



**Report on the Zimbabwe Media
Training Workshop on
Covering Gender Violence**

January 2002



SUMMARY

This report summarises the Zimbabwe workshop on Covering Gender Violence convened by Gender Links and IPS from 28 January – 1 February 2002. Fifteen media practitioners and media organisations participated in the training (see **Annex A**). The workshop included a luncheon briefing for editors' (see **Annex B**). The programme is at **Annex C** and the stories produced for a special supplement, "Our Write", carried by The Daily News newspaper are featured in **Annex D**. A summary of the workshop evaluation is attached at **Annex E**.

BACKGROUND

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

A few months before the Lesotho conference, Inter Press Service, a global development news network, developed a manual on covering gender violence with the assistance of Gender Links, a Southern African NGO committed to the fair representation of women in the media. This manual was tested at a workshop comprising 35 journalists from the SADC region alongside the SADC conference in Lesotho. The workshop included producing a daily newsletter and final bumper supplement on the conference, widely distributed in hard copy and via the Internet. These journalists formed a network called the SADC Gender and Media (GEM) Initiative that is committed to improving coverage on gender violence in SADC media.

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

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

- To participate for the full five days of the course.
- To collect samples of coverage of gender violence in Zimbabwe for discussion at the workshop.
- To write or produce at least one story during the course.
- To write or produce two stories after the course. Certificates for the course will only be issued on completion of these assignments after the course.

- To become part of the SADC GEM electronic network for at least three months after the course, so as to receive ongoing support and backup from the main facilitator, and from peers in this and other courses.
- To contribute to a SADC Journal on Covering Gender Violence in June 2002.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the workshop were to:

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

DAY ONE

OPENING

Farai Samhungu Africa Director for IPS

The following is a summary of points made by Farai Samhungu:

Various forms of gender violence surround us. We are living in societies where women are:

- murdered brutally,
- raped,
- are beaten up by intimate partners and male relatives on a daily basis,
- contract HIV/Aids unknowingly,
- sexually harassed at work and lose their jobs if they make a case out it.

These and many other forms of violence have far reaching consequences on the lives of women both physically and psychologically.

As media, what are we doing about it? Do we think it is something negative and needs to be addressed? If we reflect on some of the stories on violence against women that we have read, listened and penned by some of us in this room. What do they do? Do they further fuel violence against women? Do they further entrench widely held views that men can do what they want to women? Do they say that women deserve it? Do they help people to understand that their actions are in fact violence against women?

Are they contributing to shaping a world free of violence? I am sure some of you will say they really understand the issues around violence but most journalists do not have the skills to report on it competently. This workshop facilitated by competent media practitioners who understand media and gender will talk you through the various themes relating to violence against women. We hope that at the end of it all you

journalists will come out with a more enlightened understanding of the different forms of violence against women. Most importantly, how as journalists you can use this understanding and create into your writing, producing programmes to eliminate gender violence.

Gender Links and IPS want to shape a world free of violence.

SHARING OF EXAMPLES OF GENDER VIOLENCE IN THE ZIMBABWEAN MEDIA

All participants were asked to share examples of coverage of gender violence in Zimbabwe. Some of these included:

- Advertising of cellular phones by beautiful women;
- Gender violence stories showed women as asking to be raped or harassed because they were dressed inappropriately;
- Reporters are biased and show one view point, they do not investigate stories thoroughly;
- Some had too much jargon thus the reader got lost while reading.

The group drew the following conclusions:

- Stories with a human interest are important and need to be reported in gender sensitive manner.
- The reader should not be laden with too much jargon.
- All points of view should be represented.
- The "who, what and why" are important for writing a good article.

A SYNOPSIS OF THE COVERAGE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE ZIMBABWEAN PRINT MEDIA

Memory Dete

Information Officer, Federation of African Media Women, Zimbabwe

In my presentation I shall highlight the following:

- General overview of the portrayal of women in the media.
- Media's role and responsibility in fighting violence against women.
- FAMWZ analysis of print media coverage of violence against women for the period January – August 1999 (The last analysis that FAMWZ conducted in its Print Media Gender Media Monitoring Project was in 1999. The project was not funded in 2000 and 2001 but we hope to revive it this year with the availability of funding).
- Strategies for improving the coverage of violence against women in the media

Although my paper gives an analysis of the Print media's portrayal of violence against women, the situation is essentially the same in other forms of media, i.e. television and radio.

Overview of the portrayal of women in the media

The media is a powerful tool of socialization and plays a key role in shaping society's values, attitudes and beliefs.

An area where the media has negatively shaped society's belief is in the portrayal of women as their worst enemies. The bad or socially unacceptable things that women do tend to get more publicity compared to similar acts committed by men. Reports on positive activities by women, if they make the news, are often tucked away in small print towards the end of the paper. Scandalous stories where women are in conflict with one another are likely to make the headlines. Men and women themselves now believe that women cannot work or live together peaceably.

Even women say negative statements about women all the time themselves, everyday. I recently overheard a woman speaking to her colleague saying that she loved her new job where she worked with men compared to her previous job where she had worked with women.

In most media presentations, male characters are thrust forward as the legitimate voice. What male politicians, male doctors or male professionals say, for example, carries more weight than what women in similar positions say. When an authority figure is required to give an educated comment, it is usually men who are sought out. Men are generally given 'voice' while someone, usually a male 'speaks' on behalf of women. More often, women are 'marginalised, silenced or erased' from media attention.

However, by focusing on women's contribution to society, showing more positive images of women and having gender balanced reporting, the media could be used as an important tool to disseminate information, which builds up the public image of women. The coverage of violence against women in the media is also hampered by media houses' internal dynamics and decision-making structures that sideline women.

A study conducted by the Federation of African Media Women – SADC (FAMW-SADC) in 1999, showed that 55% of media women occupied administrative and clerical positions with fewer women in positions of leadership. Women's low representation in decision-making positions influences how women are portrayed because in the end men who hold positions that impact on decisions, which make the editorial decisions.

For the media women who have attained leadership positions, it is difficult to influence change because of the existing policies they find in force, which trivialize gender issues.

Media's role and responsibility in fighting violence against women

Violence against women takes various forms including verbal abuse, sexual harassment, rape, physical assault, psychological assault and even murder. In Zimbabwe women and girls are socialized to accept violence, which is condoned in the name of culture,

especially within families, where it is assumed that men have a right to chastise and discipline their wives and children and media have played a role in this perpetuation. However, in progressive hands the media can play a pivotal role in the solution to the problem of violence against women in Zimbabwe because of its role as the mirror of society.

It is necessary for media institutions to mainstream gender in all its structures, programmes and reporting, a move, which will motivate their readers to take active actions and decisions to curb gender violence through balanced and responsible articles. Journalists, both women and men, need to highlight gender differentiated points of view, as it is the inclusion of these views in all coverage that truly makes the media pluralistic.

The media should help to formulate gender sensitive policies and programmes by informing society about women and their contribution to national development. By promoting positive reporting on gender and challenging conventional norms and values that continue to marginalize women in national development, the media will transform society to be more gender sensitive.

FAMWZ analysis of print media coverage of violence against women of the period of January – August 1999

It was after realizing that issues of gender inequality continued to be sidelined by the media and the need to have an increased female representation in the newsrooms and in senior positions, that FAMWZ launched a print media gender-monitoring project in February 1999. The project's primary objective is to analyze the print media's coverage of issues concerning women, with a particular focus on the portrayal of women, and to assess how far women are given a voice in the media.

It should be noted that many cases of violence against women go unreported. Faced with the current economic hardships where most frustrations are vented on wives, it would seem logical to argue that perhaps some women, especially rural women, do not report their cases because they fear that the husband who is in most cases the breadwinner, might be arrested, and she and the family will die of hunger. In addition, violence against women is closely linked to violence against children. A woman's husband usually batters not only her, but also the children.

Methodology

The method of analysis used in the analysis incorporated both qualitative and quantitative methods of research.

Qualitative research involved the following stages:

- Going through the newspapers and magazines and selecting and photocopying articles that were of concern to women or discussed issues that pertain to women.
- Reading the articles and establishing the writers' sex, name and seeing to what extent, if any, her or his gender might have influenced the article's slant in the portrayal of women.
- Establishing the number of sources quoted in the articles, their sex, so as to know the extent to which women are given a voice in the media on issues that pertain to their well being. Furthermore, this would show to what extent women have been silenced as men speak on their behalf.
- Briefly summarizing the articles to enable easy understanding when analyzing the trends in portrayal and for double-checking if the article has been coded correctly.
- Coding the articles using the categories laid down for classification of material. These codes were on a scale from A to Z.
- Analyzing the whole article for biased headlines and the language.

This information was then filled on a print-media gender monitoring form, which served as an analysis tool. The articles were then filed according to their codes classification and later analyzed in those respective classes for any recurring trends.

Quantitative analysis involved the following activities:

- Counting the total number of articles monitored.
- Counting the number of articles in each code/classification and getting the percentage.
- Counting the number of male and female journalists who wrote about issues concerning women.
- Counting the number of male and female sources given a voice.

The following issues were taken note of in the process of analyzing the articles:

- The language content.
- The gender balance.
- The gender images being portrayed.
- The messages being communicated.
- The frequency of gender representations and misrepresentations.

Articles depicting the following forms of violence against women were analysed.

- Murder
- Verbal abuse
- Sexual harassment
- Rape
- Physical assault

- Psychological assault
- Theory and debate on VAW

I will now give you examples of articles published relating to the different forms of violence.

Sexual assault

A male lecturer at Masvingo Technical College removed his pair of trousers in the presence of a female lecturer exposing his private parts. (The Tribune 28 May – 3 June) The female teacher reported the matter and it was then that many other women who had been harassed came out into the open.

Two naked thieves who exposed themselves to two female golfers, who then fled for dear life leaving all their valuables behind (Sunday Mail 16 May).

There were also rape cases involving policemen or men who pretended to be policemen. An article showing this included the case of a pregnant woman who was handcuffed by a policeman on accusations of being a thief. He took her to his house where he raped her several times and assaulted her (The Herald 19 May 1999)

In Chitungwiza, 4 men who identified themselves as policemen took a woman, “----- slapped her to the ground and kicked her repeatedly. Two of the men raped her and the other two urinated on her head -----” (The Standard 2-8 May 1999).

