



REPORT ON THE MEDIA TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR ZAMBIA MEDIA PRACTITIONERS

COVERING GENDER VIOLENCE

ZAMBIA 5 – 9 NOVEMBER 2001

SUMMARY

This report summarises the Zambian workshop on Covering Gender Violence convened by Gender Links and ZAMCOM from 5-9 November 2001. Fourteen media practitioners from electronic and print media participated in the training (see *Annex A*). The workshop included a luncheon briefing for editors' (see *Annex B*). The programme is at *Annex C* and the stories produced for a special supplement, "Our Write", carried by the National Mirror newspaper are featured in *Annex D*. A summary of the workshop evaluations is attached at *Annex E*.

BACKGROUND

Gender violence is one of the most flagrant, yet under-reported crimes of our time. In 1998, SADC Heads of State signed an addendum to the Declaration on Gender and Development pledging to eradicate gender violence. Two years later, in December 2000, SADC member states met in Lesotho to review progress towards this objective. They found that while there is heightened awareness of gender violence in member countries, the number of reported cases has actually increased. While the media is playing an increasingly important role in exposing gender violence, it has often, through its own biases, use of inappropriate language and images, been part of the problem than of the solution.

A few months before the Lesotho conference, Inter Press Service, a global development news network, developed a manual on covering gender violence with the assistance on Gender Links, a Southern African NGO committed to the fair representation of women in

the media. This manual was tested at a workshop comprising 35 journalists from the SADC region alongside the SADC conference in Lesotho. The workshop included producing a daily newsletter and final bumper supplement on the conference, widely distributed in hard copy and via the Internet. These journalists formed a network called the SADC Gender and Media (GEM) Initiative that is committed to improving coverage on gender violence in SADC media.

As a follow up to the workshop, Gender Links, with the support of the Ford Foundation, and working in close collaboration with SADC GEM members, is convening training workshops at country level on covering gender violence in six SADC countries. The workshops are being held in conjunction with local media training institutions, which bear a key responsibility in carrying such work forward.

All participants in the workshops are required to make the following commitments through a signed pledge at the start of the course:

- ❑ To participate for the full five days of the course.
- ❑ To collect samples of coverage of gender violence in Zambia for discussion at the workshop.
- ❑ To write or produce at least one story during the course.
- ❑ To write or produce two stories after the course. Certificates for the course will only be issued on completion of these assignments after the course.
- ❑ To become part of the SADC GEM electronic network for at least three months after the course, so as to receive ongoing support and backup from the main facilitator, and from peers in this and other courses.
- ❑ To contribute to a SADC Journal on Covering Gender Violence in June 2002.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Raise critical media awareness on the way in which gender-based violence is covered
- Provide practical training on covering gender-based violence
- Demonstrate more sensitive approaches to covering the issue through the production of a supplement, radio and TV reports.
- Generate increased reportage on the issue, through course requirements for coverage that take place after the training.

DAY ONE

OPENING

By Mrs. Kanyanga
Executive Director of NGOCC

The following is a summary of the points made by Mrs. Kanyanga:

This is a very important workshop. The NGOCC is an umbrella for NGOs addressing women's and gender issues. It therefore serves as a voice or pressure group for women. I am very honoured to have been invited to this workshop and I would like to congratulate all of the participants for this is a step in the right direction. This is a wise decision at the right time. In 1992, we demanded machinery for the advancement of women. We began with a desk for women in development, then a section, then a department, then a gender and development division and finally a national gender policy. With the signing of CEDAW in 1981, we demanded a mechanism to domesticate CEDAW. Gender comes into every aspect of life. This workshop is the right thing at the right time.

Gender is not well covered and when it covered, women are negatively portrayed. We have recognized that women are marginalized, discriminated against, not recognized and deemed second-class citizens. The theory of gender mainstreaming is that men and women should work together. However this is not happening. There are gender imbalances. The men are here and the women are at the bottom. There is a need to reach a state of equilibrium. Those who make decisions are still men yet the majority of the population is women. Men benefit disproportionately from development initiatives. Men get more though they are fewer. That is an imbalance that should be addressed. We should understand relationships.

Violence takes many forms, not just physical, not just wife battering, rape and defilement. Gender violence is also psychological. Men often feel: I've paid lobola, my wife is a piece of furniture that he can be tossed around as he pleases. Whose rights are being violated? Male or female? There is powerlessness and women are disadvantaged. Men may also be violated, but we see few cases of such violations. Is it that men are shy to report these cases? Or is it because there are more women who are violated?

The tools for changing our situation are to inform, educate and sensitize. Media are among the least gender sensitive institutions. Who makes decisions in the media? How many women are in positions of decision-making? If they are, are they making decisions or rubber-stamping? Decision-making is not an end but a means to governance, education, information against violence inflicted on women. The aim should be to portray issues, not her personal life or what women are wearing. If I wear a short skirt this does not mean I can't think anymore. We want to see more constructive reporting.

INTRODUCTIONS

Participants introduced themselves and were asked to list their expectations for the workshop. Their responses may be summarized as follows:

- Improve the quality of gender feature articles;
- Enhance their ability to disseminate information on gender violence;
- Improve their understanding of gender violence;
- Learn how to help rural people who are affected by gender violence; and

- Learn new methods of reporting so as to sensitize the public about gender violence.

ANALYSIS OF COVERAGE OF GENDER VIOLENCE IN THE ZAMBIA MEDIA

All participants were asked to share their experiences or examples of coverage of gender violence in Zambia. The group drew the following conclusions on the way gender violence is covered in Zambia from the articles shared:

- The issue is not given the prominence or given the gravity that it deserves.
- It is not covered from a human rights perspective.
- Stories lack fairness, balance and context- frequently told from the point of view of the perpetrator.
- Event rather than issue driven.
- Victims rather than survivors.
- Sensationalism.
- Very little attention to solutions.

GENDER VIOLENCE AND THE ELECTIONS IN ZAMBIA

**By Inonge Mbikusita - Lewanika
Presidential Candidate**

The chairperson, distinguished participants, gentlemen and ladies, I am happy to accept the invitation to participate in today's meeting. Firstly, violence in general and violence against women is real. Violence in election campaigns is also real. Allow me to introduce this subject on gender violence and the elections in Zambia in broad terms.

Violence is defined as "behavior intended to hurt or kill". Violence is also an act of crime. Often we restrict violence to the physical. In fact, violence occurs physically, emotionally, socially and mentally. Violence affects both genders. Violence is first experienced in the home, then the neighbourhood and community, at the workplace, in the nation and world. Research has shown that children exposed to violence in the growing up years, learn it as a way of life. As the famous saying goes, "Children learn what they live". Boys, who observe and watch their fathers or male relatives beat up their mothers and female relatives, think this kind of violence is natural. They grow up thinking that it is their duty to beat up women. The same is true of girls who experience the scenes. They allow themselves to be beaten as a norm. Girls and boys, who grow up in homes and communities where differences are sorted out by fighting and beating, do the same as natural way of life. Children, who grew up watching adults get their way by bullying and violence, grew up behaving the same way.

On the other hand, children who grew up where violence is not exhibited do not practice violence. Children who are exposed to reasoning differences peacefully do the same.

Children learn from adults to express and defend their views. An important fact that has a bearing on violent reactions is personal self-esteem and confidence. Usually people who have positive self-esteem, are sure of themselves and confident do not resort to violent means to defend nor obtain their rights. These lifestyles are again acquired early in the life of children. They learn from adult examples.

