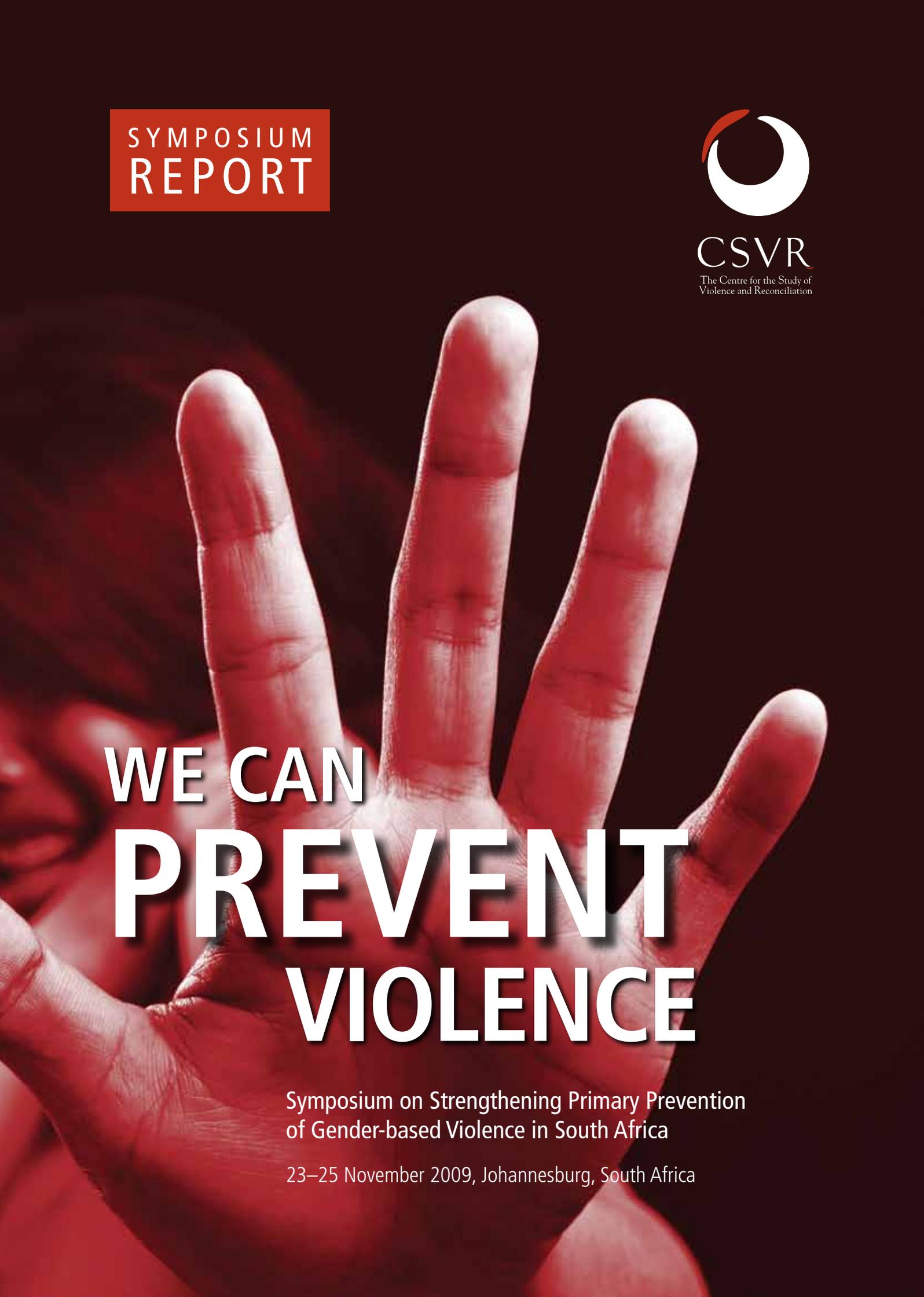


SYMPOSIUM
REPORT



CSV
The Centre for the Study of
Violence and Reconciliation



WE CAN
**PREVENT
VIOLENCE**

Symposium on Strengthening Primary Prevention
of Gender-based Violence in South Africa

23–25 November 2009, Johannesburg, South Africa

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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We would also like to extend our appreciation to all the symposium speakers for their enlightening and insightful presentations, reminding us of the numerous initiatives underway to prevent gender-based violence in all its forms.

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ACRONYMS

ADAPT	The Agisanang Domestic Abuse Prevention and Training
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women
CPF	Community Policing Forum
CRISP	Crime Prevention in Schools Project
CSO	Civil society organisation
CSVSR	Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation
DoJ&CD	Department of Justice and Constitutional Development
DVA	Domestic Violence Act
FMCSA	Ford Motor Company South Africa
GBV	Gender-based Violence
IEC	Information, education and communication
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
IT	Information Technology
MCP	Multiple and Concurrent Partnerships
PLHA	People Living with HIV and AIDS
POWA	People Opposing Women Abuse
RJ	Restorative Justice
SEF	Small Enterprise Foundation
SOCA	Sexual Offences and Community Affairs
TAC	Treatment Action Campaign
TVEP	Thohoyandou Victim Empowerment Programme
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VAW	Violence against Women
VEP	Victim Empowerment Programme
VCT	Voluntary Counselling and Testing
WCNWW	Western Cape Network on Violence against Women
ZTVA	Zero Tolerance in Villages Alliance

In this report, the terms "gender-based violence", "gender violence", "intimate-partner violence", "domestic violence" and "violence against women" are used interchangeably.

INTRODUCTION

The symposium was opened by Angelica Pino, Gender-based Violence programme manager at the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSV). Ms. Pino highlighted the manner in which interventions relating to the response to gender-based violence (GBV) have been numerous and consistent in the past few years. Through feminist scholarship, violence against women (VAW) is now seen as a public health issue with the relevant legislation enacted. However, efforts pertaining to primary prevention of GBV (preventing instances of violence before any violence occurs) have received less attention. The purpose of the symposium was to bring together a carefully selected group of practitioners working on primary prevention of GBV to discuss different initiatives and interventions currently underway, particularly those that go beyond mass media campaigns.

In addition to GBV being a human rights violation and resulting in long-term negative psychological effects, Ms. Pino outlined the economic rationale for preventing GBV. She gave evidence of the significant costs to healthcare, criminal justice processes and psychosocial interventions borne by states as a result of GBV. Loss of productivity as a result of GBV is also a strong argument for a more concerted effort on primary prevention.

Other prevention strategies do exist, namely secondary and tertiary prevention. Secondary prevention of violence refers to strategies which aim to prevent further violence from occurring in the short term. Tertiary prevention is defined as approaches that deal with the long term effects of violence such as therapy or sex offender treatment programmes. Civil society organisations (CSO) have taken the lead in secondary prevention of violence while tertiary prevention is still in its infancy, due to lack of resources to provide services in the long term.

While South Africa's 365 Day National Action Plan to end Gender Violence does focus on the role of public awareness campaigns, the Plan has not developed prevention objectives. This has resulted in a criticism by CSOs that the Plan is a quick fix approach to the systemic problem of violence in society. In the past, primary prevention of violence models have been developed, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s sexual violence prevention model, as well as the Gender Links model of primary prevention.

In order to scale up primary prevention efforts, government departments need to direct resources to organisations, particularly CSOs, in order that interventions are designed and implemented. However, quantity of resources should be a determinant in whether or not primary prevention initiatives get off the ground: resource-strapped countries such as Uganda are scaling up primary prevention efforts in an impressive manner. In South Africa there exists an apathetic sentiment that violence is inevitable and must be contended with or, at best, managed. This needs to change and the notion that violence is indeed preventable needs to take much stronger root in society.

WELCOME AND OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

The conference was formally opened by Ms. Angelica Pino, Gender Programme Manager at the CSV. She welcomed the participants on behalf of the conference Working Group and thanked them for their interest in and commitment to finding solutions to the problem of domestic violence. Ms Pino extended a particular welcome to conference guests and speakers who had travelled from the SADC region, Nepal, India and Argentina. The participants were encouraged to debate the issues candidly and vociferously in an attempt to chart a way forward that would result in more effectively implementation of the DVA.

KEYNOTE SPEECH

Rashida Manjoo – United Nations Rapporteur on Violence against Women

Apologies were made for UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, Rashida Manjoo, who, due to illness, was unable to attend the symposium. Her paper was read by Adèle Kirsten, Executive Director of the CSV.

Gender-based violence is both universal and particular. It exists in every country in the world and affects populations across race, class, religion, nationalities and culture. This clearly points to patriarchy as a key factor in the existence and continuance of gender-based violence. Since 1945, several important conventions and declarations have been passed such as: the United Nations Charter; the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); the UN Declaration in Vienna in 1993; and the decision to appoint a Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences. This indicates a commitment to address VAW as a pervasive, societal problem. They have also paved the way for states and regional bodies to put measures of their own in place to address VAW and measure advancements made towards reducing VAW.

The UN Special Rapporteur is tasked with recommending measures to eliminate VAW at national, regional and international levels; conducting fact finding visits; working in tandem with other human rights institutions at all levels; and ensuring the further development of relevant international

law. The UN Special Rapporteur investigates all forms of VAW from domestic violence to global forms of violence such as trafficking in women and children. The Rapporteur's role is also to ensure that violence experienced by women is understood and analysed in the context of wider systems of inequalities and other forms of subordination.

Approaches to address GBV can be state-led initiatives such as legal and policy frameworks, as well as the establishment of a responsive legal system. Initiatives can also include the provision of psychosocial support and implementation of empowerment policies. The commitment to fight VAW at an international level is evident in the UN Secretary-General's campaign "UNiTE to end violence against women". The Framework of Action highlights the following five key outcomes for the campaign:

- The adoption and enforcement of national pieces of legislation.
- The adoption and implementation of multi-sectoral and well-resourced national plans of action that emphasise prevention.
- The establishment of data collection and analysis systems which accurately reveal the prevalence levels of VAW.
- The establishment of national and/or local campaigns and the involvement of civil society on issues relating to prevention and support to survivors of violence.
- The adoption of efforts to address sexual violence in conflict situations such as rape being used as a tactic of war.