There were also cases of faith healers and priests pretending to be conducting a ritual or to be under divine inspiration. A man, said to be a family prophet, approached a housemaid and claimed to have been instructed to perform spiritual prayer.

“----- he tied red thread around the maid’s waist and smeared cooking oil on her private areas. When he asked her to lie down, she refused, but he forced her onto the floor and raped her. “----- (The Standard 2 – 8 May 1999)

Rape

Most rape cases involved young men below the age of 25 abusing pregnant women, blind women, ex-girlfriends and very old women. For instance, in Zaka, a 35 year-old man raped his 75-year old aunt (The Tribune 21 – 27 May 1999)

An exceptional case is one of a 23 year old man who violently raped a pregnant woman (Daily news 9 August). He was quoted to have said in justification of his act, “I just wanted to fix her for spurning my advances”.

Another case is of a 19 year old who took advantage of a blind woman and raped her. He was surprisingly given a sentence of 6 years which is not enough for the trauma he imposed on the poor old lady (Chronicle 29 June 1999).

An unfortunate woman was raped by her ex-boyfriend at gun point after she had rejected him. This shows that men believe they can not be rejected (Sunday News 13 June 1999).

Physical assault

A shocking story was one of a woman who was slapped by Minister John Nkomo. The woman was slapped for allegedly being too vocal. This shows that even politicians do not respect the rights of women.

A woman was stabbed by her husband in Dzivaresekwa for refusing to give him money to pay for a fine for an undisclosed offense (Daily News 28 July 1999).

Another woman in Beitbridge was stabbed by a man suspected to be her boyfriend over a money dispute (Chronicle July 1999)

In an article titled "Hell hath no fury...like a man scorned", a male journalist said he could hardly believe his good fortune when as he sat in a barber's chair, news literary started to happen in front of him when a husband stormed into the salon in the company of two other men ... the three men tried to drag the woman outside .."

Psychological assault

A 31 year old woman from Dorowa who drowned herself in a 20 m deep well after being jilted by her husband (The Manica Post, January 15, 1999)

A Mutare woman set herself ablaze after suspecting that she had been ditched for other girlfriends. (The Manica Post, March 12, 1999).

Verbal Abuse

A female MP was verbally abused and threatened to be beaten by a fellow MP. The female MP reported,

----"I cannot even repeat the words he used against me. I can only that others intervened, telling him to leave me alone and reprimanded him for his use of bad language." (The Daily News, May 20, 1999)

Theory and debate on violence against women

An article titled "Why I have become a woman complainant" (Herald July 24 1999) shows that some men try to equalize or justify violence against women. The article debates that men are also assaulted physically by women and argues that therefore female activists have no battle to fight because men and women are violently abusing each other.

Another article written on the 15th of July in the Chronicle tried to justify sexual harassment. In this article the journalist explained that a man will always react to a woman as a potential lover because it has always been like that, therefore a sexual gesture is only natural. An article published in The Herald on 12 June 1999 revealed from research that some women accept men's violent behaviour and actually protect them by saying that "he was under stress" or "he was under the influence of alcohol." Some women actually allow men to beat them because they believe that is the manner to show his love and that it is his duty to discipline her to be a good wife. Another article explained the abuse of grassroots women through cultural, religious and social guise. The article encouraged women activists to create an awareness for change and encouraged men to become more human.

Analysis of media examples given

Sexual Harassment

A survey at the U.Z showed that sexual harassment is rampant even at the highest levels of intellectual institutions. Girls at U.Z are sexually harassed by fellow mates and lecturers. Sex has become the pass way to a degree or diploma. Interviews with college students showed that the men at the U.Z feel that the women are theirs rightfully. Matters of sexual harassment are embarrassing to most people, many women choose not to speak out and live with their psychological trauma. Due to this many cases are not heard or reported. What is heard in the courts is only the tip of the iceberg.

Rape

With the current AIDS pandemic, chances that a rapist may be infected with HIV/AIDS are very high. Therefore the state should consider rape as a more serious offence and rapists should be severely punished. The life time suffering that a victim experiences i.e. psychological trauma is irreversible and no amount of compensation can pay for it.

Physical Assault

Some men misuse their strength to assault women. There were 82 articles in which women were subjected to physical assault in various forms which included battering, strangling, stabbing, shooting and slapping. Some articles also showed that women are vulnerable to physical assault when they try to terminate a love relationship or marriage and when a husband or boyfriend suspect that they have another affair.

Generally, physical assault on women was reported in the home where husbands and sons assaulted their wives and mothers for petty issues such as food. There were other cases of women wearing mini skirts and being physically assaulted and even stripped by commuter drivers and touts. Some men seemed to value money more than human life. Many articles depicted women who were physically attacked by their husbands over money issues.

It was noted during the monitoring process that some male journalists enjoy the assault of women. This demonstrates how insensitive the male journalist was to the woman. How can someone's humiliation and assault be called good fortune for news? Journalists should be more sensitive to what news value is.

Psychological Violence

Psychological violence, though not visible is the most pervasive form of violence as it affects one's mind and you live with the pain for all your life. It is the leading cause of most women's death and it usually manifests itself in health conditions like depression and high blood pressure. It is a fact that more women than men die from depression. Psychological may be through perpetual fear of one's husband and may also result from being jilted by a husband. Some women have committed suicide or have become mentally ill (psychological traumas).

Verbal Assault

Verbal assault occurs at a very high rate but none, if any, of the cases are reported. People need to be educated and conscientised about their rights so that they do not let cases of verbal abuse go unreported. However, the monitoring process also revealed that there are some male journalists who sympathise with women in the fight against violence who demonstrated this by writing well informed gender sensitive articles.

Strategies for improvement of the coverage of violence against women in the media

I did not come up with any new strategies to improve the coverage of violence against women in the media. However, I am aware that a number of strategies have been proposed at many different forums and I challenge this workshop to discuss how far these strategies have been achieved and possibly come up with new and innovative ideas.

The strategies that we have all discussed before are:

1. Training of media practitioners to be gender sensitive and to begin reporting competently and accurately – A lot of media practitioners have been trained e.g. SARDC-WIDSAA and ZAMCOM held a training workshop on gender reporting in Zambia in 1988 and produced A Media Guide – Other organizations have also produced media handbooks such as IPS and Gender Links – organisers of this workshop - The questions we need to ask ourselves are: How can we make sure that the training material is effectively utilized by the intended beneficiaries? Has it been able to make difference – If not, what problems have they faced.

2. Lobby media training institutions to include a gender education component in the curriculum –For instance the Zimbabwe Open University has incorporated Gender in their training curriculum – how has this development impacted the media profession to date.
3. The development of a gender media monitoring and evaluation strategy to act as a media watch dog on gender related concerns and issues such as violence against women – FAMWZ and other NGOs such as ZWRCN have gender media monitoring programmes.
4. Adoption of a gender policy for the media, which will enforce media practitioners, to report 'responsibly' this is critical because it provides a framework, which serves as a guideline for uniformity in the various media.
5. The promotion of development news, which would see underprivileged groups such as women being covered positively in the media.
6. Periodic publication of a media bulletin for the worst offenders to promote greater sensitivity to gender issues in the media.
7. Create a gender in media award to reward those media institutions or individuals that promote gender-sensitivity in the media.

GENDER AND POLITICS

Everjoice Win Women Parliamentary Support Unit

Introduction

Universally violence in both the private and public spheres disproportionately affects women and girls. This is based on gender power relations in many societies. Equally in the (formal), political sphere, the way in which men and women experience violence, are affected by it, and what they need as a result tends to be different. The starting point here is that – women and men interact with the political sphere differently. Generally it can be said:

- Men tend to be more visible in the political arena – as leaders, political activists, opinion leaders/makers/analysts, journalists etc.
- Although both women and men are voters the reasons why they vote and participate in political processes are different because of gender differences.
- As voters, women tend to be less informed, less active, (except of course as the well-known "cannon fodder" at rallies and in crowds.
- Women are more visible in the private/domestic sphere as mothers, wives, care- givers etc, while men are more visible in the public sphere as leaders etc.

As a consequence of this (and if we re-look at the three case studies), some of the key issues on gender violence and politics are:

1. What happens in the private sphere affects women's participation in (formal), politics. Thus for example, if a woman is abused in the home the chances of her being publicly active are very small. Such a woman would not have the confidence, and clout to participate actively in political life, either as a voter or a leader.
2. There are many examples of women who have been prevented by their partners from participating in public life. In cases where these women have wanted to assert themselves the consequences could be violence, divorce, social stigma etc.
3. In some cases women candidates have pulled out of elections for fear of violence in the public sphere.
4. Cases of women political activists raped by police, soldiers or dictatorial regimes have been well documented worldwide. The idea being to "teach the women are lesson".
5. Rape has only recently been recognized as a "war crime", by the UN and internationally.
6. All of the above factors have the net effect of keeping women out of the public/political sphere – thus it becomes a vicious cycle.
7. Those women who do defy private and public authority and assert their rights tend to be labeled, (prostitutes, easy, unmarriageable, single women...etc). Thus once again keeping any potential "defiers", out of the political sphere.
Because women are less visible/acknowledged as political actors, what they do, or what happens to them in violent situations is often be under-reported.
(Case study 1).
8. Even where women are victims of political violence their experiences tend to be focused on less because their "scars" are less visible, they are generally not regarded as political actors, they are not very willing to speak out about experiences such as rape and emotional trauma. The social cost of speaking about sexual violence for example is often greater than the "benefits".
9. Those seeking information from women need to have special skills, provide a conducive environment and ensure that they do not traumatize them more.
10. Equally, the needs of women and men – after the fact- differ, because of gender. Thus for example an individual man can run away from political violence in his area. His wife meanwhile would need to carry the children, be worried about where the children would go to school etc.

Case study 1

The district chairperson of Mafaro party is fighting for his life in Harare hospital, after he was brutally assaulted by youth from the Nhamo party. It is alleged that Mr Chakudeno, (43), was in bed with his wife on Saturday night when the 14 young men burst into his bedroom. Their two daughters were asleep on the floor in the same room. They tied him, naked and proceeded to assault him with whips. They left him for dead. The youths set fire to his homestead. Neighbours took Mr Chakudeno to a local clinic. He was transferred to Harare hospital on Monday.