People who are not sure of themselves, have low self-esteem and lack confidence usually resort to violence to get their way and express their points of view. This, I hope, provides useful background to our discussion, gender violence during election campaigns. It is also useful to know that the founders of politics in Zambia did not resort to violence. Violence was unknown during elections and campaigns. Most of the pioneer politicians were people of integrity. They were confident people. They earned their living respectably and did not view politics as employment and money making. These pioneers presented themselves and what they stood for. The politics of insults and demolishing opponents were unheard of.

Among the first scenes of violence was in the ZANC-UNIP era. 1991 will go down in history as the time when the insulting political opponent was highlighted. Since 1991, our country has experienced more and more violence during elections. The last by-elections in Chawama and Kabwata revealed some of the worst forms of violence during elections.

What are the gender perspectives on violence?

Usually boys are socialized to see violence as a way of life. They are socialized to fight, abuse others and get their way through violent means. Boys are taught to intimidate and threaten opponents. Girls on the other hand are socialized to seek solutions through peaceful means to the extent of giving up their rights. As a result, most girls and women are shunning violence. These life experiences are carried to elections. Men are more prepared and ready to engage in violent means while women are not. Women can even give up when threatened. This means in today's Zambian politics more men are prepared for violence than women. The women who are most likely to withstand the pressure are those who have positive self-esteem and are confident. Women with family support and friends are also encouraged to persist. Women with a sharp sense of spirituality can also persevere and persistent.

Another aspect of violent elections is bribery and corruption. Bribery and corruption fit in the definition of violence. More men use these means than women. The acquisition of money itself can be dishonest means, which fits in one understanding of violence. Women usually suffer emotional violence silently and beat it within. Among emotional violence is ignorance, denied information, lack of educational and training facilities. Heavy workloads and women's multiple roles contribute to violence against women as these prevent them from effecting participation in public affairs including running for office.

National, community and household resources are also areas of violence against women. Most women work hard and for long hours but their contributions are denied monetary

rewards. In some cases these resources they work for are taken away from them. The first women to be employed in the public sectors in our country were denied pensions, and related benefits. Many women today are employed as casual workers without full benefits. Women are active participants who do most of the labour intensive and tedious work to benefit male candidates. Those who are paid are given low dues. Others are abused and sexually assaulted during these processes. Most of the women party cadres are not formally recognized nor rewarded. The political arena reveals substantial violence against women; physically, emotionally, socially and mentally.

The way forward

1. Children by choice not by chance. Since the early years are so crucial to human development as well as national development, children need to grow up in homes that nurture them and build foundation e.g. love and acceptance.
2. Self-esteem and confidence. Children need assurance and guidance that will enhance self-esteem and confidence. Schools and other community services need to contribute to the building of self-esteem and confidence instead of demolishing them.
3. Society in general needs to be more positive than negative. Solutions need to be advanced and highlighted rather than problems.
4. Merit needs to be rewarded in all sectors and areas of life. Nepotism should be eradicated.
5. Integrity and honesty need to be appreciated and valued.
6. Hard work should be commended and rewarded. Leaders must set the pace for hard work and commitment.
7. The citizens need to get back to issues rather than personalities. The media has a great role to play in this proposed way forward.

Lawrence Chilando Training and Resource Development Officer Men's Network Project

The following is a summary of Mr. Chilando's comments:

Election violence is increasing in Zambia. That is the reason why women are out of the electoral process. Even the electoral processes do not put infrastructure that guarantee safety of citizens during elections. The electoral commission says its job is to administer the electoral process but they must ensure equal participation of citizens. The legal framework does not encourage equal participation of men and women. Monitors report violence yet they do not have powers to arrest. Police on the other hand say electoral violence is outside their jurisdiction.

Violence in electoral process is there for everyone to see. Where did it start? For everything that takes place, there is someone behind it. Even some women have perpetrated violence. Who is the culprit? If one follows elections, the central person is the male politician.

As the Zambia National Women's Lobby, we try to tackle the problem from two angles: help women who are victims withstand or to try to liaise with the stakeholders on how to implement strategies that can ensure the minimizing of violence. We identified men as the targets, to make them understand the implications of what they are perpetrating. Women must mobilize themselves in order to eradicate the problem. There is a need for measures to be put in place that will stop gender violence.

PROPERTY GRABBING

Marina Kaunda Activist with the ZARD

What is property grabbing? It is land/households taken by force from a deceased spouse, which includes household's goods. It is anything that the deceased had. It is an offence according to the intestate Succession Act. Who is the grabber? Usually it is relatives of the deceased. This leaves the spouse, children and parents destitute. They face insecurity, fear and depression as the result of such acts. There is no one to support those who are victims even laws can't adequately prevent property grabbing. A property grabber is one who does not know the law. Establishments like the YWCA, legal aid clinic could provide help and support, be it financially or legally. Causes of property grabbing are cultural and economic. There is a general ignorance of the law and there is poor enforcement of the law. Others do it for fear of witchcraft or just to intimidate the deceased spouse. As a result they perform cleansing through sleeping with the widow, which further leads to high incidence of HIV/Aids. The lack of communication and unity is mainly to blame among families. The church cannot take an active role in the mediation of such rituals.

- The role of the media is to take the message to the community. The media has the power to use their pens to launch a national media campaign and must get to know the law development commission. They must familiarize themselves with the information and develop a language to influence public opinion. Their plan must be to make people react. Television and radio are activists and they control a weapon of power.

Sarah Longwe Independent gender consultant/activist

Property grabbing has psychological, economic and physical effects on women. In the 1960's the media reported that women were property to be inherited. In 1982 a draft bill proposed that 25 % of the estate be inherited by spouses, 50 % by the children and 25 % to dependents. In 1984 the ZARD conference report made 64 recommendations. In 1995 Zambia ratified CEDAW, and agreed to take action on women's property rights. At the women's movement meeting, there were public debates and testimonies followed by the passing of 1989 Bill. This Act stipulated that a spouse, 50 % by children, 20 %

by parents and 10 % by dependents would inherit 20 % of the estate. There are definition problems on children, offspring and dependents. Furthermore the administrator had no administrative rules. Why is there this gender violence? The media must do a thorough analysis. Gender discrimination is in our societal set up. It is systematic and very often endorsed by society.

Florence Shakafunsa Justice for widows

Shakafunsa carried out research on the issue and found that property grabbing took many forms and had a lot of adverse effects. It is a big problem in the Southern African region. The effects are as follows:

- Depression;
- Street children;
- Increase in orphans;
- High poverty levels;
- Lack of food, shelter and clothing; and
- Lack of basic education for orphans.

She advocates the training of widows and orphans so that they can be assertive and know the laws. The police and judiciary also need to play a greater role.

DAY TWO

SEXUAL OFFENSES

ZAMCOM and Gender Links facilitated group discussions based on the training manual, followed by a panel on domestic violence.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVOR

Sister Francesca Phiri, from the YWCA shelter in Lusaka brought a survivor of domestic violence to speak about her personal experiences. The survivor, who spoke in Bemba, with English translation, asked not to be named. This is her story:

"I was staying with husband and his three other wives. We got married in January 2000. As I stayed with him well as husband and wife, we had a problem, I could not conceive. My husband proposed to go and consult witch doctors. We went to the witch finder, I was given traditional medicine, I drunk it but it did not work. I was taken again to the same witchdoctor so that I could stay with him to get medicine right there. I started staying with the witchdoctor; my husband said I had a boyfriend that was why I could not conceive. I refused that I did not have a boyfriend and he took me away from the witchdoctor.