The above framework, along with the various international, regional and local instruments and frameworks, can act as accountability mechanisms to ensure that state and other relevant bodies prioritise the prevention of and fight against VAW.



PANEL 1

VIOLENCE PREVENTION AS A NEW PARADIGM

Adèle Kirsten – Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation

Globally, 1.6 million people die every year in a violent manner. One third of these cases are homicides with a large percentage involving guns. Most violence occurs in countries which are not presently at war. Research has also revealed that economically-disadvantaged communities are at a higher risk of being both perpetrators as well as victims of violence. Although data and studies on violence usually cite number or deaths as a result of violence, the number of people affected by disability as a result of violence is also staggering.

In the last century there have three major responses to violence:

Social mobilisation and action – this approach focuses on structural violence. Violence is seen as embedded within society, and as a learned behaviour influenced by the inequitable distribution of wealth and access to resources. In the past, this approach has led to the formation of liberation movements.

Conflict analysis approach – this approach is informed by the United Nations and was popular from the 1940s to the 1970s when many societies were undergoing social and developmental change. Within this approach, alternative forms of addressing conflict and violence such as dispute resolution, restorative justice and mediation are advocated.

The public health approach – this approach believes violence is a disease, and measures to tackle it should be similar to those addressing any other disease. Therefore, the public health approach is not designed to look at an individual's experience of violence but rather aims to provide maximum health benefits for all people within a given population. The public health approach involves collecting extensive baseline data in order that evidence-based interventions are developed. The approach is, arguably, one of the most important frameworks developed in order to understand violence, despite the criticism that it lacks an analysis of structural forms of violence.

Within the public health approach trends in violence can be captured and analysed. In this way violence is understood as occurring in particular patterns, and not as random acts. The public health approach also uses the ecological model to highlight how violence influences and is influenced by the individual, social relationships, the community and society at large. Violence is also seen as mediated by risk and protection factors at each of these four levels. Therefore, violence prevention efforts are developed around these risks and protection factors.

The public health approach of violence prevention is as follows:

1. Define the problem through data collection. This will reveal the nature and extent of the problem.
2. Conduct research in order to determine the factors driving violence and who is affected by it.
3. Design and implement a pilot project.
4. After evaluation of pilot study, implement widely and evaluate.

In 1996, at the UN and global level, violence prevention was put on the agenda with states being required to develop national responses to violence. However, only in 2004 did states begin to actualise this commitment. Prior to this, there was a feeling that violence was inevitable. Within responses to violence by the state, there is increasing recognition that the inclusion of violence prevention must form a significant part of an overall strategy.

One positive example of violence reduction and prevention is in Bogota, Columbia where firearm deaths were halved within six months as a result of closing taverns by midnight. In San Paulo, Brazil, the Centre for the Study of Violence provides support for teenage pregnant mothers and conducts home visits as part of their parenting skills programme. The latter is seen as an excellent example of a primary prevention initiative.

Sue Goldstein - Soul City: Institute for Health and Development Communication

The Soul City Institute aims to contribute to the building of public policy that is cognisant of the physical and social environment within which people live and work. The organisation supports initiatives that are committed to changing behaviours and social norms through the promotion of collective action. The Soul City programmes aim to encourage critical thinking about the barriers to sustained behaviour change. Creating

space to practice new behaviours also ensures behaviour change is sustainable. In many cases, individuals regress to negative behaviours because their environment is not conducive to positive change. There is a need for a “community of practice” – in other words, a network and discussion platform of people and/or organisations with common goals and experiences in which information is shared and discussed – that supports ongoing behavioural change.

Soul City is well known for its media programmes including the recently-launched “OneLove” mass media campaign, a regional HIV campaign that focuses particularly on the issue of multiple and concurrent partnerships (MCP). Evidence shows that mass media can both reflect and stimulate social change on the ground. One of Soul City’s current reality television series is “Kwanda”, which challenges individuals to help five communities look better and function more effectively. The Kwanda group in one community has joined the community policing forum (CPF). Soul City also uses advocacy as a tool to support change.

Currently Soul City is developing a media campaign related to alcohol and violence, where safer drinking will be championed. Some evidence that informs the strategy of this programme include the high levels of alcohol use in South Africa; the culture of violence in society; the disproportionate number of male deaths; the death rate in South Africa being eight times the global average; and the role of alcohol in violent incidences. Evidence from other countries has shown that reducing the availability of alcohol and regulating its prices can lead to a reduction in violent incidences.

Some of the proposed outcomes of the campaign are that liquor boards revise their policy documents to include rules and regulations relating to violence such as the refusal to sell liquor to intoxicated persons. Better regulation of opening and closing times in provinces is also needed. The programme will also work with provincial and municipal governments to tackle the accreditation process and communities will be taught to monitor violence. Shifting social norms regarding the selling and consumption of alcohol is challenging since providing liquor licences is seen as a form of economic development and a way to create jobs.

The campaign will be piloted in five communities and form part of a national CPF. Partners include National Advice Offices and Participation Junction. It is also hoped that some Kwanda groups will be involved in this project.

PLENARY DISCUSSION

Patriarchy

Patriarchal beliefs and practices continue to be an obstacle to attaining gender equality, particularly in the rural areas. Rather than impose judgement on communities that practice patriarchy, community dialogues on the issue should be encouraged. The community dialogues emanating from Soul City’s OneLove campaign reveal that people are devising alternative cultural norms to MCP. Male circumcision, now a formal strategy to curbing the HIV epidemic, presents an opportunity to introduce gender issues into discussions around male sexual health. Some CSOs have begun to make inroads with initiation schools.

Although, by law, taverns and shebeens are not to be set up in close proximity to schools, this is still happening in some areas. The programme will seek the assistance of the Soul Buddyz clubs in schools to monitor this issue. In the Western Cape, there are early discussions about moving taverns and shebeens out of living areas and into particular, regulated zones. Another suggestion is for places of drinking to open only after school hours.

Funding

Although CSOs struggle to secure funding for programmes, a significant amount of money is available within the Department of Education’s life orientation budget. In the past in Limpopo, 83% of the life orientation budget needed to be rolled over. These funds can be used to address GBV in school. Although service delivery is the domain of government, in many cases CSOs fill this gap. Therefore CSOs need to collaborate in order to find ways of accessing this funding and working effectively together.

In the Children’s Act, prevention is a central component to protecting and fulfilling the rights of children. Therefore relevant government departments should allocate sufficient resources to programmes that focus on primary prevention of violence in schools and communities, particularly those relating to children. Although some organisations have indicated they received funding from the Department for Social Development, a significant portion of funding to implement programmes relating to both women and children is sourced from foreign donor funds.



PANEL 2

PRIMARY PREVENTION OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE: THE IDEOLOGICAL UNDERPINNINGS

Fabio Verani – ProMundo, Brazil

Despite a number of impressive laws and policies pertaining to GBV, they have not been enough to change social norms. In many cases, men are aware of the existence of legislation and policy and understand them but do not support them.

There are several reasons why men should be involved in the fight against GBV. Firstly, men often support GBV either implicitly or explicitly. Secondly, men are not often involved in GBV prevention and should be encouraged to take a greater role in it. Thirdly, men still hold power in many institutions such as in the police service and justice system, where GBV cases are brought forward and heard. Fourthly, men tend to strongly influence each other and evidence shows that men listen to other men more readily than to women. Lastly, interventions have shown that men can and do change.

Men's attitudes about masculinity and what it means to be a man correlates to particular health outcomes. This can be seen in the practice of MCP, levels of self-reported physical violence, sexually-transmitted infections, condom usage and levels of substance abuse. Working in the area of GBV essentially means addressing social norms that posit men as the head of the house which, in many ways, sustain norms around GBV.

Working with men and boys

Men should be encouraged to be part of the solution to GBV rather than constantly being blamed for the problem. A benefits-based approach is often used, showing men the benefits of being non-violent and standing up to violence. Since social norms are widely held by traditional leaders and institutions, they too are important stakeholders in Promundo's work. The mass media campaigns are tailor-made to speak to local realities and uses people and concepts that are easily relatable. For example one campaign used local comedians with the tagline "there's nothing funny about gender-based violence". Another campaign involved a T-shirt for the World Cup that said "vote for this team: no violence against women".

Evaluation studies have shown that it is possible for men to alter their thinking around women and violence. An evaluation of the Men as Partners programme in South Africa revealed that prior to a workshop 82% of men agreed with the statement "it is sometimes normal for men to beat their wives". Three months after the workshop, only 38% of the men stated they agreed with the statement. Evaluation results showed a greater reduction in violence and violent attitudes towards women when community mobilisation is coupled with work on gender equality.

Critiques relating to working with men and boys

One of the challenges associated with working with men and boys is limited financing in a competitive climate. Often working with men is seen as an activity which channels funds away from women and girls. There have also been fears that men will dominate the gender discourse and this would lead to further entrenchment of gender roles. However, Promundo does not see working with men and boys as separate to working for the attainment of gender equality. In many cases, men feel their rights have been ignored and as a result many replicate gender inequalities. Therefore, working with men is seen as a significant contribution to women's equality. There must, however, be continuous dialogue with women's rights groups.

Promundo has been careful to ensure that their programme does not result in a space where men get together to discuss the challenges and difficulties in their lives. Since, in many instances, women may make decisions about their abusive relationships based on ProMundo's intervention, the organisation is committed to implementing an effective programme and clear communication.