What do you think of this story?
Is it complete?
What happened to the wife and daughters?
Where were they when this happened?
Where do you think they are they now?
What would they say?
If you were Mr Chakudeno's wife what would you advise your husband?

The message that one gets from this case is stay away from the political arena.

Case study 2

Police have dismissed as baseless a story in yesterday's Weekly Lies that three female teachers were assaulted at Chitora secondary school. The three women were at home after school when they were approached by members of a neighborhood watch group and asked for their identity documents. The women were asked questions after which the security group left. However the three teachers panicked and ran to the nearby police post. On being questioned by police, it was clear that the security men had done nothing to them. "None of them had any visible scars to show that assault took place", a police spokesman said. It is not clear however why the three female teachers left their school and are now allegedly in a shelter in Gweru.

What do you think of this story?
Did anything happen to these women?
If anything did happen, what would be the consequences?

Gender violence is either visible or invisible. At the same time it can be direct or indirect therefore the police need to be well informed about what human rights violations are.

Case study 3

Charity Chipenzi the only woman candidate in the forthcoming council elections has decided to call it quits. At a press conference yesterday, the wife of the former Mayor cited lack of resources, as the reason she was calling it a day. However readers will recall that Mrs Chipenzi hit the headlines last year when she alleged that her husband beat her up. The couple has been estranged since the incident last March. At that time Mrs Chipenzi had decided to contest the Zivai constituency seat without her husband's consent. The Chipenzis are allegedly on the path to reconciliation. At the press conference her two sons and her sister flanked Mrs Chipenzi in law.
(Pic: The happy family).

What do you think of this story?
Why do you think Mrs Chipenzi pulled out of the race?
Does this happen in real life? Why?

Violence affects women's participation in politics. The media is part of the process of either making or breaking gender stereotypes. Women's exclusion from politics is based on fears that this will bring a collapse of the patriarchal system.

DAY TWO

SEXUAL OFFENCES

Nixon Nyikadzino Padare (Men's Support Group)

There are several sexual offences found in the newly passed legislation - Sexual Offences Act. But one believes that there are certain offences that have been provided for by this act which directly expose the violence of men on women.

It is such offences that have seen this piece of legislature being hailed as a new step towards combating gender violence. Although rape exists under common law, its definition has since been redefined and widened in its meaning under this new law. Rape is no longer defined as to mean only penetration through the vagina but any kind of penetration either through the vagina, anus or mouth, ear etc. in other words it suffices to say that someone has been raped if a penis or any object of similar effect was inserted into any organ found on one's body.

Any sexual interaction with anyone below the age of 16 is deemed as non-consensual sexual act and is deemed as rape. The act provides for mandatory extraction of blood samples of an accused facing a rape charge and mandatory testing of HIV.

The Act has also included the most controversial type of rape-that is Marital Rape. Although it is phrased as "non-consensual sexual act" it is clear that this is only semantics. In other words if a husband forces his wife to have sex with her without her consent then the wife can go and report to the police that she has been raped by her husband.

This type of rape comes in different ways. For example a woman may be aware that her husband has an STI but the man insists on having sex without a condom. In the event that such a man forces the wife to have sex with him without a condom, the law sees this as marital rape.

OR

The wife might be tired but because the man believes that he owns her, forces himself on her. Because there was no consent, this is marital rape. The legislation:

- Is a positive step towards stopping the rampant spreading of HIV/Aids.
- Protects minors to a larger extent than before.
- Widens the definition of rape.
- Introduces marital rape. Husbands should begin to see women as equal partners rather than commodities.

- The harsh penalties imposed on perpetrators are a sign of the need by our society to send a message to those perpetrators of gender violence who are still hiding.
- Is a clean-out campaign directed at all those who believe that they can easily get away with abusing women.
- Is meant to stimulate further debate and call for other amendments so as to create an environment that is free from abuse.

SEXUAL OFFENCES
By Maia Chenaux-Repond
Working Group on Gender Politics

Sexual Offences Act - Summary

Cap 9:21 - Act No 8/2001

Date of Commencement: 17.8.01

The Act deals with:

- I Title, Interpretation of Terms
- II Extra-Marital Sexual Intercourse with Young Persons and Intellectually Handicapped Persons
- III Non-Consensual Sexual Acts
- IV Suppression of Prostitution
- V Prevention of Spread of HIV
- VI General Matters

Part II EXTRA-MARITAL SEXUAL INTERCOURSE WITH YOUNG PERSONS AND INTELLECTUALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS

Young Person - means a boy or girl under the age of 16 years.

Intellectually Handicapped Person - means a person who is mentally disordered or intellectually handicapped, as defined in S2 of the Mental Health Act.

Extra-marital sexual intercourse or immoral or indecent act committed with young person

Note: Some persons below the age of 16 are married (customary law unions)

- (1) (a) having extra-marital sex with a young person,
- (b) committing an immoral or indecent act with or upon a young person,

(c) soliciting or enticing a young person to do the above is an offence.

Penalty: fine up to \$50 000 *or* imprisonment of up to 10 years *or both*.

Note: See also S16 (if you are proved to be infected with HIV)

- (2) It is a defence if the accused is (a) below the age of 16, (b) had reasonable cause to believe that the victim was above the age of 16.

Extramarital sexual intercourse *or* immoral or indecent act committed with intellectually handicapped person

- (3) (a) having extra-marital sex with an intellectually handicapped person
(b) an immoral or indecent act with or upon such a person,
(c) soliciting or enticing such a person to do the above is an offence.

Penalty: fine up to \$50 000 *or* imprisonment of up to 10 years *or both*.

Note also S16 (if you are proved to be infected with HIV)

- (4) It is a defence if the accused can satisfy the court that he did not know that the person was intellectually handicapped.

- (5) Prevention of sexual exploitation of young persons and intellectually handicapped persons outside Zimbabwe

A citizen or resident of Zimbabwe who - outside Zimbabwe - does anything with or against a young or intellectually handicapped person which *in Zimbabwe* would constitute;

- (a) rape, sodomy, indecent assault
(b) contravention of sections 3 or 4
(c) attempt, conspiracy or incitement to commit a or b

is guilty of the appropriate offence + subject to the **corresponding penalty**.

Any person who - inside Zimbabwe - conspires/incites another to do anything - abroad - with or upon a young or intellectually handicapped person, which, if done in Zimbabwe, would constitute:

- (a) rape, sodomy, indecent assault,
(b) convention of section 3

is guilty of *conspiracy or incitement* to commit said offence + subject to the corresponding penalty.

The offender will be guilty whether or not what s/he has done is an offence in the country it is committed.

Prevention of conspiracy or incitement abroad to exploit young persons or intellectually handicapped persons in Zimbabwe.

Permitting young person to resort to place of purpose of extra-marital sexual intercourse.

If the owner of a place knowingly induces or allows a young person to enter or be in a place for the purpose of extra-marital sex (with one or many), the owner is guilty of an offence.

Penalty:

(a) If the person is under 12 years: Fine up to \$35 000 *or* imprisonment up to 7 years *or both*,

(b) If aged 12 - 16: Fine up to \$25 000 *or* imprisonment up to 5 years *or both*.

It is a **defence** if the accused had reason to believe that the person was over 16 years.

Part III NON-CONSENSUAL SEXUAL ACTS

8 Punishment for rape or certain non-consensual acts

(1) Any person who, *whether or not married to the other person*, without the consent of that person –

(a) with the male organ, penetrates any part of the other person's body; *or*

("ordinary" rape of woman, anal rape of man or woman)

(b) with any object other than the male organ, penetrates the other person's genitalia or anus; *or*

(c) engages in fellatio or cunnilingus with the other person;

shall be guilty of an offence and liable, subject to section *sixteen*, to the penalties provided by law for rape.

(2) Penetration to any degree shall be sufficient for the purpose of paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1).

Notes:

S 16 Penalty for person who rapes and is infected with HIV = 20 years without option of fine.

Penalty for raping adult:

S 3/4 Penalty for raping young person or intellectually handicapped: Fine up to \$50 000
or imprisonment up to 10 years or both.

Defence if you had reason to believe the young person was over the age of 16,
Defence if you did not know the person was intellectually handicapped.

S 23 Young person who is the offender's child, step-child, adopted child deemed incapable of consent.

PART V SUPPRESSION OF PROSTITUTION

9 Brothels and Pimping

"Brothel" means any place which is occupied or used for purposes of prostitution of persons to visit for the purpose of extra-marital sexual intercourse for money or reward.

"Prostitute" means a person who for money or reward -
(a) habitually allows other persons to have extra-marital sexual intercourse with him or her; or
(b) solicits or solicited other persons to have extra-marital sexual intercourse with him or her.

(1) It is an offence:

- (a) to be a keeper of a brothel,
- (b) to knowingly to live wholly or in part on the earnings of prostitution,
- (c) to solicit or importune another for immoral purposes,
- (d) to demand money from a prostitute in consideration of his:
 - (i) keeping, managing, assisting in keeping a brothel in which a prostitute lives, or has been living, for immoral purposes,
 - (ii) having pimped for a prostitute,
 - (iii) having solicited or importuned a prostitute's entry into a brothel,
 - (iv) having helped to bring a prostitute into Zimbabwe for prostitution,
 - (v) present or past immoral connection with him.

Penalty: Fine up to \$10 000 *or* imprisonment up to 2 years *or both*.

- (1) If it is proved that the accused consorted or lived with or was habitually in the company of a prostitute, he is deemed to have knowingly lived off the earnings of prostitution, unless he can prove the contrary.

10 **Detention of persons for sexual purposes**

Detaining a person (including a young *or* intellectually handicapped person or spouse) against his or her will with the intention of having sex *or* committing immoral or indecent acts *or* non-consensual sexual acts is an offence.

Detaining a person with the intention of contravening sections three, four or eight

Penalty: Fine up to \$50 000 *or* imprisonment up to 10 years *or both*.

11 **Procuring**

To procure a person to:

- whether inside or outside Zimbabwe -

- (a) have sex in contravention of sections *three, four or eight*,
- (b) become a prostitute, *or*
- (c) to leave Zimbabwe with the intent that s/he become a prostitute,
- (d) to leave his/her residence to become an inmate or frequent a brothel is an offence.

Penalty: Fine up to \$50 000 *or* imprisonment up to ten years *or both*.