He got a rope and started beating me. He beat me and I did not complain. He undressed me after that he took me to another witchdoctor so that I could be given some medicine so that I could conceive. I stayed with the witchdoctor, later my husband

followed me and started to beat me with allegations that I had a boyfriend. I used to move up and down and rumours started that I had a boyfriend. He took me back home and started saying so many things.

Afterwards I decided to sneak out. I ran away to my mother's home. I stayed with my mum and explained what had happened. My husband apologized and said that it was over and had come to take me home. When we went home at 9 pm he took chains and tied me up while I slept. He tied me to the bed and started to beat me up. He then took a bottle and put it in my private parts, I bled. He took acid from the battery of his motorcar, that acid was also put in my private parts. The following day, he tied me with a rope, started squeezing my eyes and beating me. He said, "you I want to kill you, your boyfriend will bury you". He left home with me being tied up with a chain.

The following day he brought a dog and made me have sex with a dog. He got a bottle and inserted it into my private parts. The idea was to remove the semen of the dog. After that I became very sick. My private parts were swollen. I told him that he had hurt me. My mother tried to reason with him but he refused. When my father tried to reason with him, he said I was his wife not my father's wife. My elder brother came also to try to reason with him. My relatives came and went, they said, "if he wants to kill you, let him kill you, as we are going".

After two days at around 5 pm I sneaked away and stayed with my friend. The following day I started off for Lusaka (75 km away) and it took me two days to get there. My aunt, who brought me up, took me to VSU in Chawama. UTH gave me two medical reports that I took to YWCA. I was given a prescription, which I also took to YWCA, where I found Sister Phiri who bought medicine for me."

Sister Francesca Phiri continued the story:

"When she came to us her aunt was afraid to keep her. I was also afraid that her aunt might try to convince her not to take the case to the police. We put a lot of pressure on the police to act fast. Due to the fact that her home was outside Lusaka, the police provided transport. They went with her to the place to collect the dog, chains, and clothes with blood so that they could see the place where this crime happened and arrested her husband. When the husband was picked up, he tried to apologise. He went on to say who would look after the children. His wife's wounds were very fresh and her body has scars all over. Her husband was refused bail. The magistrate charged him with aggravated assault with intention to kill. Some of her clothes were not found especially the underwear. The chain and rope had been hidden and the police had to search for it. The battery was found for evidence in the bush but the underwear was never found which worried us.

When she came she was in a lot of pain and needed counseling. We took her to see a specialist who prescribed three types of medicine. Fortunately the dog had no rabies or any other disease. This painful memory will live with her for the rest of her life. Domestic violence damages the brain and there is no healing. A person like her will live with that no matter what therapy she receives. She will think, "Why did it happen to me". Her brain has been damaged and she will live with that.

When a person is sexually abused a part of her brain is damaged. There is no repair for such trauma. That is why we are appealing to the media to educate those who are violent in the home. This woman is still with us and her husband has been imprisoned for three years. The fear still remains about the clothes that were not found because they could be used for witchcraft purposes. Moving to another area will not solve the problem. The main cause of the domestic violence is that the wife was not getting pregnant. It is still not known who between them was not fertile. Society looks at this as the problem of the woman. But what if it had been him who had the problem. The three other wives did not help her because they were afraid.

As media we are often insensitive and there is a need to change this attitude. Place yourselves in the victims' shoes when reporting. Other important considerations are:

- YWCA AND VSU should be located in the remotest places so that they can provide safety, counseling and follow up to the victims of domestic violence.
- No man has the right to inflict violence and three years is not enough to punish a perpetrator of it.
- There is a need for counseling to be provided to the men. In some countries, the state make perpetrators of violence go through therapy.
- There is a need to convince mothers, wives and relatives of the dangers of domestic violence and of pursuing the cases for justice purposes. The prosecution of perpetrators of violence will eventually cause a decline in it.
- Help can be provided through counseling for it helps the victims accept what has happened to them.
- NGOs need to work in collaboration with institutions like the YWCA because this will help thwart this crime."

HIV/AIDS AND GENDER VIOLENCE

Francesca Muyenga
Zambia National Association of Disabled Women

The following is a summary of Ms Muyenga's presentation:

HIV AIDS has reached frightening proportions. Still behaviour towards this disease has not changed. The concerted efforts being made are not yielding any progress. For women with disabilities, there are problems with the dissemination of information. This information is not available for those who are blind or deaf. Women with disabilities are assumed to have no sexual needs or desires. ZNDADWO advises women with disabilities to keep away from dangerous men. At times these women resort to such men because they want affection and want their physiological and safety needs satisfied. Their self-esteem is tied to a stable family and the respect that they get. This is why we need to change their attitude so that they can refuse sexual advances.

Institutions like YWCA and Kara should help encourage these abused women to go ahead and file cases against their abusers. They must educate women that it is their

right to seek justice. There are efforts being made to make women aware of their rights and inform them about HIV/Aids. There is a need to reach those women living in rural areas who have no transport to the city centers.

“Joseph” Kara Counseling

Joseph is HIV positive and has been working for Kara for three years. He says society or the community does not give enough room for women who are HIV positive to come out. They as an organisation are changing this. They have involved as many women as possible in their organisation to fight this pandemic.

WOMEN AND PEACE BUILDING: THE ROLE OF THE MEDIA

By Yaliwe Clarke Kamuhuza SACPN Network Coordinator

The main purpose of this presentation is to explore the role of the media in enhancing women's effective involvement in peace building. Five points will be discussed:

- Gender relations prior during and after conflict.
- Impact of conflicts on women.
- Important role women can play in peace building.
- The Media and Peace Building.
- The Role of the Media in Enhancing Women's Peace Efforts.

Gender Relations Prior to Conflict

- Prior to conflict women are often confined to traditional roles of bearing and rearing children with less 'public' economic and political activity (compared to men)
- In Africa, the causes of war often stem from the struggle over control of national resources amongst the leadership (that is comprised mainly of men) e.g. Angola war over diamonds, Zimbabwe violence over land and political power, Mozambique war over, etc
- Women's lack of participation in national decision making inhibits their ability to influence a brewing inter or intra state conflict.

Gender Relations During and After Conflict

- Wars of liberation, to a large extent those in Western Sahara and Eritrea, have had some liberating effect on women.
- Some women participated as equals during the struggle and thus become part of the national decision making process after the war.
- Women in Angola and Mozambique have been elected to the Peoples Assemblies from local to National ones. Both FRELIMO and MPLA emphasized the importance of the liberation of women.

"The participation of women in the Peoples Forces for the Liberation of Mozambique... is imperative to the battle of women's emancipation, in the fight to involve women in the revolutionary process." (Machel, 1975 p.21)

- In Eritrea, by 1984, 30% of the EPLF fighters were women. Women were thus involved in the mobilization of people to the ideals of the Front. One Eritrean woman commented:

"Before I used to spend all my time in the kitchen and never had a chance to chat with my husband. I did not own property, could never leave the house alone and wasn't allowed to vote. I just had to do what my husband told me to do. Now I cannot only vote, but hold political office. We women administer village affairs where as before it was only for men. My husband and I own our property together. I can travel freely and if I have to go out in the evening on some business for the village or the Front, then my husband does the cooking and takes care of the children" (Cowan, 1984: 150)

Impact of Conflict on Women

- 85% of the victims of conflict are civilians of which the majority are women.
- Women in unstable, disruptive conflict and post-conflict situations are at risk from multiple forms of violence and share a common set of vulnerabilities – they are killed, wounded, tortured, imprisoned, separated from families, or driven into exile.
- 80% of refugees and Internationally displaced persons are women and children.
- Increasingly, women and girls are deliberate targets – rape, sexual assault, military sexual slavery, enforced prostitution and forced pregnancy are being used as deliberate military tactics.
- In conflict and post conflict conditions, the burden of responsibility is highest on women in caring for survivors where development is already severely impeded and where families and communities have been fractured and destroyed.