Evelyn Letiyo - Raising Voices (host to the Gender-based Violence Prevention Network), Uganda

Raising Voices supports the development of skills of different organisations in Eastern and Southern Africa by developing tools that bring about more sustainable and long-term change. The organisation also coordinates the GBV prevention network. The organisation makes use of two major methodologies. The first is community mobilization where communities are encouraged and supported to hold discussion forums on domestic violence and establish structures to support survivors. Secondly, SASA! is a programme which aims to prevent violence with a specific focus on highlighting the link between GBV and HIV transmission. Resource materials have been developed to assist communities in the implementation of both these methodologies.

Raising Voices believes that violence can be stopped before it occurs, but social norms need to change in order for this to happen. It is important to address root, structural causes of violence, as well as contributing factors such as alcohol and poverty, although the latter does not suggest that domestic violence does not occur in high income households. When addressing root causes of violence, communities discuss issues of power within relationships and communities, who holds the power, and how and why it is abused.

The organisation utilises the ecological model to pursue a shift from looking at how individuals can change to looking at how communities can change. The process of change within the community is seen as a process of activism and the cost of violence in that community is highlighted during discussions with communities. In many cases, instigators of change are seen as alien to the community. However the organisation ensures that community volunteers speaking the language of that community regularly engage people in salons, garages and other public places on issues of violence. In this way, communities see the problem of violence against women as their problem and not one constructed by an outsider.

Since individuals are influenced by their families, peers and institutions, these have to be targeted and brought into the conversation. This is part of the primary prevention approach. With regards to secondary prevention, the organisation looks at social learning theories to determine ways in which people who have been in violent relationships for a period of time can employ new strategies in their lives.

Although Raising Voices aims to address the gap in skills and understanding through its Learning Centre it cannot do so for all organizations and there is clearly a gap in primary prevention work in the region. Some overarching insights have emerged from the organisation's work. Firstly, primary prevention is possible but must be comprehensive and holistic. Secondly, clear indicators to measure success must be developed. Thirdly, well thought out methodologies are essential. Lastly, there is a need to move beyond awareness and the assumption that information on human rights will produce change. Rather people must be empowered with practical skills that can facilitate change in their lives.

Colleen Lowe-Morna – Gender Links

Regional initiatives such as the SADC Gender and Development Protocol and the SADC target of halving GBV by 2015 can be viewed as long-term, sustained efforts to address gender violence. Within the framework of the UN's "UNiTE to end violence against women" campaign, regional committees have been set up and countries have been asked to have specific targets to end gender violence.

However, whilst millions are spent on responding to gender violence every year, very little is earmarked for prevention efforts. A study on prevention of gender violence was conducted approximately two years ago by Gender Links and supported by the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), DANIDA and UNICEF. The key objective of the research, subsequent to mapping and identifying eight promising interventions, was to design a comprehensive model for violence prevention.

The study, which made reference to the ecological model, revealed it was very difficult to find purely primary prevention approaches and concluded that response and prevention were part of a continuum.

The five main elements to prevention are as follows:

- Having cognisance of the overarching gender violence framework such as international, regional and national instruments and campaigns;
- The continuum of prevention, care and support;
- Locating interventions at different points of the ecological model;
- Devising short, medium and long term strategies;
- Creating a monitoring and evaluation component.

For many programmes, monitoring and evaluation presents a significant challenge. In many cases the work ends when looking at the outputs produced. However, when looking at outcomes and measuring outreach and impact, most programmes are unable to develop indicators to measure progress in these areas. In regards to primary prevention of violence, it is difficult to measure what has not happened, in particular with the fraught statistics on gender violence that are available. Gender Links is currently producing gender violence indicators for Gauteng and will, in the near future, be able to determine the gaps in underreporting.

There is a need to move beyond working from simply a campaign perspective to an action plan perspective. This can be understood when looking at the 16 Days of Activism of No Violence Against Women and Children. At local level the 365 Action Plan has been taken up by Ekurhuleni municipality, which has set up its targets and earmarked its own budget. Some short term activities have been completed as per the 365 day plan such as the development of shelters. In addition, more sensitive media reporting on GBV has been achieved to some extent. Greater political leadership is needed on the issue of GBV beyond the 16 Days of Activism. Often messages are not carried over to Human Rights Day, Heritage Day etc.

The Fifa 2010 World Cup would be a suitable arena to impart messages on GBV. In the past Fifa has conducted campaigns on racism in the run up to the international event. One recommendation would be to send a delegation to FIFA to propose a campaign on GBV during the World Cup with a slogan similar to "score a goal for gender equality".

Some of the key recommendations made by the report include increased focus on prevention in gender violence work; the establishment of a GBV prevention fund; the revival of the global and national gender violence framework; increased sharing of good practices; and better monitoring and evaluation systems.

PLENARY DISCUSSION

Moving from public awareness to skills building

Whilst public awareness is important, it should be a phase only. Individuals and communities need to develop skills building in being able to recognize violent or potentially violent situations. In addition, communities should be capacitated to respond to violence, which would include gaining knowledge of the relevant service providers to be contacted where necessary. There is also a need to develop alternatives to fighting such as conflict resolution strategies.

“Benefits” approach versus “human rights” approach

Some organisations use the “benefits approach” to working with men on issues of GBV. This approach teaches men the benefits of being non-violent such as having more harmony in the home, ensuring their children feel safe, and a better and healthier sexual relationship with their partner. Men are also shown how children learn violent behaviour from violent parents. Most men, even violent ones, do not want their children replicating their violent behaviour or their daughters, mothers, friends or sisters in violent relationships. In the context of GBV and HIV infection, men are also taught to see the health benefits of non-violent behaviour. A more feminist approach, rooted in a human rights perspective, argues that efforts to reduce GBV must be rooted in the rationale that it is a violation of women’s human rights. Men must be committed to being non-violent because they understand that to be violent is wrong and against the law, not simply because there are economic, emotional and sexual benefits for them.



PANEL 3

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY INITIATIVES

Busisiwe Phalatsi - Lungelo's Women's Organisation

The "Tholulwazi" project, due to be implemented by the Lungelo Women's Organisation in early 2010, is based on the premise that an empowered, well-informed parent will make a positive difference in a child's life. A situational analysis of Region D in Soweto where the project will operate revealed that little communication between parents and children result in children seeking advice and guidance outside the family, particularly on taboo subjects such as sex and sexuality. This exposes children to violence and abuse.

Apart from being exposed to violence, children in this community have been found to be wandering the streets alone. The impact of the HIV epidemic has also seen children being moved between different families as their parents or guardians succumb to an AIDS-related illness.

In Lungelo's experience, 90% of teenagers that come into the organisation for assistance with behavioural problems were sexually abused as children. Most children who have experienced some form of abuse do not disclose the abuse to the parents or communicate it in any way. The lack of communication between parents and children leads to a cycle of violence with children being unable to identify violent situations and ending up becoming violent or abused. The lack of communication means that children continue to be exposed to violence and may grow up to become violent parents. Many parents lack knowledge about where and how to seek help.

The project aims to educate and inform the community about the nature and impact of violence, and to foster an environment of communication and trust in the family as well as in the community. The project, which also contains a door-to-door campaign component, will be piloted with 60 parents in Soweto, who will receive some training in early childhood development. Parents will also be taught to reflect on their own socialisation process. It is hoped the project will ultimately enhance parent/child relationships.

Gita Dennen – Childline

Research conducted by Childline in 2003 revealed more boys than girls are experiencing sexual violence. The findings of this research gave rise to "the boy child" campaign. The campaign encourages boys to talk since many are not socialized to communicate about abuse but are rather taught to fight, be strong and show aggression. On preventing sexual violence, Childline believes that strategies which teach kids to "say no" to abuse are unrealistic because children are not in a position to fight or reject perpetrators. The campaign also does not focus on stranger danger since studies have shown that the majority of perpetrators are known to victims.

The twelve sessions of the Junior Leaders Programme involves fifteen learners from two schools. The objective of the programme is to build the foundations for future leaders. The programme builds self esteem and competence since it encourages the learners to take on projects in identified communities. Vulnerable children that are identified are referred for counselling. In this way, learners are able to master activities which have immediate results.

The organisation believes that real prevention begins with parents. To date, speaking with and work-shopping with parents, parents-to-be, community caregivers and educators have been a core focus of prevention work. Whilst addressing people as parents, the issue of gender socialization and corporal punishment is raised. In many cases there are only a few males represented at the training.

Challenges

The organisation continues to struggle to secure sufficient resources to implement its programme. In addition, many working in the field of gender equality still have a poor conceptual understanding of the notion of "gender" and "gender equality" and some hold patriarchal and misogynistic ideas and beliefs. Getting police and teachers involved in preventing and addressing violence against children remains a challenge, as is getting parents to attend training sessions.

Despite the above, the organisation can record some significant successes such as an increased number of calls to Childline over the years, an increased number of referrals to relevant institutions and an increased number of disclosures by children.

Anik Gevers – University of Cape Town Division of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry

The Respect 4U project was designed from the premise that 80% of adolescents are in intimate relationships as well as the high levels of intimate partner violence (IPV) in South African society. IPV is located in a wider culture that accepts and supports violent behaviour and underpinned by an ideology of male superiority. It results in and reinforces the low social status of women. Major factors that influence IPV are alcohol and drug use. The objectives of the project are:

- To increase social support for girls;
- To challenge norms that sanction boys' rights to insist on sex and to control girls;
- To improve understanding of the risks of alcohol and drug use in the contexts of relationships;
- To improve communication skills to reduce the use of violence in relationships.

The programme was informed by information from other youth-focused programmes such as Stepping Stones and Safe Dates, team and stakeholder feedback and will also use the evidence obtained in the pilot project. The intervention was developed in 2008 and has, to date, recruited and trained health educators. In 2010 the intervention will be piloted in three schools to Grade 8 learners. It is designed to be interactive and flexible, with high levels of involvement from teachers and parents.

The programme will focus on, among other topics, gender issues, rights and responsibilities, relationships and decision-making. Learners will be taught the social, legal and emotional consequences of engaging in violent behaviour, while also learning about how they can assist survivors of violence. They will, throughout the programme which will run for 17 weeks, be given opportunities to share information and knowledge with classmates, family and communities. Monitoring and evaluation of the pilot intervention will feed into a final revision of the intervention.