12 **Coercing or inducing a person to have extra-marital sexual intercourse**

Anyone who - to enable himself, or anyone else - to have extramarital sexual intercourse with another:

- (a) threatens or intimidates that person, *or*
- (b) applies or administers any intoxicating drug, liquor, matter or thing,
- (c) causes that person to take any intoxicating drug, liquor, matter or thing, is guilty of an offence.

Penalty: Fine up to \$50 000 *or* imprisonment up to ten years *or both*.

13 **Use of place as brothel renders lease void**

If it is discovered that leased or sub-leased premises are being used as a brothel, the lease becomes void (the lessee can be evicted).

The lessor can only recover the rent up to the date he became aware of this.

14 **Summary ejection when place is used or kept as a brothel**

Upon an application from a lessor, a magistrate can order a summary ejection of any person using or keeping a place as a brothel.

Part V DELIBERATE TRANSMISSION OF HIV

15 **Deliberate transmission of HIV**

- (1) If you have "actual knowledge" that you are HIV positive, and you intentionally do something which you know (or reasonably ought to know) will (or is likely to) infect another person with HIV,

you are guilty of an offence,

- *whether or not you are married to that person.*

Penalty: imprisonment of up to 20 years, without the option of a fine.

- (2) It shall be a *defence* if you can prove that the other person:

- (a) knew that you were infected, *and*
- (b) consented to the fact, appreciating that s/he could become infected.

Difficulty: To prove that a person had "actual knowledge"

16 **Sentence for sexual offences where offender is HIV infected**

If you are **convicted** of:

- (a) rape or sodomy,
- (b) sex with a person under the age of 16,
- (c) sex with an intellectually handicapped person,
- (d) a non-consensual act described in section 8
(eg if you raped your wife)

and it is **proved** that you were HIV infected at the time - *whether or not you knew it* - you are guilty of an offence.

Penalty: Imprisonment up to 20 years, without option of fine.

17 **Testing of sexual offenders for HIV**

- (2) The court may direct that an appropriate sample (or series of samples) be taken from a person charged with a sexual offence (blood, urine, tissue, etc)
- (3) Such samples will be stored until the trial is finalised.

- (4) If the accused is convicted, the court may direct the samples to be tested for HIV.

Obstructing the taking of a sample is an offence

Part VI GENERAL

20 **Act not to limit offences under other laws** (including common law)

21 **Presumption regarding marriage**

Re: definition of "*extra-marital sex*" - the persons shall be deemed NOT to have been married at the time the sexual intercourse occurred, unless the contrary is proved.

22 **Amendment of presumption that boy under 14 is incapable of sexual intercourse**

The presumption that a boy is incapable of sexual intercourse now applies only to boys under the age of 12.

23 **Consent of young person no defence in certain circumstances**

- (1) A "sexual act" here means *anal intercourse, fellatio* or *cunnilingus*.
- (2) Where a person is charged with raping a young person who is his child, step-child or adopted child, it shall be *no defence* to prove that the young person consented to having sexual intercourse or to do a sexual act with him.

SEXUAL OFFENSES

By V. T. C. Mutyamaenza

Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association

The media is one of the most powerful means of communicating information and as such the way it communicates information should be viewed as critically important because it contributes to how societies are shaped in terms of culture, practice and norms. Thus the media reflects and shapes societal values. When the media communicates good and positive information about a society, that society will be viewed

as good and likewise when the media communicates badly and negatively of any society, the society will be viewed and perceived in that manner.

For instance the media has shaped our conscience about Winnie Mandela, O. J. Simpson trial and even our own President Robert G. Mugabe and M. Tsvangirai. The media has power to make or break a person. In the same way the media has been instrumental in the way our own society views men and women. Our attitudes, beliefs and values are influenced or shaped by various media that bombard our senses day in day out.

My experience is with human, legal and women's rights NGOs. I will therefore speak from this perspective. When I hear media and women rights I begin to think of the following:

How are issues affecting women communicated, who communicate the information, who owns and controls the tools of communication? There are so many ways of communicating information; personal and interpersonal or through mass media, the media's crucial role is in assisting us understand the world around us. Should the media portray women as helpless or useless, this will be cemented in the people and can retard development. Discrimination of women will be justified and even the women themselves can end up believing that they are worth nothing. In the same way as media reports negatively of women, positive reporting of women by the media can help develop positive attitudes towards women.

The media has reported a number of women and girls being harassed in public for choosing to wear tights and miniskirts. Young men have generally perpetrated the attacks and the police in relation to these incidents have made no arrest. These men who have taken it upon themselves to decide for women and girls what they can or cannot wear in public have orchestrated these attacks.

The attacks are often condoned by quite a large percentage of the public and police officers who appear to be unaware that all human beings are supposed to have the right to choose and express themselves in anyway they wish including in the form of dress.

In most of these cases women are blamed for the attack and seen as having invited such attacks. In this simple instance of dressing if men can decide what women should wear, should or should not the women decide what men should or should not wear? Should anyone be permitted to express his or her opinion about another person or through violent conduct? Is not such behaviour as described above not a sexual offence? Let us go further in giving examples and reconsider the case of a commercial sex worker who reported an attack by a client, she was reported as having called for it and therefore deserving it. In yet another case the popular HIV High Court case of 1999 also raised alarm when Justice Bartlett ruled that for the first time it was possible to have marital rape when a husband was convicted for raping his wife. There was a lot of debate and controversy around the case as the generality of people including some women found it unrealistic to convict a man as having raped his wife.

The Sexual Offences Act

It would be incomplete to talk about Sexual Offences without looking at the legal instrument that is in place. The Sexual Offences Act is a recent invention that replaced the Criminal Law Amendment Act. The Criminal Law Amendment Act was only concerned about sexual offences perpetrated on women and girls from sexual exploitation such as rape. The Act has now broadened the definition of rape as including sexual, homosexual and oral acts. The act also protects boys from sexual predators regardless of whether the culprit is male or female. It has confirmed marital rape and this is progressive particularly given the fact that marital rape is part of the prevalent domestic violence that goes on in the homes.

The act also seeks to curb the spread of HIV AIDS by making it an offence to deliberately transmit HIV. This particular offence is punishable by a minimum of 20 years in prison and can be made to pay a fine of up to fifty thousand dollars (\$50 000) as compensation. The Sexual Offences Act was duplicated from the South African laws and this may become the new position of sub-Saharan sexual offences.

Whilst in general parliament should be applauded for enacting this law there are some flaws within the law. For instance: -

a) For one to be charged of having willfully infected another there is a need to prove willful intention, this burden of proof lies with the victim/rape similar are is on onerous burden.

b) Given the time it may take for one report a case, and for the case to be tried and the accused convicted and then tested for HIV, the results may not indicate one's HIV status as at the date of rape.

c) It does not say what happens to the victim/rape survivor after they have been willfully infected i.e. are there social support structures for these people to be able to live positively.

d) The state and a victim or rape survivor who wishes to claim compensation still needs to institute civil proceedings.

e) There are ethical reasons such as, is not the Act only discriminatory against HIV sexual offenders? What of those other people who may willfully transmit HIV through other means other than the sexual acts e.g. mother to child, blood transfusion, polygamy, young children in marriage in accordance with custom, etc. Yes, about 70% of transmission is through sexual acts, but there is need to enact legislation to deal with the other ways so that any gaps are adequately covered. I am aware that in reconsidering mother to child transmission there is a need to ensure a mother's constitutional right to choosing on whether or not have children.

f) The law does not deal with rape in customary marriages e.g. where young daughters are married off early and thus exposing them to dangers such as HIV. For example the customary practice of *kuzvarira*:

g) HIV offenders will be charged/convicted and sentenced twice given the fact that an order for compensation can be made against them in addition to the rape sentence with a maximum of up to \$20 000.00.

h) In duplicating the South African law, the Zimbabwean law did not go far enough: - The minimum age for one not to give proper legal consent has been set at 16 whereas the legal age of majority act stipulates 18 as the minimum age for one to be able to make decisions about their lives. There is a need to review this age so that it can come in line with the legal age of majority.

i) The law criminalizes prostitutions or commercial sex work and thus does not eradicate prostitution but only pushing it underground.

j) It puts responsibility on the HIV infected not to willingly and intentionally spread the virus, yet it's everybody and every sexual partner's responsibility to ensure that they do not engage in acts that are likely to increase chances of spreading the virus i.e. the act simply says you may be charged for having sexual acts with other people fully knowing you are infected without disclosing so. Consent after full disclosure is a defence.

Given the above scenario, the media has a lot of work to do. It is the media's role to raise societal concerns so that people can discuss these issues with a view to finding solutions. More media work could be done in terms of covering the above. For instance the act should be published a lot, have people discuss about it, identify gaps and suggest the way forward and possible solutions for further law reform. As a short-term measure some people might want to use it but may not be aware of it. It is only the media's responsibility to get the ball rolling.

The way the media reports such matters is also crucial given the fact that these are sensitive issues and victims/survivors of the sexual offences attack may not wish to go public for fear of stigmatisation. There is therefore a need to train media people in how to report these issues without putting to jeopardy the lives of those involved. The law should also go further to rehabilitate the victim/survivor of sexual offences attack. Normally these people may not report because reporting will put them in a worse situation such as, they continue to see their attackers who may stigmatise them further, the society may look down upon them, there may not be economic relief such as assist them with any medical relief, counselling or to link them with potential well wishers and in any case so what? So there you go media people that is a challenge to you. you could help in curbing sexual offences and in providing relief to victims/survivors.

I am aware you may need more training and capacity building in crucial areas as this one.

(Facilitators from Gender Links and IPS together with the panel members divided the participants into three groups to discuss the Sexual Offences Act.)

HIV/AIDS AND GENDER VIOLENCE

THE ZIMBABWEAN MEDIA CONTEXT

By Patience Musanhu

Saf aids

SAfAIDS is a regional HIV/AIDS Information dissemination service based in Zimbabwe. SAfAIDS informs, promotes and supports appropriate responses to the epidemic in the fields of HIV prevention, care, long term planning and coping with the impact of AIDS. Our approach encourages awareness of core issues of poverty, human rights and gender as they relate to the epidemic.

The Media Unit established in 1997

- Works with print and broadcast media and place HIV/AIDS on the public agenda
- Development of innovative media: feature articles, media packs, radio and television programmes
- Participatory training workshops for journalists and editors
- Build the capacity of editors and journalists to improve the communication of current and accurate information on HIV/AIDS throughout the region.

