-reduction approaches to violence, capacity building, victim empowerment, and action to reduce violence against indigenous women. They recognize that preventing violence against women is complex, and needs to be coordinated across sectors – health, social services, housing, education among others.

Finally, the **tools and resources** section includes material and resources on awareness training, guides on the use of women's safety audits, and links to a small sample of the increasing range of organizations active in the field of women's safety across the regions and internationally. They act as networks and knowledge and research centres which help to link together all those who are working to improve the safety of women. As UN-HABITAT has put it: "a city which is safe for women is safe for all".

2.

Municipal...

...STRATEGIES

Women's Self-Help Group (*Grupo de Autoayuda de Mujeres*)

Municipality of San Miguel of Tucumán *Argentina*

In 1990 the *Departamento de Violencia, Mujer y Derechos Humanos* (Violence, Women and Human Rights Department) was established in the municipality of San Miguel of Tucumán. Its creation marked the first step in a series of promising initiatives linked to prevention and awareness of violence against women.

This self-help group assisted women who initially demonstrated: low self-esteem, extreme dependency, and lack of knowledge about their rights. These reasons underscore the necessity of self-help groups in assisting women in the community with personal development and self-realisation.



Goals

- To help women be autonomous, both in their thinking and their actions;
- To help women find dignity in their self-image, to gain autonomy, assume responsibilities that enhance their sense of self-worth and their productivity, and help them to become staunch defenders of their and their children's rights.

The group focuses on a variety of objectives including: collective self-help, helping women out of violent situations, and supporting the process of increasing autonomy (dignity, independence, knowledge and defence of one's rights).

A decision was made that groups would be open, implying that all women could integrate, leave them, and rejoin freely at a later date irrespective of the time period. This approach thus provides a permanent welcoming space.

Schedules are flexible and adapted to the availability of different locations, allowing women to be continually present. All women have the freedom to express themselves, bear witness, speak of the problems affecting them, externalise their suffering and simply to listen to the stories of their peers. This approach creates affective support among women.

The specific work of professionals from varied disciplines (psychology and social work), including, for example, psychological diagnoses, studies of the socioeconomic environment, and the rebuilding of women's personal journeys, are all actions that complement the group dynamic.

What has emerged from this experience and process is that women can successfully become autonomous subjects and can find dignity, their own spaces and rights, learn not to stigmatise themselves, and become authors of their life project.

Results / Outcomes / Outputs

In March 2008, this initiative was among the three winners of the *IV Concurso Regional de Ciudades Más Seguras para Mujeres y Niñas* organised by the United Nations' UNIFEM (the IVth Regional Competition for Safe Cities for Girls and Women).

Impact on women: higher self-esteem; reconstitution of social relations; integration or reintegration into the workforce; enhanced qualifications and training; rebuilding of a new life project; knowledge and defence of one's rights.

Impact on young girls and teenage girls: Preparing women to become autonomous in all areas ensures that young boys and girls as well as adolescents are provided basic personal capital: optimal growth (physical); healthy development (personality); structurally sound mind (psyche); constructive knowledge acquisition (cognition); and reduction of the potential risk of reproducing violent behaviours.

Impact on the community: The Media has committed to shedding light on the problem of family violence, which until now had been a silent subject. Public awareness has increased about the problem of violence against women, young girls and boys, and against adolescents. The population has been persuaded to file complaints in cases of abuse against women.

Also, an autonomous group, formed in 2004, created the radio programme *Nos Importa a Todos* ("It Concerns Us All"), which looks at the problems of violence within the family. Some women's meetings have begun to take place outside this group, which illustrates their new-found degree of autonomy.

In 2005, *Asamblea inicial de Atenea* (initial Atenea Assembly) was held. This association brings together women victims of family violence in the province of Tucumán. Atenea become really alive when abused women succeed in grasping the importance, and the need, for those affected to *actively participate* in researching solutions to their problems, and when women have the desire to help others in similar situations.

Source

- Official presentation of the winning initiative of the "IVth Regional Competition of Safe Cities for Girls and Women" municipality of San Miguel of Tucumán, Argentina.

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Maribyrnong City Council Preventing Violence against Women Plan 2007-2008

Maribyrnong, Victoria, *Australia*

The City of Maribyrnong is located within the western metropolitan area of the City of Melbourne. Maribyrnong has a population of about 60,000 inhabitants and is one of the most densely populated municipalities in the state. With 40% of the population born overseas, it is also one of the most diverse parts of Metropolitan Melbourne.

The action plan is linked to the three-year research project "Gender Local Governance and Violence Prevention" (GLOVE), started in 2006, that is led by the University of Melbourne with funding through the Australian Research Council and VicHealth. Maribyrnong is one of four Victorian Councils participating in the GLOVE project.

The Council of Maribyrnong developed the 12-month Action Plan "Preventing Violence against Women 2007-2008" within the framework of the GLOVE Project. Maribyrnong City Council's Plan was for the implementation of the integrated prevention program to coincide with the second year of the GLOVE project to integrate results from research undertaken in the first year. The third year will include an evaluation of the initiatives that have been implemented. The Council's Action Plan outlines a range of strategies aimed at preventing violence before it happens by working in partnership with the community and community-based organisations. It is hoped that the Plan will also work to raise awareness about violence against women and to contribute to the health and well-being of the diverse Maribyrnong community. The Preventing Family Violence Working Group, a sub-group of the Maribyrnong Safety Task Force, is responsible for the implementation of the Action Plan throughout.

The City of Maribyrnong aims to create and promote a violence free community and recognizes that to do so, multi-level and multi-sectorial partnerships with solid coordination between different groups are needed. This Action Plan paves the way for developing a local government policy that takes an integrated approach to violence prevention, in both the public and private spheres, using a gender-mainstreaming process and a community-government partnership model. The City Council aims to lead by example, providing safe environments for women and mainstreaming gender and violence prevention through their activities.



Objectives

- Facilitate local research, monitoring and evaluation of violence prevention initiatives and information on violence prevalence;
- Create and support opportunities for direct participation in violence prevention;
- Develop organisational processes and policies that addresses gender inequality and prevent violence against women;
- Strengthen community participation in violence prevention initiatives;
- Actively develop and promote local social marketing and communications campaigns to increase awareness of violence against women;
- Advocate to local agencies outside the family violence sector to develop primary prevention initiatives;
- Develop and implement integrated gendered policies and programs that prevent violence against women at the local level.

The Action Plan includes detailed strategies that will help them achieve the objectives outlined above. The Council has committed to providing ongoing research, monitoring and evaluation of the Plan and to providing training and information to service providers and their organisations. One of the current research areas is investigating evidence-based models of violence prevention initiatives with men and boys.

To increase the knowledge of current and previous violence prevention initiatives as well as incidents of violence against women in Maribyrnong, a mapping exercise was planned. The Action Plan also proposes that community-based organisations and groups, both new and existing ones, who aim to empower local women, are supported on the level of finance and skills.

To increase the involvement of women in the Maribyrnong City Council and in local decision-making processes, the Action Plan explicitly reaffirms the Council's commitment to the Victorian Local Government Women's Charter and encourages the participation of women through the Council's Advisory Committees and Reference Groups. Furthermore it highlights the need to explore opportunities to provide work experience for women in local government. The Plan urges strengthening community participation in violence prevention.

A Healthy Relationships in Schools initiative was undertaken to engage the youth in efforts to prevent future violence. In November 2007, the City of Maribyrnong hosted an international White Ribbon Day event to support the annual International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. Other strategies to raise awareness of violence against women include regular media releases that are widely disseminated, making them easily accessible.

The Action Plan also provides strategies for a local advocacy, including provisions for a mentoring role aimed at encouraging community agencies and other relevant stakeholders to develop processes and practices that can help to prevent violence against women.

Sources

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http://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Page/page.asp?Page_Id=3362&h=0
- University of Melbourne: Glove Project,
www.abp.unimelb.edu.au/research/funded/glove

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Family Violence Prevention Program

City of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, *Canada*

Charlottetown, the capital and largest city of Prince Edward Island (PEI), is a small urban community of over 32,000 people. After the death of two women caused by family violence and a subsequent meeting with individuals involved, the City Police and Administration and Charlottetown City Council passed a resolution in 2001 supporting the efforts of those organizing the weekly vigils and identifying family violence as a serious social issue.

The City of Charlottetown aims to be a corporate ambassador in the awareness, education, prevention and intervention of family violence on a municipal level. The objective of all activities within the Family Violence Prevention Program is to impart the knowledge to managers, supervisors and other municipal employees about their role and responsibility in stopping family violence within the community.



Objectives

- Prevent family violence in Charlottetown;
- Disseminate information to raise awareness about family violence.

The City of Charlottetown partnered with professional working in the field of family violence prevention to conduct an evidence-based needs assessment to determine the direction that the Program should take in order to respond to community needs. The results of this analysis is the Turning the Tide on Family Violence Program. The Program emphasizes taking a “a holistic approach to community awareness and education that facilitates intergovernmental, inter-jurisdictional and voluntary sector partnerships, strengthens the municipality’s regulatory and human resources framework and engages citizen support and feedback through community outreach presentations, the Internet and the media”¹⁸.

Educational training and an awareness-raising programme on preventing family violence were developed for city workers, offering sessions ranging from one to three hours. The training incorporates a video and four presentation modules that can be used individually or in combination, depending on the target audience. This training is ongoing and provided to all new employees and elected officials. The City of Charlottetown has incorporated this training into management policies and practices with the City’s Human Resource department, ensuring its long-term sustainability. Since 2001, more than 80% of the City’s employees have participated in this training program. Overall, the participants provided positive feedback on their experience.

To complement the training, a comprehensive information kit was designed and provided to each employee. Included in the kit was a small yellow referral card that holds the names and phone numbers of local authorities to help victims of violence. This is now a permanent part of the uniform that is worn by many municipal workers.

To underline their strong commitment to family violence prevention, the City attached a large, stylized purple ribbon to the tower of the City Hall of Charlottetown in 2001. The ribbon is related to the annual “Purple Ribbon Campaign against Violence” that was initiated by the Advisory Council on the Status of Women in 1992 to remember the 14 women who were murdered in Montreal in 1989. The campaign raises awareness about violence against women and therefore complements the City’s fight against family violence. Born out of a combination of the campaign and the program is

18. City of Charlottetown: www.city.charlottetown.pe.ca/residents/health_services.cfm

the Mayor's Purple Ribbon Task Force, bringing together city representatives and the PEI Family Violence Consultant, the Executive Director of Transition House Association, the Director of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women and the Program Coordinator for the PEI Rape & Sexual Assault Crisis Centre to use their collective expertise to guide the development of public policy pertaining to community safety and women's safety in particular. By including women's organisation in the group, women's active participation in decision-making processes is simultaneously increased as well¹⁹.

Finally, the City has made use of the women's safety audit tool to identify the factors that increase fear of crime in order to make improvements to the physical environment and increase women's sense of safety. This once again ensures women's active participation in making their community safer.

Results / Outcomes / Tools

The City of Charlottetown's Family Violence Prevention Programme was recognized by Women in Cities International as a good practice in the framework of the 2004 Women's Safety Awards.

In 2002, the City of Charlottetown was awarded the Equality Recognition Award by the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

Sources

- Women's Safety Awards 2004: A compendium of good practices, <http://femmesetvilles.org>
- City of Charlottetown: www.city.charlottetown.pe.ca/residents/health_services.cfm
- PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women, <http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw/>

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19. Women in Cities International, www.femmesetvilles.org/english/project_en/project1_en_charlottetown

Prevention Maipú: A Safe Community for Everyone (Prevención Maipú. Una comuna Segura para todas y todos)

Municipality of Maipú, Santiago, *Chile*

Concerned with establishing daily and permanent relationships with the community and social network, the Municipality's *Dirección de prevención y Seguridad Ciudadana* (Urban Safety and Prevention Directorate) launched an initiative in 2005 to create *Unidad de Enlace Comunitario*—a Community Cohesion Unit responsible for designating workgroups to implement action programmes in association with the municipality.



Goals

- Promote and reinforce community organisation and mobilization as a prevention for building a safe city for all men and women;
- Work toward getting community organisations and public institutions to appreciate the importance of civic participation;
- Establish daily and permanent relations with residents through dialogue and city initiatives;
- Develop a strategy for ensuring ongoing communication between members of a network;
- Guide and focus Directorate programmes on themes and issues relevant for the local population.

Citizen Safety and Prevention Committee: The Committee acts as an organisational tool, working towards a common objective within an institutionalised neighbourhood structure. Specifically, the Committee aims to address neighbourhood safety problems by promoting collaborative work with members of the community. The desired outcomes are to increase cooperation and solidarity between residents and to reinforce institutional network relationships.

24-Hour protection and training plan for youth (Juvenil 24 horas): One of the most ambitious programmes of Prevention Maipú consists of providing psycho-social help to minors in the custody of Chile's National Police (Carabineros) irrespective of whether they are first-time or frequent re-offenders.

Prevention plan for schools: The prevention programme was developed in response to frequent complaints from a number of educational establishments within the Maipú community received from a variety of individuals including: principals, supervisory staff, parents, representatives and students. Given the diversity of the problems facing each of the schools, the *Dirección de Prevención y Seguridad Ciudadana* is developing a programme aiming to incorporate psycho-social elements in a safety plan and in group work. Its main objective is to encourage students to engage both self-protective behaviour and in good relationships with one another. Expected results include the reduction of violent behaviour among children and youths within the school community together with the promotion of prevention and mediation as tools.

Strengthening Families programme for victims of violence: This project targets victims or potential victims of family violence. It provides support for both young and adult women living in situations of violence, whether in public or private spaces. It promotes the creation of women's networks as well as local associations seeking strategic alliances. In addition, it encourages women to exercise their civil rights.

Results / Outcomes / Outputs

In March 2008, this initiative was among the three winners of the *IV Concurso Regional de Ciudades Más Seguras para Mujeres y Niñas* organised by the United Nations' UNIFEM (the IVth Regional Competition for Safe Cities for Girls and Women).

Impact on the lives of women and girls:

Due to the creation of the prevention committees, the community is now organised to address the security-related problems facing women and girls in Maipú. The committees' activities are mainly initiated by women leaders who have become empowered, even in predominantly male-owned areas. The women have worked in partnership with authorities to develop the urban policy of their community by improving the infrastructure required for safety. This is one among many examples where women have improved public spaces.

Impact on communities:

There have been urban transformations ranging from improved safety in public spaces on a day-to-day basis, to the direct participation of women in designing public spaces. Currently, a city is being built to promote co-existence and equality in areas which belong to both sexes, in order to improve people's quality of life. Attesting to this is the fact is that Maipú has moved down the list of 93 cities, ranked according to the rate of reported crime with high impacts on the community, from 72nd to 91st (number 1 being the city with the highest crime rate).

Members: 110 prevention committees have been created, made up of three thousand members of whom 80% are women.

Source

- Plan Municipal de Prevención de Seguridad Ciudadana 2005 – 2008, Municipalidad de Maipú

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Consenso de Mujeres Barco de la Paz (Consensus of Women – Peace Boat)

Municipality of Cali, *Colombia*

The initiative *Consenso de Mujeres Barco de la Paz* emerged in Cali in 2001. This was in response to the absence of women in peace negotiations between the Colombian government and FARC, this despite the fact that women had been particularly affected by this conflict.

This initiative calls on women who led direct or indirect initiatives linked to Colombia's internal armed conflict (women ex-combatants, unionists, companions of paramilitaries or guerrillas, university professors, etc.). The goal is to obtain and understand their thoughts and opinions on armed conflict and implement initiatives contributing towards building a country where there is no place for war.

Women from Cartagena, Bogotá, Cali and Pereira are currently participating in these initiatives.



Goals

- To rethink the possibilities for women's participation in the country's peace negotiations;
- To create spaces for dialogue and joint action on the question of conflict using a gendered perspective in creating ways to achieve peace;
- To urgently broach the theme of humanitarian exchange at the centre of conflict;
- To promote the Women's Court (Corte de Mujeres) in Colombia.

In order to reach these objectives, the Consensus held national women's meetings on board the Peace Boat (*Barco de la paz*). It was from here that women participated in international tours with women victims of conflict. The tours led them from Venezuela to Ecuador, from Cuba to Cartagena, and from Cartagena to El Salvador.

The association also appealed greatly to the *Movimiento nacional de mujeres* (the National Women's Movement), to hold a women's *pre-Corte* (pre-Court) and a National Court called *Mujer, Dignidad y Memoria* (Women, Dignity, and Memory), *Contra el olvido y para la re-existencia* (Against Forgetting and For Re-existing) in which the association participated. Through public hearings, these actions were aimed at exposing the violations perpetrated against women as a result of internal armed conflict. Women were summoned nationally and were organised city by city.

Training sessions and retreats are also held in light of the current conflict and possible non-violent actions for responding to it are being evaluated.

Results / Outcomes / Outputs

Women who belong to the Consensus of Women—Peace Boat are the direct beneficiaries of the project, together with the whole population of Colombian women who play a crucial role in finding a solution to the country's armed conflict. They have committed to listening to public opinion and to highlighting the systematic rights violations they experience.

The momentum created by the Women's *Corte* and the *pre-Cortes*, as well as the meetings between women victims of the internal armed conflict, constitute an important advancement that has begun the transformation process of the collective suffering. This has positive consequences for women in their personal lives and reinforces their process of adaptation and acceptance.

The main virtue of this initiative lies in the visualization of the woman's role in armed conflict and its impact upon her. The initiative highlights the fundamental role of women in reaching a peaceful solution to the internal conflict.

In order to further develop these initiatives, *Consenso* has received financial support from Peace Boat related organisations for international cooperation. The initiative also counts on the community's support for initiating activities, as well as the support of *Movimiento nacional de mujeres*. The participation of the women can be seen through their invaluable teachings.

Numerous lessons have been learned and a few obstacles mainly linked to the difficulty of accessing media have been identified. In addition, weak financial support for implementing projects makes it impossible for women to devote themselves exclusively to a singularly important issue.

Another serious obstacle lies with the National Directorate for the Presidential Council for Women's Equity (*Consejería Presidencial para la Equidad de la Mujer*) and its restricted capacity to encourage initiatives. Its economic resources are very limited, given the multiple initiatives originating from civil society.

Source

- *Buenas Prácticas para Superar el Conflicto* (Good Practices for Overcoming Conflict) <http://saliendodelcallejon.pnud.org.co/>

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L'Observatoire départemental des violences envers des femmes (Departmental observatory on violence against women)

Seine-Saint-Denis, *France*

Violence against women is an intolerable attack on their dignity and freedom. It endangers not only women themselves, but their children as well, who grow up in a climate of violence and fear. This can have serious consequences on their development and in the way they view relationships between men and women.

The *Observatoire départemental de violences envers les femmes* was created in 2002. The first of its kind in France, the Observatory supports the collaborative work of its partners and aims to raise awareness about violence against women in order to put an end to the phenomena. An initiative of the *Conseil général de la Seine-Saint-Denis*, the Observatory is a place for exchange and reflection, an analytical and census tool, and a communication and information vehicle. Part of the basis for its creation is that although many organisations in France are already working on this subject (e.g. feminist associations, departmental services, etc.), there was a lack of coordination of these actions. The Observatory also allows for greater visibility and resources for organisations and departments working on the issue of violence against women. In addition to observing the scope of the phenomena, the Observatory proposes concrete action and solutions to address the problem.



Objectives

- Support collective efforts for putting an end to violence against women;
- Raise public awareness about violence against women.

In 2006, the *Conseil général de la Seine-Saint-Denis* conducted a survey on sexist behaviours and violence against young girls (CSVF). A total of 1566 young women aged 18 to 21 years participated in the survey. Results showed that the rate of violence against young women was two to five times higher than the rate revealed in 2000 by a previous survey (ENVEFF). In addition, while the 2000 survey revealed that 68% of women surveyed reported never having spoken of the violence beforehand, the 2006 CSVF survey demonstrated that 68% of young girls had talked about the violence with other people. This was the first quantitative survey in France to look at sexist behaviours and violence against young women.

In Seine-Saint-Denis, 1500 youths participated in an information and awareness-raising campaign to voice their ideas and to help reduce sexist and violent behaviours. The *Observatoire des violences envers les femmes* called upon the *Mouvement français pour le planning familial 93* (the French movement for family planning 93) and its theatrical tool “Y = Y?”. On stage is a person who is facing a problem but who cannot find help. The public participates by going on stage to replace the actor in need of help and to propose alternative actions or behaviours to overcome the dangerous situation. The other people on stage then react to the propositions made. This activity trains people how to react to this type of situation should they be faced with it in real life.²⁰ 50 classes participated in the theatre exercise and each was asked to choose a representative to present their proposed alternative solutions to the vice-president of the *Conseil général* and to the *conseillère régionale* (regional counsellor) of Île-de-France. The campaign helped raise awareness of the problem and helped to adapt actions and find innovative solutions to violence against women.

20. www.theatredelopprime.com

A Protocol to help victims of forced marriage has been set up by the *Conseil général*. With the support of specialised associations, national education practitioners, professionals from municipal health and education departments, crown attorneys and family court judges, the *Conseil général* implemented a department-wide strategic victim support system.

The *Observatoire départemental contre les violences envers les femmes* is organising a meeting on the theme “discrimination and sexism in the workplace”. Women today represent nearly half of the working population and their place in society has changed profoundly, but this feminisation has not translated into a real redress of the inequalities between the sexes. Raising public awareness about the gendered aspects of unemployment, job insecurity, forced part-time labour, wage inequality, and educational counselling, helps curb society’s tolerance of sexist discrimination.

Outcomes/Outputs

The protocol for helping victims of forced marriage proposed by the *Conseil général* was adopted into law in April 2006. This new law explicitly recognised that consent is required for marriage, but also for all sexual relations, including between married couples.

Each year, the Observatory hosts an event to present its accomplishments from the previous year. The most recent meeting in February 2008 brought together more than 600 people, representing 35 of 40 participating cities. About 1500 residents also participated in decentralised meetings organised by partner cities. It served as an opportunity for releasing the Observatory’s CSVF survey results, and guests from Europe, Africa and Central America shared their own countries’ experiences in fighting violence against women. Many elected officials participated in these meetings.

Sources

- Réunion Comité de Pilotage de l’Observatoire départemental des violences envers les femmes du 16 mai 2008 (Document DPAS/ER/CBB/08/ 072 Droits Fonds. Obs)
- Seine-Saint-Denis Conseil Général : Observatoire départemental des violences envers les femmes :
<http://www.seine-saint-denis.fr/-Observatoire-dpartemental-des-.html>

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Women's Courage Programme (El Valor de las Mujeres)

Municipality of Solidaridad, state of Quintana Roo, *Mexico*

Developing strategies aimed at promoting gender equality requires an understanding of the reality of women's lives, taking into account that they have historically been disadvantaged as a consequence of their gender. Proposed solutions must thus come from a gender perspective.



Goals

- Prevent and provide holistic treatment to individuals and families affected by social problems caused by family violence in the municipality of Solidaridad, in a strictly confidential and professional environment;
- Transmit values that support changing negative behaviours in relationships unto the population of Solidaridad, using public hearings and community collaboration as the most adequate tools for solving family and neighbourhood conflicts;
- Encourage the creation of new sources of work or income for women to promote their personal growth and development;
- Encourage community participation and collaboration with the government on developing programmes aiming to benefit the community and defining public policies.

The strategy of empowering women is founded on internalising the principle of equality by designating qualified and effective professional women working in strategic sectors of the municipality's executive branches.

There are 18 senior positions in Solidaridad's executive bodies, of which 7 are led by women. These positions include: General manager (*Oficialía Mayor*), Judicial manager (*Dirección jurídica*), General manager of economic development and urban design and services (*Dirección General de Desarrollo Económico, de Imagen y Servicios Urbanos*), Municipal Integral family development, general coordination of social communication (*Coordinación General de Comunicación Social*) and coordination of special operations (*Coordinación de Eventos Especiales*).

Of the 53 intermediary positions (Sectoral Branches and Programmes Coordination), 23 are held by women and 30 by men. Women have progressively integrated these high level and mid-level municipal executive ranks for the first time in Solidaridad's history. This has helped to enable the introduction of a gendered perspective in both actions and programmes.

The same is true of the Family Development System (*Sistema para el Desarrollo Integral de la Familia – DIF -*) which manages Women's Support Centres (*Centros de Atención a Mujeres - CAM -*). At the start of the current legislature, the municipal DIF was composed of 120 men and women workers; this number now reaches 213 employees, most of whom are women.

Municipal programmes

Staying within an empowerment approach, the initiative *Calle por calle y ciudades educadoras* (Street by street and educational cities) works to improve the quality of life for women and the community more broadly by assisting women in obtaining professional qualifications, providing employment opportunities or funding opportunities, and importantly, it creates space for women's action and decision-making. For example, the *Familia Segura – DGSP* (Safe Families Programme) already has 43 neighbourhood committees, each composed of 10 members from the community, the majority of whom are women, and who are mostly also presided by women.

Atención integral a receptores de violencia y rehabilitación a los agresores (Holistic victim support and perpetrator rehabilitation): In order to provide full assistance to victims of violence, Women's Support Centres have been created within the municipal DIF.

They provide:

- Psychological support that is both confidential and professional;
- Legal assistance which facilitates the filing of a complaint and which encourages women to accept help;
- Social guidance;
- Immediate medical assistance and guidance towards specialised clinics when needed;
- Protection and refuge in safe places when there are major risks and when women's and children's lives are in danger;
- Courses and qualification workshops, art therapy and personal development.

Results / Outcomes / Outputs

In March 2008, this initiative was among the three winners of the *IV Concurso Regional de Ciudades Más Seguras para Mujeres y Niñas* organised by the United Nations' UNIFEM (the IVth Regional Competition of Safe Cities for Girls and Women).

Thanks to interagency support, the programmes *Seguridad para las Mujeres* (Safety for Women) and *Oportunidad para las Mujeres* (Opportunities for Women) were held in Women's Support Centres. The goal was to provide victims of violence with tools to enable them to simultaneously break the silence and cycle of violence.

Narrowing the professional gap: Presently, 40% of the municipality's personnel are women, which means that Solidaridad ranks first in the state of Quintana Roo, and second nationally in terms of the ratio of women occupying positions within municipal public service.

Source

- Centros de atención a la mujer del sistema para el desarrollo integral de la familia, Municipality of Solidaridad, Mexico, July 24, 2008.

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Seoul Metropolitan Government and Women's Rights: Four-Year Plan on Women's Policies

Seoul, *South Korea*

Description

The Seoul Metropolitan Government aims to advance women's participation in society and work towards gender equality. To achieve these goals the South-Korean capital established in 2003 the Four-Year Plan on Women's Policies. Over 40 projects in five sectors have been designated to actively implement women's policies.



Objectives

- Promote a gender equal culture
- Increase the social participation of women
- Build the capacity of women to be independent and active participants in society
- Enhance social support for marginalized women
- Promote the welfare of children and improve childcare safety

Results and Tools

Within the framework of the plan and in an effort to raise awareness about gender equality, the Seoul Metropolitan Government offers about 300 lectures on issues related to advancing the place of women in society at 470 institutions, including social education institutions and high schools.

Every year, the city hosts a Women's Week from July 1 until July 7 dedicating to a particular theme that relates to women's issues.

In order to prevent sexual harassment in the workplace of the Seoul Metropolitan Government, it holds educational programs at least once a year for all staff. The Plan also includes measures to expand the ratio of female civil servants in senior positions and of women participating in municipal committees.

In 2002, the Seoul Women's Foundation (SWF) was established with the support of the Seoul Metropolitan Government who continue to support it. The non-profit organisation aims to promote women's participation in society and support their network. The SWF conducts various projects aimed at empowering women and operate the Seoul Women's Plaza and the Dongbu Center for Women's Development. Major projects of the Seoul Women's Foundation include the hosting of an International Women's Policy Symposium, Seoul Women-Biz Fair and offering training programs to nurture experts, including a Women's Leadership Enhancement Course.

The city of Seoul provides administrative and financial assistance to over 140 women's organizations in order to support their efforts and enhance their capabilities.

In addition, several initiatives aimed at engaging with women in the sex trade have been made available by the city, including self-reliance projects which provide safe spaces and opportunities for integration into society and rehabilitation programs such as STOP (Seoul Together Project), a comprehensive initiative aimed at protecting the human rights of women sex workers. Additionally, the Seoul Together Center is a support center that offers treatment, board and lodging, rehabilitation program and employment for women engaged in the sex trade, and through the operation

of the 'Volunteer Corps of Professional Resources' comprising the medical and legal sectors, the city of Seoul offers appropriate professional services to women engaged in the sex trade. The City provides 3.3 million dollars in annual funding to 49 shelters and in 2003; a campaign was launched to collect signatures from one million people who pledged not to be involved in the sex trade.