Role of Women in Peace Building

- Women are often the only segment of society remaining that are able to pick up the pieces and rebuild – as providers of for children and elders, as active church members, and as agriculturists.
- Women can create coalitions for peace and discussions about conflict issues due to their access to grass root people - community elders, church elders, and even combatants.
- Early warning – women's link with local communities and its players provide opportunity for them to assess the levels of tension in the community and alert relevant authorities. Several platforms can be used – market places, self-help groups, church gatherings, micro-credit schemes, etc.
- Women use their knowledge of indigenous cultural practices to devise new strategies for peace building. Because these are often socially acceptable practices, they are not seen as a threat to local authorities.

- Women's experiences of conflict and their socialization (to nurture the family) can contribute to the development of an alternative vision of peace and security.

The Media and Peace Building

A perception that has to be overcome is that journalists have to be neutral or objective in reporting on/in a conflict situation. In reality, it is argued that the issue is not about taking sides in reporting a conflict. By being there and reporting on a conflict issue they alter the communication environment – they are thus a third party in any conflict they are covering. Causes of political ethnic conflicts can be put in three categories:

- Structural factors – these include economic, social, and political issues relating to wealth distribution and inter-ethnic relations. Here media can play the role of negotiating structural factors.
- Facilitatory factors – these include the degree of politicisation and ethnic consciousness.
- Triggering factors - these include sharp economic shocks, inter-group tension, and collapse of central authority.

The media play an important role in the creation of the facilitatory and triggering factors. National or ethnic propagandists through the media can suggest to their audiences that 'the others' pose fundamental threats to security and well being of the society and that the only effective means of escaping this threat, is the elimination of this great danger. E.g. the private Radio Television Libre Des Mille Collines in Rwanda has played a major part in triggering the conflict by broadcasting messages like "You cockroaches must know you are made of flesh. We won't let you kill. We will kill you" a few days before the genocide in Rwanda.

Role of Media in Enhancing Women's Peace Efforts

- *Negotiating structural factors that affect women*: By reporting the gender gaps and gender discriminations occurring in society that inhibit the effective participation of women in national decision making processes, the media can help improve increase women's chances for policy change that will improve their political status (decision making). Women would then be more able to prevent or resolve conflicts resulting from strife over political power and resources. The media is also an important advocacy tool for the women's movement to lobby for recognition, policy change, and gender equality.
- *Creating positive facilitatory and triggering factors*: Women's experiences of the impact of conflict, their ability to provide non-antagonistic options, and their link to the grass root provide scope for the media to generate stories, radio and TV programmes, that can help reduce the degree of inter-group tension, and politicisation.
- *Humanising the enemy*: Women's ability to provide an account of the conflict from the perspective of each warring party's impact on society is particularly important in showing that all warring sides are indeed human. Documentation of women's stories and the ability of women to link ex-combatants with local

authorities and church leaders is particularly useful for the media. The media should tap communities. The views of local women and women's groups with regard to political tensions should be document and

- *Early warning*: Women's ability to assess the levels of tension in their publicized by the media. The impact of certain response to early warning can also be made public.
- *Peace education*: The fact that women have little choice in post-war or exile situations, but keep the children and elderly alive; they are key agents in peace education and trauma healing. The process of trauma healing amongst women provides healing for the society. Women often have no choice but to reside amongst their sons or husbands killed people who killed their husbands and children or be amongst those whose families. Dialogue between these women helps heal guilt, pain, and the trauma of their circumstance and that of the society they live in. These processes need to be aired on radio and TV.
- *Women's liberation during and after conflict*: The process of women's liberation resulting from the breakdown in traditional patriarchal structures is in itself an integral part of peace building. This is because the gender discriminatory structural factors are eliminated together with the unequal patriarchal power structures that were the root cause of the conflict. The new and especially 'non-patriarchal' approaches of governance adopted by liberated or empowered women may be a golden solution to long deep-rooted conflicts in Africa. The media need to begin to help identify and publicise women's methods of governance as a possible alternative to the current futile male dominated patriarchal governance systems.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Participants viewed a sexual harassment video prepared by the Sexual Harassment Education Programme in Johannesburg.

DAY THREE

Participants were sent on various field exercises. The issues explored included:

- Refugee women;
- Gender violence and elections;
- HIV and gender;
- Gender violence in schools; and
- YWCA shelter.

THE ROLE OF MEN IN COMBATING GENDER VIOLENCE

Charles Mubambe, Managing Director of the National Mirror, Roy Clarke, Independent Gender Consultant and a representative of the Legal Aid Clinic.

The following is a summary of points raised during the panel discussion:

- Men control, dominate and discriminate. This is reflected in the family, state and the international arena. Gender violence is a sign of patriarchy breaking down.
- If homes are not democratic then society should not expect the state to be democratic.
- Men have no space to express their feelings. Often, if they do not inflict violence on women they are branded as weak.
- The Men's Network sensitizes men on gender violence. However it tends to focus on men in urban areas.
- The role of men in fighting gender violence is critical. Perpetrators can be reached through theatre, interaction and community meetings. Women's organisations should form partnerships with men's groups who are actively involved in the eradication of gender violence.
- Women often accept subjugation and do not challenge patriarchy. Women should be encouraged to be proactive.
- The role of the press is to educate and inform. With consistent education men can change.

DAY FOUR

The participants were tasked with writing stories in a gender sensitive manner that were featured in the National Mirror newspaper. Facilitators from Gender Links and ZAMCOM assisted them.

DAY FIVE: THE WAY FORWARD

Following a critique of the supplement, participants mapped out the following areas of post workshop coverage (two assignments each) as per course requirements. The assignments coincided with the Sixteen Days of Activism from 25 November-10 December.

In testate law, Pamela
Refugee women, Diana and Barbara
Schools and gender- Esnart
HIV AIDS- Dorcas
Sexual offenses- Mwangala
Domestic violence- Charles
Property Grabbing/HIV AIDS- Flocics
Domestic Violence Bill- Shadrack
Gender violence and the elections- Pamela; gender desk at the Daily Mail, Thursday and Saturday
All these topics on radio- Chileshe

Commitments

- Reuben, manager Radio Two, Special programme, 30 minutes each week
- Chileshe programme in Bemba.
- Dorcas, Editor, quarterly newsletter, reproductive health, UNFPA; help in designing the website.
- Another supplement- for the Sixteen Days. Talk to Martin.
- In future, newsletter.

Post mortem and award of certificates:

Participants agreed that this would take place at ZAMCOM: Saturday 15 December, at 10.00. They urged each other not to: "work like politicians"

Zambia Chapter of the Gender and Media (GEM) Network

The group formed an Interim Steering Committee, with Charles as chair, and Dorcas-Vice chair. Structure and programme will be discussed further at the meeting on 15 December 2001.