1998-1999 an analysis of 9 Zimbabwean newspapers, showed that coverage of HIV/AIDS information was limited. Of nine newspapers, only one newspaper had an average of one article mentioning HIV/AIDS per edition.

Articles primarily addressed HIV/AIDS as a health issue yet HIV/AIDS has wide socio-economic implications. Therefore, it is important for the media to consider the impact of HIV/AIDS on the social, cultural, economic, and political lives of Zimbabweans.

The media, including issues of gender violence related to HIV, is addressing a diverse range of themes and issues. However, they are not being well explored/ investigated.

- Thematic areas have focused on prevention and awareness, but not so much on **care and support** especially for the infected and affected. Is this because this falls largely in the woman's domain?

Issues:

- Journalists must address some of the **social, cultural, development,** and **economic** issues related to HIV/AIDS
- Social/ how we perceive HIV/AIDS; the fact that men drive the epidemic, but it is largely portrayed as a women's issue; important to address social norms and values, i.e. the role of men and women in response to HIV/AIDS, as care-givers, providers, decisions around having sex, protection, contraception; girl and boy child upbringing and preferences
- Culturally: dry sex, wife inheritance, female genital mutilation, sex as coercion, marital rape, etc all facilitated of HIV; harmless practices that impact on the woman largely because of expectations of the community; these need to be challenged
- Male dominated newsrooms; HIV/AIDS still seen as a 'soft' story, largely written by women, usually relegated to the back pages

- Lead stories always depict disclosures; no men seem to disclose and warrant front-page coverage, why?
- Women always depicted negatively as 'sex queens' or 'ladies of the night'
- Cartoons are seen depicting girls with mini-skirts, accompanied by well dressed men; these women are portrayed as those soliciting for sex, loose standards, etc
- Exploiting images of young girls in the media in a sexually provocative manner. In Zimbabwe, 15-19 year-old girls are five times more likely than boys their own age to be HIV positive. This is because they are having sex with men who are at least five to ten years older than themselves, who are in the higher risk groups for being HIV positive.

Strategies to improve reporting on gender violence and HIV/AIDS

- Develop media standards for reporting on HIV/AIDS in sensitive and non-judgmental manner- write as a professional media practitioner, not in a personal capacity where attitudes and perceptions prevail.
- Information sources must be varied, not only from politicians; seek comment from the wider community, experts in the field, people affected and infected
- The media can build skills and capacity for journalists, editors, producers, AIDS activists, communicators and people working in the field of HIV/AIDS.
- AIDS messages have to be written in simple language and not in jargon.
- Don't overload on statistics; behind every number, there is a real life story to tell
- Avoid sensationalism hype and scare tactics – add a human component to the story
- Give a voice to the voiceless, women, children and youth.
- It is well known that condoms protect against HIV infection, and sexually transmitted diseases and condom promotion is the centerpiece of AIDS prevention programmes around the world. It is important to change the image of condoms so that they symbolize trust and respect.

HIV/AIDS AND GENDER VIOLENCE

Barbara Dembedza

Women Aids Support Unit

Background

Gender violence thrives in cultures and societies where the subjugation and oppression of women or high levels of male dominance is accepted as the norm. Societies have been known to condone violence especially that which is perpetrated against women. Gender violence has been a symptom of an anarchical society and in the majority of cases in societies like this the violation of women has taken a sexual nature, thus predisposing them to HIV infection.

The socialization processes that women/ girls and men go through have led to either increasing or decreasing the vulnerability of women and men to HIV infection. Boy's perceptions of masculinity that define what it is to be a man, instills a sense of being tough and insensitive, a desire to be strong and take up risky behaviors and roles such as being in military service and that also puts them at risk of getting HIV.

Studies have shown that raising up children in an egalitarian society enables them to be more responsible adults as compared to raising up children especially boys in a patriarchal society. A society in which traditional gender roles are encouraged which makes them to be more likely to be violent adults, to rape women or batter their intimate partners and also engaging in high risk sexual behaviors that would lead to them to getting infected and in turn infecting their partners. Masculine behaviors such as consumption of alcohol and drugs put men at great risk of infection.

The kind of choices that the boy child makes in most cases leads to an increase in the levels of violence perpetrated mostly against women even in the home. The high rates of HIV for example among the militia is very common, and in situations of political unrest girls and women are especially more vulnerable to HIV than their male counterparts. In most cases women are raped, forced to exchange sex for money, food and security. Where there is the lack of the rule of law violence against women tends to take various forms and shapes and HIV has helped to exacerbate the problems of women.

The consequences of gender violence are far reaching. Violence impacts on all aspects of one's life, their health, physical and mental well-being as well as the broader society. There are many ways in which violence can perpetuate itself e.g. it sustained by inequality and it in turn perpetuates inequality. The gender dimensions to HIV/AIDS call for the need to analyze the violence associated to the societal expectations of either being male or female.

Unpacking the common links between gender violence and HIV/AIDS

Power relations:

The link between gender violence and power relations in any given scenario is so conspicuous and cannot be overemphasized. The abuse of women has so much been linked to their inferior status as compared to men and their being viewed as the weaker sex.

In most cases this has resulted in women being physically abused and then forced to have sex against their will, even in marriage, being raped outside marriage or being given away in marriage. Espousal to this is the whole physiology of forced sex vis-à-vis HIV transmission. The obvious cracking, that is a result of forced sex has seen most women getting infected during such acts of violence.

Condom negotiation:

The gender power imbalances that have existed in most relationships have left most women unable to negotiate for safe sex even in a marriage. Most women's vulnerability to infection has been worsened by their failure to say no to unprotected sex. On its own unprotected sex whether forced or consensual is a form of violence perpetrated on women, which does not only leave them at a heightened risk of infection but also makes them suffer a lot of trauma.

Religion :

Societies have been seen to hide under the guise of religion to condone and accept violence seeing it as natural, inevitable and a given. Most women have suffered abuse but have been tolerant and have suffered silently because religion has taught them to learn in silence. HIV/AIDS cases have been found amongst the church folk and some of it gotten through violent acts such as forced marriage. This though is mostly practiced on the girl child who is rarely given the chance to say no.

Sex by coercion :

This is a common practice especially where there is the whole issue of lobola. Most men feel justified to coerce women into sex regardless of whether there is risk of infection or not. Also for some women lobola in itself is enough for them to justify coerced sex. The girl child has been made more vulnerable due to society's belief that she cannot express any sexual feelings neither can she make any decisions about her reproductive health.

What are some of the health consequences of gender based violence.

Physical health consequences

- STDs
- Injury
- Unwanted pregnancies
- Miscarriage
- Chronic pelvic pain
- Headaches
- Gynecological problems
- Alcohol/drug abuse
- Injurious health behaviors such as smoking, unprotected sex)

Psychological or mental health outcomes

- Post traumatic stress disorder
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Sexual dysfunction
- Eating disorders
- Multiple personalities

Fatal outcomes

- HIV/AIDS
- Suicide
- Homicide

Conceptual model on the link between gender violence and HIV/AIDS

Violence perpetrated against women and girls
(sexual)

Gender Links and IPS facilitated group discussions based on the training manual. This was followed by the screening of the video on Sexual Harassment prepared by the Sexual Harassment Education Programme in Johannesburg.

DAY THREE

Participants went on various field exercises. The issues explored included:

- MUSASA shelter;
- YWCA shelter;
- Gender violence and elections;
- HIV/Aids and gender violence;
- Sexual Offences Act;

- Property Grabbing;
- The role of men; and
- The role of the media.

THE ROLE OF MEN IN COMBATING GENDER VIOLENCE

**Nixon Nyikadzino
Padare**

Gender violence cannot be fully defined without firstly giving a definition to the word gender itself. Whilst people may attempt to define gender according to biological differences that exist between women and men, it becomes apparently clear that such a definition falls short of what this word really means. This is not because people are born with female bodies and male bodies but it is because of how they learn to be women or men. It is this learning process that we refer to as gender. As people grow up, they are taught what behaviors/attitudes and roles they are expected of as girls and boys and eventually such roles are manifested in their adult lives. Ultimately our biological differences cannot be used to justify the dominance of men. Men cannot expect to dominate simply because they have a penis.

It is from the above definition of gender that one can start to understand the kind of violence we often encounter in this country, regionally and internationally. Men have been the perpetrators of gender violence, which ranges from marital rape, psychological torture, and physical violence to impoverishment. It is because of the upbringing process that men justify gender violence. Gender based violence lies in the unequal relationship between men and women based on stereotypes of the male as privileged and powerful, the female as inferior and submissive. All too many men, prompted by their sense of what is masculine, use violence and intimidation to keep women and girls 'in their place'- a submissive one.

This kind of portrayal of men leaves them with no option other than of taking a leading role in making sure that gender-based violence comes to an end. Men have to prove that they can change and can make a difference. By playing an important role in combating gender violence men can prove and destroy the myth that men are associated with violence. Any effort they put at eradicating any form of violence e.g. gender violence will help men become a better species on earth and one that can be accepted cordially by the female species.

Combating gender violence

In general, in order to combat gender violence, it is necessary to challenge the very narrow stereotype of masculinity wherever it is found and the related norms. It is also important to socialise boys for equality, ending discrimination by gender from the earliest age onwards, if gender violence is to end and human rights are to be fulfilled. It is also important to do this to female children as this issue of equality and non-

discrimination should be done encompassing all sexes. Revolutionising attitudes and behaviors as well, as in the nature of institutions can also help end gender violence.

Working with men and boys to question the idea and practice of automatic male power and privilege based on gender definitions is essential. Considering this background, the Gender, Partnerships and Participation Section of UNICEF Programme Division started work in 2000 to identify groups working with men and boys to stop various forms of violence against women and girls, and to question the stereotypic gender roles and the relationships that lie behind such violence, along with discrimination on the basis of gender. To date some 60 organisations have been identified, in almost 28 countries, most in the developing world, with at least one organisation located in each region. There are only five such organisations in Africa, and Southern Africa carries the bulk of these- one in Zimbabwe, one in SA and another one in Namibia. In Zimbabwe, Padare - Men's Forum on Gender is the sole organisation that is involved in activities meant to end or combat gender violence. One believes that the role of men in combating gender violence can only be seen in the light of such organisations like Padare.