For teenagers involved in the sex trade or at risk of becoming involved, the city offers support centers, counselling and education to empower them and to prevent young people from entering it. The 'Center for Young Women in Crisis' is a comprehensive support center that provides counselling, sex education and rehabilitation program for teenage girls who have run away from home and/or who are in the sex trade or other dangerous environments.

Sources

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- http://english.seoul.go.kr/gover/initiatives/inti_13pol_0201.htm
- http://www.onlinewomeninpolitics.org/archives/04_0527_kr_wrights.htm

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Mapa de la Ciudad Prohibida para las Mujeres (Map of the Forbidden City for Women)

Municipality of Basauri, *Spain*

The development of the *Mapa de la Ciudad Prohibida para las Mujeres* is a project that falls within the framework of the campaign to address violence against women organised by the *Área de Igualdad del Ayuntamiento de Basauri* (Basauri's City Council's Department of Equality).

Violence against women has been broached from two different angles: 1) Assistance for victims of violence: allocation of resources for the Women's Information Centre (*Centro de Información a Mujeres*) which welcomes and supports women victims of violence. 2) Preventing violence against women by elaborating a Map of the Forbidden City.

As part of a broader prevention strategy, the Map of the Forbidden City is an innovative prevention tool that identifies important problems by analysing data in order to provide an assessment of the situation. The assessment goes beyond traditional crime statistics to take into account women's sense of safety in urban spaces as well. For example, part of the process of developing the Map, included identifying the particular areas where young women did not feel safe at night.



Goals

- Raise-awareness among the general population and youth and women in particular about violence against women via an information campaign;
- Encourage the participation and empowerment of young women by promoting structures that bring young girls together.

The ways in which cities and towns are built have consequences on people's everyday lives. Visibility, lighting, nearby housing, or easy orientation are only some of the many factors that influence sense of safety in all areas of the city.

In order to identify the most critical points where women, and especially young girls, felt intensely unsafe, meetings and workshops were held to elaborate a map that visually represents these points. This process has additional objectives such as:

- Motivating youth to take part in the development of an attractive and appealing project;
- Highlighting a problem that has been neglected;
- Demand improvements in urban areas that have been abandoned or in places where visibility is poor;
- Raise public awareness about the seriousness of violence against women;
- Involve women in researching solutions by including their ideas in programmes.

Results / Outcomes / Outputs

According to an assessment by the municipality of Basauri, youths' motivation, participation and work on this initiative have been positive. Young women, for their part, have been actively involved in all activities. Most young women wanted to participate in the public presentation of the Map, and they wrote the accompanying texts intended both for authorities and the general public.

The young women reported being “generally satisfied” with their ability to present their findings and suggestions. They drew on their communication skills daily during meetings and were further aided by a course on public speaking which they were offered.

The initial objective of introducing and increasing gender consciousness was reached, albeit unequally. Important differences were observed with regard to the level of comprehension and the ability to develop one’s own discourse on the subject matter. These differences are logical if we consider group heterogeneity in terms of age and past experience working in organisations.

Awareness about violence against women is very high, due as much to personal experience resulting from contact with young men in high schools and in public more throughout the development of the Map of the Forbidden City.

La sensibilización respecto a la violencia contra las mujeres es muy alta, tanto por su propia experiencia en la relación con los hombres jóvenes en los institutos y en la calle, como por todo lo que se ha trabajado en los talleres de autodefensa y en la elaboración del Mapa de la Ciudad Prohibida para las Mujeres.

The primary objective of the Map was to identify places which young women consider to be dangerous. Once the Map is complete, it will be used as a tool and as a basic reference. Women can then themselves draw on this tool to develop proposed solutions to decrease fear and violence.

Source

- Website of the municipality of Basauri: www.basauri.net
- Ehizmende, Idoia y Sanz, Anabel. Memoria: Mapa de la ciudad Prohibida para las Mujeres, Una experiencia de participación con las mujeres jóvenes. Basauri, May 2002.

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Atlanta Women's Agenda

Atlanta, Georgia, *United States of America*

Description

The Atlanta Women's Agenda (AWA) is an Initiative of Mayor Shirley Franklin to highlight issues affecting women and mobilize the community for change. The AWA gives a voice to the women of Atlanta by highlighting women's issues and working to develop solutions to the problems facing women and girls in the community. The AWA solicits the support of strategic partners, such as the League of Women Voters Atlanta/Fulton, who can contribute to the development and implementation of responses to these issues. The Atlanta Women's Agenda is supported by an active Advisory Council made up of a cross-section of the community. The Mayor invites individuals to serve on the Council, and they are responsible for planning, generating ideas, developing resources, and ongoing monitoring and evaluation. The Policy Advisor on Women's Issues under the Mayor of Atlanta is responsible for coordination and agenda development.



Objectives

- To mainstream women's issues so that all policies and programs that emanate from city government consider the impact on women and girls.
- To defend human rights and services and provide a strong voice on issues, policies and programs that affect the lives of women and families in Atlanta.

The Atlanta Women's Agenda, in partnership with the Juvenile Justice Fund and other supports, launched a "Dear John" campaign in 2006, aimed at raising awareness about the commercial sexual exploitation of children in the Atlanta area. Sexual exploitation of children can lead to increase school dropout, social isolation, poverty, and increased health risks, including exposure to HIV/AIDS. The AWA hopes that public education will lead to community mobilization to curb the phenomenon, and eventually, to end it altogether.

The AWA launched "Mayor's Money Matters", a two-day workshop offered to women city employees with a goal of increasing financial literacy among participants. Mayor's Money Matters was quickly adopted and institutionalized by Atlanta's Department of Human Resources, becoming an integral part of its ongoing training curriculum for all employees.

The "Mayor's Breakfast Roundtables" are organized a few times per year, bringing together various community stakeholders to address themes pertinent to women's issues. Past themes include: "Hard Lessons from Real Women: Dealing with Disability in Atlanta"; "We Are Their Sisters: Immigrant and Refugee Women and Girls in Atlanta"; "Why Health is a Women's Issue"; "Why are Young Girls Being Prostituted?" and "Who's Caring for Our Children?". The AWA partners with the League of Women Voters Atlanta/Fulton which provides volunteers to coordinate and support the Mayor's Breakfast Roundtables.

The City of Atlanta strives to position itself as a model employer for parents with young children. This effort is felt right from the beginning during new employee orientation, when employees are provided with information about child care and learning resources. The City organizes "lunch-and-learn" sessions for parent of young children, addressing a range of pertinent issues. Finally, the City has partnered with the Blank Family Foundation and Annie E. Casey Foundation to implement and test a new tool, "Earn Benefits" that automatically screens parents to alert them to the public benefit programs that they are eligible for, including early child care.

Results and Outputs

As part of its larger initiative to reduce and eradicate the sexual exploitation of children, legislation was introduced to decriminalize children arrested for prostitution. The private sector was also engaged in this plight, targeting hotel managers in areas known to have high rates of child prostitution, with a view of reducing incidents on their respective properties. Moreover, the AWA published "Hidden in Plain View: the commercial and sexual exploitation of girls in Atlanta" in September, 2005. The document is based on a mapping study and qualitative review, highlighted by case studies.

As part of its ongoing effort to prevent and end domestic violence, the Atlanta Women's Agenda participated in the development of "Children and Youth Exposed to Intimate Partner Violence and Non-Offending Caregivers: Strategies for Developing Coordinated Systems of Care in Fulton County.'

Sources

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- City of Atlanta, Official Website, Atlanta Women's Agenda, www.atlantaga.gov/government/womensagenda_overview.aspx, 14 August 2008

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Regional Safe Cities Program: Cities Without Violence for Women (Programa Regional Ciudades Seguras: sin violencia hacia las mujeres)

UNIFEM

Dangerous cities in Latin America are up against a combination of complex forces that are sources of fear which can appear insurmountable. Today, violence and increasing fear are priorities both for governments and for citizens.

Creating more democratic cities and improving peaceful coexistence fundamentally requires that violence against women be eradicated and that women be empowered and their rights as citizens be promoted.

This is why UNIFEM, with the support of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (*Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional – AECI*), is implementing the Safe Cities Program: Violence Against Women and Public Policies (*Programa Regional Ciudades Seguras: Sin Violencia hacia las Mujeres y Políticas Públicas*).



Goals

- To consolidate women's active citizenship through exercise of their rights
- To reduce violence against women in cities in both the public and private spheres

The regional Programme consists of developing innovative proposals, conceiving of mechanisms for collaboration and conceptual reflections, and developing and comparing experiences of urban interventions. The following are anticipated long-term results:

1. Introduce and reinforce the public debate about women's safety in cities by systematising experiences, accumulating knowledge, and by producing new information that generates a gendered approach to public policies.
2. Incorporate the theme of gendered violence in the activities of social organisations and in public policies by implementing awareness-raising strategies intended for society in general and for opinion leaders about the origin and impact of violence, the fear that women experience in cities, as well as the necessity of formulating new strategies for addressing these issues.
3. Propose a model of socio-territorial participative intervention that is developed, reproduced and incorporated into public policies by carrying out innovative demonstrable experiences in cities throughout the region. Interventions are currently underway in the cities of Rosario (Argentina), Santiago (Chile), Recife (Brazil), and Bogotá (Colombia). The city of Lima (Peru) will soon be added to this list, as will cities in El Salvador and Guatemala.
4. Strengthen networks that influence and impact governments and public policies by consolidating and reinforcing professional links between networks and women's organisations, as well as with other agencies working on issues related to cities, safety, and planning, at various levels (international, national, regional (ie. Latin America), and municipal).

The Regional Programme aims to strengthen existing partnerships between civil society organisations and government organisations in the region. It reinforces professional collaboration between feminist and women's networks in the region who have participated in public debate in recent years, and in the elaboration of proposals aimed at influencing public policies.

- *La Red Mujer y Hábitat de América Latina* (Women and Habitat Network of Latin America) is the main representative of the regional Programme and is jointly responsible, with UNIFEM's Regional Office for Brazil and the Southern Cone, for implementation of the Programme.
- *La Red de Educación Popular entre Mujeres* - REPEM (Popular Education Network of Women) uses its experience in informal education to contribute to the development of capacity-building tools for local actors through its experience and in-depth knowledge of informal education.
- The Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defence of Women's Rights) will act as consultant for reviewing and proposing legal and judicial instruments.

Sources

- Official website: America Latina Genera du PNUD
http://www.americalatinagenera.org/ciudades_seguras
- Official website: SUR Consultores Sociales www.sitiosur.cl

Contact

United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM): www.unifem.org

Latin American Regional Program – Safe Cities: Violence against Women and Public Policy

United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) – Case Study: Rosario, *Argentina*

The city of Rosario, Argentina carried out several initiatives in the framework of the Latin American Regional Program – Safe Cities: Violence against Women and Public Policy.



Objectives

- Raise public awareness about issues surrounding women's safety;
- Bring relevant actors together to share information and strengthen action to promote women's safety.

While using various media (print, radio and television) to promote the slogan “*More women on the street - safer cities for all, without fear and violence*”, a public inaugural ceremony was held to launch the project and its activities in the Western District of the city of Rosario.

Women's safety audits in the Western District of Rosario: the goal of this activity was to carry out exploratory walks through certain neighborhoods in order to identify and illustrate elements of urban design or planning related to women's safety (or lack thereof) in public spaces. The audits were organized in several sub-groups, each composed of 4 or 5 people. Social workers, members of the local women's network, participatory budget councilors and workshop facilitators all took part in the activity. Three safety audits were carried in May and June 2007, each in different neighborhoods of the District.

Poster campaign in the City of Rosario: the goal was to strengthen the notion of solidarity as a way of contributing to the reinforcement of municipal public policies aimed at preventing urban violence towards women. Using the key phrase “*Imaginemos Rosario sin violencia, ¡¡¡también para las mujeres!!!*” (*Imagine Rosario without violence – for women as well!!!*), the poster campaign took place in March 2007. The posters were placed strategically throughout the city, in order to attract the attention of as many citizens as possible.

Symposium – “Las ciudades que deseamos: Una visión desde el género” (*The cities we want: a gender-based perspective*). The goal of this conference was to bring participants together to, from a gender perspective, exchange and debate on new tendencies and research on a variety of issues related to urban development and day-to-day life.

Regional Program in Rosario: Network and Partner Meeting: the goal of this meeting was to evaluate the work that each team had accomplished so far, bringing them together to share experiences, ask questions, and make proposals, and to agree on a common agenda for the next steps of the program. The book *Ciudades para Convivir: sin violencias hacia las mujeres* (Cities for co-existence – without violence against women) was presented by one of its editors - Ana Falú (Regional Director of the UNIFEM office for Brazil and the Southern Cone), and the Mayor of Cerro Navia, Santiago de Chile, Cristina Girardi.

A press conference was held to launch the book “*La violencia hacia las mujeres en los medios de comunicación. Transformando las noticias*” (Violence against women in the media: Transforming the news). The objective was to launch the publication as part of the UNIFEM Regional Program, to an audience of journalists and discuss how the media cover stories about violence against women.

The goal was to raise awareness as to the importance of questioning gender stereotypes and to move beyond looking exclusively on the consequences of such stereotyping to focus on the causes of this and other forms of gender-based violence.

A *“Livable Cities Conference: contributions of urban development to gender equality”* was organized to disseminate key concepts related to quality of life issues that should be considered within urban development plans in order to promote gender equality.

A *“Technical assistance workshop: public policies and participatory methodologies for urban development and gender equality”* was organized to discuss and exchange hands-on experience related to urban development, and to present specific methodologies aimed at strengthening participatory processes.

A *Professional exchange among women’s groups from the Western District of Rosario* was organized with the objective of facilitating the sharing of information between the organizations *Red Mujer y Habitat* and women from the Western District of Rosario. The exchange focused on the women’s safety audits that had been carried out and on the systematization of problems encountered and proposals developed. Approximately 20 women who participated in the Latin American Regional Program – Safe Cities: Violence against Women and Public Policy took part in these activities, representing social workers, members of the network *Lazos de Mujeres* (Ties among Women) and the community organization “Vecinal 13 de marzo” (Local March 13th). A meeting with various women’s organizations working in Rosario, Argentina was also organized.

Sources

- Red Mujer y Hábitat de América Latina – CISCSA: www.redmujer.org.ar/ciscsa.html
- América Latina Genera del PNUD: www.americalatinagenera.org/ciudades_seguras
- ONG Sur Consultores Sociales : www.sitiosur.cl

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Latin American Regional Program – Safe Cities: Violence against Women and Public Policy

United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) – Case Study: Recife, *Brazil*

The City of Recife, Brazil, as part of the Latin American Regional Program – Safe Cities: Violence against Women and Public Policy has carried out a number of activities aiming to draw attention to the problem of violence against women in the urban context.



Objectives

- Obtain media coverage for issues related to the problem of violence against women in urban contexts in the state of Pernambuco;
- Stimulate public discussions about this issue and to raise the population's awareness as to violence against women;
- Facilitate the emergence of actions that will contribute to the eradication of this problem.

Launching the program "Ação Mulher" (Women in Action)

In order to reach this goal, the organization *SOS Corpo-Instituto Feminista para la Democracia* (Feminist Institute for Democracy), together with the *Centro de Mujeres de Cabo de Santo Agostinho* (Women's Collective from Cabo Santo Agostinho), launched a media campaign to fight violence against women. Three radio programs were produced under the name "*Ação Mulher*" on the topic of violence against women, using testimonies, dramatizations and interviews with feminists who defend women's rights and lobby for the protection and guarantee of these rights to highlight the problem.

1st Exchange Forum between Civil Society and the State of Recife, Brazil: The objective of this event was to create new mechanisms for constructive dialogue between civil society and the state around the issue of violence against women, in order to devise inter-institutional work plans and proposals.

As a means of expanding discussion around the topic of violence against women in the urban context of Pernambuco, *SOS Corpo-Instituto Feminista para la Democracia* held its first Exchange Forum in May 2007 with representatives from the women's movements, community organizations and governments. In all, eighty participants took part in this meeting which included a presentation on an analysis of the current situation in the city, using data produced by the Observatory of Violence against Women of Pernambuco as well as the preliminary results of a study about the quality of services for women victims of violence.

As a result of these activities, a better understanding of the problem was reached and a set of guidelines was drawn up in order to create a public policy that will work to reduce violence against women in urban contexts.

Furthermore, representatives from the women's movement developed a proposal that was presented at the *Conferencia Estatal y Nacional de Políticas para las Mujeres* (State and National Conference on Policies for Women).

2nd Exchange Forum between Civil Society and the State in Recife, Brazil: The goal of this forum, just as its first edition, was to reinforce dialogue between the state and civil society around the issue of violence against women, in order to then develop proposals for addressing the problem from a multi-sectorial perspective. Following-up on the 1st Dialogue Forum, in October 2007, the *SOS Corpo-Instituto Feminista para la Democracia* (Feminist Institute for Democracy) held its 2nd encounter to further consolidate efforts aimed at obtaining a deeper understanding of violence against women and at identifying promising strategies to confront this worsening phenomenon.

The activities described above were carried out under the assumption that it is essential and indispensable to reinforce dialogue between civil society and the state in order to contribute to reducing violence against women.

Sources

- Official Website of América Latina Genera del PNUD
http://www.americalatinagenera.org/ciudades_seguras
- Official Website of ONG Sur Consultores Sociales www.sitiosur.cl

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Latin American Regional Program – Safe Cities: Violence against Women and Public Policy

United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) – Case Study: Santiago, *Chile*

As part of the Latin American Regional Program – Safe Cities: Violence against Women and Public Policy, an initiative implemented by the Brazilian/Southern Cone and Andean offices of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI) several initiatives were organised the city of Santiago, Chile.



Objectives

- Raise public awareness about issues surrounding women's safety;
- Strengthen action to promote women's safety.

Observatory of gender-based violence in poor neighbourhoods: A working group was created within the framework of the Observatory. Members meet regularly in order to analyze current trends related to urban violence and the population's sense of safety and fear of crime; to stimulate debates and discussions that take into consideration democratic development, human rights, the establishment of participatory citizenship and gender equality.

Workshop: "Entre Nosotras, un lugar de encuentro y desarrollo para mujeres de la Población Santa Clara, Santiago de Chile" (Between us – a space for meeting and development for the women of Santa Clara, Santiago de Chile)

The workshop provided a space for gender-based, personal development for a group of women from the city of Santa Clara. Its objectives included: raising awareness about gender issues; stimulating personal growth; building support networks among the women; fostering personal participation and a sense of belonging; building the capacity of women and their organizations to see themselves as important actors in development and renewal processes in Santa Clara.

The workshop: *Conversando la Intimidad. Vida Cotidiana, Sexualidad y Masculinidad*. (Speaking of intimacy. Daily lives, sexuality and masculinity) was organised for adolescents from Santa Clara, Cerro Navia, Santiago de Chile. The objective of the workshop was to stimulate conversation about sexuality and cultural stereotypes, in order to encourage more responsible behaviour among participants. The underlying goal was to have better informed citizens and to strengthen their analytical capacities through interactive conversations, in order to better prepare them to successfully resolve the situations that present themselves in their daily lives.

Launching of the book *"Ciudades para convivir: sin violencias hacia las mujeres"*, (Cities for co-existence: free from violence against women), edited by Ana Falú and Olga Segovia and published by *Ediciones SUR* in June of 2007. The book contains the speeches made during the international seminar *"Ciudades sin violencia para las mujeres, ciudades seguras para todas y todos"* (Violence-Free Cities for Women: Safe Cities for All), which was held in Santiago de Chile in August, 2006, as part of UNIFEM's Latin American Regional Program.

SUR Corporación carried out a series of workshops and debates within the framework of the Latin American Regional Program – Safe Cities: Violence against Women and Public Policy. The underlying goal, linked to the program's systematization and knowledge components, was to stimulate public debates on the topic women's safety in urban contexts and the emergence of public policy proposals that include a gender perspective.

1. *Workshop on The Shared City*: Examined the ideas presented in the book "*La ciudad compartida*" (the shared city), particularly chapter 7, "*El deseo de futuro y los proyectos de cambio*" (Future wishes and projects for change).
2. *Workshop on Women and Power*: Stimulated public debate on the topic of women's safety in cities to generate public policy proposals that include a gender perspective.
3. *Workshop on using a Gender-based analysis to better understand violence in the ghettos of Santiago*: Reflected upon this particular phenomenon to suggest specific, gender-based measures to address the issue in public-housing apartment buildings.
4. *Workshop on Gender Indicators*: Explored how to develop and use gender indicators in methodological tools, codes of ethics, and public policies in order to address gender inequality.
5. *Workshop on Factors that condition the use and appropriation of public spaces in neighbourhoods*: The objective was to reflect upon and compare points of view regarding the implementation of local, urban development policies and if these processes included or not a gender perspective and how to evaluate this aspect.

Following the debates and workshops, a Discussion forum – "*Ciudades sin violencia para tod@s en el espacio público y privado*" (Violence-free cities for all - in public and private spaces): was set up to follow-up and expand upon the topics covered.

Another workshop – "*Seguridad y género: convivencia social en el espacio público y el espacio privado*" (Safety and gender – social co-existence in public and private spaces) was organised to raise awareness about the importance of public spaces as vital locations for encounters, solidarity, special interests, and respect for fellow citizens, integrating a gender perspective as a cross-cutting theme to the discussions.

Sources

- Official website of ONG Sur Consultores Sociales www.sitiosur.cl

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Latin American Regional Program – Safe Cities: Violence against Women and Public Policy

United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) – Case Study: Bogotá, *Colombia*

The activity “*Cin-Espacio para las violencias*”²¹ (No room for violence) was organised as part of a Bogotá Film series to raise awareness as to the many causes and effects of violence against women. The goal was to stimulate the emergence of a new, proactive attitude that will contribute to the transformation of a reality which is currently unacceptable and which adversely affects not only women’s rights, but also the emotional, psychological and physical stability of the citizens of Bogotá.

As part of this activity, the “*Cinemateca Distrital de Bogotá*”, projected a series of films under the name *Cin-Espacio para las violencias*” (No room for violence), in August 2007. Entrance was free. The following films were shown: Monster, Fried Green Tomatoes, The Magdalene Sisters, Take My Eyes, and Once Were Warriors.



Objective

- Sensitise the public about violence against women.

The *Red Nacional de Mujeres* (Women’s National Network), through its Project entitled Safe Cities: Violence against Women and Public Policy, sponsored by UNIFEM, organized a art contest to select a piece of art that visually depicted the concept that violence against women is socially unacceptable in a city that seeks to be safe for all of its population.

This piece of art could take many forms (sculpture, painting, graphic design, etc.), and should transmit the message that violence against women in public spaces is a serious, socio-cultural problem that keeps women from living equally to men with respect to their individual and collective freedom and autonomy to move about.

The contest should also raise the issue that security is not just a police matter. Rather, it should be treated as a serious problem for society that needs to be addressed by policies that strive to transform society so that there is a greater respect for women.

Various actors were implicated in the initiative, notably:

- *Red Nacional de Mujeres/ CIASE (National Network of Women / CIASE)*
- *Corporación de Investigación y Acción Social y Económica (CIASE)*
- *Red Mujer y Hábitat LAC (Habitat and Women’s Network LAC)*
- *Asociación de Vivienda – AVP (Housing Association)*

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21. This is a play on words that cannot be translated from Spanish - “cin” in this case refers not only to the cinema but is also a homophone for “sin”, which means “without”.

3.

Initiatives...

**...BY NON GOVERNMENTAL
BODIES**

Canberra Rape Crisis Centre

Canberra, *Australia*

Canberra Rape Crisis Centre (CRCC) is feminist non-government organisation committed to a strong structural understanding of power and gender in today's society. The CRCC goes beyond traditional victim assistance, offering proactive prevention programmes as well. The organisation has existed for 32 years and is available for any woman, man or child who has experienced any form of sexual abuse (adult rape, childhood sexual abuse, ritual abuse or sexual harassment) whether it is a recent assault or an assault that happened years ago. The Rape Crisis Centre is staffed by specially trained workers and their services are free and confidential, and available whether or not the client wants to report the assault to the police.



Objectives

- Address the structural barriers which continue to discriminate against women and children and which continue to create unsafe and disrespectful environments in the family, community and institutions;
- Empower and support women and children to be full and active members of the community;
- Encourage men to take responsibility for addressing violence against women, children and men, ensuring that men do not leave this task to women alone;
- Provide direct relief through the provision of aid services to persons affected by sexual violence.

The Canberra Rape Crisis Centre provides a range of community based services for women and children affected by sexual violence, including information and referral, crisis support and advocacy, community based telephone and face to face counselling and support groups. It also offers a Service Assisting Male Survivors of Sexual Assault (SAMSSA) Program.

The Association acknowledges that we are on Aboriginal land, the Ngunnawal land in the ACT. The service has a deep commitment to working with and alongside Indigenous communities and organisations. The Nguru Program is a specific program targeting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. It raises awareness of the issues, and provides community education and individual support. For the first time in history, we have just employed a male in this program, in recognition of the different and more holistic response that is required for this community.

Community education is provided to students aged 13-18. Students are given sessions on protective behaviours for young women in schools and long term programs on gender and violence for ACT schools or tertiary institutions. Community education is also offered to other community organisations such as Lifeline, women's refuges, youth services, school counsellors, and consular staff at the Department of Foreign Affairs, offering two-day courses on sexual assault issues aimed at specific sectors of the community. Additional awareness-raising and educational services and materials include information packages and library services, including videos, books, tapes and handouts.

The Centre also engages in systemic advocacy and law reform processes. It aims to raise awareness of the gendered, structural and cultural aspects of our society which allow sexual violence to continue, and to change community attitudes regarding sexual violence. In particular, attitudes and practices which blame women, children and men who are subjected to sexual violence must be challenged. The Canberra Rape Crisis Centre works collaboratively with other agencies, both

governmental and non-governmental, to create policies and build service systems that promote the rights and needs of people affected by sexual violence and contribute to the elimination of such violence.

The organisation has a First Response team who answer the crisis line and respond to requests for assistance with reporting to police or undergoing forensic examinations. Over the last 12 months, a strong working relationship with police has been developed, whereby the Centre is contacted to offer support on every occasion that someone wants to report a sexual assault. The Centre has also recently developed a service charter with the police, forensics services, the Department of Public Prosecutions and the Victims of Crime Statutory Advocate to ensure that a wraparound response is provided to victims.

Results

Canberra Rape Crisis Centre provides a 24 hour crisis line to survivors of sexual violence. Over the last 2 years this has been opened up to male survivors as well as women and children. In 2006/07 approximately 5,000 calls were received on the crisis line.

The Centre provides face to face counselling and support to adult women, young women, children (and men through the SAMSSA Program). In the 2006/07 year, over 2,700 sessions were provided.

Sources

- Canberra Rape Crisis Centre, Official Website: <http://www.rapecrisis.org.au/>, and Information Booklet www.rapecrisis.org.au/Booklet/crccpdf.pdf, consulted 8 August 2008
- Canberra Rape Crisis Centre, Nguru Program, Power point presentation from the workshop "Aboriginal Health is Everybody's Business" hosted by ANTaR ACT and Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service on 28 November 2008 <http://www.slideshare.net/ANTaR/canberra-rape-crisis-centre-nguru-program>, 8 August 2008
- Personal correspondence with Veronica Wensing, Executive Officer, Canberra Rape Crisis Centre, 15 August 2008

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Garance ASBL

Brussels, *Belgium*

Founded in 2000, Garance is a non-profit organisation working in the area of primary prevention of gender-based violence in Belgium. The activities of Garance fall within the perspective of re-appropriating self-empowerment using feminist teachings.



Goals

- Inform and reinforce strategies, tools, and individual and collective resources in order to intervene before violence takes place;
- Raise community awareness about the simple and concrete ways of preventing violence and disseminate knowledge through publications and activities.

Garance offers self-defence training for women and specific groups of women (migrants, transsexuals, women in the sex trade, victims of domestic violence, etc.). The goal is to learn to quickly recognise aggression and to intervene early on, when it is still possible to curb the abusive dynamic, and to provide strategies and tools to guard against aggression. Tools can be verbal or non verbal, they can be used for managing emotion or for self-protection, creating verbal and physical limits.

Other self-defence training also offered for specific groups of women and adapted to meet their specific needs and realities, and is offered to women of all ages, from girls of 8 years to women aged 55+. For women aged 55 and over, training has been adapted on the basis of research results that focus primarily on addressing fear of crime. Finally, Garance is currently developing a curriculum to provide self-defence training for boys aged 14 to 18.

Groups like “*Femme 55+, actrices de leur sécurité*” (Women 55+, actors of their own security) have been organised by Garance to facilitate peer exchanges, allowing women to share experiences and providing opportunities for experimenting with different prevention and protection strategies. Learning from past experience that showed that women 55+ tend to have more confidence in the pertinence and usefulness of strategies when they are presented by one of their peers, Garance uses peer education to offer training for other women 55+ so that they can in turn lead other groups. Garance also brings women 55+ and boys together in “intergenerational meetings” about safety. These mixed groups work together on a creative project, which indirectly leads them to question the stereotypes and prejudices they have about the other group, while working together to enhance neighbourhood safety.