EVALUATION

Participants filled out an evaluation form. Analysis of these is attached to ANNEX E.

CLOSURE

The following is a summary of the closing remarks made by Charles on behalf of the participants:

I am excited, that one of my long held dreams in coming true. We had the desire to join the struggle for the liberation of women, but we did not know where to start. Stories of gender-based violence have been hidden away somewhere. This workshop has given us the skill to help fight this vice. The level of participation is a tribute to the content of the course. To my colleagues, I want to throw out a challenge. What we are starting is not small; it is a very serious project. As we disperse, let us communicate and let each other know how we are progressing.

This is not just about what we write, but what we do. I know that I am going to start, with my grandfather, when I go to the village. We need publications, in local languages, to distribute to such places.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Gender Links and ZAMCOM for helping us to acquire this understanding. We have seen the need to come out of the periphery and

join the struggle. Instead of joining those throwing mud, this has given an opportunity to become stakeholders.

ANNEX A: PARTICIPANTS

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Reuben Kajokoto is manager for Radio Two at the ZNBC and is currently in charge of the English Channel. Contact details 097-250843, reubenkajokoto@hotmail.com

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Martin Kunolu works for the Post newspaper. He has more than four years experience in court reporting where gender violence is rampant. Contact details 097-788200

Mwangala Matibini works for the ZNBC news desk, including producing "events of the week" programme. Contact details 097-251983, m.matibini@yahoo.com

Dianna Mulilo Mwilwa is Sub-Editor at the Monitor newspaper. She types sets and designs reports for Afro-Net, a human rights organisation and the Observer and Human Rights Review. Contact details 097-236736/7, monitor@zamnet.zm

ANNEX B: EDITORS LUNCHEON ATTENDANCE LIST

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ANNEX C: PROGRAMME

DAY ONE	EVENT	WHO INVOLVED
DAY ONE	5 NOVEMBER	
8.30	Opening	Director/Chair NGOCC
9.00-9.30	Introductions and ice breaker	ZAMCOM
9.30-10.30	What is gender equality? Why is it important to the media?	CLM
10.30-11.0	TEA	
11.00-12.0	Sharing of examples of coverage of gender violence in the Zambian Media	ALL participants ZAMCOM Facilitator
12.00-13.0	Coverage of Gender Violence in the SADC Context	CLM
13.00-14.0	LUNCH	
14.00-15.0	Panel Gender Violence and Elections	Women's lobby confirmed. Confirming others last minute
15.30-17.0	PANEL-Property Grabbing	ZARD (3), Sarah Longwe, WILSA
DAY TWO	TUESDAY 6 NOVEMBER	
8.30-9.00	Eyes and ears; recap	ZAMCOM
9.00-10.00	PANEL: Sexual Offences	WILDAF, YWCA, VSU (2) and Social Welfare
10.0-13.0	Group discussions based on the Training Manual	ZAMCOM/GL Facilitator
10.30-11.0	PANEL: Domestic Violence	Survivor, YWCA
12.30-13.0	Group discussions based on the Manual	ZAMCOM/GL Facilitator
13.00-14.0	LUNCH	
14.00-15.0	HIV/AIDS and Gender Violence	Kara Counseling (3), ZNADWA (2)
15.0-15.30	Group discussion based on the Manual	ZAMCOM/Gender Links
15.30-16.0	TEA	
16.00-17.0	Sexual Harassment Video	
DAY THREE	WEDNESDAY 7 NOVEMBER	
8.30-8.45	Eyes and Ears; recap	ZAMCOM Facilitator
8.45-9.15	Briefing on Field Exercises	ZAMCOM/GL
9.15-13.30	FIELD EXERCISES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YWCA-drop in centre (confirmed) • Refugee Women- to confirm • Gender Violence and Elections- Women's lobby Confirmed • HIV and Gender –Kara Counseling 	

	(confirmed) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender Violence in Schools (Youth Alive – confirmed, ZARD confirmed and Min of Education to confirm) 	
DAY	EVENT	WHO INVOLVED
13.30-14.3	LUNCH	
15.0-16.00	The Role of Men in combating Gender Violence	Charles Mubambe Roy Clarke Legal Aid Clinic
16.15-17.0	Group Discussion based on the Manual	ZAMCOM/GL
DAY FOUR	THURSDAY 8 NOVEMBER	
8.30-16.0	WRITING, PRODUCTION AND EDITING STORIES	ZAMCOM/GL
DAY FIVE	FRIDAY 9 NOVEMBER	
8.30-9.00	Eyes and ears, recap	ZAMCOM/GL
9.00-11.0	Feedback on Stories	ZAMCOM/GL
11.30-12.3	The Way Forward	ZAMCOM/GL
12.30-13.0	CLOSURE	

ANNEX D: STORIES

One woman's pain, society's curse

By Charles Chisala

In a hushed lecture room a woman in her early twenties narrated between sobs a gruesome story of physical and mental torture at the hands of her husband in a typical case of domestic violence. The young woman told a media training workshop at the Zambia Institute of Mass Communications (ZAMCOM) on gender violence how she was forced to have sex with a dog, had a bottle and acid forced down her private parts, was chained to a bed, and nearly murdered by her sadistic husband for no other crime than failing to conceive.

A third wife in a polygamous marriage of four, the young woman pleaded with the man's father, his mother and extended relatives to intervene. The man retorted that she was his property and he could do what he wanted. The relatives turned their back saying: "if he wants to kill you, let him kill you, there is nothing we can do about it."

The young woman, who asked not to be named, finally managed to escape from her home in Chisamba, near Fringila Farm and to walk some 75 km to Lusaka. When she arrived in Lusaka's Chawama Township she narrated her ordeal to her aunt who reported the matter to the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA). Later in the same month police took up the matter and arrested the man for aggravated assault. He was convicted in October and sentenced to three years imprisonment with hard labour (see accompanying story).

The young woman is living at a YWCA shelter for battered and abused women where she is undergoing counseling to help her recover from the trauma and start her life all over again. Remarkably serene, composed and attractive, the young woman confesses to great fear of what will happen to her when her husband is released. The case speaks volumes about the extent of domestic violence in our country and how society has condoned, justified and perpetuated it. The man is clearly a product of the stereotype that says the man is all-powerful and has a right to do whatever he pleases to his wife. Violence against women has to a large extent been riding on this archaic belief.

The young woman, a true survivor, realised that her safety was in her own hands. Had she failed to brave the long walk to Lusaka, justice would never have been done. YWCA acting director for Lusaka Lucy Masiye Lungu said many women are not willing to fight domestic violence because society has taught them that they are not supposed to.

According to a training manual on "Fighting Violence Against Women" developed by Gender Links and Inter Press Service, violence against women is treated as a private matter even by the law enforcement organs and judicial system which are expected to protect women. More than 90 per cent of survivors of domestic violence are women. The YWCA's statistics show that last year it dealt with 35 cases of domestic violence in Lusaka alone. That does not include the hundreds of unreported cases.

Too little but not too late

By Pamela Banda

Gender activists have hailed the speedy court action against a man who confessed to brutally abusing his wife, but expressed dismay at the sentence and the failure to use this case to send out a stronger message on gender violence. Winfred Musako, 35, a polygamous Chisamba farmer sprung into the news last September when his wife accused him of forcing his wife to have sex with a dog, and beating her almost unconscious after she failed to conceive.