The role of men and activities/programmes for combating gender violence

- In its endeavor to combat gender violence Padare -Men's forum on gender has put in place a lot of programmes that have been targeted at conscientising men and boys on the need to end gender violence.
- A football team is already in place and the team is mainly involved in the socialising way of disseminating information. Men and boys meet and play football with a Padare team and during half time and at the end of the match pamphlets are distributed to spectators and even to the other team. All those interested to find out more about Padare and its objectives register and members make a follow up by calling for meetings within those visited areas.
- During these meetings men are given the opportunity to say out what they understand about Padare and its objectives. Men are then given an outline of what Padare stands for. Problems such as Gender violence are deliberated on and those who would have encountered it, speak out.
- Padare then sets up a committee that will then go and talk to the perpetrators of violence.
- The committee also works on rehabilitation of perpetrators.
- Padare has also been involved in the creation of groups of professionals such as doctors, engineers and social workers - who can become involved against gender violence in the course of their professional duties.

Eye-catching and clear mottos and messages have also been developed. Examples are:

- "Men of quality are not afraid of equality", and
- "Real men do not abuse women".

These messages have been placed in newspapers and in magazines. T-shirts have been printed and distributed during outreach programmes.

Outreach programmes have been implemented. Such programmes normally take place in Beerhalls, nightclubs, and schools and at any other social gatherings.

Schools are visited and through its human resource base such schoolboys are taught on themes such as masculinity, men and HIV/AIDS, men and sexuality, Men and Religion, Men and Violence etc.

Padare also networks with several organisations and shares it's funding with such other men and boys' groups (women groups included).

Padare participates in other regional and international events e.g. 16 Days of Activism against Gender violence and the International Women's Day. Such participation enables Padare to encourage other men to join such events and hear the reality about gender violence and its effect towards women.

Conclusion

Whilst men have a role to play on combating gender violence, women need to support these men. There should be a conducive environment for the empowerment of women and men working jointly to prevent gender-based violence. There should be better organisational capacities within communities and government to ensure that combating gender violence becomes a success. The government of the day must give support in good faith either in cash or in kind so that it becomes a national issue. This way many men will be encouraged to join in the march towards the eradication of gender violence.

DAY FOUR

Participants were tasked with writing stories in a gender sensitive manner that were featured in The Daily News. Facilitators from Gender Links and IPS assisted them.

DAY FIVE

Following a critique of the supplement, participants committed to submit two assignments each as per course requirements.

CLOSURE

Farai Samhungu thanked the facilitators, participants and organizers of the workshop.

EVALUATION

Participants filled out an evaluation form. An analysis of these is attached at *Annex E*.

ANNEX A: PARTICIPANTS

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**ANNEX B:
EDITORS' LUNCHEON ATTENDANCE LIST**

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ANNEX C: PROGRAMME

TIME	EVENT	WHO INVOLVED
DAY ONE	MONDAY 28 JANUARY	
8.30-9.00	Opening	Farai Samhungu, IPS
9.00-9.30	Introduction and icebreaker	Tafadzwa Mumba, IPS
9.30-10.30	What is gender equality ? Why is it important to the media	CLM
10.30-11.00	TEA	
11.00-12.00	Sharing of examples of coverage of gender violence in the Zimbabwean media	ALL participants Ruth Ayisi, GL Memory Dete FAMWZ
12.00-13.00	Coverage of gender violence in the SADC context	CLM
13.00-14.00	LUNCH	
14.00-15.00	Gender violence and politics	Women in Parliamentary Support Unit - Everjoice Win
15.00-15.30	TEA	
15.30-17.00	PANEL: Property grabbing	Video, Neria
DAY TWO	TUESDAY 28 JANUARY	
8.30-9.00	Eyes and ears; recap	CLM
9.00-10.00	Sexual offenses	PADARE Nixon Nyikadzino Working Group on Gender Politics Maia Chenux-Repond Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association Violet Mutyamaenza
10.00-10.30	Group discussions based on training manual	GL/IPS Facilitators
10.30-11.00	TEA	
12.30-13.00	Group discussions based on training manual	GL/IPS Facilitators
13.00-14.00	LUNCH	
14.00-15.00	HIV AIDS and Gender violence	SAFAIDS Patience Musanhu WASN Barbara Dembedza
15.00-15.30	Group discussion based on training manual	GL/IPS Facilitators
15.30-16.00	TEA	
16.00-17.00	Sexual harassment video	GL
DAY THREE	WEDNESDAY 30 JANUARY	

8.30-13.30	<p align="center">FIELD EXERCISES</p> <p>The MUSASA Project: Possible visit - home for battered women. Will only become clear towards the middle on next month. They will organize for examples of women who have come from a background of abuse by men/partners who are in their programs to talk to the participants of the workshop.</p> <p>YWCA - Visit a home for Women living with HIV/Aid Marondera, Harare</p>	<p>The MUSASA Project Director Sheile Mahere</p> <p>YWCA Deputy Director Barbara Masango</p>
13.30-14.30	LUNCH	
15.00-16.00	The role of men in combating gender violence	PADARE Nixon Nyikadzino
16.00-16.15	TEA	
16.15-17.00	Group discussion based on manual	GL/IPS Facilitators
DAY FOUR	THURSDAY 31 JANUARY	
8.30-16.00	WRITING, PRODUCTION AND EDITING STORIES & RADIO PROGRAMME	IPS/GL
DAY FIVE	1 FEBRUARY 2002	
8.30-9.00	Eyes and ears, recap	GL/IPS
9.00-11.00	Feedback on stories	ALL participants
11.00-11.30	TEA	
11.30-12.30	CLOSURE	Farai Samhungu, IPS
12.30-13.00	Lunch	

ANNEX D: STORIES

Survivor overcomes domestic violence Margaret Chinowaita

HARARE – The last straw for Sarudzayi Mwarowa was when her husband drew a knife on her. Recalling the events of January 23, 2000, a strong-willed Mwarowa says, “My husband threatened to kill us (she and her children) with a knife. As he did so, he threw all our belongings out of the house. It was at that point that I decided to walk out of the marriage.”

Mwarowa, a 34-year-old mother of two, admits that it was a difficult decision given the cultural expectation that abused women should persevere through hardships. But she has not looked back since that day. “I now have peace of mind and can sleep the whole night through. When I was being abused I would be up at 11 at night and I would not be able to sleep until 5 o’clock in the morning. Furthermore, I am now able to feed and clothe my family.” Mwarowa is just one of thousands of women who suffer violence at the hands of their loved ones. In 2001 alone 2,713 women sought assistance from Musasa Project, a local organization working with abused women. This compares with 2, 251 women in 2000.

Mwarowa’s marriage was stable until she was five months pregnant. While in the past she and her husband visited the family doctor together, she discovered that recently he had been consulting the doctor alone. It was during one of her maternity check-ups that the doctor told her that her husband had visited him secretly to treat a sexually transmitted disease (STD). The doctor had advised him to bring his wife for treatment too. However, Mwarowa’s husband had not told her this.

“I was five months pregnant when I found out that he had an STD. I didn’t want to contract the STD so I decided not to have sex with my husband.” That is when the abuse started. “My husband started beating me up while I was pregnant. I was battered everyday on every part of my body. Sometimes he would come home just to beat me. Then he would leave. He would beat me in front of the children. The beating resulted in the breaking of some of my front teeth and affected some of the nerves in my left eye, discolouring it,” says Mwarowa.

As he beat her he would call her a prostitute, accusing her of refusing to sleep with her because she was having love affairs with the builders extending their family home in Tynwald, a low-density suburb on the Southern part of Harare. Asked why she did not leave him, she says she had nowhere to go. “My parents are deceased and my close relatives did not want to help me.”

Mwarowa said one day her husband came and pointed a gun at her saying he wanted to shoot her. “It was so scary because he had threatened to kill me before. I ran from the kitchen to the bedroom where I picked up my two month-old baby and lay on the bed waiting for him to shoot me.” The builders at her house came to her rescue after hearing her screams.

There was a time when Mwarowa had thought about committing suicide and killing her two children. But she later visited Musasa Project where she received counseling and she joined a women support group. Although Mwarowa left the marriage with nothing but a few clothes and a blanket, she has managed to overcome the trauma and rebuild her life with her two children. With just \$50, she began selling vegetables in her neighbourhood. She also did laundry for people.

"It was difficult but there was nothing else I could do. I had to raise money for me and my children to survive."

However, when she joined a support group for people with HIV/AIDS, Mwarowa benefited from a fund for women survivors of domestic violence offered by an international NGO through Musasa Project. The money was used to help care for their children and to buy clothes and shoes for resale in Chimanimani.

Noting her determination, the staff of Musasa Project also employed her services twice a week to prepare tea and do various odd jobs. They now employ her full time at the Musasa Project Shelter for abused women. The Acting Programme Officer for counselling and Shelter Services at Musasa Project, Sylvia Mbundire, said more women were now aware of the existence of their organisation. Mwarowa says she is now better prepared to work for a future for her and her children. "I used to have to ask for money from my husband and I would only get it after being scolded. Now I want to make my own money and own my own property using my hands."

Presidential election – no women in contest By Columbus Mavhunga

Zimbabweans go to the polls March 9 and 10 to elect their president for the six years but no woman is contesting. Since independence in 1980 only one woman, Margaret Dongo, promised to challenge President Robert Mugabe. Dongo who formed a political party –Zimbabwe Union of Democrats (ZUD) – but she was defeated in the 2000 parliamentary polls. She is now studying abroad.

"The situation is different from that of Zambia, where in the last year's presidential election two women stood as candidates", commented Priscilla Misihairambwi-Mushonga a local MP and a gender activist, who was part of the defunct ZUD. Misihairambwi-Mushonga added that although she would like to see a woman contesting for the presidency in March, violence over the past two years and the economic situation has left many women home-bound. "Even in Parliament we have since stopped to raise gender issues until we have addressed the issue of bread and butter and people's security. "How can you campaign when some of your children have been displaced and the ones you have are hungry?"

"At the moment Zimbabweans are grouped into two camps," she said. "There are those who want to maintain the status quo and those who want change. After the change, that is when we can talk of gender issues. We cannot raise them now because people will laugh at you." Amani-Trust a local non-governmental organization which assists

survivors of political violence, said of the 592 people who had sought 'shelter' only 131 were women.