Garance also provides training for practitioners who offer services for women victims of violence, particularly women’s shelters. In addition, violence management training for professionals working in socio-medical services, schools, and public administration is offered. Participants are encouraged to share their experiences and experiment with different tools in order to develop a shared approach to violence management.

Garance also uses safety audits as a way of better understanding the fear of crime and to broaden the scope of actions proposed by both residents and public authorities.

Results / Outcomes / Outputs

- An in-depth evaluation of Garance's activities for women aged 55+ revealed that the positive impact on their sense of safety was constant over the medium term, and they had benefited from a greater awareness of their ability to act against violence;
- 10,000 whistles have been distributed to Belgian women who have received training on how to intervene when witnessing aggression;
- 43 personal testimonies and articles indicate that women who have received training are able to act in face of violence.
- More than 2000 women and girls have received training on primary violence prevention;
- 10 people who work in Belgium and France have been trained as practitioners;
- New methodologies and manuals have been developed to better respond to the safety needs and expectations of women aged 55+;
- Garance received excellent reviews from training participants who said they felt safer, had more self-confidence, and gained a better understanding of gender-based violence;

Garance is a member of the Violence Prevention Alliance of the World Health Organisation (WHO), of Women in Cities International, of the *Réseau pour l'Élimination des Violences entre partenaires* (Network for the elimination of intimate partner violence), as well as numerous platforms and advisory boards on the subject of domestic violence and equal opportunities for women and men. The organisation is recognized by the *Communauté française de Belgique en éducation permanente*.

Publications

- *Echappez belle ! Guide pratique de sécurité pour femmes.*
- *Les femmes 55+ actrices de leur sécurité.*
- *Ma sécurité et moi. Les femmes 55+ à Bruxelles-Capitale comme actrices de leur sécurité – une enquête exploratoire.*
- *Non c'est non ! Petit manuel d'autodéfense à l'usage de toutes les femmes qui en ont marre de se faire emmerder sans rien dire* (www.editions-zones.fr)

Sources

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- Garance, www.garance.be, accessed August 11, 2008
- World Health Organisation, Violence Prevention Alliance, Garance ASBL, www.who.int/violenceprevention/about/participants/garance_belgium/en/index.html

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Women in Alternative Action, WAA-Cameroon

Cameroon

Women in Alternative Action (WAA) is a non-profit and non-governmental association founded in 2004. It was born out of the need to give alternatives to the usual activities of other NGOs. WAA Cameroon looks at issues relating to human rights more generally, and women's issues and rights more particularly. It works to contribute to the promotion of women's socio cultural, political and economic rights in Cameroon and the Central Africa sub region. WAA Cameroon is currently focusing its efforts in research, building stronger and strategic partnerships, networking, capacity-building, and offering training programmes.



Objectives

- Promote women's social, cultural, political and economic rights;
- Mainstream gender in project planning.

Gender Programmes: Women in Alternative Action works to mainstream and integrate consideration of gender and gender issues in all phases of project cycles. WAA Cameroon believes that multi-disciplinary alliances and linkages are powerful strategic instruments we can use to enhance more equality between the sexes. The work of WAA Cameroon is to alleviate destitution of women through poverty reduction schemes, literacy integration in the milieu of the girl child to reinforce women's capacities and powers, promote gender equality, ensure protection of women's rights, and raise awareness on the problem of gender based violence. WAA Cameroon works first with their member associations and NGOs in order to enhance participative implementation. In addition to gender, given the particular context in Cameroon, WAA Cameroon also works to mainstream HIV/AIDS as gender policy development initiatives in organisations. Furthermore, introducing a gender perspective in the project development phase is highlighted. WAA Cameroon supports projects aiming to build capacities among women. Advocacy and lobbying for human and citizen's rights, democracy and good governance are cross thematic programmes in WAA Cameroon.

Advocacy Programme and the Human Rights Research, Protection, and Promotion Programmes: Much of WAA Cameroon's current focus is on raising awareness on human rights violations. Violence against women is a violation of human rights. Women in Alternative Action offers a research programme that works to document cases of violence against women (VAW), analysing its incidence and effects on the country. Information is gathered through traditional means, but also through key contact who can inform them of human rights violations. These allegations are then subject to a verification procedure. Situation reports are then completed. Information gathered and reports written are systematically amassed and are used as the base for developing potential solutions. In addition, this information can serve as the impetus for launching urgent campaigns. Finally, support is offered to victims of human rights abuses.

Sustaining Socio-Economic and Cultural Rights Programmes: Inspired by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and other international framework, WAA Cameroon strives to strengthen the possibilities for women's socio-economic and cultural development in Cameroon. As a means of achieving this, WAA Cameroon aims to help poverty eradication and promote equal distribution of wealth by overcoming obstacles impeding it. Inadequate sanitation, hygiene and unsafe water are all issues facing those living in poverty,

and can contribute to loss of hope and feelings of despair. This programme has a “futuristic vision to commit itself to actions that can alleviate social and economic burdens for sustainable human progress and change”²².

Children’s Rights Programmes: Protecting children from all forms of violence helps in building responsible adults and communities.

Results

WAA Cameroon published a document that highlighted all the laws in Cameroon that discriminated against women: *Overcome Discriminatory Laws, Overcome Violence against Women*. This was soon followed by a forum organised by WAA Cameroon and the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) in January 2008, under the United Nations Regional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy, to think of ways of eliminating Cameroonian laws that discriminate on the basis of gender. Participants wanted to push for Cameroon to adhere to the principles laid out in CEDAW, ratified 14 years prior. The group identified the specific pieces of legislations that were discriminatory and proposed alternatives to make things equal for men and women under the law.

WAA-Cameroon also participated in the Women IANSA-led 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence in December of 2007.

Sources

- The Post Online: *Magistrates, Lawyers Seek To Abrogate Gender-Biased Laws*, <http://www.postnewsline.com/2008/02/magistrates-law.html>, 19 August 2008
- WAA Cameroon, Official Website: <http://waacameroon.org/>, 19 August 2008

Contact

<http://waacameroon.org/>

22. <http://waacameroon.org>

Sisters in Spirit (SIS)

Canada

Aboriginal women between the ages of 25-44 are five times more likely than other Canadian women of the same age to die of violence (Amnesty International, 2004). Violence against Aboriginal women is commonplace in Canada where societal indifference often leaves Aboriginal women at greater risk. In March 2004 the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) established the national Sisters in Spirit (SIS) Campaign to increase the public's awareness of the intolerable violence endured by Aboriginal women in Canada. NWAC believes that the security of Aboriginal women in Canada needs to be drastically increased. SIS has produced numerous research projects on violence against Aboriginal women and has worked in partnership with governmental and non-governmental organisations to advance the human rights of Aboriginal women in Canada.



Objectives

- Address violence against Aboriginal (First Nations Inuit and Métis) women, particularly violence perpetrated against Aboriginal women because of their gender and Aboriginal identity;
- Strengthen support within the community;
- Raise national awareness of violence against Aboriginal Women;
- Increase the organisation's network in order to promote the human rights and empowerment of Aboriginal women in Canada, ceasing all violence against Aboriginal people.

All SIS policies are research and results based and aim to address the root causes of violence against Aboriginal women in their prevention strategies and increase their national security. The SIS website provides support services for aboriginal families. In particular, it provides information on the legal advice available as well as links to related community organisations.

In 2005, NWAC signed a five year contribution agreement with the government of Canada. The SIS five-year research, education and policy initiative aims to improve the human rights of Aboriginal women in Canada by working with a variety of Aboriginal women's organisations and the federal government. SIS is focusing particularly on addressing the high level of murdered and missing Aboriginal women in Canada. Various activities have been developed to address these issues. A national campaign to raise public awareness of the impact of racially and sexually motivated violence against Aboriginal women will be launched. The initiative aims to collect individual accounts of Aboriginal families that have experienced the loss of a female member due either racially or sexually motivated violence. In addition, a statistical study on violence against Aboriginal women will be deduced. SIS plans to analyse both the accounts and quantitative data in order to identify common trends and potential causes. The initiative plans to develop community education and action tool kits for community-based organisations together with related workshops and conferences. The main goal is to develop a policy to prevent violence against women that meets the needs of Aboriginal women in Canada.

A comprehensive Strategic Policy Strategy has been produced by SIS based on their research. The four key policy areas include: reducing violence, improving education and employment outcomes, increasing the availability and suitability of housing and making justice accessible. The policy specifies the key factors that contribute towards racially and sexually motivated violence together with the

socio-economic conditions and political and legal environment experienced by Aboriginal women and girls in Canada. The policy strategy integrates NWAC's culturally-specific gender-based analysis process with the culturally specific research principles used when conducting SIS research.

Resources and Tools

In March 2008, the SIS Research Team produced a literature review to develop NWAC's understanding of the problems related to both racially and sexually motivated violence. The publication addresses: violence against women, Canadian and International law, socio-economic issues affecting Aboriginal women, and women and justice issues.

SIS has produced numerous research documents covering violence and discrimination against Aboriginal women. It has also produced publications working in collaboration with various organisations including Amnesty International.

SIS has published a glossary of terms related to racially and sexually motivated violence for the use of governmental organisations, non-governmental organisations and the general public.

Source

- Native Women's Association of Canada,
<http://www.nwac-hq.org/en/background.html>, 26 September 2008.

Contact

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Pro-gam inc.

Montréal, Québec, *Canada*

Pro-gam Inc., founded in 1982, is an organisation offering intervention, training and research on the prevention of intimate partner violence and family violence. Along with other stakeholders in the field, Pro-gam Inc. works with violent partners and carries out activities aimed at informing, preventing, and raising public awareness about domestic violence.

Pro-gam Inc. has adopted an innovative approach, insofar as a majority of actions undertaken against domestic violence are intended as victim services, generally for women, whereas Pro-gam has decided to work with violent men in order to complement the traditional approach to addressing the problem.



Objectives

- Raise public awareness about the problem of intimate partner violence and family violence;
- Help abusive men recognise, understand, and find alternatives to their violent behaviours.

Pro-gam offers abusive partners a therapeutic approach that takes into account both the specificity and complexity of the situation, and the individual needs of these men. The idea is to enable them to become aware of their motivations in order to better control their behaviour by finding alternatives to violence, and develop their potential.

Pro-gam therefore organises group therapy sessions. At present, there are 14 different groups of 8 people. The groups are led by 2 psychotherapists.

Pro-gam undertakes awareness-raising activities and provides information on the subject of intimate partner violence and family violence. These presentations and conferences are intended for various audiences including schools, universities, workplace inclusion centres, businesses, etc.

Finally, Pro-gam also offers a professional training and supervision program, and leads ongoing research in all areas that touch upon intimate partner violence and family violence.

Pro-gam realises that working with abusive men can only be achieved over the long term. The Website specifies that in order to achieve profound and long-lasting results, Pro-gam's basic therapy generally takes at least 14 weeks.

Though Pro-gam's work is parallel to that of other stakeholder organisations, Pro-gam's counsellors underscore that until the behaviour that leads to domestic violence has been completely eradicated, couples beginning therapy could still be at risk for violent recurrences.

Results / Outcomes / Outputs

In April 2007, Pro-gam received the Agnes C. Higgins Award from Centraide of Greater Montreal, in recognition of outstanding innovation as a community agency. The award was judged on the following criteria:

- Innovation in responding to specific needs
- Meeting objectives efficiently
- Leadership among stakeholders in the field

- Visibility in the media;
- Recognition of their milieu

Pro-gam is funded primarily by the *Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal*, by Centraide of Greater Montreal, and by client contributions.

Partner organisations

Juridicial and Judicial Services

- Le Centre jeunesse de Montréal
- La Direction de la protection de la jeunesse
- Les avocats de la défense
- Les procureurs de la couronne
- La magistrature
- Service de police de la ville de Montréal

Education and Research

- L'Université du Québec à Montréal
- L'Université de Montréal
- L'Université McGill
- L'Université Concordia
- Les départements de psychologie des grandes universités
- L'École de criminologie
- L'École de service social

Community-based Organisations

- Centraide du Grand-Montréal
- Le Service d'aide aux conjoints, SAC
- Les Centres de crise en santé mentale
- Les Maisons d'hébergement pour femmes victimes de violence conjugale
- Les Centres de femmes
- S.O.S. violence conjugale
- La Table de concertation en violence conjugale de Montréal
- Les autres Tables (Laval, Nord de Montréal)

Health and Social Service Institutions

- L'agence de santé et de services sociaux de Montréal
- Les Centres de santé et de services sociaux de Montréal
- Le Centre Dollard-Cormier
- Les unités de psychiatrie des Centres hospitaliers
- Les cliniques externes de psychiatrie
- Le service Côté-Cour

Family and Domestic Violence Research

- Centre de recherche interdisciplinaire sur la violence familiale et la violence faite aux femmes, CRI-VIFF
- Institut de recherche pour le développement social des jeunes IRDS
- Étudiants (chercheurs privés)

Private Sector and Other

- Ordre des psychologues du Québec
- Association des sexologues du Québec
- Société de criminologie du Québec
- Ordre des travailleurs sociaux du Québec
- Association québécoise plaidoyer victime
- Association québécoise de suicidologie
- Suicide action Montréal
- Regroupement inter-organismes pour une politique familiale au Québec
- P.A.E. grandes entreprises
- P.A.E. organismes publics et para-publics
- P.A.E. ministères
- Syndicats divers

Sources

- <http://www.pro-gam.ca/>

Stella l'amie de Maimie (Stella, Maimie's friend)

Montréal, Québec, *Canada*

Stella l'amie de Maimie is a group created “by and for” sex workers. As a marginalised population, the needs of sex workers are rarely taken into account in city mandates, recommendations, or in amendments to policies. Stella's main role is to help peer sex workers fight violence, sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS, and to engage the community on issues of better health and safety standards. Part of Stella's mandate is to work with city authorities to increase safety for the entire Montreal population.

Stella's work and philosophy rests on the notion of empowerment, meaning that sex workers, and the experience of sex work, are at the heart of the work that they do, and they want to involve these workers at all levels of the organisation. This allows Stella to provide services that correspond to the needs of the community. Stella's mandate, overall, is to improve both life and working conditions for sex workers, in such a way as to create a milieu where it is possible to work and live with dignity in a healthy and safe environment.

Stella is an autonomous organisation, funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada, Human Resources and Social Development Canada via the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative, the *Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal* (Health and social services agency of Montréal) and the *Direction de Santé publique de Montréal* (Montréal's Department of public health).



Objectives

- To participate in the prevention of multiple forms of violence against sex workers, and to provide services and support that help them work and live with dignity in a healthy and safe environment;
- To counter violence and the different risk factors associated with the transmission of HIV and STDs, which represent a threat to physical integrity;
- To fight discrimination against sex workers as well as their social isolation and stigmatisation;
- To work for the decriminalisation of different forms of sex work;
- To support sex workers' involvement in the community and the implementation of collective action;
- To support the creation of exchange platforms about sex work, at the municipal, provincial, national and international levels.

Stella undertakes provides diverse activities and services, such as art workshops, community meals, medical clinics and free vaccinations. The organisation also has a helpline that responds to requests for information, references, and individual counselling.

The team at Stella meets dancers, street workers, escorts and masseuses, either at Stella's centres or on the street. Each year, Stella engages with about 500 sex workers, and the average number of contacts made each year is about 4,500, meaning that many people use Stella's services several times every year.

Results / Outcome / Outputs

With the participation of sex workers, Stella produced a “Bad Tricks and Assaulters List”, published monthly in Stella’s Bulletin. This List received an award for women’s safety by the *Comité d’action femmes et sécurité urbaine de la Ville de Montréal*²³ (Action committee on women and urban safety of the city of Montréal). Stella also publishes research and analyses as well as a biannual magazine, ConStellation. The organisation has developed many other services for sex workers, which are provided free of charge. Stella has received several awards in recognition of its services to the Montréal community on matters of health and safety.

Stella published “Guide XXX” which looked at the different facets of sex work and proposed actions and references for living and working with dignity in a healthy and safe environment. Some of the topics addressed include negotiating a contract or services, safer sex, relations with clients, the law, your rights, managing stress, and dealing with society’s institutions. Content focuses mainly on the reality of female prostitutes who have male clients.

The organisation is active in a diversity of committees, coalitions, research groups and Boards of Directors. It also regularly participates in conferences and lectures and has a strong presence in the media.

Sources

- Mémoire, Présenté par STELLA, L’AMIE DE MAIMIE, à la Ville de Montréal dans le cadre du projet de politique : Pour une participation égalitaire des femmes et des hommes à la vie de Montréal
- Mémoire, Présenté par STELLA, L’AMIE DE MAIMIE à la Ville de Montréal dans le cadre de l’Étude publique sur l’itinérance : des visages multiples, des responsabilités partagées
- Stella: www.chezstella.org

Contact

<http://www.chezstella.org/>

23. No longer in operation.

Materská centra - Network of Mother Centres in Czech Republic

Czech Republic

The first Mother Centre (MC) was established in the Czech Republic in 1992. The MCs are user-led and provide a stimulating and safe environment for childcare. They are open to all ages, races, social classes, and to people with disabilities, refugees and others, thus working to prevent xenophobia. Mother Centres offer opportunities for capacity-building and professional orientation services to re-enter the job market. This allows children to see their mothers in different roles. The Centres operate on the principles of self-help and peer-support, and family self-support, providing space for developing a sense of community and solidarity. Several are currently striving to develop income-generating activities that will allow them to be self-sufficient and self-sustaining.

Today, almost 150 Centres have been established in the country, many of them operating in small towns and villages. In 2001, the Network of Mother Centres in Czech Republic was created to support the expansion of the Centres and to broaden the scope of its activities. The Network's central office provides coordination, capacity-building and resources to the other existing and emerging Mother Centres, and actively seeks consultation with its members. MCs operate in 15 countries worldwide.



Objectives

- Foster the growth of locally-initiated Mother Centers by providing support and methodological guidance for newly established MCs;
- Build partnerships with governing bodies and with partner organisations abroad;
- Facilitate women's re-entry into the work force;
- Teach conflict resolution skills to prevent conflict.

Mother Centres strive to provide women with skills to prevent and resolve problems and conflicts. Mothers see examples in their peers and are helped to identify potential problems before they escalate, and seek solutions to prevent escalation. The Centres offer different projects for mothers, parents, and children, including: creative, educational, or sports-related programmes. By teaching families how to use their spare time productively and positively, it is the Centres' hope that levels of crime will decrease. In cases where families or individuals are deemed to be at-risk, counselling and role-modeling services are made available.

By providing a space for new friendships to emerge and for sharing experiences, MCs work to build women's confidence. The Centres act as a forum for identifying common interests and problems, and provide structure and a platform for addressing family and community problems. Peer counselling services are also offered. Club meetings for people who are "equally different" are hosted by the MCs, aimed at teaching tolerance while providing a safe space for expression, peer support, and building confidence.

The Network of Mother Centres in Czech Republic provides support and guidance to local women leaders wishing to establish their own Mother Centre. They educate the women on the relevant laws, and offer methodological guidance on establishing new Centres. The Network acts as the nucleus between the different Centres, bringing representatives together at an annual conference for sharing experiences and learning from one another. The Network also documents the experiences of the Centres.

Given that the Network of Mother Centres in Czech Republic represents the collective of all Czech MCs, it has a stronger voice when building partnerships with local and national governments, as well as international organisations. The Network is a member of the UN Huairou Commission and GROOTS International.

Results

In 1993, just one year after the opening of the first Mother Centre in the Czech Republic, representatives participated in the Federal Congress of MCs in Munich. They also participated in the 1996 Federal Congress of MCs in Stuttgart, Germany.

In 1995 and 1998, Mother Centres Czech Republic hosted “How to Start” seminars, which subsequently allowed for the establishment of the now almost 150 Mother Centres across the country.

In 1997, the first Congress of Mother Centres in Czech Republic was organised, bringing together representatives of MCs from across the country.

In 2003, Rut Kolínská, founder and promoter of Mothers Centres in the Czech Republic, won the “Women of Europe Award” in Copenhagen, Denmark, recognizing her significant contribution to development of civil society in the Czech Republic.

Sources

- Bernard van de Leer Foundation, *Network of Mother Centres in Czech Republic*, accessed at: www.bernardvanleer.org/partners/europe/czech_rep_-_mothers_center, 13 August 2008
- GROOTS International, Official Website, *Network of Mother Centres in Czech Republic*, accessed at: <http://www.groots.org/members/czech.htm>, 13 August 2008
- Materská centra, Official website: <http://www.materskacentra.cz/>, 13 August 2008

Contact

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<http://www.materskacentra.cz>

ESZTER Foundation

Hungary

The ESZTER Foundation was established and registered in 1991. It is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation. The ESZTER Centre, established in 1994, is the first and only organisation of its kind in Hungary, and was created to respond to the commitment expressed by Hungary in the UN Declaration to respond to the needs of victims. The ESZTER Centre's services are free for survivors of sexual violence and abuse and are open to the survivors of all types of sexual assault, including men who may have suffered sexual violence, as well as those who experienced sexual abuse as children.²⁴

In addition to support services, ESZTER's work aims to raise-awareness about the phenomenon in order to prevent further violence. The name of *ESZTER* is not only the Hungarian version of the female name *Ester*, but is also an acronym in Hungarian for the "Rehabilitation of the Victims of Violent Sexual Attack" - **E**rőszakos **S**zexuális **T**ámadást **E**l szenvedettek **R**ehabilitációja.



Objectives

- To provide crisis intervention telephone counselling;
- To provide comprehensive confidential face-to-face counselling;
- To provide long-term psychotherapy, both in individual and group settings, to those who are in need of it as a result of sexual abuse or assault.

Results and Outcomes

The ESZTER Centre serves as an outpatient centre, offering counselling and psychotherapy for the survivors of child sexual abuse and sexual assault. Employees of the centre have received special training to offer a variety of services such as crisis intervention, counselling and long-term psychotherapy.

Recognizing that sexual violence is grossly under-reported in Hungary and that this is due in part to the treatment of victims by the police and judicial services, ESZTER established protocols to be used by both government and non-governmental organisations to cooperate when dealing with survivors of sexual violence. These protocols outline procedures to be followed and attempt to sensitise them to the particular needs of these victims/survivors. It is hoped that these changes to protocol, cooperation, and interaction will lead to greater reporting, eventually leading to prevention as well. Today, the ESZTER Foundation and the Budapest Victim Support Service under the Ministry of Justice work together regularly, ensure to maximise care and support provided to victims of domestic and sexual violence.

ESZTER works to prevent future violence through awareness-raising campaigns and by providing training to professionals working in related fields. For example, in 2003/2004 ESZTER launched a year-long campaign to combat and prevent Domestic Violence. A series of different initiatives fell under the umbrella of the campaign. Specifically, ESZTER provided training for psychologists and psychiatrists who may be called on to treat victims of domestic violence. A two days inter-professional conference was held in order to share experiences and lessons. The event brought together approximately 500 different people working in the field including professionals, volunteers and experts. Finally, a two-fold awareness-raising campaign was launched. The first part, the "BTL

24. <http://www.eszteralapitvany.hu/htmleng/index.php>

campaign” was launched, using a variety of media including posters and information leaflets to target the victims and potential victims of domestic violence. This “silent campaign” was complemented by a “loud campaign” (ALT media and street campaign) that used different media: “billboards, city light posters, ads in newspapers and magazines, and a TV spot in the public and in a leading commercial TV channel, to target the general public.

Finally, in 2007, the ESZTER Foundation established a legal aid service, offered to all those who use their services.

Sources

- Amnesty International, *Health Professional Action Rape and sexual violence in the home: Hungary*, <http://asiapacific.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGEUR270072007?open&of=ENG-HUN>, 23 July 2008
- ESZTER’s official website: www.eszteralapitvany.hu/htmleng/index.php, 23 July 2008
- Personal correspondence with Dr. György Virág (Director, National Institute of Criminology, Budapest; and Director (Outpatient Psychotherapy for the Survivors of Sexual Abuse and Assault, run by the ESZTER Foundation) 7 July 2008

Contact

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JAGORI, Safe Delhi – Make your city safe for women

New Delhi, *India*

JAGORI was established in 1984 as a training, documentation, communication, and resource centre for women. Building on a feminist perspective, JAGORI, which means “awaken woman”, aims to educate and build awareness about the issues facing women to prevent violence and discrimination against women. It houses a comprehensive library featuring a variety of media including books, reports, journals, articles, posters, films, and audio material promoting women’s rights, issues, and safety.



Objectives

- Consciousness raising and awareness women’s safety, women’s legal rights, and other issues central to women’s empowerment;
- Production and distribution of creative material including publications and communication packages on various issues for different groups;
- Establishment of a documentation and resource centre to meet the information and analysis needs of women’s groups, NGOs, and the development sector;
- Advocacy on women’s rights and gender equality;
- Contribute to the Indian women’s movement by adding to existing bodies of knowledge on women’s status in India.

JAGORI offers a number of different workshops and training sessions throughout South Asia with a general aim of educating and raising the awareness of various groups on gender and women’s empowerment. Other workshops address more specific issues such as: violence against women; women’s legal rights and livelihoods; *Wenlido*, a form of feminist self-defence; gender sensitization for government and development workers; and building grassroots leadership. It also offers a number of services in rural communities to maximize the scope of its impact, including a demonstration organic farm and training programmes on sustainable agriculture, a women’s resource centre, and a fellowship programme for young women.

The JAGORI “Safe Delhi Campaign” was launched in 2005 and is an ongoing effort to ensure women’s safety in public spaces by mobilizing both the community and the State. Within the framework of this Campaign, the group is undertaking a series of women’s safety audits, making the community active participants in creating a safe community for themselves and for all marginalized groups. Information about women’s safety and about the campaign reaches the community through various promotion materials, including JAGORI’s newsletter, *Hum Sabla*. The organization has also been heavily involved in a number of other national campaigns on issues related to women’s rights and safety.

The organization undertakes action-research on issues affecting women, ensuring that the results of the research are followed up by advocacy or the development of new initiatives. The research aims to introduce a women-centered perspective to policy-makers. JAGORI has also collaborated on international research on global issues threatening women’s safety, notably trafficking, migration, and sex work. Current research topics include: “The situation of migrant women workers in the urban informal economy”, aiming to expose the plight of migrant workers in the Bawana Resettlement Colony in their quest for rights as citizens of Delhi. Another study illustrates the economic and caste interest that underlies witch-hunting in the Barmer district of Rajasthan, and JAGORI has partnered with Kartini on a research project on sexuality and sexual rights, which is exploring aspects of non-normative sexualities in India and Indonesia.

JAGORI collaborates with and provides support for groups working to promote women's rights and safety. It also offers frontline support to women who have experienced violence, including legal aid and feminist counselling that aims to facilitate the shift from victim to survivor.

Results and Tools

The Rotary Club of Delhi Midtown awarded JAGORI with the Distinguished Service Award 2007-2008 in the category "Women's Empowerment".

In the fall of 2007, JAGORI offered gender training to over 3500 DTC bus drivers and conductors. The aim of the training was to change attitudes and beliefs about sexual harassment by positioning it within the greater context of gender discrimination.

JAGORI has been in the forefront of several national campaigns on key issues of women's rights, including the campaign leading to the Supreme Court guidelines on sexual harassment in the workplace and the campaign against hazardous contraceptives. The JAGORI Safe Delhi Campaign published and disseminated an information booklet on Sexual Harassment as part of its effort to increase awareness about safety for women in public spaces.

JAGORI is a founding member of the Kartini, an Asian women's studies network established in 2003. JAGORI is also a founding member of the South Asian Network of Gender Activists and Trainers (SANGAT), and hosts the SANGAT secretariat. A course on "Gender, Identities, Conflict and Peace in Asia" was organised by JAGORI, SANGAT and Kartini in April 2005.

JAGORI has produced a number of resources on a variety of topics related to women's rights and safety. Media vary considerably and include audio and video cassettes, information packs, posters, advocacy material, and booklets.

Sources

- JAGORI Official Website, <http://jagori.org/>, 6 August 2008

Contact

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DAMPA (Damayan ng Maralitang Pilipinong Api Inc.)

Quezon City, *Philippines*

DAMPA focuses on community development in poor urban communities, economic development for poor families, and ending violence against women and children using community-driven, self help approaches. Adopting these kinds of approaches means that DAMPA actively involves members of the community in identifying basic key service needs, and continues working with the community to take the next steps to address these needs, thereby using local resources to initiate action. DAMPA recognized a need to develop a gender program that is built on the role of women as primary actors in local community development. It also works to build the collective capacity of the community by providing such services as literacy and livelihood development.