Magistrate Bartholomew Kaongo found Chisambo guilty of aggravated assault on 26 October, following a case held in camera because of the repugnant nature of the offence. The magistrate handed down a five-year jail term, suspended for two years after Musako's plea of guilt. He had earlier denied the charge. The maximum jail term for the offense is five years. "I would like to change my plea. I am not disputing most of the evidence brought by the prosecution. Because of the medical report form, I stand no chance of escaping the offence," Musako told the magistrate shortly before the judgment.

In mitigation, Musako said he was a first offender who deserved some leniency. Magistrate Kaongo observed that the offence was serious and Musako had no right to brutalise his wife, whether she had wronged him or not. "Upon his own admission of guilt and confession to the evidence adduced, I find the accused person guilty and I convict him accordingly. This kind of offence is highly prevalent in our society.

"Women are a weaker sex and this has been confirmed even in the bible and as such, they need to be protected by their husbands. Given the circumstances under which this offence was committed, the convict will got to prison for a period of 36 months," the magistrate said. Sister Francesca Phiri of the YWCA hailed the speedy way in which the courts had handled the matter, but said she believed the crime, which is tantamount to murder, demanded a much stiffer sentence.

Chesya Mtamira of the Women in Law Southern Africa (WLISA) Trust said she did not understand what the magistrate meant when he said that women are the weaker sex. "In what sense are women weak?" she asked. "In terms of gender roles, women can do what men can do. Biological differences are something else."

SAFE HAVEN'S IN SHORT SUPPLY

By Esmart Banda

For many a battered woman her home becomes a torture chamber she cannot escape or leave for reasons ranging from lack of economic empowerment to fear of what society will call her. A failure. Failing to endure the hardships of marriage is unheard of in Zambian culture. Yet marriage is not meant to be endured, but to be enjoyed. For those women brave enough to make a stand against cultural beliefs that violate them the shelter run by the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) is the only such facility in Zambia to offer a safe haven.

YWCA, established in Zambia in 1957, has slowly shifted from more traditional approaches empowering women to handling issues of women's rights. The YWCA provides counseling and shelter to battered women and abused children. Most of the children who go into the YWCA drop in centre have been sexually abused, some because of the belief that having sex with a virgin cures sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS. YWCA acting Regional Director Lucy Masiye Lungu says her organisation felt the need to set up a shelter in 1993 when more and more women began speaking out about the abuses and violations taking place in their homes. The centre handles close to 200 cases of domestic violence every year with support from donor funding. According to YWCA finance manager Mike Force Namwaze approximately K1.5 billion is required annually to run all programmes effectively.

The Regional Director adds that although YWCA needs government support to set up more centres this has not been forthcoming. "The increase in the number of cases being reported is a clear indication that there is need for more shelters to be set up," she said

The government, however, says they are not inclined to set up shelters due to the huge cost this would entail. It says there are transit homes available in Lusaka, Kabwe and Kitwe where battered women can stay for a brief period when the need arises. A Social Welfare Officer at the Ministry of Community Development and Social Welfare Ngosa Kaloto Lesa says the solution to the issue of domestic violence is not to set up shelters but to get to the root of the problem and stamp it out permanently.

While government takes this lukewarm stance, the YWCA facilities, including counseling and skills training, are stretched. Sr. Francesca Phiri, a counselor at the shelter says YWCA is willing to train people who may be ready to set up more shelters so that more women can get assistance.

A woman at the shelter who sought anonymity said the best thing that YWCA had done for her was to give her three children and her a home when she had nowhere else to go. "The counseling I received gave me so much confidence to discover myself," she said, adding that when she left home she was totally dependant on her husband, and did know how she would survive without him. "But now I'm a successful businesswoman and my children are finally happy and living a peaceful life, thanks to YWCA."

Media fuels the flames of gender violence

By Juliet Ilunga

It is common in Zambia to read headlines such as 'Man kills wife for denying him nshima', 'Twenty two year old woman raped for indecent dressing', 'I had sex with my daughter,' and so forth. But do these stories add to our understanding of why these scourges happen? Do they propose any solutions? Many gender activists believe that when it comes to gender violence, the media in Zambia is part of the problem, rather than of the solution. Describing the performance of the Zambian media in covering gender violence as "poor", gender consultant Roy Clarke, said the issue is reported in a way that suggested that this gross human rights violation is something to celebrate about.

"Gender violence is also reported in a flat manner as if there are no effects to it," he said, adding that: "Gender violence stories, just like any other story should be written critically. If you can't criticise the acts of violence in your story, then you are not a journalist because the media is supposed to be a watchdog."

National Mirror Managing Editor, Charles Mubambe, who presented a paper on *the Role of Men in Combating Gender Violence* at the ZAMCOM and Gender Links workshop said the media failed to dig beneath the facts, to bring about an understand of how serious the issue is. Lusaka banker Bernard Lungu said in an interview that most stories on gender violence imply that women are to blame for the abuse or violence they suffer through references such as: "she was wearing a short dress."

"Our media is not analysing the extent to which women are being violated and the effects of gender violence," non-governmental organisation coordinating committee (NGOCC) executive director Grace Kanyanga added. Instead of sensationalizing stories on gender violence the media should help society realize that gender violence is a violation of fundamental human rights, she said.

Press Association of Zambia (PAZA) vice president Susan Musukuma-Phiri said her organisation was concerned about the way gender violence is covered in Zambia. She noted that though there was a slight improvement in highlighting gender violence, the articles, especially those from the local courts are not gender sensitive. "There are reports of children being defiled by older men, but the stories are sensationalized. The media should write stories in a manner that will prompt authorities to take action and ensure justice is done," Musukuma-Phiri said.

Some journalists said although they are keen to report on gender violence, their editors will not give them the space to do so. "I think there is need to sensitize the editors because they relegate gender stories to inside pages and they are given little space," said one journalist. Zambia Independent Media Association chairperson for gender Diana Mulilo agreed that much of the solution lies in the gender sensitization of media gatekeepers.

Sexual harassment on the rise

By Pamela Chama

Although accurate statistics are not available, several women have quit their jobs because of sexual harassment, according to Zambia Union of Financial Institution and Allied Workers (ZUFIAW) general secretary Joyce Nonde. Defining sexual harassment as "an unwanted sexual advance or offensive sexual remarks made by someone against another", Nonde says the victim is in most cases forced to resign. The offence has very grave effects on the victims who suffer both physically and emotionally. She said such victims- mostly women- feel rejected, despised and in most cases their performance goes down, often to the satisfaction of the harasser. The seriousness of the problem prompted her union to establish women's committees in financial institutions to deal with the grievances faced by women, with sexual harassment top on the agenda.

The union is now including sexual harassment in the collective agreements under disciplinary codes. Acting Commissioner of Labour at the Ministry of Labour and Social Security Noah Siasumuna, said there is no need to enact a law to deal with sexual harassment.

Election violence robs women of their rights

By Pauline Banda

The rampant violence in the run up to elections is depriving all Zambians, but especially women, of their rights as citizens, according to prominent politicians and activists.

"Violence is real in our electoral process and it takes many forms. Sometimes, mental and emotional violence is even more devastating than physical violence," according to presidential candidate for the Agenda for Zambia party Inonge Mbikusita-Lewanika, who is also the country's second woman presidential candidate.