PLENARY DISCUSSION

Training of teachers on GBV

Although the Department of Education does conduct cascade training with teachers (training a few with the outlook that they will train others), and teachers attend training workshops by organisations such as Childline, there are still a significant number of teachers who are unskilled about identifying and responding to GBV. In many cases, teachers were trained before the new political dispensation and chose teaching due to lack of career options. Many are burned out and are resentful about not being able to use corporal punishment. Although life orientation in schools is mandatory, issues of GBV are not always addressed in depth. Teachers have expressed the desire to learn more about responding to GBV, including making the necessary referrals. There also needs to be better dialogue between the Department of Education and teachers, with both groups, on many occasions, accusing the other of inaction.

Training of parents on GBV

Parents need to communicate with their children from an early age about values, morals, sex and respect for their bodies. Children who are loved and supported in the home environment do not need to seek confirmation about themselves from other people. Organisations such as Lungelo identify parents through meetings of the school governing body. CSOs wanting to conduct work in this area should approach the school and ask for permission to speak to parents. Organisations such as Childline attempt to show parents patterns of abuse in the home such as name calling, beating, withholding food and other forms of punishments that may have been viewed as benign by the parents. Diverse forms of media such as television, radio or specially made DVDs can significantly impart knowledge of a particular subject, especially in cases of poor communication between parents and children in the home.



PANEL 4

PREVENTING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AMONG YOUTH AND IN SCHOOLS

Bashi Devnarain and Bisini Naidoo - Crime Prevention in the Schools Project

The CRISP Trust implements programmes in schools relating to human rights promotion and the prevention and management of sexual abuse. In addition, CRISP has conducted research in the area of child labour, teenage pregnancy and trafficking for the purpose of body parts. The organisation works with policy-makers and local government structures and aims to disseminate information about the programme's findings via a range of media. In many rural areas where the CRISP programme is being implemented, schools function without running water or electricity and learners often share pens, pencils, plates and utensils. In some cases children do not have water with which to take their medication.

The programme began as a crime reduction initiative in Kwa Zulu Natal but eventually broadened to look at more structural issues that facilitate violence such as municipal structures, integrated development plans, budgets and the infrastructural and resource challenges in some schools. Working from the ecological model, the programme looks at the way in which children interact within their families and communities. The organisation works with local government as well as NGOs on issues of gender budgeting and employs trained facilitators that work in designated schools for the entire school year.

Monitoring and evaluation

Data is collected from both quantitative and qualitative sources such as in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, facilitators' reports, media reports, literature reviews, meetings with school management, and site visits to schools. From July-December 2008, 3,949 learners were reached directly in the 4 sites. However, this figure increased to 9,081, the total community of staff and learners influenced by the programme. Further still, assuming that each person is part of a family or community unit of five people, this translates to over 45,000 people potentially impacted by the programme.

The programme has been shown to have made an impact on several levels. In learners there was increased awareness of different forms of abuse, increased respect for peers and teachers and increased self-confidence. The educators broadened their knowledge of the topics under discussion and the school management increased their knowledge of some of the frameworks and policies in place to address GBV. Parents appreciated the parenting skills programme and were pleased their children were acquiring information on their rights. Although some structural challenges are still faced, the programme continues to be welcomed in many quarters including the Department of Education.

Emily Mabusela – Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation

The rationale for the CSVR's *Engendering Schools Safety* project lies in the empirical evidence that GBV is occurring in schools. While schools are a subset of the community and issues of GBV cannot solely be located in schools, the latter is a less changing environment than the community. Since the audience will not change significantly over a short period of time, a school is a preferable place to implement a project on GBV. Whilst youth out of school are also at risk, it is easier to locate the risk experienced by learners in the school environment.

In many instances, it is believed that boys and girls experience violence in the same way. Gender analysis of violence has revealed that this is not the case. The project moves from this premise and aims to understand and prevent GBV, and focuses on creating changes at the level of the individual, peer group and school environment. The project supports the development of positive identities by creating an environment in which boys and girls can challenge stereotypes, are made aware of GBV and can speak out about it. The programme also provides counselling and support.

The project also aims to work within the context of schools' policies and procedures relating to safety. The project will initiate a preventative safety plan which will identify potential danger areas, chart the setting up of a school safety committee and give guidance on the action against perpetrators. Dealing effectively with perpetrators is part of the project's drive to address the normalisation of violence within communities and replace it within a culture that celebrates human rights.

Challenges and lessons learned

One of the challenges the project has experienced is the competition for schools by various NGOs wanting to implement projects. Time constraints and low teacher morale are other challenges that need to be managed.

To date some lessons learned are that violence, particularly intimate partner violence, is seen as a private or individual issue and not as a social problem. Schools need to be more cohesive and learners and educators need to communicate more openly and work together in order to identify instances of GBV and address it quickly and effectively. Schools also need to appoint champions that will be committed to the success of the project. In many communities, upholding human rights and arguing for gender equality are seen as western notions and in conflict with African beliefs and value systems. There is a need for further investigation into bridging this dichotomy.

In addition to investigating the role of girl on girl violence in the larger sphere of GBV, there are future plans to document all lessons learned and incorporate them into the redefining of the current project. It is hoped that the results of the project will feed into policy development and better policy implementation, while at the same time strengthening similar community-based ventures.

Christine Williamson - GOLD Peer Education Development Agency

The main goal of the GOLD (Generation of Leaders Discovered) Peer Education Development Agency is to reduce HIV incidence and mitigate the impact of the epidemic in communities. It also supports educational development in schools by working within the school environment, community centres and organisations within the education sector.

The GOLD peer education programme invites selected Grade 9 or 10 learners to the programme until the completion of their studies in Grade 12. The youth-focused programme is implemented by an NGO, CBO or faith-based organisation and makes use of a facilitator. It is integrated into the life orientation curriculum programme and receives significant school support. Peer educators participate in skills-building sessions and are mentored by facilitators in order to impact upon the knowledge and behaviour of other peers and younger students. In addition, by the completion of the programme peer educators are expected to educate peers on rights and responsibilities, recognise peers in need of assistance and refer where necessary, and uplift their communities through raising awareness of issues and mobilising for resources. However, peer educators are not peer counsellors or social workers. They do not receive monetary remuneration but may receive food parcels. Peer educators may also apply to work as an intern in an implementing agency.

The organisation believes that gender inequality and GBV is a major driver in the HIV epidemic and the primary prevention of GBV through peer education is one of the major objectives of the programme. One of the outputs of the programme is an increase in gender equity among learners coupled with a challenging of accepted male norms and behaviours. The programme is comprised of six modules: self-development, gender, relationships and rights, sexual and reproductive health, leadership, communication skills, and community action. The GOLD curriculum is holistic in nature and its planned lessons are interactive and fun, involving among other things, role playing, dramas, and music. The "talk groups" are less formal and aimed to provoking discussion and debate on relevant issues.

There is a rigorous M&E system in place and internal research based on assessment, surveys and focus groups have shown that the GOLD curriculum is making a positive impact on the lives of programme managers, facilitators, peer educators, peers and community members. This is evidenced by the Commonwealth Education Good Practice Award received by GOLD for its advancement of education in challenging circumstances.



PANEL 5

MEN AS PARTNERS IN PREVENTING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Fabio Verani – Promundo, Brazil

Program H and M (men and women), designed by Promundo, have been adapted around the world and tailored to suit local contexts. Both programs make use of videos that reveal the socialisation process of boys and girls. The programme's manuals include modules on violence, fatherhood, reasoning and expressing emotions, gender socialisation and preventing and living with HIV. The programme is designed to look at violence prevention and gender equity in a holistic manner where violence, socialisation, sexuality etc. are all interrelated.

In Program H, male participants attend a session for two hours every week that involves, among other things, role playing and reflection. A community campaign related to the programme was also designed and launched which links positive masculinity and men's health with social marketing for condoms. In many cases men do not attend clinics regularly as acknowledging and addressing illness is often viewed as a sign of weakness. Many staff at clinics also need to be trained in dealing with the sensitivities around men's health. As a general rule, attitudes relating to gender equity were related to rates of self-reported condom use and rates of STI. Evaluation studies reveal that after the intervention men reported higher use of condoms. It was found that work on gender equity plus community mobilisation yielded the most positive results and had greater impact than working with men on individual change only.

Promundo's Program M investigates the manner in which girls are socialised to become women. Promundo has also brought together some men and women who had previously participated in Program H and M to drive the community campaign "Between Us" which talks about how men and women construct their relationships. All programs had sessions on sexual orientation and homophobia.

Promundo is part of a network of eight organisations working in different parts of Brazil on gender equality. The organisation has also launched the paternity leave campaign which is advocating for a change in legislation to grant men one's month paternity leave. The campaign argues that lack of paternity leave is at the heart of the matter of gender inequality regarding men and their roles in early child care. Some of Promundo's other recent initiatives are a global toolkit for men which will be launched in the near future, and programmes aimed at middle and upper income groups on gender-based violence. In addition the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women is funding a campaign which several organisations in Brazil, India, Chile and Rwanda will be implementing. The campaign will target older men in long-term relationships.

Regis M. Mtutu - Sonke Gender Justice

Sonke Gender Justice works in the area of gender equality, HIV and AIDS and human rights with a particular focus on men and boys. This is done primarily through their One Man Can campaign. Sonke is also coordinating MenEngage, a global alliance of organisations committed to working with men and boys on attaining gender equality.

Men are often socialised in ways that lead them into violent behaviours. Sonke's work involves unpacking this type of masculinity to determine how it relates to risk-taking behaviours. A range of public indicators suggest that men are less careful drivers and are involved in more road accidents, don't test for HIV or STIs, and are more likely to be infected. These views of masculinity can also lead to corrective rapes of gays and lesbians.

