

Report on the Malawi Media Training
Workshop on

Covering Gender Violence

Blantyre, Malawi

19 – 23 November 2001

Gender Links
Malawi Institute of Journalism

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SUMMARY

This report summarises the proceedings of the Malawi workshop on covering Gender Violence convened by Gender Links and the Malawi Institute of Journalism in Blantyre from 19-23 November 2001, with the support of the Ford Foundation. The workshop follows similar training at a regional level in Lesotho in December 2000, at which participants recommended that such training be replicated at national level.

Thirteen participants from electronic and print media participated in the training (see *Annex A*). Brief biographies of the participants are attached at *Annex B*. At *Annex C* is a list of presenters and the topics they presented. Editors and managers of the participants attended the launch of the book "Whose News? Whose

Views?" (*Annex D*.) The programme of the workshop is attached at *Annex E*.

A newsletter entitled "Our Write" was produced at the end of the workshop. The editorial material and content of that newsletter are attached at *Annex F*. Workshop evaluations are summarised at *Annex G*.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the workshop were:

- To gain an understanding of gender based violence and its many "faces."
- To analyse how this issue is covered in the Malawi/SADC media.
- To learn, through practical training, more in-depth and sensitive approaches to covering gender-based violence.
- To chart a way forward for the Malawi media in covering this issues.

OPENING

The workshop was opened by the Minister for Gender, Youth and Community Services, Honourable Mary Kapwereza Banda. The Director of The Malawi Institute of Journalism, Dr. James Ngombe was present at the official opening of the workshop. The Minister's speech follows:

Opening speech

Journalists and Communicators, Invited Guests, Trainers and Resource Persons Ladies and Gentlemen.

It gives me pleasure and honour to be given the opportunity to officially open the training workshop for journalists on reporting on gender based violence. Before I do so, allow me Ladies and Gentlemen to say a few words.

I am informed Ladies and Gentlemen that the objectives of the media-training workshop are to:

- Raise media awareness on violence against women and how to report on it in a more gender sensitive manner
- Test the Inter Press Services (IPS) training manual
- Ensure maximum coverage in the media on violence against women in Malawi.

Most of the time the media has been seen as passive observers, rather than active participants and partners in the addressing of critical issues like gender based violence (GBV). Yet in shaping public opinion, the media has the potential to either be part of the problem or part of the solution. It is therefore, my conviction that the media personnel is here today because it is anxious to be part of the solution to one of the worst violations of human rights in this country known as gender based violence. When one reads a newspaper, listens to the radio and watches the television, there are gender based violence issues being reported indicating that the problem is escalating. Whereas previously this hideous crime has been hidden away in the private sphere, we are saying: it needs to be brought out into the open Now, Now.

At times, the media fuels the flames of the problem through insensitive and sensational reporting; trivializing the problem; and suggesting that through their dress or behaviour victims "invited" the bodily violation that they suffered. Yet women, children and some men are frequently portrayed as powerless victims, rather than survivors, with a determination and will to overcome their trauma.

For example, a rape case is likely to get more coverage, than a march by thousands of women and men protesting such a case! How often is reporting done on what happens to the domestic violence victims? No wonder the criminal justice system has proved so ineffective at addressing cases of the so-called "domestic violence!"

Gender based violence is a violation of human rights and it needs to be discussed, condemned and eradicated. Such human rights violations require concerted effort so that the nation should realize economic growth, political and social development for sustainable development and a just society. Trade and investment are ultimately about people; Gender based violence is not only a human violation but also it negates productivity. Societies cannot effectively produce goods and services when half the population is battered and when the future leaders, the children are being abused. A violent society is not conducive to development and poverty reduction. This training workshop is one way of implementing the SADC Declaration on the Prevention and Eradication of Violence Against Women and Children signed by the SADC heads of State as an addendum to the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development in September 1998. The conference agreed on a reporting framework that desegregates the different types of gender based violence including sexual harassment, domestic violence, rape, women in conflict and femicide - the killing of intimate female partners. In many countries statistics are hard to come by, because most domestic violence still goes unreported. In addition to providing statistics, SADC countries should provide narrative reports on what steps they have taken to eradicate this scourge. Regular reports of this kind are a requirement of the addendum.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am pleased to report that Malawi has developed its own action plan on gender-based violence which has taken an integrated approach to

combat the problem. Each stakeholder therefore has a role to implement this plan. It is therefore pleasing to note that the media has already started implementing some aspects of the plan. Further action has been initiated in reviewing some laws that discriminate against women. More work needs to be done to enact new laws that specifically address gender based violence issues. Government, NGOs and Civil Society are involved in efforts to eradicate Gender Based Violence in our society for it is recognized that some of the culturally accepted practices condone it. These must be reviewed and more importantly eliminated.

May I take this opportunity to congratulate Inter Press Services, a global development news network, for developing a training manual for media on "*Fighting Violence Against Women*" in collaboration with Gender Links Associates (GLA), a Southern African organization specializing in gender, development and media issues. For this is the manual that this workshop will use and it is my hope that it will be adapted to suit the situation in Malawi.

I am delighted to learn from the conference organizers that you will be producing a daily newsletter for the conference and a supplement at the end of the conference, and that you will be disseminating information on the conference widely. In other words you are putting words into action.

I am so encouraged to learn that you plan at the end of this workshop to launch a Malawi Media Network on Gender Based Violence. The proposed follow up to this workshop which will be regular information sharing on gender based violence is another encouraging aspect. I encourage you to network among yourself. My ministry fully support these efforts, which seek to address issues raised in the Malawi Platform for Action (1995) and the National Gender Policy (2000).

Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish you a successful workshop and I look forward to its outcome.

I thank you for your attention.

INTRODUCTION AND ICEBREAKER

The facilitator from The Malawi Institute of Journalism (MIJ), Mr. Henry Malunda began by introducing the program and giving details for the training. Colleen Lowe Morna was presented to the participants as co-facilitator and as representative for Gender Links. Participants introduced themselves giving detail of their background and work experience.

COVERAGE OF GENDER VIOLENCE IN THE MALAWI MEDIA

Each participant was given a cutting from the Malawi media and analysed it as follows:

What is it about	What message convey	Is the issue adequately covered
Soldier, shooting women and children	Evils of war, men cause the war, women and children suffer; Man venting anger on innocent women and children. If man would have reacted differently.	Exposes the issue
Four pregnant girls expelled Parents and girls education Headmaster- no one to protect them.	Necessary measures? What about the boys- nothing Girls have to be protected.	Failed to balance the story Follow up in feature form Expulsion of girls not acceptable- this is not raised.
Cartoon, how men abuse women, packet of flour, beat her, in presence of a child	Problem that exists in the family. Children cannot develop, gender violence inculcated; social roles constructed and passed on	Impression man big and powerful; in control, taking orders. Such issues do not challenge gender violence.
Gender minister told to be respectful	Gender minister is a woman= inferior; not respecting men. Accusing each other, no unity of purpose.	Reporter did not tell us what the minister says. Not balanced. Treats her like an infant. Sexist language
Discrimination against a pregnant woman in the work place- "don't employ people in your condition"	Women inferior discriminated against for being pregnant. All powerful man, all inferior woman	Reinforces stereotypes, woman inferior. Men in charge in positions of power and authority. Human rights issue. Should show her suing. Woman needs to take up her rights
Two sisters raped in turn- no one helped.	The man "quick". The man is a hero. Getting away with rape.	Leaves a lot of question marks. Does not raise anything wrong with rape.

		What about the victims.
Housemaid murdered, woman arrested:	How women treat housemaids who have relationships with husbands. Ill treatment Try to abort and died, not beaten to death.	Misrepresentation Not true Conflicting evidence Not properly researched Don't allow yourself to be abused by the media
Bemoaning property grabbing HIV AIDS	Thrown off- fridge present from the president	Facts not clear Role of men in combating HIV AIDS
Women forced to pay money to get loans, conned. Employees not paid salaries	Vulnerability of women, woman executive director.	
Focus on unpaid employees- took women to court.		
A girl raped by two thugs, hospital	Men are heroes, they get away.	No age, no efforts to reach Zomba General Hospital, what is her present condition. What are police doing to ensure security?
Sexual harassment	Victims do not report; do not want to lose their jobs.	Not giving us solutions; which higher authorities. Sexual harassment can be two ways?
"Vendors strip girl for indecent dress"	All powerful men Don't know what happens Woman who does not sympathise. Half dressed-but remove her dress.	Not balanced, not researched. Language-Malawi has not dress code.
Women in trousers: Ungodly?	Role of the church in enforcing gender stereotypes	What is culture?

GENDER, VIOLENCE AND POLITICS

Presented by: Dr. Mary Shawa of the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Community Services

Definitions

Gender

- Gender refers to socially constructed or determined characteristics, roles, ideas, values, attitudes and beliefs that are attributed to males and females by a particular society.

Gender Based Violence

- Gender based violence Is a reflection of the existing power in balances between women, men, girls and boys and the subordination of each other that manifests into physical, psychological, sexual, economic and social abuse.

Domestic violence

- Domestic violence is any physical, psychological, sexual, economic and social abuse inflicted on family members.

Gender Mainstreaming

- It means to integrate gender dimension that is women, men, girls and boys' concerns into development processes that include policies, plans, programmes, activities and development models.
- To ensure that development processes do not ignore, overlook or fail to take into account women, men, girls and boys issues.
- To incorporate gender at all stages of the project/programme cycle and in national policies, budgets, legal instruments and activities.
- To ensure that issues of women, men, girls and boys are equally incorporated into policy and decision making machinery.

Introduction

Women in Malawi constitute 52% of the population. Being the majority they form the bulk of voters. But they occupy very few decision-making positions in political, social and economic structures. For example, there are 17 women MPs out of 193 and 71 counsellors out of 860. There are 4 women cabinet ministers and 4 deputies ministers out of 34. In the top Civil Service there are 7 women Principal Secretaries out of 48. The figures stated above indicate that women's experiences and issues are not adequately included in decision-making processes. Most of the Laws, policies and programmes are still gender biased and insensitive.