Speaking at the ZAMCOM and Gender Links workshop on combating gender violence, Mbikusita-Lewanika bemoaned the fact that campaigning has become a matter of trading insults rather than debating issues. "What we see is politicians concentrating on character assassination and insults. At the end of the campaign, the electorate doesn't know the candidates. There is a tendency to applaud when politicians insult at campaign rallies. When someone tries to discuss issues, the audience is bored. When they hear insults, they cheer. This is a tragedy for Zambian politics," the fiery former minister said.

According to Mbikisutu-Lewanika, political violence, which was never a feature of Zambian elections in the past, has increased progressively over the last ten years. She gave as an example the parliamentary by-elections in Chawama and Kabwata in August and September, in which some cadres were severely injured. The opposition Forum for Democracy and Development (FDD) won the elections.

Violence, she added, is detrimental to development and it hinders participation by women, both as candidates and voters. Unless something is done about the culture of insults and intimidation, women will continue to shun politics, Mbikisutu-Lewanika warned. Women constitute less than ten percent of legislators in the current parliament. Efforts to increase the representation of women in the forthcoming elections by a consortium of NGOs called Movement 2000 have been hampered by fears of intimidation by potential women candidates.

Zambia National Women's Lobby Group (ZNWLG) Training and resource development officer Horraine Chilando said the implications of gender violence on the electoral process are grave. "Women cannot withstand pressure and it is a pity that at the moment, there is no mechanism that guarantees the safety of citizens in the electoral process," he said. Chilando observed that men in political parties are using women and youth to perpetrate violence. "Because they have the power and money, senior politicians can manipulate things and even pit women against fellow women," he said.

Commenting on gender-based violence in elections, Zambia Civic Education Association (ZCEA) information officer Mukalya Mwangala urged women to be "thick-skinned" and insist on participating in governance because they have a right to do so. "There is violence in our politics to a great extent. Although many women cannot match the hooliganism of men and youths, some must find a way of remaining in politics for the sake of development," Mwangala said.

Men's Network to fight gender violence in the elections

By Reuben Kajokoto

A group of Zambian men are joining hands to make the elections safe for women candidates as well to promote gender equality more broadly. The Men's Network of the Zambia National Women's Lobby Group, launched last year, this week held a "Gender and Election Training" course in Lusaka. A participant to the workshop, Emmanuel Kasongo, said:

"We want the women to feel free to participate in the forthcoming elections, we do not want them to be intimidated."

Mr. Kasongo, who is the chairman of the Men's Network on the Copperbelt, said the Network would ensure that measures are put in place for men to support women by discouraging the use of abusive language and violence. Co-ordinator Horace Chilando said that at first women activists fought for their rights on their own because they believed it was their fight. But in the late 1990s, the Women's Lobby realized that it had

failed to involve strategic allies in the fight for women's rights, not only in terms of gender violence but also in the fight against HIV/AIDS and other STD's.

"It was realised that the perpetrators were men and it was also realised that the people at the power centre were men, hence the need to involve them in the fight against injustices against women," Chilando said.

Chipala Musonda, manager of a project for the Institute of Cultural Affairs in Kapandwe, Kapiri Mposhi noted:

"The task is big because it touches on cultural norms, but with the use of workshops, the media such as newspapers, the radio and outreach programmes, change in men's attitude is certain." Nelson Banda, also a member of the Network based in Lusaka said women have supported men for a long time, for example during the struggle for independence. It is now time for men to reciprocate, he argued. Joseph Muchindu a member of the Network from Chilanga added: "This is a gender revolution that has been started. It has been started with the youths and men in mind to help combat gender violence."

Women bear the brunt of war

By Chileshe Kalasa

Juliet Kongororo (not real name) lived happily in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Never had it crossed her mind that one day she would find herself in some strange land hundreds of miles away from her home among complete strangers. Kongororo recalled in an interview how she ran away while pregnant with a one and half year old child after witnessing her brother being killed and running past dead bodies. There were times when she did not see her husband for as long as a week as they fled in different directions. She found her husband with the help of friends and managed to keep running until she got to Zambia.

There, Kongororo acquired a new title, a refugee, which she found degrading but which she has now come to accept as part of her new life. According to UNHCR assistant public information officer Mr. Kelvin Shimo eighty percent of refugees are women and children. By and large women bear the brunt of war without being part of the causes, or of the attempted solutions. According to Yaliwe Kamuhuza, coordinator of the Southern African Conflict Prevention Network, gender violence tends to be viewed as something that happens at the micro level- in the home. The effects of intra and inter state conflict on women, let alone the potential role of women in helping to prevent and resolve conflicts, seldom come under consideration.

World wide, she added, there has been a sharp rise in intra state or civil wars, with high civilian casualties- mostly women and children. Sexual offences have also increasingly been used in recent conflicts as a deliberate weapon of war.

Senior community services officer with UNHCR Marie Lobo said that refugees who come with STDs are given treatment in their camps. Women are also sensitized to report any

violation against them. The high rate of HIV AIDS among refugee women is a source of concern. But by setting up a skills centre on the outskirts of Lusaka where women refugees are taught skills like poultry, gardening and tailoring, the UNHCR is helping women refugees to accept their new status and start leading a normal life.

Police threaten refugee for reporting attempted rape

By Martin Kunolu

Police threatened to deport a refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo after she reported that a lecturer had attempted to rape her. The 26-year-old student, who asked that her name that of the technical college she attended not be named for fear of reprisals, said that she had gone to the lecturer's office in the evening, to consult on an assignment she was doing.

"But I was surprised when he grabbed me saying that he wanted to have sex with me, and he even pulled down my pants," said the student, adding that she was rescued by fellow students who heard her screaming. "I reported the matter to the police and told them the lecturer's name, but I was shocked when they turned me away threatening to send me back to Congo [Democratic Republic]," she said.

The student, who almost broke down while telling her story, said that other lecturers at the College tease and brand her a prostitute. "I know they are taking advantage of my being a refugee. I didn't want to be one and this can happen to any human being on earth," she said. "I don't know where my parents are, we separated when fleeing from war and I don't know whether they are still alive," she added. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) supports the student financially.

Making schools safe for girls

By Martin Kunolu

Schools, like homes, are not safe for girls. Gender violence in schools takes various forms- from blatant assault to subtle intimidation that results in girls pursuing lower paying careers. Mumuni School Programme for the Advancement of Girls Education (PAGE) co-ordinator Joyce Mwape Muleba cites an incident at a nearby police camp, Sikanze, where a police officer raped a minor. With the belief that having sex with a virgin cures AIDS, young girls having fallen victims of sexual violence, she adds.

"We strongly emphasize, especially to those at lower primary level not to accept sweets from strangers and to report to teachers or their mothers any man who made sexual advances to them," Muleba said. Apart from this blatant intimidation, girls are unable to perform to the best of their abilities in class because of intimidation from boys, she said. Muleba said that to monitor the performance of pupils, the school has single sex classes "and at the end of the term, girls do better than boys."

'We have had situations where girls are intimidated and their performance would go down, but once moved to an all girls class, they improved,' Muleba said.

Girls are encouraged to do technical subjects, like woodwork, and boys to do home economics. Muleba said that the pupils are given responsibilities equally despite their sex, 'because equality should start from class.'

Pretty Simumbwe, 16, a grade nine, doing woodwork, said that the first time she started doing the subject, boys used to tease her that she was in a 'wrong' class. 'They used to say that I was supposed to be in the kitchen, but they later stopped teasing me after I came out the best in the subject,' Simumbwe said. Kelvin Akabana, home economics pupils said boys laughed at him for doing 'cooking.'