DAMPA actively engages in partnerships with national government agencies that are willing to directly engage with peoples organizations, and uses creative pressure engagement strategies that include dialogue or mobilization with the government. DAMPA including: the National Capital Region (NCR) Office of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). One hundred percent of DAMPA referrals were responded to by the department. DAMPA has also established partnerships with NGOs and private institutions.



Objectives

- To link basic community issues to gender and development,
- To broaden community program initiatives to include specific responses to gender issues and child and family concerns.

DAMPA believes in “utilizing a broad based, multi-strategy, multi-stakeholder approach which includes issue-based community organizing, self help initiatives, policy advocacy, networking and alliance building, participation in local governance, maximization of government programs, and capacity building and training, programs designed to respond to basic community issues have proven to be effective vehicles for communicating gender and development concerns, as well as for promoting effective ways of working together among both government, NGOs, and People’s Organizations”²⁵. An example DAMPA’s favoured approach was the establishment of Community Pharmacies, where initial capital for the medicines and emergency kit were shouldered by women. The community also shouldered the costs of installing and monthly electric consumption after installing street lights, to ensure well-lit, safe streets.

DAMPA engages in direct advocacy and information campaigns on issues of gender sensitivity, anti-violence against women and children (VAWC) and sexual harassment, land rights and housing finance, and health and family planning education. DAMPA works with local authorities in a number of communities to support VAWC victims. They provide training to local leaders and support community-led teams to respond immediately to the needs of victims of violence, providing support such as rescue, legal assistance, and medical needs. DAMPA also assists victims in making referrals to police agencies and make referrals to the Department of Social Welfare for immediate and long term interventions to victims. DAMPA also actively participates in networks that advocate for women’s health care. As a result of their work, a minimum of five leaders per community have received training, and leaders experienced in VAWC have been given an opportunity to relate interventions and basic knowledge in advocacy for basic services and land and housing rights, as well as in negotiations in the government agency or with the land owner.

25. <http://www.huairou.org/assets/download/PhilPartner.doc>, p.4

DAMPA's engagement in advocacy for safer communities stems from the experiences of DAMPA leaders and members themselves in their own communities. The experiences include inadequate basic services, lack of security of tenure and the need for legitimate institutions that will implement laws regarding women's and children rights. The gathering of leaders during meetings and the sharing of experiences allows the leaders to inspire each other, and translates into the replication of practices in other organizations. The lessons learned from both successful and unsuccessful interventions guide DAMPA as it continues developing multiple interventions in the community.

Results and Outcomes

DAMPA's work has led to the establishment of community pharmacies, cooperatives and other micro-lending projects, reproductive health projects. They have also inspired the establishment of reproductive health networks and the promotion of active participation of local organizations in *Barangay* (village) development planning and local governance.

Sources

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- Personal correspondence with Erica Reade, Huairou Commission, 17 September 2008

The Information Centre of the Independent Women's Forum (ICIWF)

Moscow, *Russia*

The Information Centre of the Independent Women's Forum (ICIWF) was established in 1994 as a non-profit, non governmental organisation. The ICIWF is a resource, documentation and advice centre for women's NGOs and the general public. Initially, the organisation focused on promoting the equality of women in society, culture and economics. In recent years, however, the activities of the organisation have expanded to support the inclusion of women in the development of local self-governance, development of local communities, creating partnerships and promoting women's rights in municipal and local policies. ICIWF supports regional women's initiatives which focus on increasing security in public spaces, with a particular emphasis on improving poor urban infrastructure and preventing the use of drugs and alcohol in public spaces.



Objectives

- Support regional women's initiatives;
- Develop of educational programs for women;
- Develop the information exchange between women's organizations;
- Institutionalise the women's movement.

The ICIWF has developed a number of programmes to advance women's rights and safety including: approaches for empowering women, promoting women's participation in urban and local policies, and developing resources together with international bodies. ICIWF is currently developing innovative practices on promoting women's education and empowerment. The organisation holds frequent seminars on the importance of women's involvement in socially-focused activities by working for local bodies, neighbours' groups and communities. This is augmented by ICIWF creating and strengthening relationships between citizens and municipal self-governance bodies. These relationships play a key role in ICIWF's involvement in housing and public service reform and the formation of local self-governance. The involvement of women in such projects is vital in shaping strategies to meet women's needs and improve living conditions.

ICIWF worked in collaboration with the community of Petrozavodsk to launch the Petrozavodsk project in 1994. This initiative brings a gender perspective to crime and safe municipal planning and empowers women to ensure the safety of their homes and neighbourhoods. It resulted in the opening of a shelter for women and children victims of domestic violence, the first gender-based study of crime data, the organisation of women-led neighbourhood committees, and strengthened bonds between women's organisations, police, and the city administration. The project had positive results in the community, notably improving house safety and decreasing the occurrence of crime in the buildings.

The ICIWF played an integral role in the City Policy 2001-2002. ICIWF promoted the participation of women and women's groups in producing a policy at the local level that met special education needs. ICIWF believes that gender equality can only be achieved using an integrated approach. As a result, the creation of the city policy involved the collaboration of professionals from health care, education and social sector.

The ICIWF is currently involved in the "collaboration project", which is running from January 2006 to December 2008. The project aims to: strengthen the structure of civil society in Russia, aid the integration of Russia into Europe. This project enables ICIWF to develop its activities to support women's advancement in society.

ICIWF has expanded its network by becoming a member of the following international organisations: KARAT Coalition (union of women's organisations from the Central and Eastern European Countries), Huairou Commission (the network of women's organizations from USA, Canada, India, Costa-Rica, and others) – the strategic partner of United Nations Human Settlements Programme (Habitat) and Partnership network “Stockholm Partnership for Sustainable Cities”.

Results / Outcomes / Tools

The ICIWF project “Building a Safer City Together” was chosen as a good international project for the Women's Safety Awards 2004.

The ICIWF project “Information Centres as New Social Institutes for the empowerment of Women and Habitat Agenda Promotion” was classed as a “best practice” at the International awards for good and best practices in 2002.

The ICIWF was commended as an independent women's information agency at the International awards for good and best practices and was included into the list of 472 "Good and Best Practices" in Dubai 2000. The ICIWF was also included in the list of “Stockholm Partnerships for Sustainable Cities”.

ICIWF has produced a variety of resources on subjects related to Women's rights and safety. This information is delivered in a variety of means including newsletters, portals, journals, and bulletins. The bulletin “Vestnichka” delivers new information on current activities and explores arising problems in women's organisations. It also disseminates information on partnership development as well as articles on local and regional officials. The journal “Vestnik” contains reviews covering a variety of subjects including, for example: the women's movement, current social problems, women and culture, and the participation of women in city policy.

Sources

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Rwanda Women Network



Rwanda Women Network (RWN) is a non-governmental organization founded in 1997, taking over the work of its parent organization, the US-based Church World Service (CWS), which had initiated a two-year program in 1994, following the genocide. RWN works to empower women by building their capacity to increase their socio-economic standing allowing them to meet their basic needs. The Rwanda Women Network's work focusing on three main areas: health, education, and training. The Network believes in working holistically to address issues facing women and communities and community-led initiatives, and recognizes that long-term interaction is often required to achieve change. RWN works in partnership with local authorities in all of its endeavors and partners with a number of other local stakeholders to ensure coherent service provision and to maximize its impact, including the police and particularly the gender desk, NGOs, national ministries, Haguruka legal services, and community leaders. RWN maintains that women leaders must be engaged for the program's to be successful. It is through working together that women will be able to build a just and egalitarian society. RWN provides training workshops for women leaders including Deputy Mayors, the Women Councils, and Community Leaders, for them to subsequently share the information.



Objectives

- Increase women's socio-economic standing in Rwanda;
- Foster economic and social growth within households and communities;
- Promote peace and reconciliation.

Economic independence is fundamental to women's safety, prosperity and autonomy, making this an integral element to RWN programming. Following the genocide, obstacles to women's ability to be independent, such as illiteracy or lack of marketable skills became apparent. To overcome these challenges, RWN offers women access to financial credit to develop income-generating activities, complemented by capacity-building activities such as training in business or management skills.

Shelter construction and housing rehabilitation were undertaken for survivors of the genocide and returnees to Rwanda, including widows, child-headed households, and orphans, in efforts to facilitate their self-reliance. This was very important to the peace building process, and developed into what is now referred to as the Village of Hope.

The Polyclinic of Hope (POH) was established in 1995 to provide healthcare and support to women in Rwanda. Through the clinic, RWN works with survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in Rwanda, in recognition of the particular impact that the 1994 genocide had on women and children. The POH offers women a variety of health services including HIV/AIDS response services to those who contracted the virus during the mass rapes in 1994, 50% of their clientele. It also offers free medical services, psychosocial support and counseling, trauma counseling, and referral services, as well health-related education on issues such as reproductive health and nutrition. This holistic approach has been documented in a manual and booklets for replication. Information is supplemented by training by RWN members on using the guide.

RWN works to raise the awareness of women on issues related to human rights as well as justice and legal procedures. This awareness is considered to be "fundamental to full participation in all aspects of daily life"²⁶, since many women do not know their rights and continue to acquiesce to violations of those rights. Women must be made aware of the new laws pertaining to marriage and

26. www.rwandawomennetwork.org

inheritance in order to protect themselves. For example, RWN offers training for widows to prepare them for legal recourse to reclaim property left behind by their husbands. Training on the legal system prepares women for the Gacaca (community participatory) court process. Recognizing that most women have not yet reported crimes committed against them, the RWN Outreach program was developed for survivors to provide guidance and support to their peers.

The sexual and gender-based violence during the genocide led to the spread of HIV/AIDS among Rwandan women. In an effort to prevent the spread of the virus, HIV/AIDS awareness workshops are offered, addressing issues such as prevention, support, and care. This increased awareness has led to more women accepting to get tested for the virus. RWN, through the POH, offers home-based care for those who have been infected and, reflecting their holistic approach to healing, also offers training on home-base care provision to the person infected, their families and the community.

Additional training is offered by RWN in the framework of emergency preparedness on topics such as: water management, nutrition, sanitation, HIV/AIDS, reproductive health, human/legal rights, rape & violence against women / gender-based violence, and trauma. RWN has also been involved in relief work.

Results and Outputs

- RWN's Village of Hope was a finalist in the Red Ribbon Awards Contest: Celebrating Community Leadership and Action on AIDS at the International AIDS Conference in Toronto in 2006
- Shelter construction benefiting 750 people and reconstruction benefiting 110 families of women victims of rape
- Training of 200 women on human and legal rights, structures and procedures
- Developed the training manual, A Guide To A Holistic Approach in Trauma Counseling In Rwanda: The Polyclinic of Hope Experience

Sources

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- International Refugee Rights Initiative, NGO Directory: Rwanda Women Network, <http://www.refugee-rights.org/NGODirectory/RWN-Rwanda.htm>
- Rwanda Women Network: www.rwandawomennetwork.org

Contact

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VIP (Violence is Preventable) Project-Eighteen and Under

Dundee, Scotland, *United Kingdom*

Violence is Preventable (VIP) was established in 1998 to provide primary violence prevention work for young children to young adults (0-18 years) and senior citizens in Scotland. The ubiquitous programme theme is that violence is preventable. A multitude of activities have been developed to address the many forms of violence against women including: abuse of power, bullying, domestic abuse, gender issues, homophobia, physical abuse, racism, rape, sectarianism, sexism and sexual abuse. VIP uses innovative delivery strategies including: games, songs, quizzes, DVDs, activity books, workbooks, stories and activities to engage individuals. Within ten years, the success of VIP has resulted in the programme expanding to further regions in the United Kingdom.



Objectives

- Educate young individuals of their rights and of alternatives to violence;
- Encourage the early disclosure of abuse ;
- Encourage young survivors to seek early support;
- Improve the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults;
- Prevent abuse and violence.

VIP provides public awareness, training and educational programs with the aim to promote the early disclosure of violence and abuse and to support and educate individuals about alternatives to violence and empowerment. VIP programmes are unique in that they explore the different perspectives of violence for the victim, perpetrator and witness. VIP encourages individuals to identify links between different forms of violence whilst exploring solutions. The main message for each programme increases in complexity with the target age group. VIP encourages individuals to express their own opinions as well as potentially destructive attitudes which can have greater implications in later life especially with respect to violence.

VIP offers a minimum of six sessions when working with children in pre-school. They instil the idea that they are entitled to happiness and security. The pre-school programme encourages the children to discuss any problem with a trusted adult. Promoting this behaviour encourages victims to disclose and cease all abuse. VIP also works with individuals that play an influential role in children's lives, including parents, teachers and youth leaders. This ensures that the positive messages of VIP are implemented and reinforced at an early stage in the child's life. Teachers are encouraged to deliver VIP programmes to pupils to transform the destructive behaviour that can lead to violence and abuse. The sister charity, Eighteen and Under provides training for any agency or school wishing to run the VIP programmes.

In May 2008 The Taywise project at Eighteen and Under carried out a survey on young people in Dundee and Angus on their views on violence and safety. The results of the survey highlighted key issues. One of the main concerns was that a high percentage of individuals did not feel safe. This issue will be focused on in future VIP programmes.

VIP has formed strong partnerships with all local bodies involved in violence prevention including: the police, social workers, public health members and school staff. VIP is currently working on new modes of delivering their values. They are also developing a programme focusing on raising awareness in the community which will assist women in local communities in becoming VIP project volunteers.

VIP has produced a selection of resources addressing a variety of issues specifically developed for children and vulnerable adults and the elderly. Eighteen and under is also developing a toolkit focusing on identifying young children most at risk of abuse at an early age.

Results / Outcomes / Tools

In 2008 long-term funding by the Nationwide Foundation allowed the programme to expand to 100 new schools and 100 new nurseries to help an estimated 500 children deal with their experiences of domestic violence.

In June 2008 a new evaluation of the effectiveness of the School-based abuse prevention programmes concluded that Eighteen And Under's Tweenees programme was the most effective in encouraging abuse disclosures.

The VIP Publication "See Us - Hear Us!" was officially launched in Scotland on 4 June 2008. The publication is aimed at both schools and youth organisations. It is a compilation of young survivor accounts on sexual abuse and their experience with the education system. It discusses how the individuals were supported and how schools can improve the handling of these issues. Workers within related organisations also participated and gave their accounts on years of providing practical and emotional support to young survivors. The publication is incredibly useful as the suggestions can be incorporated in the current crime prevention strategy to ensure that the needs of survivors of sexual abuse are being met. In addition, it educates good practice among those who work with young survivors.

VIP has won numerous awards and has been endorsed by the World Health Organisation's Global Alliance for the Prevention of Violence. Most recently, the organisation won the Make A Difference Award 2007 for outstanding work in the community, the Scottish Crime-Stoppers-Community Safety Award in 2006 and the 2005 Dundee Partnership Awards-Community Safety Award. In addition, VIP's "Building a Safer City Together" project won the 2004 Women's Safety Awards.

Sources

- Violence is preventable official website, <http://www.violenceispreventable.org.uk>, 25 August 2008.

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Kwa-Zulu Natal (KZN) Network on Violence against Women

Kwa-Zulu Natal, *South Africa*

The KZN Network on Violence against Women is a non-profit organisation founded in 1996. Its ethos is to promote gender equality in a non-violent society. The network campaigns for the prevention and eradication of all forms of violence against women (VAW) and the promotion of gender equality by using a variety of approaches including: lobbying, advocacy, capacity building and raising public awareness. The network also focuses on addressing the issue of HIV/AIDS through its efforts to prevent sexual violence - one of main contributors to the high levels of infection in South Africa. The Network represents an array of constituents from urban, to deep rural and traditional communities and encourages the utilisation of local resources to achieve its targets.



Objectives

- Contribute to developing legislative and policy documents and intervention strategies to eradicate all forms of violence against women;
- Monitor and evaluate implementation of relevant legal and policy reforms;
- Promote networking between member organizations, government and other NGOs on local, national and international levels;
- Raise awareness on legislations dealing with violence against women ;
- Co-ordinate strategies to change attitudes towards violence against women.

The KZN Network on violence against women developed a diverse range of activities to promote the empowerment of women in South Africa. The network organised the PEP Preparedness programme for affiliated member organisations in Kwa-Zulu Natal working in the VAW and HIV/AIDS sectors. The programme focused on raising community awareness and educating individuals on women's rights to treatment after rape and sexual assault. Public awareness campaigns during the 16 Days of Activism on No Violence against Women were also performed to highlight the project. PEP Program reached out to approximately 7,500 women and girls between January and August 2008.

The KZN Network organised a life skills programme for students in the eighth grade of high school on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights. This programme aimed to empower young women to make informed choices and addressed relevant issues including: sexually transmitted diseases, HIV transmission, teenage pregnancy and termination of pregnancy, as well as sexual and reproductive health. Training on Sexual and Reproductive Health, Rights and Life Skills reached 1,200 students in Grade 8 in six schools during 2007-2008. In addition, an eight-week training session for High School Educators on the subjects of Life Skills Orientation on Sexual and Reproductive Health, Rights and Life Skills was organised. This enabled the teachers to further examine these issues. A training manual was developed to support this programme.

The KZN Network worked in collaboration with the KZN Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO) and Regional AIDS Initiative in Southern Africa (RAISA) to facilitate a multi-sectorial consultation to assess service delivery in the gender violence sector with respect to the Domestic Violence Act to assess levels of service delivery and recommend improvements.

KZN Network of Women against Violence, Safer Cities and the Department of Community Safety and Liaison were the first partners to implement the Women's Safety Audit Project in KZN. The women's safety audit enabled community members, women, city planners, policy makers and local government to contribute to improving community safety among those affected by crime and violence. The Project focused on community environmental design and examined the factors which subjected women to live in fear of victimization. As a result environmental design improvements were made.

The KZN Network on Violence against Women worked in Partnership with AIDS Legal Network to produce a resource and training manual to address the co-epidemics of HIV and AIDS and Gender Based Violence, and to include the Human Rights Framework to ensure that the manual would be a practical tool for trainers to address the issues of Gender Violence and HIV and AIDS. The project was also accompanied by human rights awareness activities aiming to reduce the co-epidemics of HIV and Violence against Women and Girls and to stimulate and strengthen community-owned responses.

The KZN Network on Violence against Women worked in partnership with Centre of Study for Violence and Reconciliation (CSV), KZN Department of Justice and Constitutional Development and various other service providers to host the "Stop Violence against Women – Bus Campaign" in Kwa Zulu Natal. The campaign aimed to raise public awareness on related legislations (for example the Sexual Offences Bill) which promote women's right to safety and security, as well as preventing further violence towards women. In addition, the campaign aimed to inform women who have experienced either rape or domestic violence on the support available. Empowerment workshops on domestic violence and The Domestic Violence Act reached out to 2,400 women in the province during 2007-2008.

Results / Outcomes / Tools

Produced and co-produced numerous training manuals on various topics including: the link between Gender violence and HIV; Rape and treatment of PEP; Rights and Life Skills for learners; Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for educating women/girls in communities; as well as an information booklet on SRHR and a pamphlet for business employees on Domestic Violence.

Winner of the Nedbank – Business Women's Association KZN – Social Entrepreneur Award for 2007/2008 for work in communities on violence against women.

Sources

- Personal correspondence with Cookie Edwards, Director, KZN Network on Violence against Women, kznetwork@mweb.co.za, 2 September 2008.

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Social and Medical Care for Women Prostitutes *Médicos del Mundo* (Doctors of the World)

Spain

Prostitution in Spain has evolved over time in congruence with changes in Spanish immigration flows. In the early 1990s a great proportion of women prostitutes were young and worked primarily to finance their drug addiction. This group represented the vast majority of women within the realm of prostitution. At this time, their numbers grew steadily. These women were subject to a range of risk factors for the development of drug dependency. As a result of this addiction, they were particularly vulnerable to crime and experienced high rates of victimization. The numerous forms of victimization faced by women in the sex trade include: robbery, rape, physical abuse and kidnapping.

During this period, an additional group of “classic” prostitutes co-existed. This group mainly consisted of women older than those described previously and even included housewives who would prostitute themselves from time to time. In the mid-1990s the profile of prostitution began to change, influenced by the phenomenon of immigration. Women who had to leave their countries of origin either due to extreme poverty, political reasons or ethnic or religious wars found themselves working as prostitutes as a means of survival.

Women who work as prostitutes are in a situation of extreme vulnerability. They are stigmatized by society where their human rights as free citizens are often disregarded. These factors, coupled with the physical attributes of the spaces where prostitutes work (areas with sparse transit or lighting, clients’ vehicles, etc), create dangerous scenarios where women are at the mercy of violent individuals and groups. It is no surprise that a series of assaults and murders occurred in the 1990s, where the victims were women prostitutes.

Doctors of the World provides care for prostitutes in several regions of Spain: Andalucía, Asturias, Catalunya, Comunidad Valencia, Galicia, Balears Islands, Canary Islands and Madrid.



Objective

- Provide services to prostitutes in order to avoid the spread of HIV infections and the transmission of other STDs by implementing measures that increase protection factors.

The organization’s activities includes working in mobile clinics that reach areas where prostitutes work, as well as organizing interventions that take place directly in night clubs. Areas of equal importance include the permanent spaces where users can find low-stress environments that can provide them with opportunities to socialize and to escape momentarily from the pressures experienced when out in the street.

Most health care services are of a medical nature (obstetrics, HIV and other STD testing, psychological consultations, etc.), while others focus on reducing risk factors and problems associated with prostitution. Social services that are delivered by the organization include providing information and support in order to facilitate the administrative situation of immigrants and referral services that guide them towards existing labor, legal and social resources.

The main activities carried out by Doctors of the World include:

- *Health education*, including workshops on reproductive rights and sexual awareness, safe conducts and information sessions on HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases;
- *Psycho-social consultations* that usually result in referral and accompaniment to the public health system;
- *Dissemination of preventive material* and informative brochures;
- *Empowerment activities* that include workshops on safe-sex, nutrition, how to negotiate the use of condoms and workshops on self-esteem and self-care;
- *Training* and involvement of peer educators into the programs;
- *Participation* in national and international networks that stand for the rights of prostitutes;
- Carrying out *studies* and diagnosis.

Results

In 2005, Doctors of the World carried out 25,992 interventions (15,701 medical and sanitary attentions, 9,818 social services, and 403 mental health consultations).

A total of 8,091 people working in the sex trade have received attention, of which 88.48% were women, 7.05% transsexuals and 4.47% men. 1,092,863 condoms were distributed. Overall, 84.5% of all women who were attended by the program were foreigners (non-Spanish).

Sources

- <http://www.mujeresdevidaalegre.org/>
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- <http://www.medicosdelmundo.org/>

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Prevention and Awareness Program concerning violence against women “El patio de mi casa” (My backyard) Federación de Mujeres Progresistas

Madrid, *Spain*

The *Federación de Mujeres Progresistas* (FMP – Federation of Progressive Women) is one of the most advanced NGOs specializing in gender-based violence in Spain. Since 1999, this group has been working on prevention and on the treatment of abuse towards women from all walks of life. Their support can take several forms – psychological, judicial, medical, labor, child protection, etc.

The FMP is one of the founding members of the *Red Feminista contra la Violencia de Género* (Feminist Network against Gender-based Violence). This group fought for the establishment of a new law focusing on this problem, responsible for approximately 100 deaths yearly in Spain alone.

In 2007, a woman from the Alicante region was killed by her ex-boyfriend after having turned down his televised marriage proposal. When this murder occurred, Spain had already surpassed the number of women victims who had been killed by their partners from the previous year when the number stood at 69.

This incident triggered an awareness-raising campaign that sought to reach out to society as a whole with the idea that everyone who is aware of these acts of violence should speak out. In this sense, the campaign was called “*el patio de mi casa*” (my backyard).



Objectives

- The main goal was to demystify the long-standing belief that domestic violence is a private matter; rather, it is a social problem that affects everyone;
- To strengthen social support for women who are victims so that society and individuals do not sympathize for them but rather empathize, speak out and help them.

Within the context of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the FMP adapted a popular song to raise public awareness so that witnesses of domestic violence speak out as opposed to remaining silent accomplices.

A public service television commercial was filmed and distributed to local media. The video showed a scene of gender-based violence in an upper, middle-class home. The neighbors are witnesses to the scene and one of them calls the police. The video recreates a scene from an Alfred Hitchcock movie where a group of girls sing the following lyrics (see translation) “*El patio de mi casa no es particular, cuando pega se enteran todos los demás. Denúnciale, y vuelve a denunciar, con los maltratadores tenemos que acabar. Si él no la quiere otro amor encontrará*”. (My backyard is not private. When he hits her, everyone hears. Call the police and file a complaint! We have to do away with those who mistreat women. If he doesn’t love her, she will find another man that does.)

This awareness-raising campaign is aimed at all those who witness gender-based violence but who, for different reasons, remain passive and do not speak out and act to defend the victim and stop the situation from happening again.

Having carried out this campaign, it is expected that more people will file complaints related to cases of violence against women. Those who will file these complaints are often not the victims themselves but rather those who are aware of the problem and can contribute to putting a stop to it.

The campaign seeks to impart part of the responsibility upon those who are witnesses to violence against women and who do nothing about it.

The song heard during the TV commercial also seeks to create awareness among women who are victims and who do not speak out because of the sense of love that they feel for the aggressor, hoping that he will change his ways one day.

The deep-rooted message of the campaign implicitly creates a greater sense of independence in women and inspires them to develop more self-respect and to not stand for acts that will degrade them physically or psychologically.

Source

- *Federación Mujeres Progresistas* (Federation of Progressive Women)
<http://www.fmujeresprogresistas.org/>

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Samasevaya

Sri Lanka

Samasevaya was founded in 1958 and is one of the oldest civil society organisations in Sri Lanka. The organisation is government-registered and works to advance women's rights and promote peace, democracy, and human rights through development. It cooperates with all communities in Sri Lanka, including those considered to be underprivileged. Samasevaya believes in working on the principle of participation for good governance and social justice, hoping to mobilise people to collectively work for peace.

Samasevaya has a close relationship with the local police, the Women and Children Section of Anuradhapura Quarter Police, Provincial Ministry of Women's Affairs, Provincial Department of Probation and Childcare, as well as with other non-governmental organisations working on issues related to women's rights.

Samasevaya works in the fields of poverty-alleviation, environmental conservation, child development, election monitoring, youth activities as well as their 'Civil Society for Peace' projects. The organisation aims at moving towards the equal participation of women in political and civic life, decision-making and administration.

Samasevaya provides training and capacity-building to Sri Lankans, and psycho-social healing for refugees. They believe in the rights of women and that all men and women have a very important role in the transformation of the socio-economic position women. Samasevaya helps to strengthen the peace process in Sri Lanka and aims to facilitate the widespread acceptance of peoples' right to peace and development, and to strengthen civil society's contribution to conflict transformation. Through their programmes, they have been able to unite people to work for peace and make their voices heard.



Objectives

- Equal participation of women in political and civic life, decision-making, and administration;
- Advance women's rights and peace in Sri Lanka;
- Reduce and prevent violence against women;
- Increase awareness among women and girls of their rights.

Through different initiatives, Samasevaya seeks to minimize violence against women and girls by making them aware of women's rights. Furthermore they work to combat social and political violence in order to create an environment necessary for and conducive to peace.

Samasevaya has several approaches to fulfil their objectives. One such initiative works to increase the female participation and representation in Parliament and among local authorities, in response to the recognition that at present, women significantly underrepresented in these processes represented. Samasevaya believes that by increasing the representation of women among decision-makers and elected officials, the safety of women in Sri Lanka will also be strengthened.

Samasevaya also supports efforts to improve women's socio-economic positions and financial independence by providing them with loans. Women are also provided with training and knowledge on implementing agricultural and other income-generating activities.

Currently Samasevaya hosts a number of other initiatives aimed at promoting peace. For example, they launched an educational program on national harmony called the Cultural Group for Peace (Sama Sanskruthika Parshadaya). In this group young people from different ethnicities write, perform, and record music about peace. Their aim is to popularise the Sri Lankan peace process and bring different ethnicities together. Another approach targeting the same aim is an exchange programs facilitating Sinhalese visits to Tamil areas, and vice versa. The aim is to create acceptance, understanding and a feeling of unity between the two ethnic groups.

The peace programs aim to show politicians that the benefits of peace far outweigh those of war, thus making them understand that any action towards conflict transformation will secure more votes than actions prolonging the conflict.

Results and Outcomes

At the occasion of the World Rural Women's Day in 2005, Samasevaya launched a debris clearing campaign with rural women in the Tsunami-affected areas. Sri Lankan Muslim women who normally are not allowed to work along with men, received permission from the Mosque to work and earn a daily wage.

Sources

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Kivulini Women's Rights Organisation

Mwanza, *Tanzania*

Kivulini is a registered non-profit Tanzanian women's rights organization, founded in 1999. It was born out of an innovative community-based approach for preventing domestic violence in Mwanza on the basis of the manual "Mobilizing Communities to Prevent Domestic Violence, A Resource Guide" which was developed by Raising Voices, a no-governmental organization based in Kampala, Uganda. Kivulini advocates for women's and girl's rights in Tanzania by emphasizing the prevention of domestic against women and girls.