There are many factors that hinder women from participating in decision-making, politics and other power sharing positions. This paper attempts to highlight major constraints that contribute to women's lower participation in politics and decision-making such as cultural, economic and social barriers. The barriers manifests into unfavourable and violent conditions for women. The paper also explores possible strategic actions that need to be implemented to reduce the barriers.

Cultural Barriers

A survey of women in politics by WILDAF in Malawi (1998) found out that the causes of these disparities derive from patriarchy:

- a. Cultures and traditions that support male domination and subordination of women.
- b. Cultures and traditions that confine women to the domestic domain while preparing men for public domain.
- c. Cultures and traditions that lead to a division of roles between the public domain and the private (domestic) domain.
- d. Cultures and traditions that accord the private domain lower status and without remuneration.
- e. Cultures and traditions that make the public domain out of bounds for women.
- f. Cultures and traditions that control the few women who enter the public domain to play by the rules of men.

These cultures condone and perpetuate gender based and domestic violence.

Given this situation, women in Malawi are under the control of men whether the marriage is contracted under matrilineal, matrilineal or marriage act system. For

example a woman in the home might be the breadwinner. But a man is still the head and the decision-maker for the family because is culturally accepted as the head of the family. In general, women are expected to be always submissive and are expected to look down upon themselves. Culturally women are expected to perform reproductive roles such as child bearing, feeding children, and producing and providing food to the family. Women who divert from these roles are considered to be outside the norms and therefore unacceptable. Traditionally, women's submissiveness to men is maintained through the socialization process, which encourages women to remain in the kitchen and perform roles that the society prescribes for them. Since politics involves power it is not considered as one of women's roles. The powerlessness prevents women from demanding their rights.

Economic Barriers

Women do not participate in politics because of low levels of education, low economic status and gender insensitivity of the patriarchy system that considers women as second-class citizens. Before 1994 when primary school education was declared free in Malawi, there were lower numbers of girls in school compared to boys. The main reason behind this was preference for the boy child. A study commissioned by the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Community services in 1989 revealed that due to acute poverty, parents preferred to send boys to school than girls. The assumption is that boys will provide security for the family and they will have a responsibility of looking after a family. Girls would marry and be looked after. The girl child would be encouraged to drop out of school by the time she reaches puberty or she may not even go to school at all. The gap between men and women in literacy levels is very wide in Malawi. Only 39% of the female population in Malawi can read and write compared to 69% for males; only 25% of females complete the education cycle; and 3% enter the University. These low education levels do have a bearing on women's access to employment, ability to earn incomes and participation in politics and decision-making. Low education levels implies that women are employed in lowly paying jobs whose overall income can not facilitate financing ones political campaign hence their low participation in politics.

The few educated women who are employed are not willing to join politics because of the unfavourable conditions. For example, if one wants to join politics, she has to resign from her job. If the individual is not elected she loses both the job and the prospective political position except those in the university of Malawi.

As alluded, to earlier on, even if women are breadwinners, men still control women's income regardless of its source. The situation is worse for illiterate women involved in the informal employment and business undertakings. In most cases women have no control and are denied access to their own income including the one the household realises. The few who have had their spouses support have ended up misusing it possibly because of not being empowered enough to utilise the chance properly. The economic powerlessness prevents women and men to fully participate in politics as partners and to realise their full potential. The few that are employed, their spouses or male relatives usually make decisions for them on whether they should join politics or not. The male dominated political parties are usually at pains to accept and late alone support female candidates. For example, during the 1999 parliament and presidential election in Malawi, some female candidates whom the community wanted, political parties did not accept them and others had to contested the elections as independent candidates.

Social Barriers

Socially women are expected to associate among themselves. It is through these interaction and associations that one is informed and therefore, able to make choices. Because of the limited exposure most women lack information that can enable them to campaign and participate in politics effectively.

- Usually men deliberately prevent women from participating in politics because they feel threatened.
- Men see women's involvement in politics with suspicions and regard them as prostitutes. This is purely a misconception and a myth based on insensitivity to women's potential and achievements.
- Because of the socialisation process which, has reinforced the belief that women cannot be leaders, results in lack of support from fellow women, who are the majority of voters. Women prefer to vote for men and very few vote for their fellow women.

Societies also have negative attitude towards women to run a public office. They are said to be incapable. In other cases spouses do not want their wives to take part in politics. A few of the women who have done so have ended up victimising their spouses. In cases where women are determined to participate they end up being divorced. The burden of multiple roles in the home for women, hinder them from participation in politics because the roles compete with the heavy schedules of political office, such as late night work and lengthy meetings away from home. This dilemma puts women at a disadvantage.

Malawi as a nation is doing a lot to educate and sensitise women to participate in politics. The ministry of gender, youth and community services and its stakeholders embarked on special information, education and communication activities in order to build self esteem among the female candidates to campaign and stand as candidates. Malawian women parliamentarians are currently participating in a series of workshops organised by SADC to empower them to participate fully in politics and decision-making. It is hoped that multiple strategies being employed to encourage women to participate in politics and decision making at all levels will yield the intended results. It is also anticipated that more women will participate in politics and decision making at all levels in Malawi.

From this paper it is clear that the existing oppressive and violent cultural aspects perpetuate the unequal power in balances between women and men. They further deny women's opportunity to participate fully in all development processes. Further, the cultural aspects fuel and condole violence behaviours that limit partnership building between women and men.

Strategies to increase the participation of women in politics

The following are some of the strategies to deal with disparities between men and women in power sharing and decision-making:

- Capacity building - training of women, men, boys and girls to aspire for leadership positions. Support one another and providing information, education and communication on gender and development issues for increased women participation.
- Advocacy within political parties to increase women's quarters in executive committees and competing levels.
- Setting up campaign funds for women candidates to be used for campaigns.

- Setting up women in politics support groups.
- Coalition building with the media and NGOs.
- Preserving one constituency in each district for female candidates competitors while allowing them to compete in other constituencies as an affirmative action in order to level the play field.
- Implement the strategies and plans already developed on eradication and elimination of gender based violence at all.

Strategies to empower women in politics

The following are some strategies to empower women politically:

Capacity Building

Training of women decision makers to develop skills in the area of campaign management, lobbying and advocacy, leadership, representation and gender awareness.

Voter Education

- To raise awareness among the general public on the importance of their vote, sensitising them on women's capacity to lead.
- Lobbying of political parties to sponsor women candidates both at parliamentary and council level.

Conclusion

In conclusion women are constrained to participate in politics because of:

- Inadequate education and lack of competence.
- Lack of resources like money for campaign and transport to service their constituencies.
- Lack of knowledge on issues such as those discussed in parliament.
- Little or no experience and skills on procedures in public office.
- Low self-esteem and confidence due to lack of exposure, which prevents them to compete with men.
- Lack of support from families and the society at large.
- Lack of support from other women, denied opportunities in political party affiliation, age, class, rural/urban divide, race and ethnicity.
- Unfriendly environment that is violent to women who desire to complete in politics and decision-making.

Political empowerment is a big task that cannot be left to one organisation to address nor to one group of the society to champion. It is important for all interested organisations to join hands and advance the cause of women and men in politics as partners.

PROPERTY GRABBING AS A GENDER BASED VIOLENCE ISSUE IN MALAWI

Presented by: Lingalireni Mihowa of the Coordination Unit for the Rehabilitation of Environment (CURE)

Introduction

This paper proceeds on the basis that sustainable economic and social development of this country requires full and equal participation of women, men, boys and girls and all other social groups of our society. Eradication of gender-based violence is therefore important in ensuring the country's development objectives.

The concept of property grabbing

Cases of 'property grabbing' do happen in Malawi. The concept of property grabbing has been defined in a number of ways. Some of the authors have defined the concept as follows:

'The taking away of property from a wife, husband or children without their consent after the death of a spouse.'

'The practice of people getting property of a deceased to which they are not entitled at the expense of those entitled.'

While noting that the definitions provided define the act as being done after a death of a spouse, it is important to recognise that there has also been cases reported of property grabbing before any death has occurred in a family particularly during the illness of the spouse.

Who are the victims and perpetrators of property grabbing?

The practice of property grabbing involves the act of depriving children and/or spouse of family property after the death of a parent or spouse respectively. The practice has been noted to usually arise where there are several competitors to inheritance property.

Various research studies conducted in Malawi, in both matrilineal and patrilineal societies suggest that women as widows are the majority victims of this act, and by implication, the widows children are also victims the same. There are of course cases of property grabbing where men are the victims and this has usually been reported in the matrilineal system of governance where *chikam wini'* (a system in which the man leaves his village and resides in the wife's village) is practiced.

Cases of property grabbing are complex in nature and usually associated with conflict. This conflict may be between the deceased children against the paternal relatives, paternal relatives against widow, maternal relatives against widower, stepchildren against widow. Most of the reported cases however indicate that paternal relatives are the main culprits of property grabbing and the majority of decisions to take that course of action are made by men e.g. deceased man's bother, uncle, father, even though the actual execution of taking away the property may be done by both male and female relatives.

The concept of violence against women

The Government of Malawi, National Platform for Action of 1997 defines violence against women as any act of gender based violence that results in sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats to such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life. It is a result of power relations between men and women that prevents women's full advancement and enjoyment of their freedoms.

The act of property grabbing is an act that has a strong gender dimension. In the first place research findings show that women are the most victims. And where women are victims, the act proceeds on the premise that the property in the family is acquired by the man. It fails and denies recognition that women make significant contribution (in whatever way) towards the acquisition of property in a particular

household. Property grabbing therefore assumes and perpetuates the perceived low socio and economic status of women in our society.

Property grabbing involves the use of power and control. The perpetrators endorse a form of control in determining who has access to what resources, what opportunities are the victims left with for the future, and jeopardises the ability of the victims to make decisions. This situation occurs because of the inequality between men and women, and the result of which leaves women powerless and vulnerable to such acts of control.