"The figures must not mislead people," said Joseph Mhetura, the Amani Trust advocacy officer. "Research has shown that women are the easiest targets of political violence but because of their resilience they remain at home and look after whatever is there."

Mhetura gave the example of a 69-year old woman in Bikita who told her family to flee their home when political violence erupted in her area. "She opted to remain behind and look after their animals and the home." He did not agree with Misihairambwi-Mushonga on why women do not get top political posts. "Women are very much involved in politics, and violence will not deter them. "They also take part in the organisation of violence and torturing, however not to the extent of men. If violence had any bearing on the political career of women, they would not have taken part in the liberation struggle of this country."

Cabinet ministers like Joyce Mujuru, Shuvai Mahova, Oppah Muchinguri, and Olivia Muchena and the former minister, Thenjiwe Lisabe, are just some of the women who took part in the liberation struggle. And Mbuya Nehada was influential in the first Chimurenga of the 1890s. Her spirit was said to have inspired nationalists in the 1960s to take up arms and fight against the colonial rule.

Ever heard of the Sexual Offences Act? Staff reporters

In August last year, Zimbabwe passed a progressive piece of legislation that should help combat gender violence and the spread of the deadly HIV virus. Yet no test cases have been taken up using this far-reaching piece of legislation. And according to a snap survey conducted by Gender Links, not many people know about it.

Among key provisions of the Sexual Offences Act are stiff sentences for:

- Extra marital sexual intercourse with young persons and the intellectually handicapped;
- Non-consensual sexual acts, whether one is married or not;
- Commercial sex trafficking and the
- Deliberate transmission of HIV/AIDS.

Beatrice Pilime, who teaches English for foreigners, said she knew that if a person abuses a child or commits any other sexual offence it should be reported immediately. But she did not know about the existence of this Act. "I have not time to read the newspaper and I can't afford it." She observed. "I think such pieces of legislation should be flighted in the electronic media as an advert so that even if one does not want to pay attention they are forced to do so." Pilime said the many people watched television when they were relaxing at home. She also suggested that if pamphlets and posters were reduced and distributed in places such as clinics and churches.

Two Harare women, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said posters and traditional leaders should be involved in public awareness campaigns on important pieces of

legislation of this nature. However, they were not really sure if they would press rape charges against their husbands. "I think it is something that the couple should just discuss and reach a compromise," said one of them. "In any case why should I refuse to have sex with someone who married me."

A Harare man said: "Maybe I will only be affected if my daughter is raped. As an individual I don't see how this law is going to apply to me that's why I am not concerned about it." He said he is a man and nobody would rape him. And there would no way his wife could press rape charges against him because she would be afraid to lose a breadwinner in the family.

Town Mpesa of Dzivarasekwa, who also said that this was the first time he was hearing of the Act, said he always got home late and he had no time to listen to the news. He agreed that a public awareness campaign should be launched on the provisions of the act. Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Patrick Chinamasa conceded that "making the law accessible to the people is a big challenge." Citing the lack of resources as the major constraint. He gave the example of the public awareness campaign around the Wills and Inheritance programme that cost the ministry and other interested parties more than Z\$ 100 million.

The Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association, the Federation of African Media Women (FAMWZ), Women in Law Southern Africa (WILSA) have organised a number of forum to discuss the act and related issues. "We run a community legal education programme in a number of areas in the country," ZWLA legal programme officer, Violet Mutyamaenza said, adding that the emphasis is on the marriage laws in Zimbabwe. Mutyamaenza lamented that government is most of the burden of legal education on non-governmental organisations. Another concern is that sexual offenses are currently being treated within the broad spectrum of crime, and insufficient resources have been made available for the Victim Friendly Units, established in 1997 to help redress sexual offenses. The ZRP aims to ensure that each station has a Victim Friendly officer to deal with sexual offences and the unit is structured in such a way that there is a gender balance within it.

Mbare Police Station has pioneered this and other stations may follow eventually, but a snap survey found that they still do not exist in many localities. At present no special training is given to those officers who join the unit although they sometimes attend seminars organized by NGO's.

Gender violence spreads HIV/Aids By Caroline Gwature

Many married women live in fear of their husbands who continue to have extra marital affairs and become violent when condom use is suggested. Organisations say a strong link exists between the transmission of HIV/AIDS and gender violence. Besides their lack of power, women and girls are more vulnerable to HIV infection due to their biological makeup.

Musasa Project National Director, Sheila Mahere, said a recent study they conducted in Zimbabwe revealed that men used lobola to regard their wives as commodities, which they can do anything with, and most women aimed at satisfying their husbands and boyfriends at the expense of their own well-being.

"Some women endure the pain of dry sex, rape, and abuse by their spouses because they want to please them and in most cases they depend on them economically," she said. "This does not mean that the "Borrowdale" wineb (the rich ones) are immune to the problem." The study showed that even the financially stable and educated women who were aware of their legal rights were afraid of facing the "shame" and humiliation they would go through if they decided to end abusive relationships.

The Sexual Offences Act – passed through parliament August last year- has made a provision to protect spouses from violence, but to date, there is no record of any woman exercising her rights under this law. The law poses fines and up to 20 years imprisonment if a spouse rapes his partner and infects him or her with HIV/AIDS. Although there is heavy emphasis on consent in the Act because of the way women have been socialized, they still find it difficult to negotiate for condom use, or to say no when they do not want to have sex.

Mary (not her real name) from Chivhu and is living positively with the virus said it was unheard of to refuse to have sex with your husband. " My husband who died in 1993 was a trucker and I knew that he was being promiscuous, but I could not even think about asking him to use a condom," she said. "He used to beat me up when he came home after several months because I would have asked him where he had been."

Mary said that women in the rural areas are especially vulnerable. They were abused by their husbands and church elders, particularly those of the Apostolic Faith sect, who were marry several wives and transmit the virus in the process.

Health and Child Welfare Deputy Minister, David Parirenyatwa said government was fully aware of the strong link between the spread of HIV/Aids and violence, especially within families. "It is of major concern to government and even the private sector to realise that most of cases of violence in the home goes unreported because some still consider sex matters as very private which should not be discussed at all. Through the National Aids Council, the Government has set up a committee, which will come into operation soon to look into family issues in relation to HIV/AIDS.

HIV and positive By Tambudzai Zindi

Gradually Zimbabwean women living with HIV/AIDS are organizing themselves to overcome some of the problems they face. One example is 31-year old Susan Chipfidza who formed a self-support grouping 1998 when her husband shunned her after she told him about her HIV positive status. "My child's continuous illness forced me to get tested. When the results came out positive, I told my husband, but he chased me away saying it was my problem," said Chipfidza, whose name has been changed to protect her.

Due to lack of effective counseling, Chipfidza, who was employed as a housemaid, said she would have killed herself if it had not been for her employer who told her there was still hope. "My employer drove me to Harare to show many homes where people living with HIV/AIDS were doing well and had come to terms with their condition. "It was at that moment that I realized there is more to my life and I decided to form the group," said Chipfidza.

Since forming the group, Chipfidza has not suffered from depression and her five-year old son is doing well. The members preferred not to have the name of their group and address printed in the newspaper. The aim of Chipfidza's group, which now has 40 members, is to find ways to live positively with HIV and to learn income-generating activities. The members also enjoy other activities, including gardening, art and craft, and they are offered professional and peer counseling services.

Dr. Portia Manangazira, another founding member, said the group, which consists of poor urban women, has a limited impact due to lack of funds. They need money to kick-start the income-generating projects. "We lost six of our members last year because of neglect and malnutrition, not because of their HIV status." However, they received \$80 000 last year from the Dairy board Soccer League, which they used to set up a kitchen. Now at the least the members, who range from 13 to 60 years, can learn how to cook without spending too much money.

No place to call home By Never Gadaga

Simangaliso Simbarashe had the shock of her life when her husband and his second wife sold the family home in Kambuzuma without her knowledge and approval last week. Sobbing and weeping, Simbarashe told how the two have since left, and settled at their family home in Gandanzara communal land, south-east of Zimbabwe.

She said: "I have been his customary law wife for the past 29 years. Simbarashe had been living with his girl friend in Mufakose for the past nine years. He later married the girlfriend at civil law at the Harare Magistrates Court three year ago. I am an informal worker and, with my family of five, I live off earnings from the sale of green vegetables. Oh! My God! Where am I going to stay with all these children? What about their school fees, uniforms and food?"

Efforts to contact the Simbarashe's husband proved unsuccessful. Simbarashe is now living in a makeshift structure near her husband's Gandanzara home.

The Director of the Zimbabwe Human Rights Association, Mr Munyaradzi Bidi, said: "Even at customary law, one wouldn't walk off one's family home in such controversial circumstances. Of course, as a human rights organization we appreciate the passing of the Legal Age of Majority Act as the voice of women. Now that the Inheritance Act has come into law, those who commit such offences should be prosecuted at law."

Bidi said his organisation's legal desk has handled numerous cases of property grabbing by fugitive husbands. At court, the organisation's experience has been that the majority

of women falling under customary law have not been able to recover all the family property. Women married at general or civil law have been given absolute recognition as the heirs of their husbands' estate.

Yet provisions in the Legal Age of Majority Act are that for purposes of legal personality, both men and women at customary and civil law marriage are equal before the law. Bidi questioned the constitutionality of the dual laws, particularly where the constitution of Zimbabwe says that for purposes of legal personality there shall be "no discrimination based on sex."

Wife Reveals Why She Won't Use the Sexual Offence Act By Ruth Ansah Ayisi

When thirty-six year-old Grace Moyo "tried to introduce condoms" to her husband, he got angry and raped her.

"He said that Zimbabwean men don't use condoms with someone they marry. I couldn't make a noise because the children were sleeping next door and I didn't want to wake them up. But it was terrible," said Moyo, who did not want her real name used.

Besides the trauma of the rape, Moyo, a mother of four children and a secretary by profession, suspects that her husband infected her with the HIV virus. Although her husband has never told Moyo whether he has tested HIV positive, he has suffered from tuberculosis, severe diarrhoea, boils and skin rashes, as well as ailments associated with full blown AIDS. "Maybe he has tested privately," said Moyo, in a matter of fact way. "I suspect he has AIDS."