The Kiswahili word Kivulini means "in the shade". It implies a place of safety, under a tree or otherwise, where people meet for discussions and offer support to one another. Kivulini was established to create opportunities for community members to come together, talk, organize and work towards preventing domestic violence so that women and girls are able to enjoy their rights as stipulated in the Constitution of The United Republic of Tanzania, African Charter, and various human rights conventions.

Kivulini's strategic program approach is based on the fact that violence does not just happen, but is entrenched in societal norms and practices. The activities focus on prevention of domestic violence rather than service provision, working to raise awareness both on the causes and consequences of domestic violence among communities in Mwanza. Kivulini's initiatives address the links between women's unequal status, their vulnerability to HIV infection and the interconnection with gender-based violence. The strategies used by Kivulini are community mobilization, capacity-building of community leaders and NGOs, and advocacy for policy changes. Kivulini actively engages religious and traditional leaders in the project, involving them right from the initial stages of project development.



Objectives

- Catalyzing communities at the grassroots level to change the attitudes and behaviours that perpetuate violence against women;
- Advocating for change within existing community structures to create an environment supportive of women's rights and priorities, particularly safety;
- Capacity-building of community leaders to understand the impact of violence;
- Improving women's social-economic status through legal support, counselling and life skills training;
- Increasing awareness on the link between HIV/AIDS and gender-based violence and challenging current attitudes surrounding sexual practices to ensure reduction in the transmission of HIV.

Individual members therefore work at grassroots level and are committed to volunteer their time and energy to conduct community awareness and education sessions on domestic violence. Community volunteers engage their respective constituents to challenge traditional norms and customs that encourage gender based violence. They also support and counsel victims of violence, referring them to human rights organizations, hospitals, courts and ward tribunals.

Kivulini's mission seeks to achieve this vision by facilitating an enabling social, economical, and legal environment which guarantees women and girls right to live in violence free communities through self-empowerment, advocacy and building an active social movement for change. Kivulini acknowledges that economic empowerment of women is key to their escaping situations of domestic

violence. Following this line of reasoning, the organization runs the Kivulini Stationary Shop and Secretarial Services as well as the Kivulini Kitchen - business projects with all female staff, thereby giving women the opportunity to become financially independent. The organization recognizes that involving women in local leadership and decision-making processes is key to changing attitudes and behaviours conducive to violence against women. Finally, Kivulini works to ensure that women and girls have access to education.

Kivulini's Community Mobilisation Program works to prevent domestic violence against women at the community level by engaging both men and women in various activities. This flagship program of Kivulini concentrates its prevention efforts locally, focusing on the Illemela and Nyamagana districts where domestic violence is considered to be a community problem.

Kivulini works to increase awareness of the problem of domestic violence through an effective communications strategy that includes the dissemination of communications materials. People working in related areas are provided with training as part of the capacity-building component, thereby deepening the understanding and skills of community members and professional sectors to prevent domestic violence. Local activism is therefore nurtured.

Kivulini engages in advocacy, calling for special attention on women's needs and encourage positive change. They also aim to change relevant policies to prevent domestic violence.

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- Preventing Gender-based Violence, <http://staging.unhcr.org/programmes/safecities/documents/preventgbv.pdf>, 25 August 2008

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Trinidad & Tobago Coalition against Domestic Violence

Trinidad and Tobago

The Trinidad & Tobago Coalition against Domestic Violence (T&TCADV) was founded in 1998 to centralize efforts to prevent and eradicate domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence in Trinidad and Tobago. The Coalition is formed by over 30 organisations and individuals who provide a comprehensive series of services to satisfy their objectives.



Objectives

- Provide mutual support;
- Exchange information about activities in which each individual unit was engaged;
- Lobbying and advocacy for human rights issues;
- Providing various forms of direct support for victims of gender-based violence;
- Research, public education, counselling;
- Witness support and legal aid (where this is otherwise unobtainable);
- Prevention programmes.

The Peace, Love and Understanding in Schools (PLUS) Programme is a school-based violence prevention programme aimed at building the capacity of teachers to be positive influences on their students' lives and organized a workshop entitled *Alternative Strategies for Building Classrooms of Peace* to help build this capacity. Additionally, a "Whole School Pilot programme for Primary schools" was introduced as a prevention strategy for children to learn peaceful conflict resolution strategies emphasizing respect for oneself and for others.

T&TCADV offers free counselling services for both victims and perpetrators of domestic violence, including young people. Counselling can be done individually or as a couple. The Rape Crisis Centre runs in 2 locations and has a free telephone hotline that runs 24/7. It also offers workshops to the community, emphasizing prevention rather than focusing exclusively on counselling after the fact. Education and sensitisation lie at the core of the centre's prevention work, teaching people how to understand the broad underlying issues, and teaching conflict resolution skills. This now serves as a model for the Caribbean. Given the relation between domestic violence, low self-esteem and financial dependence of women, the Centre works to empower women, providing them with marketable skills to sever this link to prevent abuse.

T&TCADV introduced 2 other toll-free telephone support lines. "ChildLine" "aims to ensure that children in Trinidad & Tobago live in an environment free from physical, emotional, sexual and psychological violence"²⁷; and "Stop Elder Abuse Now" which serves as a reporting, referral and counselling service. The Coalition also operates a Legal Clinic, offering legal advice for people experiencing domestic abuse.

The Children's Education Fund provides children affected by domestic violence with the tool necessary for them to continue their education (eg. Uniforms, books, transportation).

The Witness/Victim Programme is a new initiative that provides support to victims of domestic violence or sexual assault as they pursue legal action against their abusers.

27. *Ibid.*

The T&TCADV cooperate regularly with police on several initiatives. They have provided police with training and education about how to handle cases of domestic violence and sexual abuse, including on how to interpret the laws that govern these behaviours and on counselling abusers. They set up a Community Police Safe house and provided police with Anger Management and Behaviour Modification training. Counselling services are offered to officers at risk for perpetuating violence in their own homes.

Results

The T&TCADV have taught the police and judiciary how to be gender sensitive in their service provision via workshops that highlight the distinction between gender and sex, shed light on the causes of domestic violence, and discuss the legislative framework for dealing with such cases, using case studies to illustrate. The workshops were funded by the Inter-American Development Bank, and were so successful that they will be replicated at the regional level, addressing the rest of the Caribbean judiciary.

Anger Management and Behaviour Modification training was provided to 300 police officers and recruits in 2000.

In 2001, women police officers were given a workshop on “Interviewing Child Victims of Sexual Abuse”, funded by the Canadian Gender Equality Fund. This was followed by a “Recall Workshop” in 2002, organised to evaluate the impact of the first workshop.

Sources

- National Judicial Institute, *Approaches to Domestic and Gender-Based Violence in Trinidad and Tobago*, http://www.nji.ca/nji/internationalforum/flatters_full.pdf, 22 July 2008
- Personal correspondence with Deborah McFee, Outreach & Research Officer, Centre for Gender & Development Studies, The University of the West Indies, 22 July 2008
- Trinidad & Tobago Coalition against Domestic Violence, <http://www.ttcadv.net/>, 21 July 2008

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The Women's Institute for Alternative Development

Trinidad & Tobago

The Women's Institute for Alternative Development (WINAD) was founded in 1999. WINAD's works on 3 different programme areas: Gender, Security and Justice; Leadership and Youth; and HIV/AIDS, and all aspects of its work are influenced by the principles of the gender framework. Members are trained in gender analysis and the outreach projects are designed with the intention of introducing and or enhancing gender analysis of situations.



Objectives

- Build sisterhood among women;
- Promote women's participation in all decision making processes;
- Promote respect for women's human rights and for gender justice;
- Promote initiatives to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women;
- Promote initiatives to encourage women's conscious and collective action;
- Promote initiatives for the social and political transformation of our society;
- Collaborate with State and Non State Actors to build a just society;
- Develop alternative learning and social institutions.

Results

WINAD initiated discussions on small arms in the Caribbean in 2001 in response to increasing gun violence in Trinidad and Tobago. It has successfully persuaded States and Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to use a gendered perspective in order to comprehend the various dimensions of the problem and to utilise gender analysis for research and policy responses. In 2002, WINAD brought together state and non state actors to explore the causes and consequences of gun violence in T & T. A regional meeting soon followed bringing together representatives from 10 countries where it was agreed that more research at the regional level was needed. In 2003, WINAD co-hosted a round table for Caribbean NGOs to formulate a plan of action for cooperation in the region. It also mobilised women in Laventille, a community plagued by gun violence, for discussions on the impact of gun violence on women's lives.

In 2006, WINAD regional community partners for two days of discussions and analysis, resulting in the creation of the "Caribbean Coalition of Civil Society Organisations". The Coalition includes representatives from: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.

The Coalition lobbied CARICOM governments to support the Resolution on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) which was debated and voted on in the First Committee of the United Nations in October 2006. Six CARICOM governments co-sponsored the resolution: Trinidad and Tobago, Haiti, St Vincent and the Grenadines, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia and Belize, and all CARICOM governments supported it.

Other initiatives include the following activities and research papers: 2004 – No Guns for Christmas media campaign; 2005 – Gang/Community Leaders Meeting; 2006 – A Human Security Concern: The Traffick, Use and Misuse of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Caribbean; 2007 – Youth, Peace and Justice schools based project; 2007 - Caribbean Dynamics Related to Agreeing and Implementing Global Principles for Small Arms Transfers; 2008 - Small Arms Proliferation and Misuse: Towards a Caribbean Plan of Action.

WINAD has undertaken awareness-raising efforts in collaboration with community partners about the social impact of gun violence. It has also worked collaboratively in the development of intervention strategies. In June 2008, following a workshop organised by WINAD at a local high school, inspired teenagers decided to designate violence-free zones, and, with WINAD's assistance, established a "Peace Zone" at their school.

In addition to its work on small arms, WINAD introduced its "Inter-Generational Women's Leadership Programme" aimed at building women's leadership; providing transformational leadership for Trinidad and Tobago; building sisterhood and providing succession planning for the Women's Movement in the country. Various workshops addressing issues such as globalization, self awareness, sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, political participation, violence, finance, human rights, feminist theorizing, media, advocacy, spirituality and environment are offered and facilitated by WINAD members and associates.

In July 2001, WINAD introduced "The Hazel Medina Young Women's Leadership Training Programme" intended to train young women in issues of human rights, women's leadership and gender and development, including feminist research methodologies. It promotes feminist research as a tool for addressing women's issues and other social phenomenon.

Sources

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Raising Voices

Kampala, *Uganda*

Raising Voices works to prevent gender based violence by addressing the underlying causes of violence against women, such as traditional gender roles and patriarchy. It works to change the attitudes and behaviours that promote violence against women, and support sustainable violence prevention programmes. Raising Voices is a Tides Center project established in 1999.



Objectives

- Strengthen primary violence prevention programmes;
- Reduce violence against women;
- Develop and disseminate tools and materials to assist other organizations in preventing gender-based violence.

Raising Voices works in partnership with various organizations work at all levels, from community-based organisations to governments to international organisations to increase the effectiveness and impact of violence prevention strategies. It also seeks to increase the number of organisation working to this end. To accomplish this, it launched a 3-year *Partners in Prevention* initiative in 2008, working in collaboration with 10 organizations from the Horn, East and Southern Africa. The initiative is comprehensive, composed of 4 components: a training course for 10 organisations; provision of technical and seed support for 8 organisations; implementation of at least 5 learning centres, demonstrating implementation of VAW prevention programmes and knowledge-sharing; dissemination of case studies highlighting lessons learned and recommendations for the region.

Strengthening VAW Prevention: Raising Voices and the Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP) are collaborating to implement an innovative national training model aimed at strengthening the quality and effectiveness of 10 community-based Ugandan organisations in violence prevention. The model is based on the *Mobilizing Communities to Prevent Domestic Violence* tool developed by Raising Voices and runs over 18-months, offering support and a series of training workshops.

Recognizing that HIV infection is both a cause and consequence on violence against women, Raising Voices published *Sasa! An Activist Kit to Prevent Violence against Women, HIV and AIDS*, in 2008. SASA! offers organisations already working on HIV or VAW prevention with the tools to recognize the link between the two to be able to systematically and simultaneously work to prevent both of them. Sasa means “now” in Kiswahili and is also an acronym for the four sections of this multi-media toolkit: “Start, how to begin your work; Awareness, educating and providing information on the link; Support, providing suggestions and a platform for discussion on how we can create supportive relationships and communities; and Action, practical ideas for how everyone can prevent VAW and HIV”²⁸.

Raising Voices regularly provides both on-site and distance technical support to organisation working to prevent violence against women, including to the over 120 members of the GBV Prevention Network.

28. <http://www.raisingvoices.org/sasa/index.php>

Results and Tools

Raising Voices and two of its most renowned tools: *Mobilising Communities to Prevent Domestic Violence: A Resource Guide for Organisations in East and Southern Africa* and *Rethinking Domestic Violence: A Training Process for Community Activists* have undergone external evaluations. In all cases, evaluation results overwhelmingly highlighted the indispensable work of the organisation and the pertinence, adaptability, and ease of use of its tools, and a full 67.7% of respondents reported that they have shared or recommended the Resource Guide to partners and 58% have shared the Training Process with others²⁹.

Raising Voices has developed a number of communications materials to raise awareness of violence against women, including posters, games, murals, exhibitions, and information sheets. A training video for organisations working to prevention gender-based violence has also been developed. In 2002, Raising Voices and the Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention established a Gender-Based Violence Prevention Network with over 120 members. They also developed a Learning Centre (www.preventGBVAfrica.org) for individuals and organisations working to prevention violence against women. Organized visits are catered to the needs and interests of the client and can last from 2-3 day to several weeks. Over 120 people from across the world have taken advance of these tailored visits to the Learning Centre. It also acts as an online resource for people working for gender-based violence prevention.

Other tools developed by Raising Voices are: The Approach in Action: A Training Video for Organisations using the Resource Guide; SASA! An Activist Kit to Prevent Violence Against Women, HIV and AIDS; SASA! Film; and Good School Toolkit.

Today, approximately 2,500 Raising Voices program tools have been translated into 10 different languages and disseminated by request in 65 countries.

Sources

- Raising Voices Official Website: <http://www.raisingvoices.org/>, 4 August 2008
- Ruff, Simone (prepared for Raising Voices, 2005) Evaluation Report: Raising Voices Program Tools, accessed online at: <http://www.raisingvoices.org/files/RVProgramToolsEvaluation.pdf>, 4 August 2008
- Tides Centre Official Website, Case Studies and Projects – Raising Voices, <http://www.tidescenter.org/projects-impact/casestudies/raising-voices/index.html>, 4 August 2008

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www.raisingvoices.org

29. Evaluation Report: Raising Voices Program Tools, p. 5

Women's Design Service

United Kingdom

In 1987, a group of women architects, designers and planners got together and established the Women's Design Service (WDS). WDS aimed at helping to build the capacity of women's groups to improve buildings, making them safer for women and for everyone. In working with these various women's groups, the WDS noticed some points of convergence between the groups about issues "critical to the creation of successful environments for women, notably: toilets, nappy changing, crèches, housing design, parks, pavements, safety and transport".

Once these themes were identified, the Women's Design Service began researching and publishing guides for designers and decision makers to make spaces safer and more appropriate for women. The organization has since shifted its focus to regenerations projects based on translating action research with groups of women into concrete action by policy makers and designers.



Goals

- Be a woman centred and woman led organisation and work to achieve gender equality;
- Promote inclusive design and planning that is responsive to the needs of women especially those who have been traditionally marginalised;
- Be an ethically based organisation acting with commitment and integrity;
- Be a rights based organisation valuing diversity and promoting equality;
- Promote empowerment, participation and partnership;
- Create an open, honest, supportive and transparent organisation;
- Act in a professional manner at all times;
- Create an efficient, effective and influential organisations;
- Be a learning organisation encouraging creativity, adaptability and sharing of knowledge;
- Minimise any negative environmental impact and promote sustainability in all our projects and working practices.

In the late 1990s, WDS created its *Making Safer Places* projects that aimed to identify how the build environment could be changes in order to improve women's sense of safety, thus allowing women to "reclaim the right to use public space as and when they wish". WDS adapted the existing Women's Safety Audit tool to better suit their reality, following seven stages: "discussion, mapping, observation, recording, analysis, presentation and implementation". They then undertook a series of audits of designated public space over the period of a few months and were awarded a 3-year grant to sustain the initiative, implemented in 6 pilot sites. In all 6 sites, recommendations for improvements have been implemented.

In 2007, Women's Design Service turned its attention to city parks, in an initiative entitled *What to do about Women's Safety in Parks*. Some recommendations have already been implemented.

Results and Tools³⁰

Gendersite: An initiative of the Women's Design Service to act as an online resource centre for decision-makers and planners to gain a deeper understanding of how between gender issues and the built environment intersect. A series of case studies are featured on the website, and provides a series of additional references, including: "books, bibliographies, broadcasts, conference papers, journals, reports, unpublished PhDs and more".

What to Do About Women's Safety in Parks: The publication summarizes the issues and design features that contribute to women's actual and perceived safety in parks. It contains a series of practical "What to Do...." sheets on a variety of safety-related topics.

Re-Moving the Goalposts - Perspectives on Women and Regeneration: The guide is a tool addressed to all actors involved in regeneration and renewal, promoting inclusiveness and building on local capacity and knowledge throughout the regeneration and renewal processes. The guide highlights some of the challenges facing women living in regeneration areas and suggests strategies for overcoming those barriers. The guide includes checklists to assess to the degree of inclusiveness of the process.

Sources

- Women's Design Service, Official Website <http://www.wds.org.uk/>
- Gendersite: Gender and the Built Environment, *Safety in Public Urban Space: The Work of Women's Design Service*, accessed online at: http://www.gendersite.org/pages/safety_in_public_urban_space_the_work_of_womens_design_service.html, on 21 July 2008

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30. Please note that this is only a small sample of the outputs of the Women's Design Service. Please consult their website for a comprehensive list.

National Latino Alliance for the Elimination of Domestic Violence (Alianza)

New York, *United States of America*

The National Latino Alliance for the Elimination of Domestic Violence (Alianza) was established in 1997. Alianza believes that the prevention of domestic violence against women in Latino communities requires participation from both sexes. Alianza's work with men and boys is essential in order to stop the cycle of violence against women from generation to generation. The organisation identifies domestic abusers as individuals who need to be provided with services and programs to develop their lives and sustain their non-violent behaviour to advocate non-violence against women. The organisation's work focuses on four key areas including: raising public awareness on domestic violence in Latino communities, developing public policy, research and training and experience.



Objectives

- Promote understanding;
- Initiate and sustain dialogue ;
- Generate solutions that move toward the elimination of domestic violence affecting Latino communities.

Alianza takes an integrated approach to develop domestic violence prevention programmes by collaborating with federal agencies and organisations. This approach ensures that Alianza programmes are more specialised to the Latino community than the assumption that one programme fits all. Alianza has played a pivotal role in preventing domestic violence against women at the national level by developing: training courses, research, policies and community education.

Alianza's violence prevention work with men is carried out both at intervention and prevention levels. Alianza's workshops teach that violence against women is completely unacceptable. Each man is provided with tools and skills to promote behaviour of non-violence. The organisation's work with Latino boys is a crucial step in eliminating domestic violence from the Latino community. Alianza's workshop and training sessions ensure that adults are made aware of the younger generation's opinions on violence against women and support their efforts in prevention. Alianza is now working on providing spaces in which young people will have the opportunity to discuss means of preventing violence in their lives as well as others and how they can provide guidance for the development of creative solutions.

In 2002 two Alianza members developed a specialised training guide on interventions to treat abusive men while protecting domestic violence victims entitled, Programs for Men Who Batter: Intervention and Prevention Strategies in a Diverse Society. The publication provides 10 different intervention programmes developed to work with different groups of male abusers together with an in depth coverage of key issues that professionals in this field must address. The training guide stresses the need for intervention programme providers to hold the abusers responsible for their own actions and to coordinate program services with domestic violence victim services groups.

Results and tools

During July 18-23 2008 a representative from Alianza's National Latino Research Centre on Domestic Violence presented a speech entitled "Working with Men and Boys to End Domestic Violence". This presentation increased the public's awareness of Alianza's work for preventing violence against women at the national coalition against domestic violence, Washington DC.

On April 26 2005, More than 100 men and women attended Alianza's Men Speak Out Against Domestic Violence event in New York City. This event gave Latino men an opportunity to publicly speak out against domestic violence.

In August 2008, two leading members from the Alianza published, 'Family Violence and Men of Colour: Healing the Wounded Male Spirit ".The book offers specialised treatment methods and approaches in order to prevent violence against women. It aims to develop practitioners' and students' competence skills when working with male violence in communities of colour. Examples of communities addressed include: Maori, African American and Latino.

The organisation has developed numerous materials addressing intervention programmes for Latinos who batter as well as programmes targeted at young boys. Alianza publications are available on the Alianza website in a variety of forms including: fact sheets, reports, pamphlets, programme materials and manuals. Most publications are available in Spanish.

Sources

- National Latino Alliance for the Elimination of Domestic Violence Official Website <http://www.dvalianza.org/>, 5 September 2008.

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4.

National...

...STRATEGIES

National Training, Technical Assistance and Awareness-Raising Strategy for Violence against Women

Argentina

The agreements reached by the United Nations in November 1996 inspired the development and implementation of the National Training, Technical Assistance and Awareness-Raising Strategy for Violence against Women in Argentina.



Objective

- To identify strategies at the national, provincial and municipal levels, in collaboration with non-governmental organizations, for the creation and/or reinforcement of social services aimed at preventing or assisting women victims of violence.

Activities at the National Level

The *Consejo Nacional de la Mujer* (National Council for Women or “CNM”) has designed a strategy that aims to provide intervention tools for governmental and non-governmental organizations that work in the field of domestic violence against women. As a result, a series of related communications materials entitled “*La violencia contra las mujeres en el ámbito de las relaciones familiares*” (Violence against women within family relations) have been developed to address the many issues of violence against women.

One of these tools is an information kit that provides essential information on violence against women and means of addressing this issue. Legal documentation, methodological intervention tools, and guidelines for providing assistance to prevent violence against women or assist victims of abuse are also provided. This kit addresses a diverse range of topics including: the emergence of violence against women as a social problem; violence against women within family relations; intervention methodologies at the local level; and intervention techniques: prevention and assistance.

The CNM has developed a Monitoring and Information System on Domestic Violence against Women. The collection and distribution of trustworthy and systematic information is one of the most valuable and effective tools to investigate and disseminate the underlying factors of the problem of violence against women.

The implementation of the system has enabled estimates to be made based on quantitative data due to the collation of records on institutional demands for support services required by victims who use the social and health systems. By collecting and analyzing data on the socio-demographic profile, family background, and reasons for requiring service, it is possible to improve the understanding on the factors underlying this phenomenon.

Currently, more than 40 clinics and service points across the country have been trained on how to use and apply the previously mentioned system. The majority of them are currently carrying out intensive statistical analysis in order to obtain valuable information on those who are being treated.

Based on compiled information, the CNM will design and produce communications materials that will be disseminated in order to inform the public on the current situation of women who are victims of violence and on the specialized social services available. The information will also serve to produce a comparative analysis between the country’s different regions.

Additionally, informative brochures have been produced and distributed in order to raise public awareness of the new and existing legislation that protects women who are victims of violence.

Activities at the regional, community and neighborhood levels

The information kit provides technical assistance and training information. It enables the requesting organization and the CNM to assess local requirements and to develop activities in response to these local and/or regional needs. In addition, the information kit promotes the reinforcement of specialized services and cross-cutting policies implemented by provincial and local governments.

One of the program's priorities is to stimulate the creation of networks of provincial and/or municipal governments with civil society organizations that are specialized in assisting women who are victims of domestic violence.

The dissemination materials were presented and delivered to trainers from across the country. Training sessions were held in the provinces of Santa Cruz, Corrientes, Jujuy, and La Pampa.

Legislation

- Women's rights and the Constitution of Argentina: Summary of articles related to women's rights that were added to the constitution reformed in 1994;
- Bill 2.385/93 on sexual harassment in public administration;
- Bill 24.417 on Protection from Domestic Violence;
- Bill 24.632 sanctioning the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, Convention of Belém do Pará.

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National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and Children

Australia

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, one in three Australian women experience violence in their lifetime and Indigenous women are 40 times more likely to be victims of family violence compared to other Australian women. These statistics incited the Australian government to develop a coherent and efficient national plan, supported by adequate resources, to insure the protection and well-being of Australian women. The Plan will be subject to ongoing monitoring and evaluation to assess its success in fulfilling its main objective: to achieve women's safety over time.

In May 2008, the Australian Federal government established a National Council on Violence against Women and Children. This council was put in place to draft a National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and Children as well as assist the government with the development and implementation of the plan.



Objectives³¹

- Promote activities across the country, especially in rural and regional communities, to raise awareness on domestic violence;
- Educate high school students on the issue;
- Apply tougher laws and practices for the prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault across the country;
- Research into international best practices in order to apply them for working with perpetrators of violence.

The National Plan's budget includes \$1 million AUS to promote activities organized by the White Ribbon Foundation which aims to eliminate violence against women by promoting culture-change around the issue. In high schools, the implementation of a visit system where community role models will promote respectful relationships as well as the importance of not using violence work to change future behaviours and prevent future violence against women.

The Australian Government plans to increase the funding of the Australian Institute of Criminology's National Homicide Monitoring program in order to identify the characters of offenders, victims as well as the circumstances in which a homicide occurs. This information will provide a basis for the implementation of policies on the prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault. The federal Labor with the States and Territories will work together to harmonize all the laws as well as develop new ways of prevention.

31. Australian Labor Party: <http://www.alp.org.au/media/1107/mswom180.php>
National Council to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children:
http://www.ofw.fahcsia.gov.au/womens_safety_agenda/national_council_reduce_violence.htm

A number of structures have been put in place to support the Plan's implementation.

The National Council on Violence against Women and Children was established by the federal government in May 2008. The Council is responsible for providing the government with expert advice on methods for reducing domestic violence as well as sexual assault on women and children. Members of the National Council are selected amongst academics, law enforcement agencies, survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and peak service bodies. The Council's mission is to:

- Offer guidance in the consolidation of good practice and policy development in the prevention of crime against women and children.
- Recommend priorities for national initiatives under the Plan.
- Encourage and plan opportunities for collaboration between the States and Territories and the Commonwealth.
- Supervise all agencies and government divisions in their progress
- Encourage and promote the dissemination and exchange of information on the prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault
- Evaluate and monitor the implementation of the National Plan and update it
- Report on the Council's progress to the Minister for the Status of Women³²

The Women's Service Network (WESNET) was established in 1992, and based in Canberra, Australia, Wesnet is a national peak service advocacy body which promotes responses to ensure the safety of women and children as well as empower them. Its main objectives are to provide, on a national level, leadership in relation to domestic violence and sexual assault, to be involved in the development as well as the monitoring of legislation and programs related to women and children's safety, to promote awareness on the subject and to ensure equity of access to all the services provided to women and their children³³.

The National Association of Services Against Sexual Violence (NASASV) is a peak body organization which has the mission to support victims of sexual assault. Their main objectives is to participate and collaborate with the government in developing policies to build safer communities, to advocate an understanding of sexual assault through gender and power relations, to raise awareness and promote information on the consequences of sexual violence³⁴.

Sources and Contact

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- National Council to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children: www.ofw.fahcsia.gov.au/womens_safety_agenda/national_council_reduce_violence.htm
- The National Association of Services Against Sexual Violence (NASASV): <http://www.nasasv.org.au>
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32. National Council to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children: http://www.ofw.fahcsia.gov.au/womens_safety_agenda/national_council_reduce_violence.htm

33. The Women's Service Network: <http://www.wesnet.org.au/>

34. The National Association of Services Against Sexual Violence (NASASV): <http://www.nasasv.org.au>

National Action Plan against Human Trafficking (Nationaler Aktionsplan gegen Menschenhandel)

Austria

Austria is a transit and destination country for women trafficked from Central and Eastern European Countries for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and forced labour. The number of cases has been increasing and for this reason the Council of Ministers set up the Human Trafficking Task Force (*Task Force Menschenhandel*) in 2004. The Task Force works under the supervision of the Austrian Foreign Ministry and aims to define, coordinate and intensify the Austrian measures to prevent and address human trafficking. Regular meetings are held between the Task Force and all the Ministries that work on issues related to human trafficking, as well as victim's protection institutions and relevant NGOs.

In March 2007, the Austrian Government launched the National Action Plan against Human Trafficking which can be seen as the main result of the task force's work. It takes a comprehensive approach to combating human trafficking and includes measures for national coordination, prevention, protection of victims, prosecution and international cooperation.