Research conducted by the Zambia Association for Research and Development (ZARD) reveals that a high proportion of girls are not in school for various reasons, including financial constraints, teenage pregnancies, orphan hood, and lack of interest.

If there is one thing you should remember to do... .

Dorcas Ilunga Chileshe

"If you can't write a will don't die." This is one of the messages that non- governmental organisations in Zambia are using in their campaign to encourage people to write wills.

National legal Aid Clinic for Women (NLACW) official Humphrey Ndhlovu says despite the high number of property grabbing cases, many people are not writing wills because of the belief, that cuts across class lines, that talking about death leads to death.

The clinic, the Zambia Association for Research and Development (ZARD) and Women in Law in Southern Africa (WILSA) have launched public education campaigns on writing wills. Women suffer the consequences of property grabbing, which results from not husbands not writing wills. This explains why the campaign is being targeted primarily at women.

A Lusaka widow, Mrs Gondwe Maliki is living testimony of the importance of wills. When her husband died over a decade ago, "my husbands relatives came and started fighting over household property including the house but when the will was produced, their plans were shattered and I retained the house and some other property which is still generating some income," she said. She said women should play a key role in encouraging their husbands to write wills because women and children suffer most when property is grabbed from them.

Mr. Ben Mutale, a Lusaka teacher, says that couples should feel obliged to write wills to lessen the high number of children that are becoming destitute after the death of their parents. "Will writing should not be an option especially with the high rate of HIV/AIDS in our country. Many children are running to the streets because they have nothing to live on after their dead parents' relatives have grabbed all their property and abandoned

them,” Mutale said. WLSA Programme Officer for Legal Aid and Lobbying Joyce Macmillan says many people are writing wills in the form of letters not recognized by the law. WILSA is emphasizing the importance of using the correct format for writing wills. ZARD has come up with a template for a will in all of Zambia’s languages.

Culture, tradition, fuel sexual offences

By Mwanga Matabini

Sexual violence is a vice that affects many people in Zambia though it has not received the attention that it deserves. This violence begins from the home and then extends to the wider community.

Sexual violence comes in many forms and is traumatic to the survivors. Rape, incest, sexual harassment and indecent assault are some of the serious sexual crimes.

Most victims of sexual violence are women. This is because African culture is patriarchal and extols male dominance.

In a marriage, for instance, instead of teaching the couple that they are co-partners in a relationship, the man is taught to dominate whilst the woman is taught to submit without questioning.

The man therefore believes there is no marital rape; that his wife is his property, and that he should enjoy conjugal “rights” whenever he pleases- with or without her consent.

Women that are economically dependent on their husbands succumb to marital rape victims because they believe they are helpless. They are unable to resist for fear of being chased away from the home.

Sexual violence stems from men wanting to prove their power contrary to the belief that they are driven by lust.

One of the organisations that are working on issues of sexual harassment is the YWCA. YWCA Acting Regional Director Lucy Masiye Lungu said women usually withdraw their cases from the police through the victims support unit as well as from the YWCA for fear of being ridiculed.

She said that the women are afraid of reporting abuse for fear of being stigmatised by society as failures.

Lungu said cases of incest and defilement are being fueled by myths held by the Zambian society.

Young Women Christian Association (YWCA) Zambia Legal advisor Helle Vibeke Hansen also said there has been a marked improvement in response to the services offered by

the YWCA compared to the time the services were first introduced in Zambia. However, there is need to enlighten society more on the crime of sexual violence.

Gender violence, custom, culture and HIV AIDS

By Felicia Kasumalesa

People found to knowingly infect or re-infect a person with HIV should be jailed for life. Rapist should be tested for HIV/Aids and if found to have knowingly spread the virus should be guilty of murder.

Possibly the biggest factor in the spread of HIV AIDS in Zambia is the fact that in most cases, women cannot negotiate safe sex.

In cases where women are not consulted when their husbands have other wives or indulge in sexual relations with other women outside marriage, the woman usually gives in to unprotected sex with her husband for fear of victimisation.

In most couples with HIV, men contract the virus from relationships outside the marriage. This is made worse because society still condones this promiscuity by men simply because it is allowed for a man to have as many children as he wishes and also marry as many wives as he pleases even without any consent from his wife.

Cultural practices have also been seen as a major contributor to the spread of HIV and AIDS in Zambia and entire Africa.

To please men, some women have "dry" sex that increases the risks of contracting the virus.

Among the Kaonde speaking people of northwestern province Zambia, inheritance practices are contributing to the spread of HIV AIDS. If husband dies the husband's brother is expected to inherit property and the widow.

The Tonga speaking people in Southern Zambia have a custom that allows a man to marry as many wives as he wants for as long as he respects the first wife.

ANNEX E: EVALUATION

12 evaluation forms were received. Participants made the following comments on the training.

	<u>EXCELLENT</u>	<u>GOOD</u>	<u>FAIR</u>	<u>POOR</u>	<u>VERY POOR</u>
<u>1. PROGRAMME DESIGN</u>	11	1			
<u>2. PROGRAMME CONTENT</u>	7	5			
<u>3. FACILITATION</u>	4	6	2		
<u>4. GROUP WORK</u>	6	3	3		
<u>5. OUTPUTS vs EXPECTATIONS</u>	6	3		1	
<u>6. LEARNING OPPORTUNITY</u>	6	6			
<u>7. NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY</u>	6	4	2		
<u>8. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS</u>	2	3	7		

COMMENTS

1. Which session did you find most useful? Why?

- 1 = Role of men in gender violence
- 3 = Found the domestic violence session as most useful.
- 4 = Gender violence
- 1 = Women in conflict situations
- 1 = HIV/Aids.
- 1 = Found all the sessions useful

2. Which session did you find least useful? Why?

- 3 = HIV/Aids was not thoroughly linked to gender violence.
- 2 = Gender violence and elections, personal campaign. It would have been interesting to bring in women who are used for political expediency.
- 1 = Sexual harassment; no presenter.
- 2 = The presentation on women in conflict resolution because it focused on women in areas ravaged by war. Miss Clarke's presentation on conflict at regional level failed to show relevance to war situations currently.
- 1 = Women in armed conflict was irrelevant to Zambia, it should have shown the refugees harboured by the country.

3. Suggestions for follow up action.

- Ensure presenters are more resourceful.
- Consider organizing a SADC conference after a couple of national conferences have been held so as to gauge impact.

- Transform the Network into a non-governmental organisation.
- Increase networking so that coverage of gender violence is a permanent feature. Facilitate more in depth workshops so that journalists will be better equipped to handle gender related stories.
- There should be a follow up in actual work of the media from the participants.

4. Any other comments.

- Workshop provided an opportunity to fight against gender violence.
- Overall organisation and conduct of work was excellent.
- Men should be encouraged to take interest in women's affairs.
- More training and practice.
- Increase the time for the workshop.
- There was a feeling that this on-line training idea would succeed.
- Daily transport money not enough.

5. Areas of learning I would like reinforced through on-line training.

- Styles of article development.
- HIV/Aids and gender reporting.
- Sexual harassment.
- The plight of refugee women.
- On-line researching.
- Different forms of sexual offences coupled with the laws against gender violence and the enforcement thereof.
- How to organize training at grassroots level for men and how to share information with other journalists from SADC countries.
- How to tackle myths surrounding gender violence and HIV/Aids.