In matter of property grabbing, it appears that the taking away of property entails coercion, intimidation, threats, and in some cases physical violence such as battering. Property grabbing is an act of violence. Different types of violence is used e.g. Economic violence, where the victims are denied of the right to resources for their livelihood, emotional and psychological violence, given the that the process entails abuse on the victims that leads to loss of sense of worth and esteem, physical violence where bodily harm may be caused on the victims.

Why do people grab property?

It is important to understand that property grabbing is a complex issue in itself, and there seems to be no one cause to the issue but there are some issues coming out from the literature that indicates that property grabbing results from:

- Greed and cruelty.
- Jealousy- closely related to the above
- Perceived status of the deceased and the amount of wealth left
- Compensation over the loss of inheriting children- common in the matrilineal societies, where relatives of the deceased man grab property as compensation of the children who will remain in the maternal village.
- Behaviour of woman during the husbands illness- allegations aside, when a woman misbehaves during her husbands illness, the relations of the man find an excuse to discredit her and grab property from her. This behaviour may be failure to provide what is perceived as adequate care for the ill husband or knowledge of her engaging in extra marital affair.
- Sour relationship between widow and in-laws
- Lack of children- this is common in patrilineal societies, where payment of *m arow ozo*- bride price signifies the transfer of a woman's reproductive rights to the mans side. And if upon the death of the husband, there are no children in the family, this state of affairs gives way to grabbing property.
- Competition for resources- some relatives look at the death of a relation as an opportunity to amass property.
- Allegations of witchcraft

However it should be observed that the underlying cause is the difference in power relations between men and women.

Modes of property grabbing

There are different modes of property grabbing. Here is a description of some forms it takes:

- The actual taking away of property from the marital home upon the death of a spouse
- Classification of property: this entails the division of property into masculine and feminine during the actual distribution. Obviously the masculine property-

katundu wachin una e.g. Bicycles, radio, livestock has more value than the feminine property-*katundu wachikazi* e.g. Kitchen utensils. In the distribution of property women may be given the feminine property, which has no monetary value, and this is arguably a mode of property grabbing.

- Manipulation of some customs e.g. In patrilineal communities, property may be grabbed from the widow because of the claim that the property is supposed to be used by the children, and where the widow insists on keeping her children, they may still deprive her of the property. Another example is when the widow is unceremoniously released from her deceased husband's village without anything, and asked to go back to her village.
- Involves the use of deceiving methods in collecting money from the District Commissioners office, or the Administrators Office. May also entail, bribery, impersonating the real beneficiary.
- Delaying the settlement of distribution issues so that the other party cannot pursue it any longer, due to costs, frustration, meanwhile the property may be used, or losing value.

Effects of property grabbing

When property grabbing occurs a number of things take place and all of them have a negative impact on the family. These include:

- Poverty and neglect
- Loss of relation as a result of the conflict
- Loss of sense of worth and esteem on the victim and the family

Property grabbing and the law

The issue of distribution of the estate of the deceased persons are dealt with in the provisions of our inheritance law (Wills and Inheritance Act).

Where there is a will, the distribution of the property will be done according to what is stipulated in the will.

In a nutshell, in so far as the distribution of estate of the deceased person, sections 16 and 17 of the Act provided for as follows:

- i) If a man's marriage is celebrated in a matrilineal system, $\frac{2}{5}$ of his property is supposed to go to his wife, issue and dependants, while the remaining $\frac{3}{5}$ goes to heirs at customary law.
- ii) If the man's marriage was celebrated in a patrilineal system, $\frac{1}{2}$ of his property is supposed to go to his wife, issue and dependants while the remaining $\frac{1}{2}$ goes to heirs at custom.
- iii) In either event, regardless of whether the marriage was celebrated under matrilineal or patrilineal systems, the wife retains all household belongings. In this regard, household belongings should be differentiated from matrimonial property. Household belongings have specifically been defined under section 2 as including furniture, beddings, crockery, cooking utensils, garden and farming implements and other articles used in and for the purpose of maintaining and enjoying a dwelling house.

Furthermore, the Wills and Inheritance (Amendment Act) criminalizes property grabbing under its section 84(A). This section provides that any person not being entitled thereto under a will or upon an intestacy who, in contravention of the Will or the Act takes possession of, grabs, seizes, diverts, or in any manner deals in or disposes of any property forming part of the estate of a deceased person or does

anything in relation to such property which occasion or is likely to cause deprivation of any form or hardship to a person who is entitled thereto shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of K20,000 or to imprisonment for 5 years.

Some of the issues and observations raised on the Act

- Act embraces the customary values that are prevailing in that there cannot be one heir to the estate of a deceased person. Given the nature of extended families, the law in this case provides a leeway in a situation where "other" members of the family "grab" property from the widow.
- The law limits the category of potential property grabbers to persons not being entitled to the grabbed property under a will or upon intestacy. More often than not, property grabbing is perpetuated by dependants or heirs at customary law. The law as it stands however cannot prosecute such people.
- Household items do not form part of the deceased estate they belong to the widow. In cases of property grabbing, household effects are also usually targeted. How is the widow protected in this case?
- The law only gives mandate to prosecute the offence created under Section 84A to the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. As such the offence of property grabbing is outside the jurisdiction of the police. The police have to find their jurisdiction elsewhere. E.g. using the penal code.

Structures responsible for the delivery of justice in property grabbing cases

- Administrator General's office is mandated to handle deceased estates under the Administrators General Act. Their mandate is to protect the property of a deceased by applying to the high courts for letters of administration. Anybody can appoint the Administrator General to be executor of his/her property. This should be indicated in the will. If the will is present distribution takes place according to what is stipulated in the will. In the absence of the will, the office will distribute according to the Wills and Inheritance Act. If there is property grabbing the AG office is normally involved in mediation but can also refer cases to DPP for prosecution. Physical accessibility of the office is limited as there is only one office in Malawi, located in Blantyre. The staffing capacity of the staff in this office is limited, and may not pass the right judgement. The procedures may take long to the frustration of the victims.
- District Commissioners office is mandated to deal with institutional monies in deceased estate of K20, 000.00 or less. Has been discovered that these offices are more accessible since they are found in every district. They also assist the Admin. General's office with appropriate list of beneficiaries. They base it on age pro rata basis, the youngest gets the highest. In cases of disputes they also mediate. Capacity of the staff e.g. Clerks may also be limited
- The courts. They handle cases of disputes arising from distribution of deceased properties.

Informal settings

- Mwinimbumba – distribute property usually according the customary law.
- Chiefs- have to see to it that the distribution process is fair, in cases of property grabbing they mediate but do not have legal powers to ensure parties adhere to their ruling

Indirectly connected structures

- Social Welfare offices usually are concerned with social aspects of providing counselling to victims and information on justice delivery systems.
- Ombudsman office is not directly mandated but preside over property grabbing cases under what is provided for in the Constitution- some human rights provisions.

Initiatives on addressing the issue of property grabbing in Malawi

The equality of men and women is enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Malawi. Property grabbing is a form of gender-based violence and infringes on the rights of the victims either women, men or children.

Malawi is a party to a number of international instruments that protect the rights of women. The UN charter and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR) both demonstrate that the discrimination on the ground of sex is something that must not be tolerated by states. In terms of women's human rights it can be stated that property grabbing is a violation of article 16 of the UDHR that provides that women and men are entitled 'to equal rights.....' during and after marriage. Malawi is also a party to the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) of 1979 which urges state parties to take all appropriate measures to eliminate the discrimination against women in other areas of economic and social life and mentions among other things the 'right to family benefits.

Recently Malawi signed the SADC Declaration on Gender of 1997, and its addendum which calls for the Prevention and Eradication of Violence Against Women and children which commits states to provide services, education, training and awareness as well as budgetary allocations for the elimination of violence against women and discrimination as aforesaid. On the national scene there is the National Platform for Action of 1997(a follow up to the Beijing Conference), the National Gender Policy of 2000, which clearly prioritise the eradication of violence against women as an area of action.

The existence of such instruments provide us as a country with the basis and entry point for the eradication of such ills of society e.g. Property grabbing. It should however be noted that while the instruments are there the governments commitment to fulfilling the provision falls short.

A lot of advocacy initiatives to deal with the issues of property grabbing and its implications are underway. Though the public has its observations, the amendment of the Wills and Inheritance Act in 1998 is a highlight on the issue as it criminalizes property grabbing.

Since then a number of non-governmental organisations have also been involved in dealing with issues of property grabbing. Services provided by NGOs include;

- Awareness raising and sensitisation in legal rights
- Provision of subsidised legal representation to victims of property grabbing who seek redress of their cases
- Counselling to victims
- Research and documentation of cases
- Information dissemination on the issues of property grabbing
- Lobbying of the judicial system to deal with the issues more effectively

- Training sensitisation of the law enforcers i.e. the police prosecutors and investigators
- Lobbying for law reforms

Some of the NGOs carrying out notable initiatives in addressing the issues of property grabbing include WLSA Malawi, Malawi CARER, CILIC, SAW, Women's Voice, Christian Service Committee under the Human Rights Programme. The Malawi Law Commission stands to play an important role in dealing with the issue of property grabbing as it has been mandated to initiate a review of all gender based laws that affect women and men. The Commission has put together a task force that is currently soliciting information from the public through public hearings.

There is the Parliamentary Committee on Women and Children and the Women's caucus in parliament. These two structures are responsible for safeguarding the interests of women and children in the laws that are passed.