Objectives

- Coordinate national efforts against human trafficking and ensure international cooperation;
- Prevent human trafficking;
- Protect victims of human trafficking and provide them with compensation;
- Prosecute perpetrators of human trafficking;
- Ensure ongoing monitoring and evaluation of all actions under the Plan.

The National Action Plan against Human Trafficking is divided into 7 parts whereas these reflect the objectives which are supposed to be achieved in accordance with the applicable legal status of Austria. The Plan is supported by 3.4M euros by the Austrian Government, who also support international projects aimed at improving training of the police and judicial staff in matters related to trafficking. Until March 2008, a National Coordinator against Human Trafficking had been charged with following the implementation of the Plan.

The National Action Plan against Human Trafficking contains several measures on the field of prevention. The importance of sensitization and awareness-raising activities are recognized in order to reach a broader audience. In 2007, the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs and Consumer Protection funded the "W.E.S.T.-Info III" project, led by the association "Mountain Unlimited". The project aimed to disseminate information to the Lower Austria region and contributed to raising awareness among representatives of the municipalities and among the media, the greater public, and staff working in the areas of social affairs, women's affairs and migration.

The human security of victims is central to the Plan, with particular emphasis on women, as well as children and youth. The National Action Plan seeks to find solutions for them concerning their living and working conditions and therefore aims at disburden their reintegration into the society. Of further support to trafficking victims is a national hotline offering victims counselling and referral services.

In the area of criminal prosecution, the National Action Plan implemented a pilot project, designated an authority of human trafficking within the Department of Public Prosecution in Vienna (*Staatsanwaltschaft Wien*).

Part of the National Action Plan focuses on International Cooperation. This sector concentrates on activities that take place abroad to improve the situation in the victim's country of origin, especially in South East Europe. Of central importance to the work done internationally is sensitisation and events used for information dissemination, as well as campaigns. Additionally, the Plan supports the development of activities aimed at improving the economic status and independence of groups deemed to be at risk of being trafficked, such as women and girls in rural areas, orphans, foster children and minorities such as the Roma people.

Results and Outcomes

Working to guarantee that the activities developed and implemented under the plan are results-orientated and sustainable, data collection, monitoring and evaluation efforts are ongoing. So far, one of the outcomes from these procedures is the Austrian Report on Combating Human Trafficking, taking into account the period from March 2007 to the end of May 2008.

Sources

- Austrian Foreign Ministry
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- Federal Ministry of Interior, *Stronger against Human Trafficking*,
www.bmi.gv.at/oeffentlicherheit/2007/09_10/MENSCHENHANDEL.pdf,
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- First Austrian Report on Combating Human Trafficking
http://www.bmeia.gv.at/fileadmin/user_upload/bmeia/First_Austrian_Report_in_THB_080730.pdf

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National Policy to Fight Violence against Women

Brazil

The National Program to Fight Violence against Women was implemented by the Ministry of Women's Rights. Its goal was to build safe-houses and establish specialized offices to support women who were victims of abuse by 2002. In 2003 the *Secretaria especial de Políticas para las Mujeres* (Ministry of Policies for Women or SPM) was established to furthermore develop comprehensive policies.



Objectives

- To create a comprehensive national policy that addresses violence against women;
- To unite related governmental agencies to furthermore develop available resources and to expand services to the public;
- To address all forms of violence against women;
- To reduce and eliminate violence against women, including physical violence, psychological, sexual, moral and patrimonial;
- To reduce and eliminate violence within the community including: rape, sexual abuse, torture, trafficking of women, forced prostitution, kidnapping and sexual harassment;
- To reduce and eliminate institutional violence such as discrimination, amongst others.

The SPM is a governmental department responsible for coordinating related prevention activities within each Brazilian state. In turn, each state implements its programs according to local contexts. This adaptation is done by working at the local level with citizens and local partners from civil society and the private sector.

Activities at the national level

The Brazilian Federal Government establishes objectives and goals for the public administration of specific programs and activities.

During its 5 years of existence, the Ministry of Policies for Women (SPM) has reinforced the National Policy to Fight Violence against Women through the following activities:

1. Implementation of the *Maria da Penha Law*: a modern legislation that facilitates justice in cases of domestic violence against women.
2. Creation of the *Maria da Penha Observatory*, whose goal is to monitor the implementation of the Maria da Penha Law.
3. Expansion of the *specialized services available to women*: training of personnel providing support. Examples of workers who receive such training includes: judges, prosecutors and police officers.
4. Creation of specialized offices working in coordination with the Ministry of Justice aiming to support women who have been victimized.

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5. Establishment of the 180 Hotline – an emergency phone number acting as a point of entry into the treatment system.
 6. Establishment of a database with comprehensive information on the availability of specialized services, updated monthly.

Several inter-institutional agreements have been accomplished between states, municipalities and SPM. The agreements aim to promote collaborative efforts on a variety of topics including: prevention of HIV/AIDS, reduction of maternal mortality, dissemination of the national policy on sexual and reproductive rights. In addition, the SPM has a “public defender” or ombudsman. The ombudsman provides information and refers cases using the appropriate bodies working at either federal, state or municipal levels.

Legislation

- Bill N° 11.340 from 2006, concerning domestic violence perpetrated, against women;
- Bill N° 10.224 from 2001, concerning sexual harassment;
- Legislative Decree N°107 from 1995, which sanctions as a national law the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, *Convention of Belém do Pará*.

Challenges for 2008 / 2011: The national government aims to incorporate a variety of representatives from specific social groups and communities in national plans in order to promote advancements in national democracy. As a result, the national government developed the “*Plano Plurianual 2008 - 2011*” (Multi-year development plan). It includes policies aiming to support democratic development as well as gender, racial and ethnic equity, transparency, social dialogue and respect for human rights.

The federative structure of the Brazilian government is inherently decentralized with respect to policy and program implementation. The fundamental goal is to facilitate the implementation of multiple actions through programs that involve the three branches of government (executive, judicial and legislative) as well as organizations from civil society.

As a result of this process, it is expected that that the national government will sign letters of intent with each state. The goal for the coming years is to establish a system that supports women who are suffering from violence in each territory, implementing prevention programs that focus on reducing the root causes of violence against women whilst determining the factors related to violence against women.

Source

- Secretaría Especial de Políticas para las Mujeres de la Presidencia de la República
Ministry of Policies for Women - www.presidencia.gov.br/spmulheres

Contact

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Family Violence Initiative (FVI)

Canada

The Government of Canada launched the Family Violence Initiative in 1988 with the aim of preventing violence within families in Canada. \$40 million CAD was provided by the Canadian government to ensure that shelters were made available to abused women and their children and to develop a long-term federal approach to prevent family violence. The FVI was further developed in 1991 to increase public awareness on family violence and improve support services for women and children. In 1996, an additional \$7 million CAD in annual funding was provided to the FVI. This funding also finances the violence prevention activities of the 15 partner Canadian Departments and Agencies including the Department of Justice Canada, Status of Women Canada, and Statistics Canada.



Objectives

- Reduce the occurrence of family violence in Canadian society;
- Promote public awareness of the risk factors of family violence and the need for public involvement in responding to the problem;
- Strengthen the ability of the criminal justice and housing systems to respond to the problem;
- Support data collection, research and evaluation efforts to identify effective interventions.

The FVI aims to address the problem of family violence using a cross-governmental, multi-level, multi-sectorial approach. The Initiative also works at the provincial and territorial levels with numerous stakeholders. Family violence issues are addressed through existing programmes and activities under various Canadian Departments including: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Human Resources and Social Development Canada, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, and the Department of National Defence. The FVI reinforces Canada's criminal justice, housing and health systems' ability to respond.

The FVI contains numerous activities to raise the public's awareness of violence against women and means of addressing it. The plan aims to recognise crucial family violence intervention methods by promoting data collection, research and evaluation activities. As a result of the FVI, the subject of family violence has been incorporated in numerous programmes in a variety of government departments.

The Public Health Agency of Canada is responsible for coordinating the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence (NCFV) under the FVI. The NCFV is Canada's resource centre on violence within the family, with information covering a variety of subjects including protection and treatment. The NCFV expands upon the 15 federal FVI partner departments' knowledge base on both national and international family violence.

In 2002, the results from a national public awareness survey revealed that Canadians are concerned about family violence. Approximately 75% believe that it should be a high priority for governments and communities.

NCFV resources and services are available in English and French and are available in a variety of family violence related media including: overview papers, reports, discussion papers, handbooks, a referral and directory service helping individuals to become associated with related resources and organisations, videos, and a library reference collection.

Results and Tools

A five-year evaluation report on the FVI was released in December 2002 for the period April 1997-March 2002. The report indicated that the FVI is effectively meeting the specified performance levels. The report highlights the multi-departmental improvements in coordination and collaboration with regards to preventing family violence. The FVI is evaluated to ensure that the goal of preventing violence within the family is achieved and to identify any gaps and priorities within the FVI activities. One of the main challenges identified was the need for specialised programmes to meet the needs of the numerous communities present in Canada. As a result, the FVI aims to develop suitable family violence community programmes and aims furthermore to develop its horizontal management by promoting collective activity. In addition, the FVI aims to increase multi-departmental work on a multitude of coordinating and collaborative committees in order to ensure that each project successfully addresses family violence on a variety of levels.

Source

- Public Health Agency of Canada Official Website,
http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/familyviolence/initiative_e.html,
22 September 2008.

Contact

National Clearinghouse on Family Violence
Health Canada
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National Program for the Prevention of Domestic Violence Servicio Nacional de la Mujer (National Service for Women - SERNAM)

Chile

The National Program for the Prevention of Domestic Violence was initiated in 2001 as a initiative focused specifically on victims of domestic violence (men and women of all ages). Support is provided through the *Centros de Atención Integral y Prevención de la VIF* (Comprehensive Prevention and Treatment Centres for Domestic Violence). In 2003, the program focused on women subjected to the less severe forms of domestic violence, in particular within relationships.

As of 2007, the program incorporated a new initiative. This new protection system provides support for women who are in imminent danger of suffering from domestic violence. As a result, SERNAM set up safe-houses or shelters that provide comprehensive care for battered women and their children.



Objectives

- To contribute to reducing the rate of domestic violence against women, especially those cases that occur within relationships between couples;
- To contribute to increasing the coverage and the quality of social and protection services offered to women who have been victimized by domestic violence.

Activities at the National Level

In order to attain its objectives, the program implemented activities in the following areas:

- *Prevention* – promote cultural change, generate social control, and raise awareness about existing service centres;
- *Training* – develop institutional and personal capacities to improve the support services available to women experiencing violence;
- *Intervention* – aimed at adult women suffering from less severe forms of violence at the hands of their partners;
- *Protection* – Safe-houses or shelters for battered women that offer them security and social services that include psychological treatment, legal counseling and reinsertion assistance.

The *FonoFamilia 149* (149 Family Hotline): receives and handles complaints, and provides basic orientation and information to victims of domestic violence.

The program provides 2 outreach services, each with its own mandate. The *Centros de la Mujer* (Women's Centres), carry out the prevention-related activities, including the training and intervention components. Collectively, there are 31 *Centros de la Mujer* (Women's Centres) throughout the country providing support to women victims. Each centre has multidisciplinary teams aiming to:

- Provide psychological care and social services for women victims;
- Provide legal advice;
- Generate and reinforce local networks that prevent domestic violence;
- Train human resources on how to prevent, detect and refer specific cases of domestic violence to the authorities.

The *Casas de Acogida* (safe-houses or shelters), on the other hand, provide protection services. Sixteen such shelters exist throughout the country's 15 regions. They offer temporary protection to women whose lives are at risk due to domestic violence. Women are referred to the shelters by the Attorney General's Office. These *Casas de Acogida* provide psychological, social and legal counseling, as well as support services to help victims regain their self-confidence and reintegration into society.

Activities at the Community Level

Local governments or municipalities throughout the country are capable of referring specific cases to the Women's Centres or Safe-Houses as mentioned above. Local governments and police departments are important partners for the program due to their proximity to the communities and by extension to their problems. They possess the crucial information required to successfully handle and refer cases to other authorities.

Main outputs for 2007 and expected results for 2008

- 8.420 women were supported and received psycho-social and legal counseling, representing an increase in 20% with respect to 2006;
- 24.696 individuals participated in prevention workshops;
- 17.406 people participated in training workshops;
- 16 safe-houses or shelters provided protection for over 400 women and 600 children at risk of violence;
- As a result of the coordination mechanisms set up between the Women's Centres and institutions participating in the programme, 48% of all women supported by the program enrolled in a vocational training course, 39% found a job and 71% improved their protection networks;
- Over the course of this year, new Women's Centres and Shelters are being built. The goal is to establish 58 centres and 25 shelters within the country's 15 regions;
- It is expected that the Women's Centres will provide services to approximately 12.500 to 14.000 women while the shelters will provide protection for at least 900 women and 1.800 boys and girls.

Legislation

- Bill N° 19.325 defines domestic violence.
- Bill N° 20.066 - law for Domestic Violence (*Ley de Violencia Intrafamiliar*).

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National Policy for Peacebuilding and Peaceful Coexistence “Haz Paz” (Make Peace)

Colombia

The National Policy for Peacebuilding and Peaceful Coexistence, “Haz Paz”, was designed to prevent and treat domestic violence. It is based on a strategy aiming to foster human values of democracy and peaceful coexistence using activities targeted at individuals, families and communities.



Objectives

- Prevent violent relationships within families by acting to curb the destructive values, behaviours and attitudes associated with violence;
- Try to ensure the early intervention of public and/or private actors in detecting and preventing domestic violence;
- Diminish risk factors associated with this problem;
- Develop and implement psycho-social models for the rehabilitation of aggressors, especially those under 18 years of age, and for perpetrators of conjugal violence.

Activities at the National level

The Colombian Institute for Family Well-Being (*Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar* - ICBF) is committed to protecting families and children. It considers the adoption of a gender-perspective and approach as fundamental to upholding and advancing the human rights of boys, girls and adolescents.

The ICBF approaches the issue of domestic violence through its National Policy for Peace-building and Peaceful Coexistence “Haz Paz”. The ICBF specifically focuses on supporting prevention programs in the fields of domestic violence, sexual abuse, commercial exploitation, sexual exploitation and human trafficking. The principal cause of these problems is gender inequality. Those most affected are undoubtedly women, girls and boys, and adolescents.

The National Policy for Peacebuilding and Peaceful Coexistence is implemented through four, basic components:

1. *Prevention* – consisting of the following sub-sections: Cultural, institutional and social “evolution” allowing for the peaceful resolution of conflicts and pacific coexistence; strengthening protective factors among families and couples; strengthening protective factors among entire communities by creating opportunities for dialogue, citizen participation and community support.
2. *Early detection and monitoring* – *Haz Paz* proposes to adopt a public health approach to detect, prevent and treat problems with individuals and families who present various risk factors. This component is implemented through an inter-institutional domestic violence monitoring system which includes: early detection of victims and situations of violence and the implementation of early detection mechanisms and preventative treatment for individuals and families at risk.

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3. *Treatment*: this component strives to treat the victim and the aggressor in a way that is ethical, effective, immediate, comprehensive and over a prolonged period of time, especially if under-aged individuals are concerned or if the violence occurs within a conjugal relationship.
 4. *Institutional reinforcement*: this component includes activities that provide technical support and transportation to agencies and organisations committed to the policy in order to improve their capacity to effectively respond to the demands created by the implementation of the other components.

Inter-institutional Activities

The ICBF is currently supported by two international agencies: the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR). Both donors support the ICBF in order to strengthen its capacities to implement programs based on Sexual and Reproductive Rights, Gender Equality, Prevention of HIV-AIDS and of Violence, as part of the National Policy for Sexual and Reproductive Rights and Bill no. 1098 from 2006.

Legislation

- Bill 679 of 2001: Statute for the prevention and treatment of cases of commercial, sexual exploitation of under-age children, pornography and sexual tourism involving children.
- Bills 294 of 1996 and 575 of 2000: Prevention, Treatment and Punishment of Domestic Violence.
- Bill 1146 of 2007: Sexual violence.
- Bill 1142 of 2007: Domestic violence

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National Action Plan for Implementing UN Resolution 1325 (2008 – 2011)

Finland

In 2000, the UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 "Women, Peace and Security" was passed and which Member States are committed to implement. Resolution 1325 calls for the full and equal participation of women in all peace and security initiatives, along with mainstreaming of gender issues in the context of armed conflict, peacekeeping and reconstruction.

On 19 September 2008, the Finnish Government published Finland's National Action Plan for implementing UN Resolution 1325 that establishes priorities and sets guidelines for implementing the Resolution within a period of three years, after which the Plan will be revised and updated. The Action Plan clearly identifies the Department, Individuals, and Organisations responsible for implementing each action described in the Plan. A Follow-up Group, consisting of representatives of different ministries, research institutes and NGOs will systematically monitor the realisation and implementation of the goals of the action plan. The Action Plan contains measures that are to be carried out at the local, national and international levels. Furthermore, the implementation of Resolution 1325 is further supported via Finland's Development Policy.



Objectives

- Implement the UNSCR 1325;
- Strengthen, protect and safeguard the human rights of women and girls;
- Improve women's position in Finland;
- Encourage women to participate in:
 - Prevention of conflicts
 - Crisis management
 - Peace-building
 - Stabilisation of society in post-conflict situations
- Prevent insecurity among women and girls, violence against women and trafficking in women;
- Abolish impunity related to war crimes, grave human rights offences and crimes against women and girls.

The objectives of the Action Plan are promoted by means of, *inter alia*, diplomacy, crisis management, development cooperation, humanitarian assistance, technical assistance, and education. Civil society plays an important role in the implementation of the Finnish action plan. Finland believes that promoting human rights is itself a form of conflict prevention.

One section of the Plan deals with women's role and participation in conflict prevention, peace negotiations and peace building. Finland aims to actively advocate for the implementation of Resolution 1325 in conflict prevention, peace negotiation and peace building contexts and pledges to work towards increasing women's active participation in peace processes. Furthermore it commits itself to produce and publish information about women's roles and decision-making power in crisis management organisations and operations; about gender-related conflict impacts; and about gender roles in peace processes and conflict resolution.

In Spring 2008, a Steering Group on crisis management and Resolution 1325 was set up to evaluate how Finland could improve "how matters related to gender equality and women's rights could be addressed more effectively in recruitment, training and research linked with crisis management".

The practical realisation of operations is another focus of the Plan which states that Finland must pay more attention to equality in recruitment for civil and military crisis management. More women have to be involved in crisis management, especially in operational leadership positions. In order to better respond to the needs of women, research and training that takes into consideration the particular impact of conflict and violence on different groups of people is needed in order to provide girls, boys, men, and women with appropriate services. Cooperation between different levels of government and with civil society is needed for the implementation to be successful, which is why awareness-raising activities will be undertaken.

Complementary to this Action Plan is Finland's national cross-administrative Action Plan on violence against women and its Gender Equality Programme.

Sources

- Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland:
<http://formin.finland.fi/public/default.spx?contentid=137348&nodeid=15145&contentlan=2&culture=en-US>
- UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women:
- <http://www.un-instraw.org/en/gps/general/implementation-of-un-scr-1325.html>

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Douze objectifs pour combattre la violence faites aux femmes (Twelve Objectives for Fighting Violence against Women) Deuxième plan global triennal (Second Global Triennial Plan) (2008-2010)

France

In 2007, France's government adopted a second global triennial plan (2008-2010) outlining twelve objectives for fighting violence against women, hence the name of the plan. This second Plan reinforces the first triennial plan (2005-2007), "*10 mesures pour l'autonomie des femmes*" (ten measures for women's autonomy), which worked to help women victims of violence to regain their independence.



Objectives

- Measuring to break taboos;
- Preventing violence;
- Coordinating all actors and collective action;
- Protecting women victims and their children.

Measuring to break taboos

1. *Supplement statistical knowledge:* Better identification and quantification of acts of violence against women will generate more information and increase knowledge about the sources and impact of such violence.
2. *Improve understanding of the phenomena to ensure that responses are appropriate:* Identify circumstances surrounding violent experiences and examine the potential links to alcohol and drug dependence, increase the amount of information available about violence against women, and harmonise data between different governmental departments.

Prevent unacceptable violence

3. *Respect female image in the media:* The media continue to portray a sexist image of women, which factors into violence. Assessment of the current situation, along with recommendations and implementation of an awareness-raising campaign and communications plan are required for fighting to change these female stereotypes.
4. *Increase efforts to further sensitise and raise social awareness to better fight and prevent violence:* Encourage collective awareness-raising to fight stereotypes about women, especially among youth, using a variety of different methods and mediums. Educate women about their rights and about services available. The development of a census to document violence experienced by young girls in schools is also planned, and a prevention plan by the *Comité d'éducation à la santé et à la citoyenneté* (Health and citizenship education committee) will include a section on preventing violence against young girls.
5. *Prevent recidivism of intimate partner violence through a comprehensive plan to work with perpetrators of violence:* Follow-up with abusive partners after their release and make measures such as support groups and associations that include violent men available to couples.

Coordinate all actors and collective action

6. *Be aware of existing services and networks in order to provide a timely and comprehensive response to women victims of violence:* Responding to the needs of women victims of violence is fundamental in helping them regain their autonomy. The census, along with the development of support programs and associations to help victims across France will help to assure this.
7. *Develop and reinforce a partnership policy through national and local coordination:* The *Commission nationale contre les violences envers les femmes* (National commission against violence against women) will be supported and reinforced in its role as national observatory, and is encouraged to broach subjects such as human trafficking, procuring, prostitution, forced marriage, and female genital mutilation, and to collaborate with the *Observatoire National de la Délinquance*. The *ministère de l'Intérieur* and the *ministère en charge de la Solidarité* will ask all departmental councils to study the problem of violence against women, maintain collaboration among all actors, and release funds set aside for these endeavours.
8. *Intensify and broaden training for professionals involved in addressing the problem of violence against women:* Practitioners would benefit from enhanced training that helps them to identify and guide women victims of violence. The government is taking steps to raise awareness among police, gendarmerie, and magistrates, and to integrate the subject in the training programs for medical students, social workers, and social response technicians.
9. *Mobilise professionals to research violence against women:* Ensure better victim case management by disseminating awareness-raising tools among all professionals involved in addressing intimate partner violence and reinforce coordination between the different health sectors and services.

Protect women victims of violence and their children across the territory

10. *Reinforce the protection of women victims of violence through an evolving legal framework:* An improved census of violent acts against women and the legal problems with which they are confronted is essential. The government plans to study the pertinence of introducing a definition of psychological violence in the criminal code and to research well adapted and balanced solutions.
11. *Reinforce supportive actions: listen, greet, shelter, house:* Victims need support in order to overcome trauma and regain their autonomy. Developing a better support system, such as reinforcing the national helpline platform “*violence conjugale info*”, is planned, as well evaluating daytime shelters and developing overnight shelters.
12. *Consider the impact of conjugal violence on children:* Children are directly affected by conjugal violence, which has destructive effects on their development. Ensuring the personal safety of children requires assessing the effects of children’s exposure to intimate partner violence and raising awareness of the problem among concerned actors.

Source

- Ministère du Travail, des relations sociales, de la famille et de la solidarité
http://www.travail.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/Plan_VL.pdf

Contact

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National Program for a Life without Violence

Mexico

Mexico's National Program for a Life without Violence has defined 7 strategic components or subsystems:

- Prevention – aimed at domestic violence against women, seeking to coordinate existing strategies and programs whose goal is to reduce levels of violence against women;
- Treatment – for victims and perpetrators of psychological and/or physical abuse and for those who need support as witnesses of violent acts;
- Detection: early detection linked to prevention;
- Communication and institutional liaison – to improve the coordination of the many entities playing a role in prevention;
- Norms and regulations – to standardize procedures that are either ambiguous or non-existent in current legislation;
- Coordination and liaison with civil society – parallel to inter-institutional coordination mechanisms within the public sector;
- Information and evaluation – to inform public actors and civil society organizations, as well as evaluation the activities and results obtained.
- **To coordinate specific activities and programs of different ministries of the federal government whose common goal is to reduce domestic violence against women.**

These designed sub-systems will carry out their work plans in collaboration with the *Mesa Institucional para Coordinar las Acciones de Prevención y Atención de la Violencia Familiar y Hacia las Mujeres* (Institutional Table for the Coordination of Prevention and Treatment of Violence against Women), which is an association that has been established to unify criteria, strategies and governmental action in this field.

As part of the institutional commitment of Inmujeres, it is hoped that each state will set up its own Institutional Table for the Coordination of Prevention and Treatment of Violence against Women. Each state "table" will be responsible for coordination and carrying out the inherent actions of the program, focusing on the specific needs of women in each participating entity with other federal actors.

In order to officially launch each of the sub-systems, periodic coordination meetings are held in order to plan and evaluate the joint endeavors implemented by the members of the Institutional Table.

Activities at the National Level

The goal of the telephone-based information and referral system for women and girls in high risk situations "*Vida sin violencia*" (Life Without Violence) is to support the implementation of the policies of the *Instituto Nacional de la Mujer* (National Women's Institute). It is a free service available to girls and women across the country.

This information center is responsible for receiving queries from women who are in need of support. It refers them to other social services depending on the nature of their situation.

Activities at the regional, community and neighborhood levels

Propuestas para una convivencia democrática en la familia (Proposals for Peaceful Co-existence within the Family) is a project carried out jointly by Inmujeres and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), its goal is to contribute to the democratic transition of Mexico, by introducing gender equality and democratic values in the different government programs that implement social policies.

The project has been linked to existing community, economic, social and productive initiatives carried out by federal entities (Baja California, Distrito Federal, Guanajuato, Nuevo León, Puebla, Querétaro, Sinaloa, Sonora, Veracruz and Yucatán) that already have legislations that prevent and punish domestic violence, having implemented programs for prevention and that provide treatment services for women victims of violence.

As part of the struggle to reduce gender-based violence, Inmujeres considers that it is indispensable to sensitize and train those who work in the justice system. As a result, in June 2002 Inmujeres worked in collaboration with UNICEF and the UAM-Azcapotzalco to follow up the Workshops to Apply in Mexico the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, "Convention of Belém do Pará", carried out nationally between 1998 and 2001.

These workshops were held in the offices of the court system of the states of Coahuila, Baja California Sur and Sinaloa with the participation of approximately 150 judges. In each of these three states, collaboration was established with the state women's institute and the state judicial branch.

Legislation

- *Ley General para la igualdad entre las mujeres y hombres* (Law for Equality between Men and Women). August 2, 2006
- *Ley General de acceso a las mujeres a una vida libre de violencia* (Law to Provide Access to a Life Without Violence for Women). February 1, 2007
- Decree approving the *Plan Nacional de Desarrollo 2007 – 2012* (National Development Plan for the 2007 – 2012 period). May 31, 2007

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Plan opérationnel de la stratégie nationale de lutte contre la violence à l'égard des femmes (Operational plan for the national strategy for combating violence against women)

Secretariat of State for the Family, Childhood and the Handicapped, *Morocco*

During the development of the National Strategy in 2002, the government of Morocco evaluated the emerging needs of the target population through a qualitative survey. It revealed that there was violence against women in rural settings, violence against immigrant women in Western and Arab countries, violence against women labourers, and violence within institutions such as schools and hospitals.

In 2004, after having identified needs of women victims, an Operational Plan for implementing the National Strategy came into effect. The Plan responds to the concerns expressed by people working on the ground, and was developed through a participative approach involving all sectorial partners and associations, as well as representatives from telephone hotlines. This collaborative process and partnership with the Secretariat led to the identification of five priority areas where support and intervention was needed:



Objectives

- Services for women victims of violence;
- Training;
- Research;
- Operationalisation of the family code and the development of pending law;
- Sensitisation and advocacy.

Providing services for women victims of violence is paramount to helping victims regain control of their lives. Responding to this objective requires different types of services: telephone hotlines offering a variety of services and information including legal information and psychological counselling, shelters, and medical services. To properly support this initiative, consolidation and broadening of services in locations such as offices and schools is necessary.

Training for practitioners working in the field of violence against women is indispensable and goes hand in hand with other services. Ensuring quality services means all actors involved in fighting violence against women must receive adequate training. The Government of Morocco proposes two types of training: an initial training or skills development program for professionals including the police, gendarmes, social workers and nurses, as well as timely and tailored continuing professional development for health and legal professionals, and for relevant civil society actors.

Another important point raised by the operational plan pertains to research and data collection, which must be prioritized in order to establish a successful system of prevention and to respond efficiently to the needs of women victims. The idea is to document violent practices against women and to address them through studies and action-research. Research must be undertaken at the national level through systematic data collection accomplished in partnership with institutions such as hospitals, tribunals and the police, followed by targeted and strategic prevention research projects.