Sonke believes that focusing on the positive work that men do can have a ripple effect on other men and their communities. Whilst some statistics show that one in four men have admitted to rape, Sonke argues that the fact that three out of four men do not rape is a fresh way of looking at the problem. Working with men should not be seen as reactionary or contrary to women's empowerment, but rather should operate within a human rights framework and men's groups should ultimately be accountable to women and women's organisations. Some of the other strategic considerations for working with men are the significant health, social, economical and legal costs of GBV to society.

The One Man Can campaign is an example of community education and supports men and boys to take action against GBV and inequitable relationships which lead to better, healthier lives. Components of the campaign involve a community action kit which speaks to policy makers, teachers and faith-based leaders. The campaign also uses digital stories and photo-voices where disposable cameras are given to children to take photos and write about the meaning of fatherhood. Impact evaluations of the One Man Can campaign have revealed that men can and do change their thinking and behaviour on GBV and safer sex.

Some of the challenges the organisation has experienced are the strong attachment many men have to their cultural beliefs and practices although they are in contradiction with the Constitution. In the near future Sonke plans to design a stage of their programme which speaks to partners of men and communities of the men who have participated in the organisation's intervention. This is to determine whether men's attitude and behaviour underwent any significant and sustained change. In addition, there is a need to address economic inequality and its correlation to violence against women, and design a strategy to scale up working with men which would involve relevant government departments in a sustained manner.

Mogomotsi Mfalapitsa - Engender Health

Engender Health, currently working in 40 different countries, recognised the importance of working with men in 1996, after decades of focusing solely on women's rights and new technologies relating to sexual and reproductive health. The organisation believed it was futile to work with women on issues of rights and empowerment only to have them return to patriarchal environments.

Engender Health uses the "men as partners" framework where men are seen as agents of change. Among the initiatives the organisation has implemented are a mobile voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) mobile clinic using mostly male counsellors with the tag line "I'm not afraid to test". The mobile clinic has already tested close to 3,000 men in three provinces. A curriculum has also been developed which includes modules on gender and socialisation, sexuality, entitlement and consent, religion and sexuality, and men's health.

Some of Engender Health's partners are Promundo, the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and the Department of Education.

Community action and mobilisation is a significant part of sustaining the change men experience. If their peers and communities are not accepting or mirroring their change, many men may backslide into previous actions. Some of the campaigns that have been launched are "not in my name", "my strength is not for hurting" and "I am a partner". All have been well received. The organisation's work with the SANDF involves looking at the way dealing with violence in work can spill over into domestic situations. Many domestic disputes involve perpetrators who own legal firearms.

Engender Health has also done work in the area of male circumcision and HIV and has advised the World Health Organisation on these issues. Information on male circumcision is imparted in a holistic manner and linked to condom use and being faithful to one partner. Information on male circumcision has been an entry point into more general discussions around male sexuality.

Some of the challenges the organisation currently experiences are competition for funding with other organisations, women's organisations that are wary of working with men, and donors changing their strategic focus areas to focus more on HIV than gender equality.

Peter Mahane – Agisanang Domestic Abuse Prevention and Training

The Agisanang Domestic Abuse Prevention and Training (ADAPT), based in the township of Alexandra, works primarily with black families on the issue of domestic violence. A strong component of the organisation's approach, started in 1997, is working with abusive men and prisoners convicted of rape and violent crimes and offers individual, couple and group counselling. This approach was instituted after it was discovered that giving support to abusive women did not decrease incidences of abuse since they returned to abusive partners and environments. In addition to being taught how to deal with violence in their own lives and relationships, men are also taught the dangers of witnessing violence and doing little or nothing about it. Failure to intervene in preventing or stopping violence results in violence being normalised in communities.

The objectives of the ADAPT men's programme are:

- To include men as part of the solution to GBV;
- To increase men's understanding of the root cause of violence in the home and in the society and to empower men to take control of their lives; and
- To challenge and redefine social stereotypes of gender and sex underlying VAW

The organisation conducts training sessions for men where they receive basic trauma counselling, are taught about gender, gender socialisation and human rights and imparted with facilitation skills. The objective of the training is to empower men to become agents of change and share the information learned with other men in their communities. Some men have approached other men at church or taverns in order to discuss GBV and the relationship between excessive alcohol intake and GBV.

At ADAPT, after abusive men have completed counselling programmes they can be invited to be part of the men's forum. The ADAPT Men's Forum is comprised of approximately 35 men living in Alexandra and meets weekly. Members of the forum also act as mentors in their communities and engage young people in different activities such as poetry, drama, music and sport. Periodically ADAPT organises family fun days and discussion forums, such as their Men's Conference.



PANEL 6

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND HIV AND AIDS PREVENTION

Nomfundo Eland - Treatment Action Campaign

The TAC has been in existence for over eleven years and is recognised as the leading national organisation on the rights of people living with HIV and AIDS (PLHA). The organisation is comprised of volunteers from a diverse racial and professional background. For much of its existence the TAC has been known to be an advocate of treatment for PLHA but has recently intensified its efforts to focus on HIV prevention.

The organisation upholds the rights of women and its work highlights the vulnerability of many women to contracting HIV. There is a concerted attempt to put a gender lens on all the work the TAC is involved in. It also attempts to address the manner in which the justice system fails to offer relief and justice to many women whose rights have been violated.

The TAC's women's rights campaign focuses heavily on crime and HIV statistics. Gender-based violence is seen as a crime as well as a healthcare issue for women. The organisation partners with other campaigns such as the 1 in 9 campaign and the 777 campaign. The TAC has also given input into the national sexual assault policy and argues for the need for better roll out of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for sexual assault victims and faster roll-out of sexual offences courts. The organisation is currently piloting work in Khayelitsha and Ekurhuleni on sexual and reproductive health.

The formation of a group called "positive men united" has resulted in an even greater condemnation of GBV and more awareness of the link between GBV and HIV infection. Since many TAC members are aligned to several different organisations and serve on various boards, they are encouraged to try and influence these organisations with the issue of women's rights and HIV.

The TAC has also assisted and supported victims in the courtroom and also capacitated communities to perform these roles. There has also been progress with regards to dealing with initiates from initiation schools where, in some cases, raping women has been seen as a form of cleansing. Partnering with men's organisations has allowed some inroad and initial discussion with initiation schools on this issue. The TAC is also passionate about community-driven strategies that result in solutions devised and implemented by the communities themselves. They routinely conduct community dialogues and discussions on rights awareness.

Lufuno Muvhango - Image and Ms Amelia Mafokwane – Small Enterprise Foundation

The IMAGE study which sought to empower women and reduce intimate partner violence through microfinance and community action was implemented in the Sehkukhunene region between 2001 and 2004. The area is home to many migrant workers who maintain intimate relationships at home, as well as in the places where they work. Many wives are aware of this arrangement prior to the marriage and these multiple concurrent partnerships are contributing to the high HIV prevalence in the country. Gender-based violence is also a significant challenge in the area, fuelled by, among other factors, financial dependency.

The IMAGE study is a combination of microfinance and gender and HIV training. The microfinance component of the study was implemented by Small Enterprise Foundation (SEF) whose operation is similar to that of Grameen Bank, where loans are given to the poor for the purpose of income generation activities. Loans were given to groups of five women where the criteria included members of the group being neighbours and that groups hold fortnightly meetings. Groups must open a savings account at the post office and make payments to the loan on a fortnightly basis.

During these fortnightly meetings, the second component of the IMAGE study would be implemented: the Sisters for Life curriculum in which phase one involved ten gender and HIV training sessions, and phase two which dealt with community mobilisation. The first phase looked at gender norms, sexuality and domestic violence while imparting skills such as conflict resolution, communication and leadership. Community mobilisation aimed to arm selected members of the community (known as "natural leaders") with leadership skills in order for them to engage with men and youth on issues of gender and HIV and AIDS. The "natural leaders" would assist the community in identifying social problems and devising action plans to be implemented over a period of six months.

An impact assessment of the intervention revealed that the risk of physical and sexual abuse was reduced by 55%, while there was increased condom use, increased HIV testing and more communication about HIV. There was a high repayment of loans and increased food security and household assets. Women's sense of empowerment was also impacted with many women feeling more confident to challenge social and gender

norms. Within intimate relationships this was evident in more women feeling empowered to leave abusive relationships, resolve conflicts around money more effectively and engage in better communication with their partners. At a community level, the period of the study saw protest marches being led by women who also held meetings with village leaders and established new committees to deal with sexual violence. Women also felt more empowered to intervene when they witnessed abuse and assisted abused women in different ways.

Although an intervention solely focusing on microfinance has shown to bring about the same impact on poverty and household resources, broader social and health benefits as a result of women's empowerment is only achievable with the added component of gender and HIV training.

Buyi Hlabano - Prevention Initiatives in the Corporate Sector - Ford Motor Company SA

Although the Ford Motor Company SA (FMCSA) workplace programme saw high rates of uptake of its services by employees and was well supported by unions, there was a need for a more robust "prevention" component beyond voluntary testing and counselling (VCT) and access to PEP for occupational hazards. This gave rise to the "men on board" programme which was comprised of various awareness and prevention activities.

The provision of condoms and the distribution of relevant information and educational materials accompanied an intense VCT drive. This resulted in an increase in uptake of VCT services and as a result of increased testing, an increased HIV incidence of 6% in the employee population was discovered. Public testing is also conducted with management. With an increase in VCT being a good indicator of a company's performance regarding HIV management, the "men on board" programme at FMCSA is an example of a successful programme.

Various communication strategies are employed in order that employees feel more comfortable to utilise the services of the programme, rather than using external clinics for fear that confidentiality will not be maintained. A DVD for families of employees has also been developed. Some aspects of the DVD were deliberately omitted and others included trivia questions to prompt and promote discussion among families.