Role of the media

Gender issues are of great importance to any country. The media has a crucial role to play in this aspect. It has been observed that the media in Malawi reports on issues of property grabbing but the extent of coverage can be enhanced. The following issues are raised for our consideration;

- The priority that media houses give to reporting on gender issues, in this case property grabbing over other issues e.g. Politics, sports, international news.
- The capacities of the media personnel in analysing the issues of property grabbing and presenting news and articles in such away that it calls for action.
- Does the media present an image of victims of property grabbing to be sympathised with or laughed at and ridiculed.
- Is our coverage of issues of gender-based violence, in this case, property-grabbing reader friendly to the different community groups. Rural vs. urban setting.
- What is the most effective way of reaching out to all the masses on this issue.
- Can we examine the relationship between media houses and other civil society players that are engaged in activism on the issue of property grabbing.
- Can this relationship be used effectively to bring the responsible authorities at different levels to book, make them accountable to the masses. E.g. follow up on commitments made in international and national instruments, following up on the delivery of justice.
- Can we devise ways of having thematic articles/programmes that target a particular group.
- How are we covering some emerging issues in the relation to property grabbing. E.g. HIV/ AIDS and property grabbing. An analysis of whether the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS in our communities has stimulated peoples interest to write wills or other wise. The prevalence of men as victims property grabbing?
- Commitment to maintain the momentum on reporting on gender and gender based violence issues.
- Values of speaking without fear or favour vs. selective reporting on 'safe' issues

Conclusion

In a number of ways while the paper barriers to gender equality have been pulled done, there is an increase in the behavioural barriers. Cases of property grabbing are still on the increase, and this situation of gender inequality stands to constrain the socio economic progress of Malawi. The media in Malawi has an enormous role in curbing the spread of such violence.

Recommendations for further information and useful contacts

WLSA
 Ministry of Gender
 Malawi Carer
 Malawi Law Commission
 CILIC
 CSC Mzuzu, Lilongwe
 Women's Voice

DAY TWO

SEXUAL OFFENSES

Presented by: Veronica Chisemphere of Malawi CARER



Ms Chisemphere made the following comments:

- Both men and women are affected by gender based-violence. Husband and wife, children (boy and girl), relatives and all those close to the home.
- Gender based violence is present in the home, at the office, in the street, the church, classrooms, and on public transport.

Malawi Carer handle approximately 4000 cases related to gender based violence. 65 % of these cases are considered domestic violence related. Malawi Carer takes time to mediate and call the concerned parties to talk with them as a form of counselling. Some cases are successful and the parties remain committed to the marriage with the hope that the result will be true understanding of respect.

Increased sexual abuse in the work place, at schools, in the classroom. Cases present in primary schools – teachers harass children of ages between 11 and 12.

Cases result in children being transferred to other schools and the teachers being acquitted. These cases are not taken very seriously.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Presented by: Seodi White of Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA)



Ms. White is a lawyer by profession and is a social scientist. She made the following comments:

- Domestic violence is about perpetration of pain; it becomes different in that it is usually done by someone you know very well. The deliberate perpetration of pain by a family member. Pain comes in so many ways: physically, economically, emotional.
- Gender based violence – How can we break it down? These are crimes committed by someone, by virtue of being a man or woman. Anyone can be stabbed; usually raped women and girl, it is gender-based because

it is perpetrated by virtue of their sex: sexual assault, sexual harassment, defilement, sexual offences.

- Women suffer in the home: domestic violence. It is special because the domestic arena is the starting point of socialization. If you can start addressing the issue of domestic violence there is the chance of being able to control and nip gender based violence it in the bud.
- Domestic violence should take preference. It happens in silence. There are not any clear roles or rules. Perpetrators are the people you trust, the breadwinners. More likely to have psychological torture.
- Expose the crimes committed in the homes. We love and trust the breadwinners. It's about corruption in the home. We try to hide it. The suffering is more in the home than outside. Why psychopath? Where the madness comes from? Why no productivity? Because we have forgotten something.
- The most hidden, secretive, fundamental abuse of human rights that you can face often happens in the home.
- The media is in the business of exposure.
- To have a safe political office, clean your home first.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM – A MALAWI CASE

Presented by: Grace Namalanga Ndacheredwa, a First Grade Magistrate of The Judiciary in The Ministry of Justice.

Introduction

When I first thought of this topic, what came into my mind immediately was the different forms of violence that women face as opposed to men. Violence against women is a long-term problem. Despite this, it is a whole new phenomenon in legal theory and the criminal law. Whatever existed in legal theory and criminal law was left to be treated by general criminal law. Consequently violence against women was never conceptualised as a particular crime or as a problem. In the early 90's however, systematic research by Psychologists, Psychiatrists, Sociologists and Anthropologists have confirmed that violence against women is a problem.

Furthermore the feminist and egalitarian theories have tried and are still striving to bring this problem to the fore. The thrust of these theories has resulted in a better understanding of women as victims of actions against them and the need to understand them as women who are victims of what by nature can only happen to them as women. Following this there have been a change in the perception of this crime as it relates to violence against women, its investigation and enforcement. However these developments are just beginning to surface here in Malawi hence the response is rudimentary in that policy and law have not been influenced dramatically.

Before I go deep in this discussion I wish to explain what is meant by violence against women. This was well defined in the Beijing Platform of Action as "any act of gender based violence which results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life. "Violence against women therefore is any action that reduces the women's humanity to subhuman levels, be it physically, sexually, mentally, emotionally or psychologically. There are different forms of violence against women some of which are indecent assault, rape, defilement and incest.

Let me confess here that I will not discuss all forms of violence against women in this paper. It is my desire to dwell much on the tough experience that rape victim undergoes during court proceedings in proving the offence of rape. Much as I appreciate that in every trial examination in chief and cross-examination are of great importance and therefore a necessity. I would like to argue here that the questions that are put forward to the victim of a rape case both the prosecutor and the defence amount to the violation of fundamental human rights in the dignity and worth of the human person. In other words the questions disclose no respect for human dignity. Since most rape victims in Malawi are women, the way examinations are conducted do more harm than good to them psychologically which in fact falls within the definition of violence against women. And any argument will be based on how violations of the right of a rape victim affects the consequences of the trial.

The offence of rape

In the Malawi Criminal Justice System the offence of rape is charged under section 133 of the penal code while its definition is found in section 132 of the same. It states and I quote:

“Any person who has unlawful carnal knowledge of a woman or girl, without her consent or with her consent if the consent is obtained by force or means of threats or intimidation of any kind or by fear of bodily harm, or by means of false representations as to the nature of the act, or in the case of a married woman by personating her husband, shall be guilty of the felony termed rape”

From this definition it is concluded that the main elements of rape are unlawful sexual intercourse and the absence of consent. These elements must therefore be proved beyond reasonable doubt by the state through the prosecution for conviction to be secured.

Proving of rape cases: the ordeal of women

Rape is a very serious offence because it causes extreme embarrassment and serious psychological effects on the victim. Because of this, offenders of rape must be punished accordingly. It therefore a requirement that in proving rape cases just like in any other offence, sufficient evidence has to be adduced, both real and documentary. This is done through examination in-chief where the prosecutor solicit the story of the victim by asking questions after which the same victim is put under cross-examination by the defence where the defence asks questions to the victim aiming at discrediting her character.

As stated earlier on in this paper, for the offence to amount to rape the prosecution must prove beyond reasonable doubt that there was unlawful sexual intercourse, unlawful because there was no genuine consent on the part of the woman, and sexual intercourse is deemed to occur where it is proved that there was penetration of the female sexual organ by the male sexual organ, no matter how slight the penetration may be. It is at this point of proving penetration where the ordeal of a victim starts. She is put in an awkward situation where questions like these are asked:

“What happened when you met the accused person?”

“Anandigwiririra or anandigona” (he raped me)

“What do you mean he raped you? Explain ”

By asking this question the victim is expected to say, “the accused took his member and inserted it inside my vagina.” This immediately invites another question, “how did you feel?” Let me be frank here to say that according to the Malawian tradition, mentioning of private parts and worse still narrating one’s experience of sexual intercourse is a taboo, something that custom regards as forbidden, not to be spoken of. Now this unfortunate woman who is a rape victim is compelled to explain in details in an open court how she was raped. In addition she is expected to state whether she shouted, screamed, resisted physically or indeed produce a medical report from the hospital to show that she did not consent to the sexual intercourse. For heaven’s sake, why should the victim of rape have to do all this? Does the fact that the woman did not shout for help mean that she consented? Does the law require her to resist physically? Or is failure to produce a medical examination report

invalidating the story of the victim? Secondly, I agree with Stall Makanya of Zimbabwe that the criminal Justice system in proving rape and indeed any sexual offence within the penal laws insists on the external corroborating evidence (in-depth testimony). Now because these types of offences do not take place in the presence of witnesses this required for external corroborating evidence unrealistic. At the end of the day the magistrate acquits the rapist with the justification that there was no enough evidence to secure conviction because the woman's evidence has not been collaborated (on clothes, presence of semen, medical report, bruises are according to law evidence of the fact that the offence of rape was committed but do not point to the accused as one who committed the crime.)

As if this is not enough, in cross examination lawyers representing the rapist take great care to diminish the status of this poor woman and to defame her character by digging up the dirt such as the number of men she has slept with, the kind of life she lives and so on in order to indicate that her rapist was just another man she slept with or just another one of her victims or simply that she deserved to be raped because of her mode of dress or because she was out of her house after dark. The life of the rapist is always assumed to be impeccable and no attempt is made to dig up his dirt. What this implies is that while it is assumed by the criminal justice system that she is not lying, invariably the trial puts her and her character on trial in that the way in which trial is conducted the circumstances surrounding the incident are not examined because it is the woman and her character that are under scrutiny as every attempt is made to impeach her character. In the end it is found that this rape victim becomes also the victim of the judicial system in that she is further embarrassed by the party that called her to be its witness.

All this treatment in my opinion amounts to torture or cruel, the victim is subjected to inhuman or degrading treatment, which in fact is contrary to section 19 (3) of the constitution of the Republic of Malawi. And because of the kind of questions that a rape victim is asked in court, she fails to express herself hence it becomes difficult for a woman to prove rape in a criminal justice system and more often than not loses the case. This is not because she was lying but because she was not comfortable as to narrate her side of the story in the open court. It follows from this background that most women resort to remaining quite and not report rape cases, they suffer in silence. This traumatising experience has the effect of even deter other victims from reporting violations.

Section 43 (a) of the constitution provides that:

"Every person shall have the right to lawful procedurally, fair administrative action, which is justifiable in relation to reason given where his or her rights, freedom, legitimate expectations or interests are affected or threatened."

