

365 DAYS OF ACTION: FROM A CAMPAIGN TO AN ACTION PLAN
3-5 July 2006

GEMSA NAMIBIA AND GENDER LINKS

INTRODUCTION

The workshop aimed to deepen the 16 Days of No Violence Against Women and Children campaign in Namibia. The workshop was brought together key stakeholders including NGOs, government officials, UN agencies and others to extend the 16 Days awareness raising and advocacy campaign to a plan of action that identifies key interventions that need to be implemented throughout the year. *See annex one for the participants list.*

OBJECTIVES

- To conduct an audit of government commitments towards ending gender violence and assess the extent to which skills being met.
- Identity a set of actions from the audit to be used as the basis for developing an action plan to end gender violence.
- Plan to use the 16 Days campaign to leverage the idea of a national action plan to end violence in the country.
- To take the action plan forward through national inter-sector and collaborative processes through which the plan is adopted.

OUTCOMES OF THE AUDIT

Individual presentations and group discussions were utilised to identify the key problems in regard to gender violence. These were held under four themes: services; legislation;

Services

Survivors

Participants discussed the issues of shelter, safe havens for abused women and survivors, whose rights have been violated. The following challenges were identified:

- Inadequate shelters, those that do exist are run by NGOs, mainly in urban areas, limited spaces available.
- Inadequate social services being delivered.
- Legal aid is available to people who are unemployed and earn below N\$1000, this limit is too high.
- Lack of integration between the criminal justice services.
- Lack infrastructure and services to meet the needs of survivors.
- Lack of specialized services available at courts and police stations.
- There are too few social workers/councilors countrywide to assist abused women.
- Women and men do not about what services are available to survivors.

- There is little information available about the need to get Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) within 72 hours.

Perpetrators

- Some of the crimes were committed when some perpetrators were teenagers and they needed rehabilitation and not imprisonment.
- Not enough social workers or counseling for perpetrators to repent or accept their wrong doings. There is only one social worker at one of the prisons in the Hardap region to work with 900 prisoners.
- Rehabilitation in prisons is vital to prepare perpetrators for challenges outside prison. If not counseled or rehabilitated there is a 90% chance that perpetrators will return to prison.
- Prisons should be included in 16 Days of Activism campaign.

Legislation and policy

- PEP in policy not in law.
- No specific law on trafficking or provisions in any other law.
- Child abuse is contained in various laws however no specific laws relating to children's right.
- The current Divorce Act is archaic and outdated it still requires fault.
- No laws on trafficking.

Social, economic, cultural, political

- Women do not know the different marriage options.
- You can only access a social grant if you earn less than N\$500 per month.
- We must empower women to engage in projects for them to become economically independent.

Education, training and awareness

- Women should be empowered to know their rights during rape, abuse, divorce etc.
- There is a lot of talk and action, only problem is that there are less women coming forth.
- Lack of gender sensitivity of the officers of the criminal justice system.
- Lack of documentation on women's experiences.
- Survivors do not know about PEP.
- No proper training on gender violence in the media.
- Media managers do not see gender violence as a priority.
- Not enough information available about services needed by survivors.
- Not enough awareness around issues of trafficking.

Integrated approaches

- Lack of statistics and lack of access to existing statistics.
- Lack of coordination.

365 DAYS PLAN OF ACTION

The outcomes of the audit formed the basis for an action plan. Below is the action plan that was developed during the workshop.

Proposed action	Target	Who	Outcome	Output	Allocated Budget			
					16 Days 2006	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
LEGISLATION AND POLICY								
Raise awareness on trafficking		MHA - immigration; ML ; MSS; MoHSS; MIB; NGOs, GEMSA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public and media campaign. The public should have a clear understanding of what trafficking is. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pamphlets Radio & TV work. Billboards @ borders and harbour towns. 				
Develop policy around trafficking with a view to initiate legislation.	<i>NB Au pairing agencies need to be checked</i>	ME; MHA; MSS; MoHSS; MJ; MGECW; UN Agencies; counseling institutions; Law Reform Commission; GEMSA	Increased awareness on human trafficking.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose legislation on trafficking I stories 				
Review all the existing legislation related to children. Children Status Bill. Ask for the revival and opportunity to provide input of the Child Care		MGECW; MSS; MJ; MoHSS; LAC; Law Reform Commission; GEMSA,	Increased awareness and protection of children's rights.	Integrating legislation related children's rights and needs				

Proposed action	Target	Who	Outcome	Output	Allocated Budget			
					16 Days 2006	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
and Protection Bill. Evaluate the feasibility of linking the Children's Status Bill and the Juvenile Justice Bill. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Familiarisation of all bills. Identify gaps Identify overlaps. Make recommendations. 								
Amendment of Divorce Act. Passing of Inheritance Bill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Familiarisation of existing legislation. Identify gaps. Make recommendations. 		MGECW; MJ; MHA; LRC; LAC, GEMSA.	Awareness around options on marriage and the Inheritance Bill.	Amended Divorce Act.				
Services								
Review the N\$1000 limit to access legal aid. Raise awareness on the availability of such services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish what current requirements and procedures are. 		MJ; Directorate of Legal Aid; LAC, GEMSA.	Sufficient and effective legal aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An audit "I" stories 				
Monitor the administration of justice		MJ; Directorate	Effective criminal justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audit will lead to ongoing 				

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specifically in reference to maintenance, legal aid, and protection orders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Familiarisation of legislation, guidelines and policies. Training to service providers. Raise public awareness. 		of Legal Aid; LAC; service providers, GEMSA.	system.	monitoring and evaluation of the criminal justice system. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "I" stories Media campaign. 				
EDUCATION, TRAINING AND AWARENESS								
Make information available in accessible forms and local languages, with emphasis on the visual and hearing-impaired.		Media, NGOs; MIB: Media, in particular vernacular services, GEMSA.	Public awareness and how to access services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshops Panel discussions Exclusive interviews. Collaborate with MIB. 				

Annex one: PARTICIPANT LIST

Event: From a campaign to an action plan workshop

Date: 03-05 July 2006

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