The "men on board" programme is informed by issues and statistics around GBV, multiple and concurrent partnerships, and interactions with sex workers. The programme is intended to run over ten months and involves two groups of fifteen men each of whom will act as agents of change. The programme will be evaluated and a final report will be submitted to the donors by June 2010. It is hoped that in addition to highlighting issues of GBV and its relationship to HIV, the programme will address gender stereotyping which still exists within the organisation. Any policy review will be informed by the results of the programme and level of engagement by the employees. The programme hopes to determine if there is a relationship between HIV incidence and gender norms.



PANEL 7

PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS AND MEDIA INTERVENTIONS

Aadielah Maker - Soul City: Institute for Health and Development Communication

The Soul City model attempts to: build public policy; develop personal skills; create supportive environments; promote community action; and re-orientate all public services, in particular those of the health sector. The Soul City model of social change makes use of mass media, advocacy, and social mobilisation. These strategies all interact and influence each other. The organisation's work aims to increase social solidarity, trust and connectedness within communities which can then impact on knowledge and risk perception.

The following are four key factors which suggest success in social and behavioural change:

- Communities can think critically about the factors that inhibit and facilitate behaviour change;
- A space is created for new behaviours to be practiced through various interactive methods;
- The idea of hope is fostered – that a new society and world is possible;
- Creating communities of practice that would serve as ongoing support to behaviour change.

Soul City's work has an HIV/AIDS and violence prevention component with a specific focus on men. A target of 10% reduction of VAW by 2014 has been set. This is to be partly achieved by an environmental intervention such as Soul City's campaign around healthy alcohol consumption. Although alcohol companies spend approximately R43 million on responsible drinking advertisements, they spend significantly more promoting alcohol consumption.

The mass media has the potential to change social norms. Soul City believes in having maximum access to the audience in order to have maximum impact and therefore many of their programmes are shown during prime time. Analysis of their ratings has shown their shows rival popular soap operas during prime time, thereby providing maximum opportunities for impacting social norms.

The Soul City dramas offer the opportunity for the viewers and listeners to identify with characters and what they experience and also present a human face to the social issue. The issues that are dealt with are key priorities issues within the development agenda and Soul City, in conjunction with other organisations, jointly decides what messages should be transmitted via a drama series. The series 4 of Soul City highlighted the notion that domestic violence is not a private matter and the drama essentially revolved around that. The series looked at the pieces of legislation that enabled women to move out of abuse and what systems are in place to support women.

Colleen Lowe-Morna - Gender Links

Often during the 16 Days of Activism of no Violence against Women and Children the media contains many more stories of survivors of violence and routinely runs debates on television and the radio on the issue. However, after the campaign is officially over, the gender-biased reporting and stereotyping is resumed. For example, one headline published shortly after the campaign stated that "women like having sex on desks".

According to a gender and media baseline survey a mere 2% of overall coverage is gender related and of this, only 1% looks at gender violence. The research revealed that on every topic from economics to crime to sport and even in the case of gender violence, far fewer women were quoted compared to men. Whilst the majority of gender violence reporting is court reporting, research by the Media Monitoring Africa, revealed that men's voices still dominate court reporting as was the case in the rape trial of President Jacob Zuma. In many cases, trials involving female perpetrators are sensationalised.

Media reporting on gender violence also tend to blame women by describing the attire of the victims at the time of the attack (in many cases, the victim wore a short skirt) or suggesting she invited the attack by being out at night. There is also a tendency to exonerate the perpetrator by headlines such as "she didn't hug so I cut her throat." Research has shown that some reporters tone down their language when reporting about sexual abuse, which negates the severity of the issue.

The objectification of women in the media in order to advertise a service or sell a product has long been a challenge. The recent Teasers advertisement, "no need for gender testing", an apparent reference to the difficult time experienced by champion athlete Caster Semenya, resulted in public criticism.

It is clear that gender activists and the media need to work more collaboratively. The media should mainstream gender issues in their work and gender activists need to be able to use the media as a positive, powerful tool in their work. Using provocative, eye-grabbing, but non-sensationalised headlines is one suggestion, while another would be to popularise research studies conducted by gender activists in the mainstream media.

Gender Links Southern Africa has, for some time, been utilising the medium of information technology (IT) as a platform for women to tell their own stories. The cyber dialogues is one such example, as well as the "I Stories" which are published stories of women's abuse using their own voice and which have been distributed across the continent. Both of these are examples of stories that are human in nature and connect with people of all backgrounds. The cyber dialogues, by their very nature, facilitate communication across boundaries.

An evaluation of some of these initiatives has shown that women have used these platforms to empower and trampoline themselves into other projects such as anchoring radio programmes and establishing their own relationships with different media. Gender Links has developed guidelines for media in relation to reporting on gender issues which include providing a context and analysis, naming the perpetrator and getting commentary from experts, using a variety of sources and including information about where to get help.

Seema Villabh - Nisaa Institute for Women's Development

Nisaa has implemented a wide range of campaigns on gender-based violence. They were one of the first organisations to launch the international white ribbon campaign in South Africa. Some of Nisaa's well known campaigns are:

- The Bus Campaign in 1999 entitled "you're only half a man if you rape a woman", which received a significant amount of negative reaction and the organisation saw the drawback of using an aggressive image to highlight its point.
- The Date Rape Campaign in 2002 which received sustained support from schools.
- The Red and White Ribbon campaign in 2004 which focused on reduction of HIV incidence and in particular, the link between HIV infection and GBV. Nisaa received support from the Department of Health which allowed the campaign to move into a two-day training programme.
- A community radio drama in 2005 that eventually evolved into a training programme.
- The "Change the Tune" campaign in 2008 which involved collaboration with Channel Africa on shows dealing with diverse aspects of GBV. The content was transmitted to 54 African countries. Channel Africa has committed to a further 26 episodes.
- The "Consent is Sexy" campaign which speaks to sexual rights awareness on the University of the Witwatersrand campus. The campaign resulted in the revision of the university's sexual harassment policy.

Although the campaigns have resulted in more women approaching Nisaa for counselling, the impact and degree of change desired is still not significant when compared to the magnitude of the problem of GBV.

Nisaa's current social mobilisation project has a strong primary prevention component in so far as it attempts, through the mobilisation of private and public sectors partners, to create an environment where social norms that support gender-based violence can be challenged and changed. The project and its related communication campaigns will target men and women at household and community levels. The toolkit will contain facts of GBV, social norms, the link between GBV and HIV infection and information about social mobilisation.

Nonhlanhla Sibanda - People Opposing Women Abuse

The different departments of POWA – legal, research, advocacy, direct services and public awareness – all work in coordination with each other to achieve the same goal. The organisation believes that the different units working in silos do not achieve maximum impact externally nor does it contribute to internal growth. Working collaboratively across departments, POWA's counselling and sheltering service, public education and awareness, law and policy reform and research are able to impact upon and positively influence each other to result in an effective, holistic service.

POWA engages with several partners in order to disseminate research information, influence policy reform and create awareness such as their work with the 1 in 9 Campaign, supporting clients through litigation or training of the sector.

POWA has demonstrated the manner in which the local can influence the global. It has gained observer status at the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights and has also trained several NGOs on issues pertaining to violence against women, refugees, HIV, working with men, and rights and protection. This capacitates these NGOs to critically engage with feminist and gender issues at the Commission's meetings. There is a ripple effect as these groups then attain observer status at the Commission and assist and empower other groups to do the same.

PLENARY DISCUSSION

Measuring behavioural change

Although measuring behavioural change is a complex exercise, it is necessary in order to determine if an intervention, particularly one relating to GBV and HIV and AIDS, is making an impact. Many organisations conduct baseline studies by asking men to undergo a pre-test test before the intervention begins and are immediately tested after, often with the assistance of universities. Impact studies are also conducted and involve looking at the impact of the project on partners as well as on the levels of community action. The study may also seek to collect quantitative data on the number of men arrested, number of men intervening in incidents of violence etc. Some organisations such as ProMundo rely on self-reported behaviours and change although a natural pitfall is desirability. Getting information from female partners about the degree of change men have undergone is also an effective way of assessing behavioural change.

Service provider accountability and victim empowerment

In many cases police officers and other service providers do not need more training on dealing with survivors of GBV but rather to work within stricter accountability mechanisms. In some areas police officers aim to determine if a victim is telling the truth before taking the victim's case seriously. This is not due to lack of awareness of the issue but personal opinions on the issue of GBV. Within communities there has not been enough naming and shaming of police stations that do not offer effective services. In addition, too often, station commanders escape accountability.

Many magistrates and court officials need to be held to stricter accountability mechanisms. Some organisations have held training for magistrates on GBV which were not taken seriously by the magistrates. In the past the TAC has convened community imbizos and invited magistrates to discuss issues relating to the victimising of survivors of rape while in court. However, few, if any, magistrates attended these gatherings.

Although the victim empowerment programme (VEP) is a structure that should be comprised of both governmental and civil society organisations, it is functioning largely with members of the Department of Social Development and SAPS only. Even volunteers have been recruited by these two organisations and there has been criticism of the deliberate exclusion of civil society oversight. The VEP is designed to support the victim and there needs to be one independent person who is there solely for the victim. In addition, many VEP in Thuthuzela Centres are not active. In Alexandra, the VEP is functional and police officers come to the clinics to record the victim's statement. There is a high level of collaboration between the SAPS, the courts and prosecutors.

Attracting men and boys to programmes

Organisations working with men and boys use cell phone technology, information, education and communication materials (IEC) to attract boys and men to their programmes. Working with sports organisations such as the soccer union for South Africa is also a good entry point. Men's organisations also target events where they distribute IEC materials. Using popular artists, theatre and musicians to send a message of no VAW can also be effective in reaching out to men and boys. Local radio stations such as Alex FM in Alexandra and local TV stations such as Soweto are popular media where messages can be transmitted to the public. In places where there is little entertainment for the youth and as a result, gang violence is high, alternatives to violence through community activities and entertainment has been successful in some countries such as Brazil.