Furthermore section 41(2) and (3) of the same constitution states that:

"Every person shall have access to any court of law or any other tribunal with jurisdiction for final settlement of legal issues" and that "Every person shall have a right to an effective remedy by a court of law or tribunal for acts violating the rights and freedom granted to him by the constitution or any other law."

When a woman who is a rape victim decides to close her mouth for fear of being embarrassed in court by the criminal justice system, I strongly believe that her rights

given to her by the constitution according to section 43 (a) and section 41 (2) and (3) are not respected just for the very fact that she is a woman. Indeed this falls within the gender based violence against women.

Conclusion

In rape cases, more often than not the victims are women and girls hence rape is in the category of violence against women. But these women need to have their human rights protected and this task in the first place is the responsibility of the state through the judiciary. At the World conference on Human Rights in June 1993, it was agreed that, "the human rights of women and the girl child are inalienable, integral and indivisible part of human rights". The society therefore should look to the judiciary as its protector against the violations of its fundamental human rights. The women just like men should not lose confidence in the Criminal Justice System. The state must protect the human rights of its citizens at all costs regardless of sex, race, creed e.t.c. However while it is understood as such, there are instances, one of which is during the trial of rape cases where the state has not been able to protect women, a group which although is the majority in this country is treated like the few. My observation is that there seems to be a gap between the state's intention and the existence of workable legal options to protect the women of this country. While I am aware that Malawi adopted the British criminal Justice System, I feel that this adoption should not be wholesome. I have neither the qualification nor standing to proffer possible solutions as to how rape cases especially crucial elements of penetration and consent should be proved in the criminal Justice System. However, I would like to put forward some suggestions, which I hope will help in one way or another to solve this problem.

The British Criminal Justice System, which Malawi adopted, was designed according to the British texture and taste which I believe is less Malawian. The Criminal Justice System of Malawi should be in practice to suit the context it is meant to serve thus making it relevant to Malawian context. I must make myself clear here that the context of our criminal justice system is Malawi, its advocates are Malawian themselves and it targets Malawi therefore the language should also reflect Malawian. In rape cases the language that is used to prove penetration is totally obscene and a taboo to Malawians hence it is not relevant nor conducive to Malawian context.

I therefore propose that research be done into the extent as to how questions should be asked to prove the crucial elements of rape cases viz – a – viz penetration and consent so that the dignity of women is maintained. Secondly, there must be open acknowledgement of the difficulties in proving rape cases this is because even if women report cases of rape the rapist is more often than not acquitted by courts, why?

- (i) Insufficient evidence due to the private nature of the crime
- (ii) The language used does not make the women free to narrate her story
- (iii) She is the only witness, as a result her evidence is treated with caution

and a willingness to encourage a research of the right kind. Finally the Chief Justice is empowered by section 67(2) of the courts Act to "make rules of court for the purposes of varying, supplementing, revoking or replacing rules of court which

include provision for regulating the means by which particular facts may be proved and the mode in which evidence may be given in any proceedings." It is in my desire that the Chief Justice use the above power invested in him to protect the rights of women who are rape victims.

What should the media do?

The media has the capacity to help in eradicating this social problem by reporting the ordeal that a rape victim undergoes in criminal proceedings. Write about the experiences of this poor woman, if she has lost her case, explain why she has lost, is it because she was lying? Expose through newspapers the difficulties of proving rape cases etc.

I strongly believe that if this is taken seriously women's rights will be respected in the Criminal Justice System of Malawi and more rape cases will be reported.

DAY THREE

Morning: Site visits - Compilation and writing of stories researched and carried in supplement. Check listing of stories: **ANNEX E**

THE ROLE OF MEN IN COMBATING GENDER VIOLENCE

Presented by: Robert A. Jamieson, Editor in Chief of The Chronicle Newspaper



Introduction

As a man I have always been aware of the difference between me being a man and the other people in the family. I am an only son who is the last-born in a family of 7 children. I grew up surrounded by women and appreciating them for what they were. It is therefore anathema to do anything else but grant dignity and respect to those in my home.

Women and children have always reigned in my own home. I have one son and 4 daughters and have taken my father's heritage. I am proud to say that I am an emancipated man who has not had hang-ups about the power struggle that sometimes men feel they are in their homes.

For the purpose of this paper Domestic Violence is read to mean:

1. **Physical Violence** that is inflicted in the form of child, wife or husband battering and rape and cruel treatment.

2. **Emotional Violence** comes out of threats, spoken or even unspoken that lead to unfair treatment of individuals in the family environment leading to fear and
3. **Moral Violence** is that which defames the morality of the individual. This can include rape, touching or caressing of private parts of children by older people including that of servants. Incest, child defilement and sodomy can be listed in this crime.
4. **Economic Violence** is the act that exploits individuals in a manner that demeans their worth and can include property grabbing, child labour, unfair demands, including sexual favours on a workforce within the home.

Perceptions of the position of women and men being victims

First of all it must be said that Domestic Violence is not limited to physical abuse or that the only victims are women. Children and young persons have suffered the brunt of pain as a result of domestic squabbles and misunderstanding. There are numerous statistics available about this subject that tends to be largely ignored. For instance, in an emergency ward of a large hospital in the USA 84% of injuries sustained by women are as a result of domestic violence, not muggings, not road accidents but Domestic violence.

Women are not the only ones who are victims of domestic violence. Men are also victims though you will find that they are generally reluctant to come forward with the information for fear of being ridiculed. At the last count it is estimated that 37% of all cases reported are those of men.

General View of women by men

It is always surprising that the evidence points to the fact that women are the victims of Domestic violence. In the Gospel of John, the 8th chapter we hear of a woman brought to Jesus who was caught in adultery. The Pharisees wanted to know what should be done about her because the law dictated that she should be stoned to death.

As you know, Jesus wrote in the sand and then stood up and said to them " He who is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her" They all went away one by one as their conscience convicted them.

There are two questions that need to be raised. The first is that it is impossible for one to commit adultery by oneself. What happened to the man? The other story that we could have written that was not told was what was it the Jesus was writing in the sand. Would it have answered some of the questions raised today about victims of domestic violence?

Recently there were several instances where women again were victims of grand scale domestic violence. In Egypt an academic, a woman author was accused of wrongdoing and was being tried. Her punishment for whatever her sin was that her husband of 35 years had to divorce her – not her divorce her husband but that her husband had the right to set her aside.

In the Zamfara State of Nigeria a young lady was sentenced to receive so many lashes because she had fallen pregnant. What happened to the man who was responsible for the pregnancy? Just recently in another part of Africa we learnt of a

young girl who was sentenced to be stoned to death because she too had had sex and had fallen pregnant. Her crime was hers alone and did not involve the man who impregnated her.

What is wrong with men?

When asked about domestic violence men say that it is inseparable from life generally and is part and parcel of our cultural, social and economic heritage. The argument is that if you do not allow some basic form of expression that tends to exemplify itself in minor domestic violence, then the male dominance and control necessary to keep society working will eventually destroy the structures of the same society.

Customary law, traditional norms, etc. are all used as excuses to perpetuate an unacceptable domination of one person over another, sometimes even after death. The instance of property grabbing comes to mind. More and more, this has come to be frowned upon, including the inheritance issue. Women are waking up and speaking out against abuse on them.

But should women be the ones to fight the battle? I don't think so.

What is desperately needed is the emancipation of men to eradicate women and children abuse. In order to eradicate women's abuse men must also be emancipated. They need to be taught the true meaning of manhood. Men need to learn and understand what masculinity is . . . what being a real man really means.

The biggest problem in dealing with domestic abuse is that most men still camouflage abuse under culture and use it as an excuse to continue picking on their own family. What men need to realise is that it is neither African, European nor Eastern culture to oppress a woman or the children and servants in one's household.

What about the media?

What can we do, both men and women in the media to eradicate this scourge that silently destroys our very souls? What should men in the media do to remove domestic abuse in our society?

First of all, it is very apparent that we, as the media have tremendous influence in setting an agenda that, if concerted enough would eliminate crass behaviour by both men and women in society. We have the means to do so with our pens and computer keyboards. This can be done in the following way:

- As a male dominated media we must emancipate ourselves from the hang-ups of cultural and social beliefs that are not in keeping with domestic peace, dignity and respect so that our expression henceforth will be guided by our new thinking.
- We must create open debate on the issue of domestic abuse and expose the real dangers to our communities and society at large.
- We must encourage the exposure of domestic violence as and when it happens so that the rightful authorities can deal with the perpetrators.
- As a media we must give opportunity for civil society organisations in the fight for fairness and justice for all to give civic education in our media.
- We must be active in examining and researching laws and cultural beliefs that encourage domestic abuse so that they are removed from the statute books.

- We must agitate for more stringent punishment for habitual offenders

Conclusion

Domestic Violence is abhorrent as it undermines the physical and mental health of any individual. Further it negatively impacts on the emotional status of affected individuals and can cause depression and trauma.



The humiliation that it produces can lead to a sense of low esteem, which generally permeates society as a whole and affects the nation's ability to be productive and coherent. If the abuse takes place in the formative years of a child's life it can lead to a delay in physical growth, an impaired cognitive ability and create a syndrome of dependence and isolation.

Domestic Violence is criminal and men, especially those in the media can and should be at the forefront in the fight to eradicate it in society.

DAY FOUR

Writing, production and editing of stories for Supplement: **ANNEX E**
Editor's Luncheon: **ANNEX C**

DAY FIVE

Feedback and wrap up.

Closure

Dr. James N'gombe thanked the facilitators, participants, speakers and organisers of the workshop.