In order to consolidate legal efforts in this regard, operationalising the *Code de la Famille* (Family Code), developing laws, and eliminating laws that discriminate against women are first steps that must be accomplished. Furthermore, at the time this plan was being developed, the status of social

workers did not allow them to fully exercise their duties due to certain legal barriers parameters, particularly affecting those working on the ground. A revision of the legal status of social workers was thus proposed as a priority preliminary action, followed by a review of the training curriculum for social workers and the strength they represent in the workforce.

The goal of sensitisation aims to creating a positive change in attitudes, behaviours, and discriminatory mindsets with regard to women, and to build awareness of the impact and consequences of violence against women. This preventive response rests on organising awareness-raising campaigns and establishing partnerships with media to work on the changing the way that women are portrayed. Many activities, such as annual workshops on issues pertaining to citizenship and respect for human rights, are also planned. Furthermore, given the important role played by the media in portraying women in derogatory ways, a “control” committee has been created to follow-up on discriminatory and stereotypical images of women broadcast. Its objective is to present an analysis of advertising content and the different media that publish images of women.

In an effort to reach political decision-makers and other authorities, advocacy activities have been organised. The development of an advocacy memorandum for political decision-makers is aimed at obtaining funds necessary for implementing the Operational Plan to support the National Strategy. Participation of a majority of governmental departments and the creation of solid partnerships is necessary if positive results are to be achieved in fighting violence against women.

Source

- Plan opérationnel de la stratégie nationale de lutte contre la violence à l'égard des femmes – Juin 2005, Royaume du Maroc – Secrétariat d'État Chargé de la Famille, de l'Enfance et des Personnes Handicapées

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Te Rito – Family Violence Prevention Strategy

New Zealand

The Maori word Te Rito means the core or heart of the flax plant (*harekeke*). If the Te Rito is damaged, the plant will wither away and die. If it is nurtured, it will grow strong and flourish. In this sense, the family is seen as the core of the New Zealand society. For those affected by family violence, the core is compromised and weakened and so society is also weakened.

The Te Rito New Zealand Family Violence Prevention Strategy was launched in March 2002 and has been developed by a National Executive made up of government and non-government agencies working together in partnership and coordinated by the Ministry of Social Development. The National Executive was also charged with monitoring implementation, and will ensuring ongoing commitment to the principles and goals of Te Rito across the family violence prevention sector. Te Rito set out the New Zealand's government's key goals, objectives, and guiding principles, as well as a five-year implementation plan to work within 18 areas of action towards achieving the vision of families (*whanau*) living free from violence.

The main goal of Te Rito is to improve the safety and well-being of women, particularly in relation to spouse/partner abuse, child abuse/neglect and elder abuse/neglect, through ongoing implementation and reporting on the progress of Te Rito.



Objectives

- Change attitudes by encouraging intolerance of violence and increasing society's awareness and part in prevention of family violence;
- Ensure effective, integrated and co-ordinated responses to family violence situations and ensure quality and accessible services;
- Prevent violence by providing education and support, and early identification;
- Develop culturally relevant approaches to prevention;
- Ensure a consistent and ongoing commitment to family violence prevention.

Results / Outcomes / Tools

In June 2005 a Task Force of Action on Violence was established to advise the Family Violence Ministerial Team on how to make improvements to the way family violence is addressed, working to eliminate family violence in New Zealand. The Taskforce consists of CEOs, decision-makers from both government and non-government sectors, the judiciary and Crown agencies. The Chair is the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Social Development whereas the Deputy Chair is held by the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Women's Affairs.

In the 2006 Budget, \$11 million in funding over four years was dedicated to a national campaign to change community attitudes towards family violence. The Families Commission contributed an extra \$3 million to the Campaign bringing the total to \$14 million. In 2007, a four year Campaign for Action on Family Violence "Family violence is not okay" was initiated and is headed by the Families Commission and the Ministry of Social Development. It is supported by Accident Compensation Corporation, the Ministry of Health and the New Zealand Police. The campaign is part of a community-wide movement led by individuals and organisations throughout New Zealand who are working together to help prevent family violence. It will provide information, resources and support to create a society that says "family violence is never ok".

Tools of the campaign:

- *Television advertisements*: promoting the “It’s not ok” message
- *A 0800 Family Violence Information Line*: providing self-help information and connecting people with services when appropriate
- *Campaign website*: tool for community organisations and members of the public (<http://www.areyouok.org.nz/>)
- *Community action toolkit*: providing practical advice about how to organise community action against family violence
- *Community action fund*: providing financial support for community-led activities concerning family violence –April 2008: support of 62 projects

The New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse is national centre for collating and disseminating information about family violence in Aotearoa, New Zealand, and was created in 2005 as a result of Te Rito. Its purpose is to provide access to high-quality information for a wide range of users, including those working towards preventing and eliminating family violence.

Within the framework of the Te Rito Family Prevention Strategy, a specialised Family Violence Court was established. They ensure greater protection and safety for victims of family violence and offer rapid resolutions of family violence matters. This reduces the risk of further violence while the case is waiting to be heard. Furthermore, the Court ensures that while offenders are held accountable, they can access appropriate support and programmes to help them learn to live without violence. Family Violence Courts are presided over by dedicated Family Violence Court Judges, Police Prosecutors, Community Probation Officers, Victim Advisors and court staff.

Sources

- Ministry of Social Development. www.msd.govt.nz/, 26 August 2008
- “Family Violence is not okay”, www.areyouok.org.nz, 26 August 2008
- New Zealand Government, www.beehive.govt.nz/?q=node/28553, 26 August 2008

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Philippine Plan for Gender Responsive Development for 1995-2025 (PPDG)

Philippines

The Philippines possesses one of the most advanced models for gender mainstreaming in Asia. It has followed a gender-responsive approach to development planning for almost two decades. The country's previous gender responsive development plan was the Philippine Development Plan for Women 1989-1992. Following this plan, the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW) recognised a need to reinforce national policies and activities in order to develop the National role of Filipino women in society. As a result the PPDG 1995-2025 was developed and approved on 8 September 1995. It is a 30 year national plan aiming to empower women and promote gender equality in the Philippines.



Objectives

- Gender Equality;
- Women's Empowerment;
- Sustainable Development;
- Peace and Social Justice;
- Actualization of Human Potentials beyond basic needs;
- Democratic Participation;
- Self-determination at all levels;
- Respect for Human Rights.

The principle of the Philippines' Gender-responsive governance is for women to actively and significantly participate at all levels of decision-making and in ensuring greater transparency and accountability of the government. In addition, women must be actively involved in the transformation of the culture of Filipino politics and its governance into one that appreciates participatory principles and pluralism, peace building initiatives and non-violent forms of conflict resolution. The PPDG 1995-2025 identifies the national activities required to accomplish the specific goals needed for women to have an active role in developing the Philippines. The PPDG was adopted as the country's major means for implementing the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (PFA) adopted at the 1995 United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women under order 273. The NCRFW works in partnership with the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) to monitor the implementation of the plan. The plan is evaluated every six years.

The government has specified that all government agencies, non-governmental agencies, departments, offices and corporations, at the national and local level are to support the NCRFW to ensure that the strategies and activities outlined in the PPDG 1995-2025 are being effectively implemented. The organisations need to specifically involve the incorporation of gender and development concerns in the development, evaluation and updating of their annual agency plans and contribution towards the short-term and long-term development plans and preparation of their contribution towards sectorial performance assessment reports, public investment plans and other related documents. In addition, organisations must incorporate and demonstrate gender and development concerns. This can be indicated in the following: agency activity commitment contracts indicating key result areas, the annual performance report to the President and annual agency proposals and work and financial plans.

The plan addresses six areas of gender concern including: the development framework, the human development sector (education, health, family planning, social welfare, the media, justice and employment), the economic and industrial sectors (agriculture, fisheries, industry, trade, tourism and the environment), infrastructure and technology support, special concerns (migration, prostitution, violence against women, women and the family) and the development administration sector. The plan specifies policies, programmes, expected outcomes and the responsible agencies for implementation for each of the listed areas. The plan stresses the importance of achieving targets through the government strengthening and forming new links with organisations, the private sector and the civil society.

Results and tools

On 15 April 2008 the NCRFW collaborated with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to implement the Gender Responsive Economic Actions for the Transformation of Women (GREAT Women) Project. Accounts of female micro-entrepreneurs in a disaster-stricken area were presented. The presentation enhanced the national policies that had been developed in order to support the advancement of women.

The Framework Plan for Women 2001-2004 was developed in order to complement the aims of the PPGD 1995-2025. The framework Plan 2001-2004 focuses on the following three areas: the promotion of women's economic empowerment, protection and fulfilment of women's human rights and the promotion of gender-responsive governance.

Following the launch of the PPGD 1995-2025 the NCRFW worked in collaboration with the UNFPA to develop the project entitled "Strengthening Institutional Mechanisms to Mainstream Gender in Reproductive Health, Population, and Anti-Violence Against Women Programs."

Sources

- National Commission of the Role of Filipino Women Official Website, http://www.ncrfw.gov.ph/inside_pages/downloads/publications/ncrfw_fpw.pdf, 19 September 2008.
- Additional sources:
<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/gems/eeo/guide/philip/aware.htm>
<http://www.humanrights.gov.ph/index.php?categoryid=35>

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Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality (CIG)

Portugal

Portugal is currently working towards women possessing complete social and economic equality. In 2001 there were only 46 female members of the 230- member male dominated Parliament (Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labour, 2002). These figures are incongruent with the percentage of women in the population of Portugal. Within the past year, numerous mutually reinforcing national strategies have been developed to improve Portuguese women's status by advancing their rights and equality. The Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality (CIG) is an official department established in 2006 to replace the Commission for Equality and Women's Rights which had previously succeeded the Commission on the Status of Women. The Office of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers is responsible for the Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality (CIG). The CIG possesses a consultative council consisting of individuals from numerous governmental organisations, non-governmental organisations a technical group and scientific group.



Objective

- To ensure the implementation of public policies in the area of citizenship and the promotion and defence of gender equality.

The CIG has developed activities to promote women's rights and empowerment in Portugal for the period of 2007-2010 by working in collaboration with a number of state and civil society bodies on the following plans: National Plan for Equality-Citizenship and Gender, National Plan against Domestic Violence and National Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings. The activities to promote gender equality are presented in a variety of forms including: training courses, seminars, workshops, debates.

National Plan for Equality - Citizenship and Gender 2007-2010

The National Plan for Equality - Citizenship and Gender was passed by the Council of Ministers in 2007. It aims to reinforce the national goal of eliminating gender inequality and promotes awareness for human rights. The action plan consists of the following four chapters: Framework, Strategic Areas of Intervention, implementation, mechanisms and indicators. An evaluation of the plan will be carried out to ensure that the strategic areas effectively address the problem of gender inequality in Portugal.

National Plan against Domestic Violence 2007-2010

Domestic violence is a common problem in Portugal. The true extent of domestic violence throughout Portugal remains unknown due to the fact that few victims seek legal action. This is most probably due to traditional attitudes encouraging women to tolerate violence as opposed to reporting it. The national plan focuses on preventing domestic violence against women and children. In addition, the plan aims to raise the public's awareness on domestic violence, victim support and the legal protection available. As a result the CIG has organised support centres providing free legal guidance to victims of domestic violence. The CIG is actively involved in disseminating information on domestic violence as well as organising related training sessions.

National Plan Against Trafficking in Human Beings 2007-2010

The National Plan Against Trafficking in Human Beings 2007-2010 is the first plan aiming to prevent human trafficking in Portugal. The plan was developed in response to the increased trafficking of Portuguese women abroad and foreign women to Portugal. In addition, it promotes human rights using a multidisciplinary approach between a variety of state and civil bodies. The CIG has organised two support groups for victims of human trafficking. One group supervises the training of social service workers and the other informs victims of their legal rights.

Resources and Tools

The CIG's documentation centre and library resources are available to the general public. A wide variety of materials on gender equality are available including: monographs, periodicals, international documents, press cuttings, books and audiovisual materials.

The CIG has produced numerous publications covering a wide range of subjects including: Gender Mainstreaming Guides (in health, in cooperation for development, in social inclusion), educational publications, studies and statistical reports. In addition, the CIG also provides free legal assistance on legislation related to citizenship and gender equality.

Sources

- Equinet European Network of Equality Bodies Official website, www.equineteurope.org/infopages/2734.html, 24 September 2008
- Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality Official website, www.cig.gov.pt, 24 September 2008

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Victim Empowerment Program

South Africa

In 1998, the South African government launched a Victim Empowerment program under the National Crime Prevention Strategy of 1996, then replaced by the Justice Crime Prevention Strategy in 1999. Created by the Departments of Social Development, Health, Justice and Constitutional Development, Education and the South African Police Services (SAPS) and other civil society organisations, this program aims to make the South African justice process more victim-friendly and to promote a victim-centered approach to crime prevention. The programme aims to develop, strengthen and monitor victim empowerment policies, programmes and services through strategic partnerships between different national, provincial and local governments departments, as well as civil society organisations, volunteers, businesses and research institutions, which together make at the national level the National Victim Empowerment Management Team. Each institution has the role to ensure the implementation of a facet of the program.



Objective

- Develop, strengthen and monitor victim empowerment policies, programmes and services through strategic partnerships.

As different categories of victims require different services and have different needs, violence against women, domestic violence and sexual assault are amongst the priorities defined by the Program. An emphasis is placed on the support and empowerment of the victims. The policy of the Victim Empowerment Program is supported by several statutory frameworks including the Domestic Violence Act of 1998, the Sexual Offences Act of 1957 and the South African Constitution.

In the SAPS strategic plan 2005-2010, crimes against women and children are an important focus. The strategy is centered on the reduction of crime as well as the quality of investigations undertaken. Some of the components of the strategy are the Anti-Rape strategy, the Implementation of the domestic violence act of 1998 and the Victim Empowerment Program. As part of this program, 33,693 members of SAPS have been trained in victim empowerment.

Results and Outcomes

Development in legislation and programmes since the launch of the Victims Empowerment Program:

- *Service Charter for Victims of Crime 2004*: elaborates and consolidates rights and obligations relating to services applicable to victims of crime in South Africa.
- *Anti-Rape Strategy 2003*: based on 5 pillars: prevention, response, support, coordination, and communication.
- *Policy framework and strategy for shelters for victims of domestic violence 2002*: ensures the establishment of safe shelters for victims and aims to prevent secondary victimisation, break the cycle of violence, and provide safety and security of victims.
- *Strategy for the engagement of men and boys in prevention of gender-based violence*: four One Stop Centres for victims of crime and violence have been established, providing multi-disciplinary services for victims.
- *Establishment of Shelters for Abused Women and their Children*: 39 shelters were established in 2001 and the number has since increased to 89.

-
- *Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children*: a shelter providing assistance to women and children who are victims of gender-based violence providing a range of services such as an emergency shelter, residential care, awareness of gender-based violence and women's rights. It also offers training sessions for women empowerment, giving them legal advice on family laws as well as helping them with employment opportunities, and counselling. The objective is to educate and empower women and children that have been victimized and abused.
 - Other initiatives include: Training of Professionals in Victim Empowerment and Trauma Support; 365 days of programme of action to end gender-based violence; and the UN-initiative 16 days of Activism on no Violence against Women and Children Campaign.

Sources

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- Background on Victim Empowerment Programme (VEP), <http://www.dsd.gov.za/dynamic/dynamic.aspx?pageid=464&id=1162>
- Fourth draft – Integrated Victim Empowerment Policy, issued by the Department of Social Development, May 2007, Pretoria, South Africa
- Strategic plan for the South African Police Service (2005-2010), SAPS strategic management office

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The Cross Government Action Plan on Sexual Violence and Abuse 2007

United Kingdom

In the United Kingdom (UK), 21% of girls have experienced sexual abuse and 23% of women have been raped. The need for improved victim support in the UK is highlighted by the fact that 40% of adult rape victims have told no one about it and 31% of children who have been abused reach adulthood without telling anyone³⁵. These serious crimes cause great detriment to victims, families and the general public. To meet the public's needs, the UK government produced the Cross Government Action Plan on Sexual Violence and Abuse in April 2007. The plan takes into account that victims of sexual violence and abuse are predominantly female.



Objectives

- Maximise prevention of sexual violence and abuse;
- Increase access to support and health services for victims;
- Improve the criminal justice response to sexual violence and abuse.

The Government plans to deal with sexual violence and abuse by increasing prevention activities, improving support services for victims and developing the criminal justice system. To respond to the public's concerns, the plan was based on data from: the British Crime Survey, the research arm of the Home Office, specific research studies, inspection reports and other research produced by voluntary sector organisations supporting victims. The Action Plan is closely linked with work addressing domestic violence, prostitution, and trafficking and complements the crime strategy 2008-2011.

The plan is supervised by the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Sexual Offending. In addition, The National Stakeholder Advisory Group on Sexual Violence and Abuse monitors the impact of the plan on specific groups and communities. The group consists of a variety of representatives including: women, men, children, learning disabled victims, people involved in prostitution and Black and Minority Ethnic women. A progress report of the plan will be published at the end of 2008.

The Action Plan is supported by an on-line implementation guide specifying the roles and responsibilities of key agencies and partners involved in preventing sexual violence and abuse including: the Police, Crown Prosecution Service, Courts, National Offender Management Service, Local Authorities, NGOs and community organisations, Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs), Primary Care Trusts³⁶, External Forensic Service Providers and Forensic Practitioners, Crime Disorder Reduction Partnerships, Local Criminal Justice Boards and Local Safeguarding Children Boards.

Actions on Increasing Prevention: The government has developed numerous actions to increase the prevention of sexual violence and abuse. New treatment strategies have been introduced to prevent recidivism and sex offenders are managed using Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements. A scheme has been introduced to ensure all individuals working with children are safe to do so. Early intervention has been promoted to support children with additional needs, and national sexual and mental health support for children has been introduced with the Healthy Schools programme.

35. Statistics cited in: UK Home Office Website, <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/Sexual-violence-action-plan?view=Binary> 26 August 2008

36. Local Health Boards in Wales

Actions on Increasing Victim Access to Health and Support: Improvements on victim access to health and support have been introduced and funding for organisations providing services for victims of sexual violence and abuse has been strengthened. The network of Sexual Assault Referral Centres has been expanded, making them more accessible to victims. Currently, 38 Home Office-funded Independent Sexual Violence Advisor schemes are being assessed. The government has also provided guidance for Primary Care Trusts on commissioning services from the sexual violence and abuse voluntary sector, and on commissioning child specific sexual abuse services. In addition, national service guidelines have been implemented (via the Victims of Violence and Abuse Prevention Programme) on supporting child victims of sexual abuse, adult survivors of child abuse and adult victims of recent sexual violence.

Actions on Improving the Criminal Justice System: The government has provided a national roll-out of training for officers who gather evidence and liaise with victims of sexual offences. The capacity of specialist rape prosecutors and rape co-ordinators has been strengthened and sexual offences training for barristers prosecuting in serious sexual offence cases introduced to ensure cases of the highest quality are built. A new performance management framework has been established for criminal justice agencies as well as a joint Home Office/Association of Chief Police Officers operational support team to assist forces with the implementation of recommendations from the rape inspection Without Consent. Special measures were developed to make it easier for vulnerable victims to give evidence and use of intermediaries is promoted to help vulnerable witnesses with communication/understanding needs (including children) to give evidence. The network of Sexual Assault Referral Centres has been extended as well as piloting Independent Sexual Violence Advisors to obtain high quality evidence and provide support throughout the criminal justice process. Finally, the use of Victim Personal Statements has been expanded upon. There are now arrangements to enable victims to express their views when the Parole Board is considering offenders' cases.

Results and Outcomes

Since the implementation of the plan approximately 40 Sexual Assault Referral Centres have been established by 2008 (eight times more centres than in 2003).

Sources

- UK Home Office,
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/Sexual-violence-action-plan?view=Binary>
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Campaign to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls “Cuenta tres” (Count to three)

Venezuela

"Cuenta tres: tú, ella, tu familia. Saca lo mejor de ti. Detén la violencia"
(*"Count to three: you, her and your family. Do your best. Stop the violence"*).

Such is the message that men, youth and young boys started to receive in September of 2007, as part of the campaign established by the United Nations System in Venezuela (SNU) and the BFC Banco Fondo Común Foundation, with the support of the National Institute for Women, in order to reduce the rates of violence against women and girls across the country.

This initiative is aimed at men and male adolescents, raising their awareness on the importance of reducing violence towards girls and women. The message encourages men from all social and economic backgrounds to think about violence against women, without making them feel guilty.



Objective

- To have men join, as allies, the struggle to reduce violence against women, encouraging them not to engender violence and to adhere to the efforts that began with the approval of the Ley Orgánica sobre el Derecho de las Mujeres a una Vida Libre de Violencia (Organic Law on the Right of Women to Live a Life Free from Violence) passed in 2007.

This initiative will provide tools that will attempt to eliminate socio-cultural stereotypes that legitimate violence against women, often committed by men.

Furthermore, the project promotes the idea that violence within couples and in the family is an issue that needs to be resolved through dialogue and mutual respect. That is why the slogan of the campaign is: "Do your best. Stop the violence".

To decide on the campaign's message, a participatory process was held to include the opinions of the different divisions that are committed to the issue. During this process, work sessions were held with publicists from BFC Banco Fondo Común and the Löwe-Concept Venezuela communications company, who then developed the concept for the campaign.

An innovative marketing strategy was designed in order to reach the greatest number of men, with ads and news items placed in magazines mostly read by men. Also, to reach the national audience, an alliance was achieved with several organizations, businesses and the media.

The experience accumulated on this campaign as well as its results will be organized as part of a publication that will be edited in 2008. This will be used as an informative reference within Venezuela and beyond its borders. It will also be useful to design future campaigns on domestic violence as well as other social issues that need to be addressed.

Results

After being on the air for three months, the campaign created awareness and engendered a public debate on this serious issue. It has also brought an increasing demand for further information from different sectors of society.

The messages included within the campaign emphasized the rights of women and girls to live a life free from violence, while underlining the constructive role that men can play in eliminating this form of violence.

Some of the main achievements of the campaign are the following:

- Creation of a public debate on the problem of violence against women, with the active participation from the media;
- Development of a methodology for designing a social communication strategy that can be easily replicated;
- Creation of a synergy among actors from different sectors that converge on a unique issue and with a single objective;
- The communications campaign provides basic tools that allow the public to go beyond traditional stereotypes that legitimate violence towards woman;
- An effective coordination between the *Grupo Temático de Género* (Thematic Gender Group) and the *Grupo Interagencial de Comunicaciones* (Inter-agency Communications Group) that has been established in order to successfully implement a joint project;
- The campaign was broadcasted and replicated in El Salvador by the United Nations System in that country, as it was considered as one of the best practices of the region.

The campaign “Count to three: you, her and your family. Do your best. Stop the violence” won the Annual UNDP’s Administrator’s Prize from 2007 under the Innovation and Creativity category: Working as a single organization. This prize was announced on January 30, 2008.

Source

- <http://www.pnud.org.ve/>

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tools...

...AND RESOURCES

The Handbook of Community Safety, Gender and Violence Prevention: Practical Planning Tools

Australia

Dr. Carolyn Whitzman, has recently published an innovative book entitled: *The Handbook of Community Safety, Gender & Violence Prevention: Practical Planning Tools*. This book is a resource to be used by all stakeholders working to address and prevent violence in both the public and private spheres. Its target audience is broad, addressing a range of practitioners: “people working in governments, NGOs, funding bodies and charities, the private sector, and individual activists and advisers who want to make their communities and societies safer,”³⁷ as well as researchers, politicians and policy-makers, and advisers.



Objectives

- Provide a framework for practitioners working to prevent violence;
- Connecting the issue of violence in the public and private spheres;
- Inspire new violence prevention strategies.

This book adopts a health promotion and interdisciplinary approach to community safety, gender, and violence prevention, and provides information about “the current state of violence prevention initiatives (most of which have not been written up in academic journals)”³⁸. The book arms practitioners with a framework, guidelines as well as tools, illustrating each with a number of international case studies to concretely demonstrate the advantage of using the techniques it promotes.

By preventing violence against women, men also benefit, and vice versa. Gender, therefore, must be mainstreamed throughout all efforts to prevent violence, not to benefit one sex more than the other, rather to strengthen initiatives for the mutual benefit of both men and women. The book thus also aims to bridge the existing gap in prevention: with crime prevention that excludes a gender perspective, versus strategies aimed exclusively at preventing violence against women, outside of crime prevention, by advocating a “community safety partnership approach with gender analysis”³⁹.

In sum, the *Handbook of Community Safety, Gender and Violence Prevention: Practical Planning Tools* advocates for: an interdisciplinary research and theory approach to violence, approaches centred on partnerships to collectively work to prevent violence, and scrupulous evaluation to be able to learn from the experience and improve future efforts in violence prevention.

Results

Though it is too recent for the book itself to have generated any results on its own accord, it has already generated a great deal of interest and praise for the practical applicability of the information provided. In addition a number of well-evaluated and innovative case-studies are cited in the book, and methodologies based on years of research on lessons learned are provided to assist and inspire practitioners in implementing new initiatives for preventing violence.

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CAP sur la sécurité des femmes (Cap on women's safety)

Sûreté du Québec (Québec Provincial Police), Québec, *Canada*

The *Sûreté du Québec's* (SQ) mission is to “maintain peace and order and to preserve the lives, safety and fundamental rights of individuals, as well as protecting their possessions.”

In September 2007, the SQ launched its programme “*Cap sur la sécurité des femmes*.” Founded on principles of **C**apacity, **A**ction, and **P**revention (CAP), the programme reinforces prevention focused on crimes against women, and promotes women's ability to be active in maintaining their own safety.



Goals

- To build awareness among women about adopting behaviours and attitudes to help them feel safer in diverse situations and in their daily lives.

The CAP programme is a tool developed for the Québec police, who are called upon to organise and host conferences aimed at raising awareness about women's safety. Based on an empowerment approach, the message conveyed at the conferences works to increase the belief in women's abilities to be safe in diverse situations that they are faced with every day.

Cap sur la sécurité des femmes is intended for all women aged 15 and older who live in Québec, and who want to know how to “identify and adopt behaviours and attitudes to help them feel safer.” The *Sûreté du Québec* offers this program at the request of women's groups. Once a request is made, police services meet with the group to prepare a presentation that is tailored to meet their specific needs, and to collaboratively develop a plan that is specific to their interests.

To this end, the following themes are examined:

- Date rape drugs;
- Being alone in the car;
- Being alone in an indoor parking area;
- Being alone on a bicycle;
- Being alone on foot;
- Being alone at the automated teller machine (ATM);
- Being alone on the bus;
- Returning home;
- Being home alone;
- What to do in case of assault.

Development and Implementation

This tool was developed by *Sûreté du Québec* in collaboration with several governmental partners and associations who work on issues related to the status of women.

- Conseil du statut de la femme
- Mouvement des Aînés du Québec-FADOQ
- Mouvement des Femmes qui sortent
- Secrétariat de la condition féminine
- l'Office des personnes handicapées du Québec

Outcomes/Outputs

This tool was introduced nearly a year ago, and has yet to be evaluated. However, following two test sessions, more than 80% of participants believed the conference succeeded in raising awareness and both useful and of interest.

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Enhancing the EU Response to Women and Armed Conflict

Europe

The issue of women and children affected by armed conflict is one of the priorities of the 18-month troika programme of the three EU Presidencies of Germany, Portugal and Slovenia. A first study on Children Affected by Armed Conflict (CAAC) was completed in January 2008. This second study on Women and Armed Conflict (WAC) was jointly commissioned by Slovenia, Austria and Germany in April 2008.

The study “Enhancing the EU Response to Women and Armed Conflict”, published by the European Centre for Development Policy Management, represents an analysis of the European Union’s approach to women and armed conflict from a policy and operational angle, in particular on the development cooperation dimension.

Its focus is on women (rather than gender), and armed conflict, though it does recognize the importance of gender analysis as a tool to promote a better response to women and armed conflict. The study concentrates on women as both being affected by and affecting armed conflict. It contains a detailed analysis of the EU and its member-states engagement in action to respond to Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), the development of National Action Plans for UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women and Armed Conflict, local accountability and monitoring of women and armed conflict issues, and regional approaches to women and armed conflict. It also includes a large bibliography, review of operational guidance and comparison of various National Actions Plans for UNSCR 1325.



Objectives

- Identify and discusses international approaches and legal obligations to the study Women and Armed Conflict (WAC);
- Provide an overview and assessment of the EU response;
- Conclude with findings and recommendations.

Results and Tools

The study includes several recommendations for the EU including the direction to develop a comprehensive approach to issues related to women and armed conflict that is on a scale commensurate with their full breadth and depth. Particular attention should be paid to aspects where a lack of understanding and commitment is seriously undermining the EU's responses. This includes women as actors in conflict situations.