In the coming year Save the Children intends to look at how fathers can serve as stronger role models. Research has shown that although many young boys value their relationships with their fathers, the relationship is largely based on the giving of money and material things.

Xenophobia and homophobia

A recent Youth Conference revealed high levels of xenophobia and homophobia among young men. Men who use violence against gay men are doing so because gay men are seen as having made an extreme step outside a gendered norm of what it means to be a man.

Gender-sensitive reporting

Training individual journalists on gender-sensitive media reporting will not significantly change the media since the latter is part of larger system and governed by certain values designed to sell publications and make money. Work by some organisations such as Gender Links aim to train and engage in advocacy as well in order to make changes to the industry as a whole. Greater benefits can be obtained if gender activists collaborate with media organisations. In the recent past, there has been an increase in the number of human interest stories covered by popular media. In the past, the media was saturated with stories relating to HIV and AIDS and there was subsequent public fatigue. The media discovered that in order to combat this, it needed to find fresh ways of reporting on HIV. As a result, a shift in focus on positive living was introduced with a degree of success. A similar approach can be considered for GBV.



PANEL 8

COMMUNITY ACTIVISM TO PREVENT GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Lungiswa Memela - Western Cape Network on Violence against Women

The Western Cape Network on Violence against Women (WCNVW) currently has a membership of approximately 500 and supports other civil society organisations, as well as government departments.

The WCNVW is currently implementing a social mobilisation project in communities in KZN and the Western Cape with a strong primary prevention component. The organisation is partnering with the KZN Network on Violence against Women and Project Concern International.

The project seeks to understand the roots of violence against women in the selected communities and involves diverse groups such as lesbians, farm-workers and men. Communities in both provinces identified similar social norms. The project will be implemented with the aid of a toolkit and messages are amplified by a community communication campaign. The communities also decided on the positive social norms they would like to see replace the negative one and these are also contained in the toolkits.

There are a number of other communication strategies that have been underway in the Western Cape. Comic books that speak to the issue of GBV have been published whereby the WCNVW collaborated with organisations who worked in schools as well as the Girl Child Movement to feed into the comic's content. In addition, the Network has advocated for using cell phone technology to increase awareness on GBV such as placing a message or fact on GBV at the end of "please call me" messages.

The Network's 2009 campaign for the 16 Days of Activism of No Violence against Women and Children was the "Hotbox", which was the biggest billboard in South Africa to date. The billboard initially displayed the face of a beautiful woman which, gradually over the 16 day period became more battered. Viewers smsed "Stop" to a specific number in order for the face on the billboard to gradually begin to heal. By the end of the 16 Days the face was fully healed.

Tsidi Kambula - NPA Sexual Offences and Community Affairs

The Programme Ndabezitha is an initiative led by the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) Sexual Offences and Community Affairs (SOCA) unit and is donor-funded. The programme, implemented in rural areas, focuses on domestic violence and is a collaborative effort with the House of Traditional Leaders and the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development's (DoJ&CD) court services.

The programme is steeped in the restorative justice ideology which aims to restore the family impacted by domestic violence. Restorative justice requires the offender to be involved in the process, unlike the punitive justice system which focuses on correcting the behaviour of the perpetrator through punishment in the criminal justice system.

RJ versus the Criminal Justice System

The SOCA unit is aware of the criticisms of restorative justice with regards to domestic violence, such as restorative justice trivialising the reality of domestic violence and leading to non-punishment of the abuser. There is also a school of thought that restorative justice holds no potential to reduce violence. However, the Programme Ndabezitha is based on the belief that the Domestic Violence Act (DVA), a tool of the punitive system where victims can apply for protection orders and/or lay criminal charges against perpetrators, has had a very low success rate. In many cases, complainants withdraw cases and exit the process. Research has shown that the DVA does not address the root causes of violence and may expose the victim to secondary victimisation. Where victims are financially dependent on the perpetrator, a jail term could see the complainant bearing an increased burden to having to support herself. The courtroom atmosphere can also be intimidating to some victims.

Nature of the RJ programme

With the belief that there was a need for an alternative legal mechanism, one that responded to the restorative needs of both parties and was preventative in nature, the Programme Ndabezitha was designed. Its primary objective is to introduce the principles of RJ in domestic violence cases in the rural areas. Traditional leaders expressed interest in the programme and welcomed partnership, particularly with some of them having no or little knowledge about the DVA.

There are three levels of training and six modules. Phase one involved 100 prosecutors, 80 traditional leaders and 10 officials from the DoJ&CD being trained together for this programme. Phase two will see the development of guidelines, translation of materials and community campaigns to popularise the programme. This phase will also see the programme partnering with the Department of Correctional Services. Phase three involves the actual victim/offender mediation services and will be piloted in all nine provinces. The programme also has a safety planning project with tips for women to be safe while living in abusive relationships. The SOCA unit is confident that the programme and restorative justice as an approach has the potential to reduce recidivism in domestic violence, mend broken domestic relationships and expose the root causes of violence.

Fiona Nicholson - Thohoyandou Victim Empowerment Programme

Despite a sustained period of campaigning against all forms of violence against women and children, and HIV stigmatisation, the TVEP found its work falling short of the impact it had envisioned. Assessments revealed that the environment within which people lived had not changed and therefore survivors were reluctant to come forward to disclose cases of abuse. There was also a culture within the community that it is impolite to challenge authority. The organisation, among other initiatives, runs help desks in 14 rural clinics, launches media campaigns, works with young perpetrators and provides psycho-social as well as legal support to victims.

The Zero Tolerance in Villages Alliance (ZTVA) project aims to empower villagers to exercise their rights against abuse, patriarchy and HIV stigmatisation and impact upon the social norms within their environment. The project is being implemented in two villages and has enjoyed a great deal of buy-in from the communities, including community leaders and traditional leaders. Communities were required to meet the criteria in order to become a member of the alliance, after which they implemented the project with the assistance of the TVEP. The criteria includes having a voluntary community liaison officer; 6 free-lance community-based peer educators; functional safe houses; as well as a cross section of the community such as schools, crèches, churches or clubs empowered with knowledge of TVEP's core topics. Ward councillors also needed to be equipped with the relevant knowledge and communities needed to have established a support group for people living with HIV and AIDS.

The project involved training of all service providers such as police and clinics, after which a memorandum of understanding (MOU) would be signed between community structures and service providers. In this way standards are set and an accountability mechanism set up where community residents are aware if they are not receiving a quality service. Peer education training, material development and distribution, and creating a network of civil society organisations are some of the other activities of the project. Men in the communities are also required to take a public oath where they commit to being proactive to combat gender violence in their communities. They are also given a badge of honour which serves as a signal to women that they have taken the pledge. Men sign a roll of honour giving permission for them to be named and shamed if the pledge is broken.



PANEL 9

MONITORING AND EVALUATING PRIMARY PREVENTION INTERVENTIONS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Evelyn Letiyo - Raising Voices, Uganda

To date there has been very little done with regards to measuring the impact of prevention. Monitoring and evaluation essentially means measuring both the process and the impact of a project or programme. Raising Voices has been conducting rigorous monitoring and evaluation throughout the implementation of its programme. The organisation believes in setting realistic outcomes and conducting continuous monitoring in order for the results to feed into the design and direction of the programme.

SASA! (start, awareness, support, action) is a methodology to assist communities in raising awareness and addressing the link between GBV and HIV and AIDS. The methodology is contained in the user-friendly activist kit. There are a number of monitoring and evaluation tools contained in the kit.

Changes are measured in the following four areas:

- Knowledge – a change in knowledge is measured in people's understanding of violence, particularly violence that goes beyond the physical such as economic and sexual. Communities must also be able to articulate the consequences and link between GBV and HIV and AIDS.
- Attitudes – a change in attitude is measured through the degree to which violence is seen as being acceptable. A positive shift would be violence against women not being acceptable on any level.
- Skills – this is measured by looking at what alternative forms of conflict resolution people have adopted and also their ability to support activists.
- Behaviour – this is measured by looking at how people use non-violent methods within relationships.

There are several monitoring tools that are used, including activity outcome tracking tools. These are forms that evaluators use when, for example, observing community conversation. Number 4 is progressive while number 1 suggests no or little change has occurred. An evaluator will observe the dialogue and listen to the content to determine if the community is moving beyond understanding violence as solely a physical action. The evaluator will then rate the dialogue using the tool.

After such as assessment the organisation will call a meeting to compare the content of the activity outcome tracking tools. If evaluators have noticed little shifts in change and knowledge, there is a concerted effort to re-look at the project and the programme strategy.

The activity report form is a process tool looking at how many activities have been completed. This tool is used largely by persons in charge of overseeing the implementation of activities in the community. This form will assess how many participants attended meetings, who dominated the dialogue from a gender perspective, and the quality of the facilitation. If meetings are poorly attended or men dominate the discussion, the organisation may reflect on the scheduling of meetings, or design a strategy to encourage more women to participate fully.

The organisation also conducts rapid assessment surveys which measure communities' knowledge about violence and HIV and AIDS. Several opinion questions are asked such as "is it ok to beat a woman?" The results will indicate awareness levels of a particular issue prompting more focus on certain areas if necessary.

Renay Weiner - Soul City: Institute for Health and Development Communication

Soul City's interventions aim to impact on individual, community and societal levels in order to enhance the factors that encourage behaviour change, and decrease the factors that hinder it. There is admittance that behaviour change, as well as measuring it, are complex endeavours. The organisation believes monitoring and evaluation is imperative because it assesses the impact, quality and relevance of its intervention and gives direction on what aspects of the programme need modifying or scaling up. It is also an excellent accountability tool when reporting to donors about how funds have been spent.

Soul City is currently implementing three main programmes:

- Media – this involves TV shows, radio programmes, as well as printed and published materials.