ANNEX A: PARTICIPANTS

	<u>ORGANISATION</u>	<u>PARTICIPANT</u>	<u>MEDIA OUTLET</u>
1.	FM 101	Terence Mwamlima (M)	Electronic
2.	Radio Maria, Mangochi	Fr Steven Kamanga (M)	Electronic
3.	Malawi Broadcasting Corp	Felix Pachani (M)	Electronic
4.	FM 101	Penelope Kakhobwe (F)	Electronic
5.	MIJ 90.3 FM	Maganizo Mazez (M)	Electronic
6.	Television Malawi	Kusale Kubwalo (F)	Electronic
7.	Malawi News Agency	Don Napuwa (M)	Agency
8.	The Nation Newspaper	Liz Banda (F)	Print
9.	The Chronicle Newspaper	Christopher Jimu (M)	Print
10.	U.D.F. News	Tusekele Mwanyongo (M)	Print
11.	The Enquirer	Marciel Chimwala (M)	Print
12.	Moni Magazine	Andrew Mtupanyama (M)	Print
13.	Police Magazine	Peter Makossah (M)	Print



ANNEX B: BIOGRAPHIES

Terence Mwamlima works for a commercial radio station called Power FM 101. The station was the very first independent radio broadcaster to be issued with a license once Malawi became a state governed by the understanding of multi party democracy.

Contact details: fm101@malawi.net

Fr Steven Kamanga is the Programs Editor for Radio Maria. The radio station is a Christian information base outlet with a relatively large audience in a predominantly Muslim area.

Contact details: radiomaria@malawi.net

Liz Banda is a journalist for The Nation newspaper. The Nation is a daily that is considered the commercial and business newspaper of Malawi.

Contact details: nation@malawi.net

Felix Pachani works for The Malawi Broadcasting Corporation (MBC). MBC is the largest electronic outlet in Malawi with three radio stations airing countrywide. He also does networking in the SADC region.

Contact details: dgmbc@malawi.net

Penelope Khakhobwe is a trainee journalist and announcer at Power Fm 101. Her interests are with reporting on the rights of women and children.

Contact details: fm101@malawi.net

Maganizo Mazingo works for the radio training section of The Malawi Institute of Journalism (MIJ) and is part of the coordination of the training radio station, MIJ 90.3 FM. He is committed to coverage of gender issue and believes that more needs to be done to increase community participation.

Contact details: mij@clcom.net

Ina Thombozi is a presenter and reporter for Television Malawi. She believes that a lot more can be done if the media and news outlets in Malawi committed themselves to covering the issue of gender based violence.

Contact details: tvm@sdp.org.mw

Don Napuwa is an information officer at the Malawi News Agency (MANA).

Contact detail: manabt@sdp.org.mw

Christopher Jimu is a senior reporter for The Chronicle Newspaper. He is in the process of further training and insists that reporting on issues related to gender and gender violence be included as a standing process of training media practitioners.

Contact details: thechronicle@africa-online.net

Tusekele Mwananyongo works for the UDF News. He has been in the practice for a number of years and believes that there is need for basic knowledge on issues related to gender based violence for the media to report affectively.

Contact details: udfnews@malawi.net

Peter Makossah is a researcher and reporter for the Police Magazine.

Contact details: pet_mak@yahoo.co.uk

ANNEX C: TOPICS & PRESENTERS

Gender Violence & Women in Politics

Mary Shawa
 Principle Secretary, Min of Gender, Youth & Community Services
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 Lilongwe 3
 Malawi.
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 Fax: (265) 772334
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Property Grabbing in Gender Equality

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Gender Based Violence

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Domestic Violence

Seodi White
 Women & Law in Southern Africa
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Rape Victims & Gender Violence

Her Worship, Grace Ndacheredwa
 Soche Magistrate Court
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The Role of Men in Combating Gender Violence

Robert Jamieson
 The Chronicle Newspaper
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 Malawi
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 Cell: (265) 913 457
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ANNEX D: LUNCHEON

The purpose for the luncheon was to draw the attention of editors and managers to the key issues that were being raised in the training of their staff. The idea of providing such a briefing partly arises from the Media Training Needs Assessment of the SADC region recently commissioned by the NSJ and undertaken by Gender Links. Copies of the Media TNA and the book "Whose News, Whose Views, a Gender in Media Handbook for Southern Africa" were made available.

Venue: Ryalls Hotel
 Menu: Buffet
 Location: Poolside
 Date: 22nd November 2001
 Number of Guests: 16

Invited Guests

Malawi Broadcasting Corp	Cont of Prog – M. Chilimampungu
Malawi News Agency	Man Editor – M. Kitumpanyima
FM Power 101	Dir of Prog – Hosea Singende
Television Malawi	Director General - Benson Tembo
The Daily Times Newspaper	Chief Sub-Editor – Vynn Phiri
The Nation Newspaper	Editor – Rankin Nyekanyeka
Malawi News	Act Editor – Makson Kazombo
The Chronicle Newspaper	Editor in Chief – Robert Jamieson
MONI Magazine	Editor – Prince Shanga
WLSA	Director – Seodi White
Malawi CARER	Executive Director - Dr. Vera Chirwa
CURE	Program Dir – Linga Muhiwa
The Judiciary	Her Worship, Grace Ndacheredwa
M.I.J.	Director – Dr. James Ngombe
M.I.J.	Head of Train – Henry Malunda
M.I.J.	Radio Cord – Steve Malamba
Gender Links	Facilitator – Colleen Lowe Morna

ANNEX E: REGISTRATION - EDITOR'S LUNCH

NAME	ORGANISATION	CONTACT NUMBERS	EMAIL
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G. Ndacheredwa	The Judiciary P. O. Box 2524 Blantyre	Cell: 09-265-948 211	
R. Jamieson	The Chronicle Private Bag 77 Lilongwe	Cell: 09-265-913 457 Off: 09-265-755 715 Fax: 09-265-756 530	thechronicle@africa-online.net
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ANNEX F: PROGRAMME

TIME	EVENT	WHO INVOLVED	STATUS
DAY ONE: MONDAY 19th NOVEMBER			
8.30-9.00	Opening	Honourable Mary Kapwereza Banda (MP), Ministry of Gender, Youth and Community Services	CONFIRMED
9.00-9.30	Introductions and icebreaker	Facilitator	
9.30-10.30	What is gender equality? Why is it important to the media	Colleen Lowe Morna Gender Links	
10.30-11.00	TEA		
11.00-12.00	Sharing of examples of coverage of gender violence in the Malawian media	All participants MIJ Facilitator	Advised to collect examples - class participation
12.00-13.00	Coverage of gender violence in the SADC context	Colleen Lowe Morna Gender Links	
13.00-14.00	LUNCH		
14.00-15.00	Gender Violence and Women in Politics	Ms. Mary Shawa Principle Secretary: Ministry of Gender, Youth and Community Services	CONFIRMED
15.00-15.30	TEA		
15.30-17.00	Property Grabbing: * Definition/forms of property grabbing in context of gender based violence. * Legal framework * Will & inheritance act * Implications	Linga Muhiwa - CURE	CONFIRMED
DAY TWO: TUESDAY 20th NOVEMBER			
8.30-9.00	Eyes and ears; recap	Facilitator	
9.00-10.00	Cases relating to Gender Based Violence: * Sexual abuse * Battering * Property disputes/grabbing	Veronica Chisemphere Malawi CARER	CONFIRMED
10.00-10.30	Group discussions based on training manual	Facilitators	
10.30-11.00	TEA		
11.00-12.30	Domestic violence: * Forced intercourse * Wife battering * Effects on family structure * Cultural expectations	Seodi White - WLSA	CONFIRMED
12.30-13.00	Group discussions based on training manual	Facilitator	
13.00-14.00	LUNCH		

14.00-15.00	Rape Victims & Gender violence: Victimized further in the courts	Her Worship, Grace Ndacheredwa Soche Magistrate Court	CONFIRMED
15.00-15.30	Group discussion based on training manual	Facilitators	
15.30-16.00	TEA		
16.00-17.00	Sexual harassment video	Gender Links	Gender Links
DAY THREE: WEDNESDAY 21st NOVEMBER			
8.30-8.45	Eyes and ears; recap	Facilitator	
8.45-9.15	Briefing on field exercises	Facilitators	MIJ/GL
9.15-13.30	FIELD EXERCISES	EXPLANATION	
	9:30 a – 10:30 am Soche Magistrate Court - Her Worship Grace Ndacheredwa	- Witness hearing of cases dealing with issues based on gender violence & women's rights	CONFIRMED
	11:00 am – 12:30 pm Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital Sister Cavallo - OPD 2 * Casualty * Female Wards	- Visit casualty section of the hospital - possible women patients with history of physical abuse. - Bed to bed examination of women patients admitted as a result of abuse.	CONFIRMED
	Presentation: Sister Cavallo	Number of cases passing through the hospital that are considered a result of gender based violence.	CONFIRMED
	16 days of Activism: Theme: Domestic Violence	Launch of the 16 days of activism against violence at Malawi News Agency	CONFIRMED
	Mount Soche Hotel: Conference	Chiefs and traditional leaders – Meeting organized by WLSA to address gender issues at traditional level	CONFIRMED
TIME	EVENT	WHO INVOLVED	STATUS
13.30-14.30	LUNCH		
15.00-16.00	The role of men in combating gender violence: * Cultural understanding/change * Participation * Attitude	Robert Jamieson – The Chronicle Newspaper	CONFIRMED
16.00-16.15	TEA		
16.15-17.00	Group discussion based on	Facilitators	

	manual		
DAY FOUR: THURSDAY 22nd NOVEMBER			
8.30-16.00	WRITING, PRODUCTION AND EDITING STORIES	Henry Malunda Steven S. Malamba Colleen Lowe Morna	
DAY FIVE: FRIDAY 23rd NOVEMBER			
8.30-9.00	Eyes and ears, recap	Ditto	
9.00-11.00	Feedback on stories	Ditto	
11.00-11.30	TEA	Ditto	
11.30-12.30	WAY FORWARD	Ditto	
12.30-13.00	CLOSURE	Dr. James Ngombe Director, MIJ	CONFIRMED

ANNEX G: STORIES CARRIED IN SUPPLEMENT

Traditional Leaders Back Domestic Violence Bill

By Peter Makossah

In a significant breakthrough for the fight against gender violence, a gathering of traditional leaders from across the country this week threw their weight behind the proposed Domestic Violence Bill.