Furthermore the reports claims that various sectors, such as health, education, civil society, justice and governance, must include a clearly articulated WAC dimension with the express aim of achieving gender equality, women's empowerment and the added dimension of prevention and protection.

Another proposal says that the European Commission should develop a specific strategy linked to a clear plan that identifies resources and expertise for WAC is required to ensure that the European Commission consolidates and complies with existing commitments.

EU members-states should also develop Action Plans for UNSCR 1325 with specific strategies and plans to guide their responses to women and armed conflict which should include both mainstreaming efforts within wider processes and specific programming initiatives to support women.

The study advocates that the EU should prioritize WAC within wider EU development and diplomatic action by developing a plan to engage the political level and senior level officials.

Sources

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Gender Budgeting

International

Description

Gender budgets aim to assess the impact of budgeting on men and women, and how it affects them differently. The aim is not to create separate budgets for men and women, rather gender budgets strive to assess the impact of government priorities and spending not only on men and women, but on particular groups on men and women, working to ensure that everyone's needs are met. Gender budgets can be used at every level, from community to national budgets. Essentially, it is analyzing a budget through a gender lens. Gender budgets were first introduced in Australia in 1984 and have since quickly spread around the world, being used by more than 80 countries by 1995.

Objectives

- Reduce economic inequality between men and women
- Promote transparency and accountability of government budgets
- Assess the effectiveness of government spending

It is recommended that gender budgeting be inclusive, involving not only government representatives, but also members of the community. Monitoring, by women's groups in particular, is recommended to ensure that what was put down on paper will accurately translate into practice. This helps to ensure transparency and accountability, and gives women a voice in decision-making processes. It is also believed that sustainability is increased when processes are more participative and consultative. By including different groups in gender budgeting, there creates greater awareness and sensitization among elected officials about the needs of women and the importance of considering gender in budget development.

Gendering budgeting builds the capacity of women to participate actively in the development and implementation of budgetary procedures, allowing them to better understand the related processes. It simultaneously raises community awareness about the issues related to budgeting and allows for budgets to be transformed to better reflect the needs and realities of the constituents that will be affected by the budgets.

Results / Outcomes / Tools

The "Gender Responsive Budgeting" website (<http://www.gender-budgets.org/>) was created by The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Commonwealth Secretariat, and Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in 2001. This tool "support efforts of governments, women's organizations, members of parliaments and academics to ensure that planning and budgeting effectively respond to gender equality goals". The website also makes available a variety of resources, including training materials, and acts as a nucleus for dissemination of information on gender responsive budgeting around the world and for international networking on the issue.

Sources

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GROOTS International

International

GROOTS International is a global network of grassroots women's organizations established in 1989. GROOTS brings together women's organizations from all around the world to share knowledge and exchange information, building solidarity across borders to join voices, adding strength to their position on debates about global policies. Its vision is to "develop, over time, a movement giving voice and power to grassroots women's local visions and initiatives attracting long-term partners, and creating new policies, to expand and strengthen their leadership"⁴⁰. In 1996, GROOTS moved from regionally-centered cooperation to inter-regional cooperation, focusing more on programs that emphasized capacity-building and strengthening relationships between organizations. Today, GROOTS uses peer learning exchanges, documentation, leadership support, group-group technical assistance, and regional communication and workshops to facilitate networking among its members.



Objectives

- Facilitate networking and exchanges between grassroots women's organizations;
- Promote bottom-up solutions to support the advancement of women.

GROOTS' founders created a strategic plan that targeted two United Nations conferences: the 1995 Fourth World Women Conference of Women's (FWCW) Equality, Development and Peace (Beijing) and the 1996 Habitat II: City Summit (Istanbul). At the Istanbul U.N. Habitat II meeting, GROOTS had gained the capacity to offer a three-day exchange workshop as well as play host to a series of topic-specific panels. Additionally, they operated the first UN conference childcare center and persuaded government officials to sponsor a "Plan of Action" that included commitments to include poor women's groups in human settlements planning and implementation.

Results and Outputs

A 1996 evaluation of GROOTS' by the Steering Committee members revealed GROOTS was successful in helping grassroots women's organizations in gaining respect and recognition and for bringing different women's organizations together. This allowed for partnership building across borders and establishing long-term goals.

GROOTS co-published: Restructuring Economic and Social Policy: Cross-Cultural Gender Insights from the Grassroots, in partnership with the United Nations Development Program.

Sources

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Huairou Commission

International

The Huairou Commission is a global coalition of networks, institutions and individual professionals that links grassroots women's community development organizations to partners. The networks seek access to resources, information sharing and political space and links development professionals to on-the-ground practice. Its approach to development is based on collective action rooted in community-based actions designed and led by women. The aim is to build the capacity of grassroots women's organizations so that they can influence the trends of development in their communities and represent their views and priorities in key forums at local, national and international levels. Huairou gives visibility to grassroots women's solutions by placing them at the center of strategic policy dialogues and action planning and aims to allow poor grassroots women to define their own safety agenda, articulate their needs and best practices, and to partner with their cities to put this into action.

Women & Safety: The Huairou Commission is involved in a global campaign to link women, safety and cities. The Huairou Commission supported the participation of grassroots women's groups to attend the first International Seminar of Women's Safety in Montreal Canada, and co-sponsored with UN-Habitat the 2004 Safer Cities for Women and Girls conference in Bogotá, Colombia. The Huairou Commission supports cross-network collaborations, and member networks include: GROOTS International, Women and Cities International, UN-Habitat, FEMUM, Women and Peace Network, Latin American Women and Habitat Network, HIC-Women and Shelter, Information Center of the Independent Women's Forum (ICIFW), and International Council of Women.



Objectives

- Support grassroots women's definitions of and contributions to safer cities;
- Promote methodologies network-building, bottom-up research and negotiation processes among grassroots women and international development practitioners and the transfer of best practices;
- Local crime and violence prevention from a gendered perspective;
- Participatory urban planning and design for safer neighbourhoods for women;
- Strengthen grassroots women's active role in decision-making, policy making and public life, to reduce violence against women in private and public places.

Results / Outputs / Tools

- Grassroots Academies: promote exchange and analysis of local knowledge and skills, and create collective policy recommendations for global meetings
- International Policy Events: Grassroots women exercise power in political spaces
- Huairou Commission supports documentation of Best Practices around safety
- Peer Exchanges among grassroots women from different countries
- Community Mapping: empowers women by placing them at the center of documenting local practices, strategies and tools, and undertaking critical evaluations of the state of their communities
- Local to Local Dialogues: building ongoing partnerships with local authorities
- Increased visibility of grassroots contributions to development
- Grassroots women influence development policy, at various levels

-
- Partnerships with local authorities
 - Many global initiatives are grounded in the local grassroots womens' experiences
 - Safer communities and cities for all their inhabitants

Sources

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Safe Schools Program, Implemented in Ghana and Malawi

DevTech Systems, Inc. *International*

The Safe Schools Program (SSP) is a five-year program (September 2003 – September 2008) sustained by funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development, Office of Women in Development, and implemented by DevTech Systems. SSP works to reduce gender-based violence through promotion of equitable relationships and making schools safe environments. The Program works to prevent gender-based violence in schools, touching on issues relating to education, gender, and health. This multi-level program engages students, teachers, parents, community leaders and policy makers, and has been implemented in Ghana and Malawi, recipients of USAID assistance.

The SSP is an evidence-based program that resulted from a study focusing on four countries, including Ghana and Malawi. Some findings emerged that were consistent throughout the countries: 1) gender-based violence is widespread throughout the school systems; 2) both girls and boys are victims as well as perpetrators of school-related gender-based violence (SRGBV); and 3) the common forms of SRGBV include sexual violence, physical violence and psychological violence⁴¹.



Objectives

- Create safe school environment for girls and boys;
- Promote gender-equitable relationships;
- Reduce school-related gender-based violence (SRGBV).

The Safe School Program has developed a number of initiatives based on the information gathered during the preliminary country studies, and aimed at achieving their objectives. Initiatives include life skills training, counseling and referral services, teacher training, community actions plans, teacher's code of conduct, and advocacy.

Doorways is a manual developed in the United States of America and used to guide the Program. It underwent considerable testing in both Ghana and Malawi, and, through participatory processes, was adapted to better reflect the particular reality of each country. Among other things, names, scenarios, language and objectives are all modified to make the program more culturally appropriate and meaningful. The adaptation process is rigorous, bringing together representatives from the Ministries of Gender, Education, and Youth, as well as NGO representatives, USAID Mission personnel, and students for a five-day workshop aimed at gathering initial feedback for adaptation. This phase is followed by month-long pilot testing in six school with similar demographics to the ones selected for SSP implementation, and a six-day "train the trainers" workshop. A preparatory meeting with the Safe School Program facilitators is then held to flesh out the modalities for implementation.

Doorways targets youth aged 10 to 14, and is integrated into school curriculum, providing each student with 40 hours of life skills training each year. It includes elements for both collective and individual growth and development. Each student is asked to set a personal (and realistic) goal to work towards, and work to help each other achieve their goals. The goals set help to guide the training, as each student's goal is mainstreamed throughout the program as they are asked to refer back to it with the introduction of each new module. It follows the rationale that "with a carefully planned personal goal, students are more likely to make healthy personal choices"⁴². Topics include human rights, with an emphasis on teaching youth, and girls in particular, about their right

41. Columbia, Richard (2006), *Doorways*, in *DevTech Sphere*, Fall, Arlington, USA: DevTech Systems Inc. p.2

42. Columbia, Richard (2006), *Doorways*, in *DevTech Sphere*, Fall, Arlington, USA: DevTech Systems Inc. p.2.

to their own human rights, and respecting each other's rights. The link between gender and age and discrimination and violence is explored through a human rights lens. Regardless of the fact that gender is mainstreamed throughout the entire curriculum, it also gets its own module, addressing gender roles and the socialization of boys and girls. Role playing and scenarios are used to explore the impact of gender roles and to get students to begin to reflect on their own vulnerability to being either a victim or perpetrator of gender inequality or gender-based violence.

Building on this, the module "School-Related Gender-Based Violence in Our Community" engages the students to think critically about various situations, drawing the parameter for acceptable and unacceptable behaviour, and, using case studies, learning how to try to escape or respond to situations of SRGBV. The community is also engaged and invited to the school to present community-based resources that can be exploited when dealing with cases of SRGBV. A Healthy Relationships module teaches the students how to build positive relationships that are free from violence, and how to set boundaries. Role-playing is used once again to train the youth on negotiating these boundaries and resisting peer pressure.

Results

Results from the pilot tests revealed elicited positive feedback from students and teachers alike on the Doorways life skills program. Teachers who were not solicited as facilitators also responded positively to the curriculum. Students commented on the pertinence of the topics and reported feeling more self-confident at the close of the pilot test. Additional topics on puberty and HIV/AIDS were also suggested by the students.

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Women in Cities International: A network for women changing their communities

International, based in Montreal, Canada *International*

Women in Cities International (WICI) is an international network for various partners concerned with gender equality issues and the place of women in cities. WICI aims to promote international discussion that contributes to the advancement of knowledge and practices in this field. The motivation for creating WICI was in direct response to a sense that the networking that had occurred in the 1970's and 1980's due to federal funding of conferences and meetings had disappeared which resulted in a loss of learning across the world. In particular, the linking of researchers and practitioners around strategies of knowledge diffusion was felt to be the gap to be filled by Women in Cities International.



Objectives

- Create and disseminate information on issues relating to security of women and girls, gender equality and the role of women in cities;
- Promote and organize expertise-sharing and training activities;
- Act as a consultant to governments and organizations in promoting policies and programs which take account of gender, further the greater participation of women, and increase the effectiveness of action undertaken by women's organization at the community level.

Current activities include the project '*Creating Safer Communities for Marginalized Women and Everyone*' which aims to build partnerships between local women's groups working with marginalised women (Aboriginal women, elderly women, disabled women, immigrant women and visible minorities) and their municipalities by implementing safety audits within their communities.

Other initiatives include undertaking a comparative evaluation study of women's safety audits in partnership with UN-Habitat Safer Cities Programme. The aims of the research is to 1) identify what works in what contexts, and what are the challenges internationally in the use of women's safety audits and 2) identify what kinds of concrete outcomes result from the use of safety audits, both in terms of design changes and in strengthening women's involvement in local planning and governance.

Results and Tools

As network members of the Huairou Commission, WICI and the Latin American Women and Habitat Network-HIC were asked to lead the *UN-Habitat Global Assessment on Women's Safety*. As a first step, the International Women's Safety Survey was developed to collect successful practices and tools. Preliminary results were shared at the International Conference on the State of Safety in World Cities 2007 in Monterrey, Mexico from October 1st – 5th, 2007.

Funded by Status of Women Canada, WICI developed a framework for creating sustainable partnerships on women's safety, which was tested in 6 pilot communities across Canada. A guide was published on this experience: *Building Community-based Partnerships for Local Action on Women's Safety*.

WICI organised four workshops at the World Urban Forum III in Vancouver including an on-line exchange forum in preparation for this event. Three reports were produced in conjunction to these events: 1) *Sharing our Knowledge for Action: An Online Exchange Forum on Gender Equality* 2) *Moving from the Margins: Actions for Safer Cities for the Full Diversity of Girls* 3) *Towards Women Inclusive Cities Safe and Healthy Cities For Women: Sustainable Partnerships For Local Action*.

In 2004, women's groups, grassroots community organizations, municipal governments, and other groups from across the world competed in this *1st Women's Safety Awards* competition. All six continents provided examples of innovative work, exciting projects, replicable products, and impressive evaluations. The description of selected best practices and summaries of all projects submitted to the competition were collected in a compendium of good practices which was distributed widely across the world. The *Women's Safety Awards 2004: A Compendium of Good Practices* can be downloaded on their website.

WICI has developed a Directory of activities and resources to promote the international dissemination and exchange of practices and knowledge in the field of women's equality and gender mainstreaming. The Directory includes women's safety initiatives involving women and girls, boys and men, community mobilization, safety planning, etc. Organizations are invited to submit information on their programs through their website in order to share their projects with others across the world.

The first activity organised by WICI was the *1st International Seminar on Women's Safety "Making the Links"* held in Montreal in May 2002. This event gathered 156 participants from 27 countries and 55 cities and municipalities, including 35 participants from developing countries and countries in transition. This event allowed national and international sharing on information and resources on the vital topic of making communities safer, it developed an infrastructure for continuing work, including the formation of Women in Cities International with participation from local and UN-affiliated organizations, and a website with information on initiatives and it generated enthusiasm for further national and international collaborations. This initiative lead to the 2nd International Seminar on Women's Safety "Safer Cities for Women and Girls" organised by the municipality of Bogotá in collaboration with UN-Habitat. The Montreal Seminar proceedings, and the Montreal and Bogotá Declarations on Women's Safety can be accessed on their website.

Sources

- Women in Cities International website: www.womenincities.org
- Personal communication with Marisa Canuto, Programme Director, Women in Cities International, August 8, 2008

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The Women's Network of International Action on Small Arms (IANSA)

International

The IANSA Women's Network (WN) supports organisations working on women and violence prevention to combat gun violence in their communities and support the global campaign to reduce the proliferation and misuse of small arms. Currently, the Women's Network has over 250 members from every region in the world. Members of the network work on local, regional and national government levels for their respective country. IANSA is a member of the Control Arms Campaign, together with Oxfam GB and Amnesty international and are lobbying at the UN level for arms control.



Objectives

- Build a united and dynamic movement of women resisting gun violence;
- Monitor and evaluate weapons disposal programmes;
- Formulate long-term strategies to combat the global arms crisis;
- Connect organisations and provide information and resources;
- Raise public awareness on the issue of small arms availability and misuse.

IANSA WN aims to make the public aware of the fact that guns affect women and men differently. Approximately 15-20 % of IANSA WN members are working on women's rights. The majority of individuals killed or wounded by gunshot are men, but women are still affected. Women are rarely the owners of guns, but are more susceptible to gun-related sexual violence. The abundance and misuse of small arms and light weapons (SALW) makes a significant contribution towards the global inequality between men and women and gender-based violence. IANSA research has shown that domestic violence is more likely to be lethal when a firearm is present within the home, irrespective of whether it is legally owned or not. Most countries fail to mention guns in their domestic violence laws even though there is evidently a strong connection between the two. Members of the IANSA WN are directly involved in disarmament initiatives and campaigns for ending all forms of gun violence. The Women's Network is funded by the government of Norway.

The policy work of IANSA focuses on both implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, and on developing a global firearms policy that takes into account the impact of guns on women. IANSA WN members consistently challenge the connection between guns and masculinity whilst promoting women's empowerment. IANSA WN supports the participation of women in international meetings, ensuring that women's opinions on small arms are heard.

IANSA is a founding member of the global Control Arms campaign for an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), along with Oxfam and Amnesty International. Significant public support for the campaign was amassed, culminating in the million Faces petition, where individuals submitted their portraits, expressing their support for the Treaty. A major political victory was achieved in 2006 when 153 governments voted to start work on an ATT in 2007.

The members' campaigns focus on delivering the idea that they reject this model of masculinity in society. For example members in Brazil launched a campaign using the fact that "gun" is a feminine noun in Portuguese, so the slogan, targeted at boyfriends and husbands, was "Choose her [the gun] or me." Understanding the different ways that males and females engage in, are affected by, and respond to gun violence is crucial to developing successful solutions to firearms problems.

Members of the IANSA Women's Network are actively involved in the monitoring and evaluation of weapons disposal programmes. IANSA WN supports the frequent launching of global Gun destruction to help control the unregulated trade in arms which claims countless lives. IANSA WN also promotes the Global Week of Action against Gun Violence to raise awareness (2-8 June 2008), campaign for better gun laws, and promote the stronger regulation of the global arms trade.

Results / Outcomes / Tools

On 17 July 2008, IANSA organised a discussion, "The Danger Within: Disarming Domestic Violence" where international experts on the harmonisation of domestic violence laws and small arms legislation were interviewed to raise public awareness of the link between guns and domestic violence.

During the third biennial meeting of states on small arms held on 14-18 July 2008, IANSA WN delivered their progress reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action (PoA). This was also an opportunity for IANSA WN to talk to States about domestic violence and firearms possession in order to increase awareness of laws and policies that separate perpetrators from guns.

From 26 February to 9 March 2008, at the Commission on the Status of Women meetings in New York, one of the themes for the Commission was "Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peacebuilding". IANSA members were involved in a diverse range of NGO side events, including 'The Impact of Guns on Women's Lives', a seminar organised by IANSA and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs on 3 March 2008.

IANSA produces a quarterly Bulletin, *Women at Work: Preventing Gun Violence* which contains profiles of member NGOs, articles on women, gender and small arms, and a listing of news, new resources and events of interest to Network members. The publication is produced in English, French and Spanish. IANSA WN is currently planning on launching the publication in Arabic. The Women's Network Web Portal contains web versions of the Network Bulletins, as well as news, campaign updates, reports, and fact sheets on women and small arms.

Sources

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Women's Police Stations

International

Several countries in South America and Asia have taken the approach of setting up women's police stations staffed by women officers who have received training in gender sensitivity to improve the ability to serve women. In most cases, much of the work these units do is related to cases of sexual abuse and domestic violence against women. The police stations are staffed with multi-disciplinary female teams and are equipped to respond to the different needs of victim-survivors. They have been set up as an attempt to make police stations more accessible to women. The women's stations are typically on different floors or areas of existing precincts, rather than separate buildings. In addition to the police women, social workers, psychologists and lawyers often work from the stations, providing another level of support, such as a mediation of spousal conflicts.



Objectives

- Raise awareness on issues of violence against women;
- Offer social and legal assistance for female victims;
- Assist police in search, arrest, custody, escort and interrogation of women prisoners or suspects.

In many circumstances the women are not looking for criminalizing the behaviour of the abuser but to stop the violence. The location of women police stations does not absolve other police stations of their responsibilities of dealing with and investigating crimes against women and protection of women against violence.

In 1985, the first such station (*Delegacias da Mulher - DMM*) was established in Sao Paulo, Brazil, as a response to women's complaints that they could not report crimes against them in regular police stations because they were treated with disrespect and disbelief. Today, more than 340 *DMMs* are helping the women all over Brazil.

India has also pioneered the use of the all-women police station. In Tamil Nadu, India, the first elected female chief minister, established the All Women Police Stations (AWPS) in 1992. Other Indian states soon followed. Each AWPS staffs 15 policewomen, and focuses on crimes against women. At present, there are 188 All Women Police Station and two toll-free help-lines (Woman in Distress and Child in Distress) through which anonymous complaints are pursued at the same priority level as regular complaints. Each AWPS has female civilian workers attached, providing advice and support and referral services to women. These stations are designed to provide comprehensive support to women, including social, legal, psychological, housing, health, and day-care services, thus responding to the many levels of support that a victim of domestic violence needs.

With funding from UN ECOSOC's Development Account, the Project "Strengthening of Women Police Stations and Civil Society to Counteract Gender-related Violence in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay" has been introduced. Other countries that current have Women Police Stations include: Argentina (*Comisaría de la mujer y/o familia*); Bolivia; Chile (*48ª Comisaría de Asuntos de la Familia – Dirección General de Protección a la Familia de Carabineros de Chile*); Colombia; Costa Rica; Nicaragua (*Comisaría de la Mujer y la Niñez*); Paraguay (*Departamento de Asuntos Familiares de la Policía Nacional*); Peru; Uruguay; Venezuela; Bangladesh; Malaysia; Pakistan; Philippines; and Spain.

The women police stations are created with a view of paying special attention to crimes against women and more particularly harassment and cruelty against women. They are also intended to inspire confidence and aim to be unique, humane settings where women would feel less isolated and more empowered to report violent incidents committed against them.

Victims of domestic violence report feeling more comfortable bringing charges to police stations staffed by female officers because they offer legal advice and emotional counselling and take their problems seriously. Unfortunately, this often elicits such a high demand that officers cannot cope with all of the requests that they receive.

Women's Police Stations are facing challenges all around the world. Some victims do not report abuses because of fear or because they are economically dependent on their spouses. Lack of funding in some stations hinders service-provision. Additionally, some victim-survivors have to travel great distances to register their complaints at the special women's police stations and are no longer assured of protection from the regular police stations in their neighbourhoods.

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Women's Safety Audits

International

Preliminary results from the 2007 Global Assessment on Women's Safety⁴³ found that internationally, the women's safety audit is the tool most widely used by groups working to promote women's safety. Women's Safety Audits were initially developed by the Toronto Metro Action Committee on Public Violence Against Women and Children (METRAC) in 1989, in response to growing fear of crime among city residents. Use of the audits quickly spread and are now widely used nationally and internationally.

Safety Audits provide a critical analysis of public spaces and the urban environment. They are participatory audits of a given space, usually one that has been identified by the women participating as being unsafe. Participants in groups of 3 – 6, primarily composed of women, identify the factors in the built environment that make them feel safe and the factors that make them feel unsafe. Based on the results of this analysis, recommendations are made to the municipality for improving the elements of the built environment to make it safer for residents and increase use of public space.

Generally these improvements that are recommended are made on the basis of the main principles for women's safety: knowing where I am and where I am going; seeing and being seen; hearing and being heard; being able to escape and obtain help; and living in a clean and welcoming environment. A report on the findings is then submitted to the relevant section of the local authority for action. This is also a means for empowering women and giving them a voice and a vehicle for participating in their own safety, while also fostering partnerships with the municipality.



Objectives

- Allow women to identify the factors that make them feel safe or unsafe
- Include women in working to improve their own safety
- Build partnerships between local women and the municipality
- Improve safety for women and for everyone

The Women's Safety Audit Tool is a process, and not a one-time event. The process requires time for research before the walk, for building partnerships with the relevant stakeholders and authorities, and for subsequent planning, advocacy, and implementation of recommendations.

One of the underlying assumptions of the women's safety audit is that women, and people who use a space daily, are the experts of that space and of their own sense of safety. It is they who are best-suited for auditing the area, and for suggesting improvements. It is also they who stand to gain the most by the improvements, including increased use of public space. Involving the most vulnerable members of the population, including elderly, disabled, young, or refugees in the audit process is highly recommended, with the assumption that making communities safer for their most vulnerable members makes them safer for everyone.

43. The Global Assessment identified and contacted organisations from around the world who are working on issues related to women's safety to document the type of work they are doing. The Global Assessment is currently ongoing and is a collaborative effort of the Huairou Commission, UN Habitat's Safer Cities Program, Red Mujer y Habitat, and Women in Cities International. Preliminary results can be accessed online at: <http://www.huairou.org/campaigns/governance/activities.html>.

One of the greatest strengths of the women's safety audit is its applicability and ease of adaptation to suit the needs of dramatically different environments and participants. The participants carry a detailed area map and a safety audit guide to direct them on the walk. This prompts them to assess a number of factors, such as lighting or signage, to identify the factors that promote or inhibit their sense of safety. It is important that the guide be adapted in order to be meaningful to the participants. For example, some criteria for assessment may not be relevant to certain areas or some language used may not be the same as in other countries. In these cases, questions can be added, modified, or removed altogether.

Results⁴⁴

Internationally, use of the women's safety audit tool has yielded a range of impressive results. Changes include dramatic restructuring of urban spaces, such as Montreal, Canada's subway systems or redesigning a pedestrian tunnel in the UK. The audits have also resulted in changes to legislation and sensitization campaigns for women's safety in public spaces. Furthermore, women have been empowered by the process and for some, it was the first time they have been included in decisions about their own safety. Anecdotal evidence also points to changes in attitudes and behaviours, resulted in greater use of public space by a diversity of people and at different times of the day.

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44. An assessment of the use of women's safety audits internationally has recently been completed by Women in Cities International and will shortly be published by UN-HABITAT Safer Cities Programme. Lambrick, Melanie and Travers, Kathryn (forthcoming) *Women's Safety Audits: What Works and Where?*, published by UN-Habitat.

Empowering Young Women to Lead Change 2006 - A Training Manual

World YWCA *International*

Empowering Young Women to Lead Change is a training manual developed by the World YWCA and financed by the United Nations Population Fund. The manual aims to empower young women by developing their awareness and involvement in key women's issues. The manual was developed by an international group of women less than 30 years of age directly involved in global women's rights and empowerment activities. The group played provided guidance during manual production. They concluded that seven issues were of great significance to young women including: HIV/AIDS, sexual and reproductive health, self esteem and body image, violence against women, human rights, economic justice and peace. As a result, the manual delivers information to address these areas using a wide range of activities.



Objectives

- Provide women with an insight on the key issues;
- Allow trained women to facilitate training to educate and mobilise peers to collaborate on the seven issues;
- Develop women's advocacy skills and take concrete action on the main issues.

The manual underwent preliminary testing in a variety of locations including: Belarus, Jamaica, El Salvador, Lebanon, Zambia and the Philippines. This was done to ensure that it could be applied to women of diverse cultural backgrounds as well as efficiently delivering information to young women. The manual was officially launched at the 2006 International AIDS Conference in Toronto.

The tool contains guidelines for each module focusing on enabling young women to independently hold effective workshops without the need for "expert facilitators". It encourages flexibility to ensure that each programme is unique and tailor-made to the specific needs of each global community. The tool encourages users to organise half or one-day workshops for each of the modules to ensure that the subjects are appropriately addressed. The alternative structure suggested is to combine all modules over an eight-day leadership development training period.

The manual identifies key principles for working with young women including: respect for one another, exploring solutions to problems, peer learning, open-mindedness, promoting experiential learning and enjoyment. The manual has been carefully targeted at young women where the element of fun is present to make the activities more approachable throughout. An example is seen in the activity names including: "Boomchicka" and "talking behind your back". Each section begins with a brief overview on the issue followed by related activities. Recommended time periods are given for each activity as well as objectives, requirements and preparation needed. In order to consolidate the key chapter teachings participants are encouraged to discuss suggested topics together with related challenges. Positive and motivational activities are continuously promoted throughout the guide to enforce constructive behaviour and support among women participants. An example includes icebreaker activities which are ideal for breaking down social barriers whilst strengthening the companionship between women participants. General tips for facilitators are also given to ensure that the workshop activities involve all participants effectively as well as being relevant to their social contexts.

Numerous activities have been developed to address each key issue. The exploring leadership sections contains five activities to ensure participants explore different leadership qualities, categorise their own leadership approach and develop a plan for honing their leadership potential. The concluding section of the manual addresses violence against women and highlights the fact that

women are subjected to violence throughout their lives. It contains poignant accounts of women of different ages who have experienced different forms of violence. A time line of the abuse women experience throughout their lives is listed. The participants are then encouraged to discuss means of advancing women's rights and how they can take a stand against violence against women. An example of actions includes the acting out of a short story of violence to raise public awareness of the fact that violence against women has a negative impact on the whole community and that we possess the collective power to change lives for the better.

Results and tools

Currently the YWCA has reached approximately 25 girls and women in 122 countries training their skills to develop leadership to improve communities globally.

The manual is available in English, French and Spanish.

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