- Social mobilisation – this programme often reinforces the social messages contained in the media programme. The programme includes the 5000 Soul Buddyz clubs in schools that are important sites for primary prevention of violence. These clubs are comprised of 9 to 14 year olds who meet weekly to discuss various issues including gender equality. Social mobilisation also includes parenting interventions in communities and schools.
- Advocacy – this programme is where media campaigns are located and aims to incite community advocacy to influence policy and legislation on particular issues. Current campaigns include an alcohol campaign and a parenting campaign, both of which are designed to reduce violence in communities and homes, and the OneLove campaign where the objective is HIV reduction through a reduction of multiple and concurrent partnerships. There is a clear overlap in campaigns.

The M&E approach at Soul City uses multiple sources of data, both internal and external and quantitative as well as qualitative (focus groups, case studies and interviews). It is also important to use data collected by other organisations on Soul City's work such as data by the Advertising Research Foundation or research conducted by the Human Sciences and Research Council (HSRC). There is also informal data such as information printed in newspapers about Soul City's media programmes work or the Soul Buddyz clubs. In addition, it is important to commission large, in-depth evaluations that are conducted by an external organisation.

Monitoring of the Soul Buddyz clubs includes collection of the gender breakdown of the clubs, as well as information on who submits the projects and the quality of them. Two evaluations are currently underway; one is being conducted by the Wits School of Public Health and the other is a longitudinal study. Some of the indicators used were knowledge, social conscience, social skills and emotional health. The baseline data of one of the evaluations, which compares children in Soul Buddyz clubs to those who are not, found students had little knowledge about gender relations and expressed little gendered analysis when talking about violence.

Evaluation of Soul City Series 4

Media programmes contain programmes where aspects of GBV messaging are transmitted. Monitoring of these programmes include data collection on how many people were reached through, for example, audience reception (AR) figures. The message of Soul City Series 4 was to decrease domestic violence. An evaluation of the impact of Soul City Series 4 involved a pre and post national survey to determine the effect of the series on knowledge, attitudes and behaviour relating to domestic violence. There were also focus group discussions and in-depth interviews with a target audience, as well as a qualitative evaluation of the relationship between Soul City Series 4 and the National Network on Violence against Women. Impact was evaluated on a social level by attempting to determine if the series had an impact on the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act. Impact was also evaluated on a community level to assess if there were positive shifts in social norms relating to violence, as well as on an individual level regarding personal attitudes about domestic violence.

The new primary prevention programmes (alcohol programme and parenting programme) will also undergo rigorous M&E and like the previous programmes, make use of audience receptions (AR), and gender breakdowns of training sessions and surveys. An important addition to the alcohol programme is the plan to capacitate communities to conduct community monitoring.

PLENARY DISCUSSION

Restorative Justice

A study commissioned by the NPA revealed that women would like the option of RJ programmes. RJ is not designed to be viewed as a second-rate service of justice for the poor, nor is it aimed at diluting the severity of VAW. Only first-time offenders who plead guilty will be offered an opportunity to engage in the RJ programme and this will be only upon the request of the complainant. Restorative Justice is implemented via traditional leaders and not community or civic leaders because the former have extensive experience in the service.

In the past, traditional leaders have felt their roles and responsibilities eroded by the criminal justice system. Restorative Justice can also be seen as an entry point into the system. To date the NPA's programme has trained 80 traditional leaders and there has been a very positive response. This cascade training plan will see the trained traditional leaders training other traditional leaders alongside prosecutors. Traditional leaders in some areas have some willingness to embrace the gender equality discourse.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Mid-way evaluations can highlight any new challenges that emerge within communities and direct the programme to be more responsive to local needs. Often a programme may be designed to address symptoms of a problem whilst the underlying causes of the problem are revealed as the programme progresses.

Monitoring and evaluation doesn't necessarily have to collect a large volume of data, particularly qualitative data, since much of it may not be used. It may be more important to collect a smaller amount of good-quality data and utilise it effectively.

Since funders have different funding cycles and reporting requirements, having a dedicated M&E staff member with specific skills is important. However, other staff members should also be trained and report regularly as part of a system within the organisation. Staff members should be taught the benefits of M&E to their own programmes. Sufficient resources should be allocated for M&E. Some organisations dedicate 10% of their overall budget towards M&E.



ADVOCATING AND LOBBYING FOR A NATIONAL PREVENTION STRATEGY

The participants discussed possible ways to continue the work and discussions initiated by the symposium. The following is a summary of some the key points in the way forward:

There is a need to reflect upon and evaluate the achievements and gaps in various programmes and determine in what ways organisations can support each other's programmes. A networking list needs to be drawn up that could facilitate a discussion on how tools, theories and funding could be shared. Although there is a need to reduce parallel processes and increase collaboration, diversity in programme design and creating programmes that speak to the specificity of a community is also important.

Any subsequent gathering on primary prevention should have a significant number of role players from government. In addition to the fact that policy is developed within the sphere of government, there is an increasing amount of donor funding that is being channelled through government and forums such as this would provide a platform for some degree of accountability. In addition, the Department of Women, Children and Persons with Disabilities is still in the process of being set up, presents an opportunity for an engagement with officials in that Department to ensure primary prevention of GBV is high on the agenda.

A clearer definition of primary prevention needs to be agreed upon and disseminated. Many organisations may be conducting programmes with a primary prevention component but may term it differently. This may cause them to be excluded in discussions around primary prevention.

There is a need to improve outreach programmes since many children are not getting basic information such as the details of Childline. In addition, more and better use of the life orientation programme at schools to introduce the issue of primary prevention is needed.

Some members of organisations hold positions in other organisations and on boards. This should be exploited and this forum used to argue for the case of a much more robust strategy on primary prevention.



PRESS RELEASE

The following press release, compiled by select participants of the symposium, was issued on the third day of the meeting.

Back prevention, NGOs say as Sixteen Day campaign kicks off

25 November 2009: NGOs that work to end gender violence have called on the government to resuscitate the 365 Day National Action Plan to End Gender Violence and make prevention a central pillar of the largely dormant plan.

In a statement at the close of a three day symposium convened by the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR) under the banner "We can Prevent Violence" the 25 organisations¹ called on the government to establish a special fund to end gender violence, in line with regional and international commitments.

They also called on the Equality Court to send out a strong statement in support of women's rights in its ruling, due out shortly, on the case taken up by Sonke Gender Justice against ANC Youth League leader Julius Malema for saying that a woman who has been raped does not ask for taxi money in the morning. The fact that a men's group has taken up this case underscores the importance of men taking a stand on gender violence as part of a comprehensive prevention strategy.

The NGOs, who came from several different provinces, also called on FIFA to use the coming World Cup 2010 to send out strong messages in support of the campaign to end gender violence as well as HIV and AIDS.

The statement is being released on International Day of No Violence Against Women – the first day of the Sixteen Days of Activism Campaign - at a forum convened by Gender Links to take stock of progress over the last year.

Earlier this week, the CSVR symposium, opened by UN Special Rapporteur on Gender Violence Rashida Manjoo heard that the UN Secretary General has launched a five year UNite to End Violence Against Women campaign that calls on all governments to develop multi sector campaigns with clear targets, time frames and indicators. This is in line with international commitments contained in the Millennium Development Goals and the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Gender and Development adopted by Heads of State in Johannesburg in August 2008 sets a target of halving current levels of gender violence by 2015. The South African Constitution enshrines gender equality; protects bodily integrity and states that should there be a conflict between any customary law or practice and the provisions of the Constitution the bill of rights takes precedence.

Despite these progressive provisions; the Domestic Violence Act, Children's Act and the Sexual Offences Act finally adopted last year, gender violence continues to escalate. Participants noted that while the 12% increase in reported rape cases to 71 500 from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009 may in part be due to the expanded definition of rape under the new act, the figures are unacceptably high and are anyway likely to be understated due to under reporting.

They noted with concern that the South African Police Services still does not have a distinct category on domestic violence, making it impossible to monitor this key area effectively.

While the Children's Act has provisions on primary prevention, this is not the case in either the Domestic Violence Act or the Sexual Offences Act. Government is still well behind in reaching the target of 81 one stop centres for addressing gender violence by 2010 provided for in the National Sexual Assault Policy.

At a time when it is most needed, participants noted, the national gender machinery is in disarray. There is a lack of clarity on which agency is driving the Sixteen Days of Activism campaign, which used to be housed in the department of local government, following the establishment of the

¹ Adapt, CSVR, Child Line, Crisp, Engender Health, FAMSA, Gender Links, GOLD, Image, Lugelo Women's Group, Mosaic, Nisaa Institute for Women's Development, People Opposing Women Abuse (POWA), Promundo, Raising Voices, Respect 4U Project, Small Enterprise Foundation, Sonke Gender Justice, Soul City, Thohoyandou Victim Empowerment Programme, Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) UCT, Western Cape Network on Violence Against Women.

Ministry of Women, Children and Disability in April this year.

The ministry has yet to hold a consultation with civil society organisations. There has also been a deafening silence on the status of the 365 National Action Plan to End Gender Violence adopted in March 2007 and coordinated by the National Prosecution Authority (NPA).

A recent attitude study undertaken by the KZN and Western Cape Networks on Violence Against Women shows that a high proportion of women believe that being beaten by ones partner is a sign of love or that a woman deserves it; that men are entitled to sex on demand; that friends, relatives and the community should keep quiet about violence in their midst and that women who are raped have enticed perpetrators. These attitudes underpin the gender stereotypes in society that drive gender violence.

Yet government funding and strategies continue to be reactive; directed towards response, to a lesser extent support and virtually no funding at all for prevention of GBV. The symposium heard that even the NPA's work on prevention is dependent on foreign donors.

Citing the impact that prevention campaigns are starting to have in the fight against HIV and AIDS, participants stressed that unless there is a paradigm shift towards preventing GBV backed by strong political, social and financial support, annual Sixteen Day campaigns will be little more than a symbolic ritual and talk show. "What we need is a strong overarching action plan in which prevention takes centre stage; is funded from state resources and GBV is denounced at every public forum," the NGOs stated.



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