During the two- day gathering at the Mt Soche hotel, Blantyre the chiefs declared that equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature and shared responsibility are fundamental to achieving gender equality. The traditional leaders, one of the largest gatherings in a series of consultative workshops on the bill, said they are determined to establish a just and fair playing field for both men and women, particularly in the rural areas.

"We recognise that, in addition to our separate responsibilities to our individual societies, we as chiefs have a collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at national level," says Traditional Authority (T/A) Malemia of Zomba.

A female Chief from Mulanje, T/A Mkanda said she regarded the consultative process as extremely important, both as a chief, and as a woman- the group of people most vulnerable to gender- based violence.

"We reaffirm, as traditional authorities, our commitment to the purposes and principles of the domestic violence legislation process. Our involvement to the consultation exercise will go a long way in increasing the peoples understanding on the evils of domestic violence," she said.

Another female Chief, T/A Kawamba of Kasungu pointed out the evils of domestic violence. "Women have everything to lose in the course of domestic violence. Acts like property grabbing, rape and defilement are dehumanising and traumatic to one's entire life," said Kawamba, adding that cultural practices are to blame for such sufferings.

The workshop acknowledged that by regarding men as superior to women, culture and tradition are major setbacks to the promotion of gender equality. "Our culture and tradition recognises men as superior. It is a concept that our people have grown increasingly to accept. In all fairness we have all been brought up to believe that men are super humans. We cannot change everything but we can improve our attitudes towards women as our equals," noted Chief Mwenemisuku of Chitipa.

But T/A Malemia from Nsanje argued that domestic violence is an urban phenomenon, brought about by cultural degradation and moral decay. "There is no culture in the world that permits victimisation of women. A lot of domestic violence happens in towns not in the villages," he said.

The National Co-ordinator for Women and Law in Southern Africa (WILSA) Malawi chapter, Seodi White, said the chiefs showed keen interest in the legislation to criminalize domestic violence through their constructive contributions.

"The workshop aimed at involving traditional leaders in the on-going consultation process in the legislation of domestic violence. We wanted the chiefs to fully understand that domestic violence is not all about women but also involves men. We also wanted them to know that domestic violence is a crime," she noted

The Domestic Violence Bill consultations are expected to will wind up by April 2002. WILSA hopes that the Justice Minister and Attorney General will put the bill before parliament by May next year.

Malawi Joins Sixteen Day Campaign Against Gender Violence

By Christopher Jimu

Malawians yesterday joined the world in commemorating the Sixteen Days of Activism on Gender Violence amid concerns that this scourge is on the rise.

Running from International Day of No Violence Against Women (25 November) to International Human Rights Day on 10 December, the sixteen days also include 1 December (International Aids day), 3 December (International Day of the Disabled) and 6 December, the anniversary of the Montreal Massacre, when a man gunned down 14 women at the University of Montreal accusing them of being feminists.

According to Dr Mary Shawa, Deputy Director in the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Community Services, despite Malawi signing a number of treaties and protocols to tackle gender-based violence, people are still reluctant to bring cases of this nature to the relevant authorities. "We need to change this trend and encourage people to report these cases once they surface," Shawa said.

Among activities expected to take place in Malawi are:

- Open day shows where students will recite poems, sing songs and conduct prayers, organized by the Ministry of Education.
- School visits to sensitise pupils to issues of domestic violence by the Blantyre-based Youth organisation, AYISE.
- Sensitisation campaigns in several districts conducted by Women in Law in Southern Africa (WILSA).
- A walk, open days, prayers, dances, television and radio interviews with prominent gender activists.

Malawians first commemorated the Sixteen Days of Activism last year when they held open day shows in Blantyre and Lilongwe. Gender activists petitioned President Bakili Muluzi to take a leading role in protecting women and sensitising men to the impact of domestic violence.

A Helping Hand In An Hour Of Need

By Terence Mwamlima

After eighteen months of marriage, dicing with death and relentless beating by her husband, Egilly Siby, 22, has had enough. With the help of the Malawi Centre for Advice, Research and Education on Rights (Carer), an NGO that offers counselling to survivors of domestic violence, Siby is seeking a divorce.

Married after she fell pregnant while in form one, Siby says that since then her life has been living hell.

On one particular day, her husband, who works at a shop in Limbe, beat her and stabbed her with a knife between the eye and the ear for allegedly misusing money while he was away for a week. Siby had to be admitted to hospital. Two months later, she had been stabbed again, in the same spot, with an iron rod. Again she had to be admitted at Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital in Blantyre.

In between these two life-threatening incidents, the routine beatings carried on. The deep scars all over her body are a painful testimony to these realities. Siby learned about Carer through sympathizers. A file has been opened to help her secure a divorce. Siby is hopeful that her ordeal will soon be over.

According to Veronica Chisempere, a paralegal officer working at the centre, CARER handles approximately 4000 cases a year. Of these, 65 % relate to domestic violence, including failure by men to pay maintenance and wife battery. Carer tries to mediate between couples, but assists in securing a divorce where there has been an irretrievable breakdown in the relationship. Only about 5 percent of the cases handled by the centre involve violence against men. All the other clients are women and children.

(The CARER head office is situated at HHI Blantyre CCAP Mission off Chikwe Road, Blantyre. Phone: 634261, fax 621637, E Mail malwicarer@malwinet. CARER also has offices in Mzuzu (phone 333603), Mulanje (phone 465254) and Dedza (phone 223007).

Now here To Hide

Vicious circle of violence follows sex worker from home to work

BY Peter Makossah

Stella Makupula, 23, a commercial sex worker in Blantyre is a bitter woman. She wishes she were not born a woman. "I will never forgive my father. Never. I wish I were born a man. I am a prostitute because my father raped me at home," she says. She has cast aside the intimacy of filial love because her father raped her repeatedly and until she gave birth to a child.

Makupula says when her mother learnt of the harrowing story, she accused her of bringing shame to the family and beat her up incessantly before chasing her out of the home in their village house at Chileka in Chief Kunthembwe's area located about 20

kilometres away from the City Centre. "I will never forgive my mother either. She abandoned me when I needed her most."

"I am a prostitute not because I wanted to be one, but there was nothing I could do apart from selling my body to sustain my life and that of my child who in a way is my brother as our father is the same," she adds, clutching a bottle of Carlsberg green in her left hand while the right helps her take a swig at the beer.

Staring blankly into the smoky bar where she waits for clients, Makapula recalls how the people who brought her into the world and were supposed to protect her turned her into a vagrant eking out a living by illegal behaviour.

"I have never been a happy person since then. I have been traumatic all through. If the people who were supposed to give me optimum love drove me into destitution, what more the people I meet?" she asks.

Apart from being ostracised by the society, Makapula and many other commercial sex workers are ridiculed by their clients- men who harass them sexually. "As sex workers the going is not rosy as one might think, it is thorny, we persevere because we have no choice. Most men take advantage of our status and sex. They sometimes use us for free," she observes.

Makapula's story is one of the many cases of gender- based violence and violence against women in the homes of Malawi, and around the world. Domestic violence, according to Seodi White, coordinator for Women and Law in Southern Africa (WILSA) Malawi chapter, is pain inflicted on you by someone you know, love, and care about, socially, psychologically, morally, economically, and emotionally.

Makapula's case is especially unique because of the way in which domestic violence forced her into earning a living in an illegal and precarious profession where she is vulnerable to further violence.

She is also an example of the many women in the world who suffer in silence because they are ignorant of how they can access legal assistance. According to Veronica Chisempere, an officer at Malawi Carer, women like Makapula can lodge cases of statutory rape, battery or any dehumanising behaviour, although the fact that sex work is illegal in Malawi raises complications.

Makapula is hopeful- but still bitter: "I hope with time and government's concentrated effort one day a woman will have a place in the society. I would like to see women as free, equal as men. But all the same, my memory is still fresh of what my monster father did to me, and how my mother abandoned me. I will never forgive them," she says.

Rape In Marriage? Malawian's Not Convinced

By Ina Thombozi

It is 2:00 am. Jack, back from a drinking spree, knocks violently at the door of his house. His wife, who was fast asleep, wakes up in haste to open up. But before she gets back to bed, her husband is on her neck demanding sex.

She tries to reason with him, but gets nowhere. Fearing that he has other sex partners and could be carrying the HIV AIDS virus, she suggests using a condom. He reacts violently, beating her up. With a torn nightdress, little struggle and no consent, Grace relents.

A familiar scene in Malawi? Of course. Yet ask any Malawian, and especially Malawian men, if they believe there is rape in marriage and it is as though you come from outer Mars!

Among one of the more controversial issues being canvassed by Women and Law in Southern Africa (WILSA) as part of its consultations on the Domestic Violence Bill is the issue of marital rape. Even with the added urgency that HIV AIDS has brought to this matter, it will be an uphill struggle to get consensus on the issue.

Rape is defined as any sexual act that takes place without mutual consent. Yet a Blantyre businessman argues that sex without consent in the family does not necessarily constitute rape, because culture does not permit a woman to "consent". He says it is "normal" for a man to force his wife and struggle with her before having sex.

Traditional Authority Malemia of Zomba, one of the chiefs attending the WILSA consultative conference on the Domestic Violence Bill in Blantyre this week, argues: "It does not make sense to me when one says a husband can rape his own wife, if so then what is marriage all about? In fact if the wife is refusing to have sex with her husband, it is the woman violating the husband's human rights. Why does the wife not shout for help if she is being forced?" T.A Malemia adds that if there is a law, it should only serve as a warning, but such marital affairs should never be taken outside the marital setting and definitely not to court.

"Marital rape is a very sensitive issue and needs more serious thought, if there is a law then all men will be arrested and this will destroy and rip apart many families, " added traditional Authority Mkumbira of Nkhatabay.

Women interviewed took a different perspective. Eliza Singo, a divorcee says most times it is embarrassing for the woman to go out and seek advice from marriage counsellors traditionally known as "ankoswe". Often, she noted, the woman is afraid of "losing" the man who is in most cases the breadwinner.

Rose Meja a resident of Blantyre says the HIV AIDS dimension cannot be ignored, as many women are hapless victims of the killer disease because their husbands are unfaithful to them.