Moyo tried to negotiate condom use at least six years ago when her husband had an extra marital affair. "He would leave the house on Friday evening and I would see him only on Monday when he came home to dress for work. He had rented a flat for his girlfriend, who was a college student. Sometimes I would see him shopping with the girl."

Under the Sexual Offences Act, passed in Zimbabwe last year, a man who rapes his wife and furthermore knowingly infects her with the HIV virus can receive a fine of \$50,000 Zimbabwe dollars or up to 20 years in prison. Marital rape on its own is punishable by a ten-year jail term.

Although Moyo is fully informed about the Act, she said that she could not use it against her husband. "If he goes to jail, it is like both of us are jailed. For about three quarters of the time I am very miserable with him, but I can be shocked by the amount of love he shows me the rest of the time. Besides I'm now unemployed because my husband made me give up my job and I don't want to disturb my children. It really isn't our culture to take our husbands to court. His relatives would be angry. They could try to fix me through my children."

Violet Mutyamaenza of the Zimbabwe Women's Lawyer Association concedes that although the Sexual Offences Act is a major breakthrough, there is still a long way to go

before women will fully benefit from it. The media, NGOs and other organisations need to raise awareness about the Act among the public and even among the law enforcement agencies.

Women, she said, are reluctant to report rape within marriage and it is difficult to prove. Yet marital rape is believed to be widespread and also a frequent way in which married women become infected with HIV. Due to their lack of power in a relationship and to their biological make up, women are more vulnerable to infection than men. One in four adult Zimbabweans is HIV positive, and the majority of these are women.

Doctor Portia Manangazira, who has specialised in HIV/AIDS since 1992 also regularly, counsels women living with HIV/AIDS. "They give me lots of stories of abuse. In Zimbabwe, we women are brought up to be good wives and to preserve our marriages. They have very sad stories, but some of the women are very strong."

One such strong woman is Moyo, said the doctor. She consels Moyo and has encouraged her to get involved in different activities. "She is very energetic."

Moyo has learnt some income-generating activities, like tie and dye. On the day of the interview she was smartly dressed in one of the tie and dye suits that she had made.

She has also learnt bookkeeping and how to care for people living with HIV/AIDS and has finally managed to persuade her husband to use condoms.

"My main problem now is money, " said Moyo. "My husband is drunk everyday and he comes home late. I had hoped to provide everything for my children, but now I have to ask my mother or brother for money."

Moyo plans to get tested for HIV soon. She is also worried about the status of her youngest daughter, who is three years old. "I'm hoping she will be OK, but I don't know."

Men urged to join the fight against violence **By Darlington Nyakupinda**

Although gender violence can be perpetrated by men or by women, statistics show that by far the largest number of cases concern violence against women by men. According to Nixon Nyikadzino, the Information and Publicity Secretary of Padare, this is why men need to be on the frontline of "making sure that gender-based violence comes to an end".

He believes that "by playing an important role in combating gender violence men can prove and destroy the myth that men are associated with violence. Any effort they put into eradicating any form of violence will help men become a better species on earth."

The role of men in combating gender violence in Zimbabwe has largely been ignored or side stepped by non-governmental organisations dealing with issues of gender violence. Established in 1995 to quell violence against women in all its physical and non- physical

forms, Padare is a notable exception. The Harare-based NGO supports men who wish to change; encourages and facilitates the formation of affiliated forums throughout the country; seeks to create an enabling environment for women to participate fully at all levels in our society and challenges sexist thinking through a discussion forum for men.

In its efforts to recruit young boys and men to the cause, Padare runs several out-reach programmes which include a football team that goes into the community playing matches with men and during the half time distributes pamphlets to spectators, encouraging them to register. Padare has a committee that goes into the community and talks to the perpetrators of violence with the aim of rehabilitating them.

The men's organisation also has outreach programmes at beer halls where gender violence is debated. At schools, Padare raises awareness on gender violence through eye-catching mottos and slogans used on t-shirts and posters, like "Men of Quality are Not Afraid of Equality" and "Real Men do not Abuse Women."

From an initial base of 1000 members, Padare has seen its membership grow about 15% every year. But there is a backlash in some quarters. According to Dr Joseph Francis, a lecturer with The Zimbabwean Open University, most men feel that their power and authority is challenged and their rights are encroached by such movements.

He added that most men see women's organisations as confrontational and one sided. Francis contended that "most women who lead these organisations are single mothers and divorced women who are deemed to have failed marriages and they tend to have a personal agenda."

Sekai Chanota, a secretary in Harare, said that men should be counselled, preferably at their work place, so that they can understand their role in reducing gender violence. She also called for the law to take its course in cases of gender violence, though she added that most women do not report these cases to avoid the break up of their marriages and to protect their children.

Time to take a stand on gender violence By Clever Maputseni

The Federation of African Media Women in Zimbabwe (FAMWZ) has called on media institutions to redress gender imbalances in all their structures, programmes and reporting. "This will motivate their readers to take positive actions and decisions to curb gender violence," according to a FAMWZ paper presented at the Gender Links and IPS workshop on reporting gender violence last week.

Zimbabwe Mirror news editor and MISA-Zimbabwe vice-chairperson, Wallace Chuma, echoed similar sentiments. In a telephone interview Chuma said, "The media can play a vital role in abating and stopping gender violence by exposing the perpetrators to the public."

"Many gender violence court cases have come out in the media and the Mirror gives space to such cases too," reflects Chuma. "However, there is a preoccupation with

political issues in most media, which are thought to sell better than gender violence issues...but gender violence stories can also sell if only journalists are trained to package them in a manner that enhances interesting and informative reading.”

An unpublished research paper on coverage of gender violence in the Zimbabwe media says that the reportage of gender violence in the broadcast media is mainly based on ministerial statements. The report concludes that there is need for careful analysis of gender violence as a social problem and a threat to human rights and development.

FAMWZ implores the media to educate society about women and their contribution to national development. Chuma said the media has a duty to educate people on what gender violence means and to proffer solutions.

Language, circulation and the cost of newspapers limit the role of the media in fighting gender violence. All except two of the newspapers in the country are predominantly published in English and are urban based. It costs Z\$40 on average to buy a newspaper, excluding the majority of people in the rural areas.

According to Gervas Chitewe, Editor of Kwaedza, “we publish in the local Shona language so we can get to a wider readership that accommodates those people non-literate in English. The paper reaches the rural growth points. It’s also getting popular with school children, which cultivates a reading culture at a tender age. The children get to read gender issues and grow with that awareness.”

A 38-year-old housewife from Harare’s Highfields suburb, Mrs. Ivy Tazvitya lamented the failure by the media to educate women on inheritance laws. “We don’t know what to do in the event of being widowed...besides the media are not really investigating inheritance anomalies. Many cases go unreported especially in the rural areas.”

Time for the media to act on gender violence By Last Moyo

The workshop on ‘Reporting Gender Violence’ in Harare last week has come and gone. What remains is for all the media in Zimbabwe to take an audit of how they have been portraying women.

It is no secret that the coverage of women in our media is horrifying. The images of women we see on our television screens and newspapers range from the harrowing to the horrendous. Women are portrayed as sex objects, contented housewives, dutiful secretaries and worst of all, prostitutes. These stereotypes are the worst form of violence on women even as they leave no scars on their bodies.

It is unfortunate that the advertising industry and the film industry were not represented at the workshop convened by Gender Links and Inter Press Service, as gender stereotypes are often even more perverse in adverts than in mainstream journalism. In advertising the woman figure has been commodified and her sexuality used to market

and promote capitalist goods through the undignified and offensive exposure of her erotic features.

This ranks as violence of the highest order, and yet it continues as a natural and commonsensical way of depicting women in the media. Of note here is the fact that as the dignity and value of women goes down, the value of the goods they are advertising goes up. But this is what one can expect in a men's world, men's television and men's newspapers.

The stereotyping of women has one great aim- to legitimize their exploitation and oppression. Like racism, it is a form of psychological violence that seeks to alienate, segregate and dominate women to keep them in the fringes of politics and power. The sum total of this is reducing their access to privilege and opportunities compared to their male counterparts. In pursuit of the sensational, the media often downplays women's contribution to the economy as directors, managers, accountants, engineers, and at times investors.

Globalization, regardless of increasing interaction between people and nations, has further entrenched these divisions through old stereotypes in new media. It is indeed, a case of old wine in new bottles!

The media is a cultural, political and economic space through which women must exercise their right to define themselves- just as men do. Through the media, women should be able to project their sensibilities, goals and ambitions. They must be able to claim all their rights, including the right to respect and dignity, regardless of whether the writer of a story is male or female.

This is only possible in newsrooms that have a serious gender policy including both employment policy, and the nature and level of coverage of women's issues. A shift of paradigm in terms of news values, language, and the perception of women are long overdue in the media. The role of the media as an agent of socialization cannot be overemphasized. Women's issues need to be accorded the level of importance they deserve.

Gender violence must not be relegated to the back pages of newspapers. It is sad comment that the Sexual Offenses Act passed late last year has barely received any attention from the media, judging by the very low awareness of the law by the public.

It is against this background that we sound the siren for the local media to rededicate themselves in informing and educating people about gender issues so as to transform Zimbabwe to a land in which men *and* women are free to realize their human potential.

ANNEX E: EVALUATION

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

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

COMMENTS

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

- 1= Gender and politics
- 3= Found the Sexual Offenses presentations as most useful.
- 8= Field work together with writing of stories because it was practical implementation of what had been learned in the classroom.

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

- 1= WIPSU presentation was abstract.
- 1= Indoor sessions.
- 1= Group discussions were not properly executed.
- 2= Field visits due to unavailability of persons to be interviewed and no lunch arrangements had been made.

3. Suggestions for online training.

- Involve journalists from other countries so that we can exchange ideas and views.
- The use of yahoo groups.
- Discussions on strategies for dealing with police and medical practitioners during investigations.

4. Suggestions for making workshops of this nature more effective in future.

- Invite expert scholars, researchers or trainers in the media and social sciences.
- Increase duration of the workshop.
- Have more field visits.
- Increase the number of male participants and encourage them to go on the field visits so that they can be equipped to cover gender stories.
- Have workshop far from newsrooms.

5. Any other comments?

- Invite law enforcement agencies so that they can be educated on laws that affect women.
- It was professionally organized.
- The workshop was very good and educative.