Traditional Authority Kawamba of Thyolo agrees that victims of marital rape need a law to protect them from HIV AIDS. But she says the court should be the last resort as there are other systems within the marriage setting that can assist.

Project manager of the Malawi Counselling and Resource Organisation (MACRO) does not think the marital rape law will assist in solving the HIV/AIDS Problem. Msowoya points out that wives and husbands do not readily test for HIV/AIDS. Even if they did, he argues that it would be difficult to establish if one party contracted the virus as a result of non-consensual sex. He also questions the practicality of the law, asking: "in a marriage setting, who is going to testify?"

As the consultative process on the proposed Domestic Violence bill continues, one thing is certain: there is need for more civic education on this controversial issue.

Suffer Little Children

By Veronica Chisempere

More than any other group in our society, children need love and protection. Yet often they too are victims of abuse in the home. And as two recent cases demonstrate, men are not the only perpetrators of child abuse, or little girls the only victims.

Wincing with pain at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Blantyre, Blessings Gama (above) suffered multiple injuries after his mother tied him to a tree with wire, leaving him there until 3 am in the morning for stealing a few kwacha. She is currently in police custody.

Alindiine Phiri, 9, of Kawale Lilongwe will live the rest of her life without hands after her aunt put both her hands in plastic bags full of paraffin and set these alight for stealing one kwacha. Phiri has undergone four operations in Lilongwe and Blantyre to try and save her hands to no avail.

Gama can be reached at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Blantyre, through Sister Cavallo, and Phiri through Mr Kawama, UNDP, Lilongwe.

Property Grabbing On The Rise Wife Wills, NGO Leader Urges

By Liz Banda

While Grace Tayika, 25, was at her village nursing her son, she got the shock of her life when she learned that her nephew had sold her marital home that she vows belongs to her after her husband died.

Narrating her story before presiding magistrate Grace Ndacheredwa, the complainant said the house in Ndirande, Blantyre was being rented, until Geoffrey Tayika, a son of the deceased's brother, sold it without her consent. He claimed to be the rightful owner because of the tradition that a brother inherits a man's property- not the widow. His father, Tayika's brother-in-law, is also now deceased.

Tayika took the matter to the police and to the District Commissioner, who ruled that the house be left in Grace Tayika's hands. But her nephew ignored this order, prompting her to seek redress in court.

Property grabbing cases such as this are an all too common form of gender-based violence in Malawi, according to Lingalireni Mihowa, Gender Programme Coordinator for Cure.

"Cases of property grabbing are still on the increase.... The media in Malawi has an enormous role in curbing the spread of violence," Mihowa told participants to the media workshop on covering gender violence convened by the Malawi Institute of Journalism and Gender Links last week.

According to Mihowa, property grabbing usually arises when there are many competitors to the inheritance of property. "Women as widows are the majority victims of this act, and by implication, children are also victims of the same," she noted. The result is psychological, emotional and sometimes, physical harm to the victims who suffer from poverty, neglect and lack of self-esteem. Rural and urban dwellers alike are affected.

Mihowa stresses that it is an offence to unlawfully grab property as Section 16 and 17 of the Wills and Inheritance Act provides for the sharing of property when a spouse dies. The penalty for the crime is a fine of K20, 000 or five years in prison. But there are flaws in the act because it also recognises the customary value that there are several heirs to the estate of a deceased person. This may provide loopholes for the extended family to jump in.

Mihowa notes that this could be overcome if wills are written before people die. The media has a critical role to play in highlighting this safeguard, she said.

Time For Malawian Men To Take A Stand

EDITORIAL

When we think of protest against gender violence, we immediately think of women. Yet, even though the majority of those affected by gender violence are women, not all men are perpetrators, and many are opposed to the way their fellow men behave.

As the Sixteen Days of Activism Against Gender Violence gains momentum, it's time for the men of Malawi to take a stand- like many of their counterparts in the Southern African Development (SADC) region.

In Zimbabwe, for example, a group of men called Padare advocate for gender equality. In South Africa, Men for Change is an organisation of men from previously abusive backgrounds who counsel other men, perform plays and rally their communities against abuse. Zambia has a Men's Network that is fighting to ensure that next year's elections are free from gender-based violence.

Managing Director of the Chronicle Newspaper Robert Jamieson, who is proud to call himself a gender activist, describes how liberated he feels by coming out and taking such a stand. The baggage of patriarchy- always needing to be in control- is not necessarily an enjoyable load to carry. Now is the time for men to join women in a fight that, in the end, will free us all.

Gender violence: Media Under Microscope

By Tusekele Mwanyongo

"Name it and shame it." That's how Robert Jamieson, Managing Director of the *The Chronicle* newspaper, sees the role of journalists in Malawi in combating gender-based violence.

Speaking to electronic and print media at a five-day workshop on this issue at the Malawi Institute of Journalism (MIJ) last week Jamieson said: "Domestic violence and all forms of violence that border on gender difference are wrong, unacceptable and only bring a sense of low esteem to women who are often victims of these."

Opening the workshop, Minister of Gender, Youth and Community Services Mary Kaphwereza Banda said that "most of the time the media has been seen as passive observers, rather than active participants in addressing critical issues like gender-based violence."

Participants to the workshop, agreed that much remains to be done in reporting on gender violence, that until recently has been a "hidden crime", and has been covered in sensational ways.

A case in point is a news article from a Malawian newspaper with the screaming headline: "Vendors strip naked girl for indecent dress". The author reported that street vendors in the capital city, Lilongwe, "booed a girl and stripped her naked for wearing a tight and very short dress. An eyewitness told *Daily Times* that the vendors, attracted by the 'shameful' and uncultural dressing, hauled insult at her as she passed by."

Don Napuwa, an editor with the government news agency, *Mana*, said while the vendors might have meted out an unjustifiable punishment, it is imperative that women dress according to "acceptable" cultural norms and avoid imitating Western dress.

But many participants took exception to the insensitivity of the article, the author's attitude towards the helpless girl, and his failure to report the incident as a serious crime. Several noted that there is no such thing as "indecent" dress in the statute books.

Veronica Chisempere of the Blantyre-based human rights organisation, Carer, noted that the vendors action was unconstitutional, and a typical example of the media fuelling gender-based violence rather than playing its watchdog role.

"We are not told what happened to the lady after being stripped or what action the police, as law enforcers, took following this crime," added Mary Shawa, Deputy Director of Gender in the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Community Services.

Marcel Chimwala Editor for the *Enquirer* said in an interview that coverage of gender-related issues in the local media has not been adequate. He attributes this in part to a lack of basic legal knowledge on the issue. Society also "puts off reporters who take the initiative to do these stories," he observed. "A woman who has been harassed by her husband would always whisk away reporters poking their nose in her suffering. In other words, for her, it is part of her life."

A journalist with the *Radio Islam*, Siphath Mitochi, called for a drive to educate people, and especially women, on their rights and freedoms and how they relate to culture. No culture, she stressed, legitimises the inflicting of pain on anyone.

Gender violence discourages women from politics

By Tusekele Mwanyongo

There was ugly exchange of words in parliament during the recent sitting when opposition Alliance for Democracy (Aford) MP Rodger Nkhwazi dressed down Minister of Gender, Youth and Community Services, Mary Kaphwereza for her failure to "respect men".

"Can I ask that the lady should learn to respect men," the Nation quotes Nkhwazi as demanding- to which the minister reacted angrily. As most of the journalists at a workshop on covering gender violence in Blantyre last week agreed, such a demand would never be made of a male MP. And such scenes are an example of how gender-based violence deters women from active participation in politics.

"If we go back to the era of the one-party state, women were regarded as a political support pillar. There were a lot of words used to brainwash them and never became main actors in politics," says Deputy Director of Gender in the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Community Services, Mary Shawa.

The trend, she adds, has spilled over to the current democratic era when the participation of women in political decision-making still leaves a lot to be desired. Out of the 193 members in parliament, only 17 are women, representing 8.3 percent. Out of the 860 Assembly Councillors elected last year, 71 were women. Of the current 34 cabinet ministers, only four are full women ministers and four deputy ministers.

"We have a culture and traditions that emphasise on women's role to care. The public domain is not for women and it is seen as a taboo for them to go out and argue as it is in politics," Shawa said. Other barriers include low educational status (only 39 percent of women in Malawi can read and write) and the economic status of aspiring women candidates (politics in Malawi is characterised by the dishing out of money).

Ireen Liabunya, the organising secretary for the women's desk of the ruling United Democratic Front (UDF) for Blantyre confessed that women in her party are no better off than those in other parties, but stressed that women have "all the necessary legal tools to back us up. The onus is on us. Let's grab the challenge."

ANNEX H: EVALUATIONS

6 evaluations forms were filled and received. Participants were required to comment on the following aspects of the training:

	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	VERY POOR	NO COMMENT
PROGRAMME DESIGN	2	3	1			
PROGRAMME CONTENT	2	4				
FACILITATION	2	2	1	1		
GROUP WORK	1	1	3			1
OUTPUTS vs. EXPECTATIONS		5	1			
LEARNING OPPORTUNITY	3	3				
NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY	3	2	1			
ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS			6			

1. Which sessions did you find most useful? Why?
 - Two participants indicated that all the sessions were useful
 - Two participants indicated that the session on rape victims and gender violence were most useful
 - Two participants indicated that the session on victimized further in courts were most useful
 - One participant indicated that the session on the role of men in combating gender-based violence was the most useful.
 - One participant indicated that the session on domestic violence and property grabbing was the most useful.
2. Which of the sessions did you find least useful?
 - Two participants indicated that ALL the sessions were useful.
 - Two participants indicated that group discussions were least useful.
3. Suggestions for follow up action.
 - Regroup for advanced and refresher course (once a year).
 - Networking with participants of workshop and other journalist.
 - Increased publicity during the course to motivate people to look at gender based violence within our society.
 - Participants should consider publishing a regular newsletter.
4. Any other comments.
 - Access to computers (email and Internet) is difficult to participate in on-line training.
 - Participants must network.

