

Gender Justice

By Mercy Machisa ~ GBV Indicators Research Manager



Women participating in Sixteen Days March against GBV in Nata in 2010.

Photo: Vincent Galathwe



"Thank you for granting me an opportunity to be part of the delegation to the Gender Links Gender Justice and Local Government Summit this year. I do not only feel great to have been part of it but I feel honoured to have had been recognised as a contributor empowering women and reducing GBV, not only in my country but the SADC region too.

I will endeavour to add to the dream of Gender Links and my country Zambia, therefore commit, and avail myself to everyone who would like to work with me and my organisation in "halving" the levels of GBV by 2015 and even after. If I were to borrow the words of GL CEO Colleen Lowe Morna. If Gender Links will be there even after 2015, I will be there too!"

Mercy Zulu, *Life Line Zambia*, April 2012

Read more on:

http://www.genderlinks.org.za/attachment.php?aa_id=12946

Gender Justice Report Card

Sub programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender Based Violence Indicators Project Sixteen Days of Activism 														
No of Events	Country	Bots	DRC	Les	Mad	Mal	Mau	Moz	Nam	SA	Swa	Zam	Zim	Regional	Total
	No	2		8	7		6		8	13	4	4	2	8	62
No of beneficiaries and budget	MALE			FEMALE				TOTAL			BUDGET				
	620			1372				1992			R3 906 619				
How rated by beneficiaries in evaluations - average scores	Content	Design	Documentation	Facilitation	Group work	Outputs	Outcomes	Learning	Networking	Admin					
	86%	87%	88%	96%	84%	84%	82%	89%	84%	84%					
Outputs	Reports		Fact sheets		Action plans		"I" Stories		Books						
	5		10		23		100		Two - The War@Home - GBV Indicators Study in Gauteng and Botswana						
Outreach	Website hits				Media mentions				No of MOUs with partners						
	382,558				112				2						
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of the first comprehensive set of indicators for measuring GBV; testing these in South Africa, Botswana and Mauritius. High level political buy in for using the indicators to strengthen 365 Day National Action Plans to End Gender Violence - for example cabinet directive in Botswana; direct action by the Prime Minister in Mauritius, and GL asked to sit on the newly created GBV Council in South Africa. Strengthening of implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and closer synergies forged between the governance and justice programme with the GBV indicators being cascaded to local level in Botswana; and starting at local level in Zimbabwe (possible Zambia, Lesotho and Seychelles). Conceptual links made between gender and climate justice; awareness, dialogue and debate promoted through the cyberdialogues anchored by local councils and fanning across the region. 														
Main risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of political buy in to address GBV. Failure of stakeholders to implement proposed actions. Lack of resources to mount a regional advocacy campaign for the adoption of the indicators methodology by countries using findings from the three countries. 														
Lessons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building and nurturing key stakeholders is critical to promote effective implementation of strategies to end GBV Contextualising methods and approaches towards addressing and measuring GBV. Each country and site has specific contextual realities. These must be integrated into strategies to address GBV. 														
Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of Google maps. Use of PDAs. Cascading the GBV Indicators methodology to local level. 														
How VFM is being realised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VFM is being realised through smart partnerships, government co-funding, and long term strategic planning. The Women's Affairs Department (WAD) in the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs provided human resources and logistic support in the roll out of the GBV Indicators research project in Botswana. The high level of engagement and support from WAD results in high level of ownership of the project. The Sixteen Days of Activism campaign is much bigger than the sum of its individual parts, this is due largely to the extent of smart partnerships and collaboration that occurs throughout the region. 														



Mercilene Machisa ~ GBV Indicators Research Manager

Shuvai Nyoni ~ Gender Justice & Local Government Manager

Ticha Tsedu ~ GBV intern

Synopsis

The GL Gender Justice programme covers three areas: National Action Plans to end GBV; the GBV Indicators Research Programme and coordinating a regional Sixteen Days of Activism campaign.

Inspired by the SADC Protocol target of halving levels of GBV by 2015 and the lack of baseline measures for doing so, GL and a wide spectrum of partners have conducted baseline studies of GBV in the South African Provinces of Gauteng, Western Cape and Kwazulu Natal as well as in Botswana and Mauritius. GL is now in the process of extending this study to the Limpopo province of South Africa and other SADC countries, but starting from the local level, and aggregating the data into national surveys. This will help to strengthen local *and* national plans to end GBV, as well as create stronger synergies between the governance and justice programmes.

The Sixteen Days of Activism campaign provides an important checkpoint every year to measure the progress made by countries in implementing their NAPS and

identifying key priorities for the next year. The campaign is also a time to advocate and lobby for increased activity, budgets and political commitment to address the high levels of GBV. Through its work on developing NAPS with nine SADC countries, GL has popularised the idea of stretching the Sixteen Days to 365 days of Action to End GBV. In 2011, GL made the link between gender and climate justice through a multi faceted project that included a newsletter and cyber dialogues from COP 17.

Objectives

- To contribute to the SADC Gender Protocol target of halving GBV by 2015 by conducting research on the extent, effect, response, support and prevention of GBV.
- To lobby Government's and civil society to strengthen NAPS based on the findings of the GBV Indicators studies where available.
- To embark on advocacy campaigns such as the Sixteen Days of Activism to create awareness and hold key stakeholders accountable for strategies and action to end GBV.

Activities

National 365 Day GBV Action Plans

The Articles 20-25 of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development require organisations, communities, and state entities to adopt strategies and targets to address the high levels of GBV in the Southern African region with a target of halving GBV by 2015. One of the provisions is to develop comprehensive multi-sectoral national action plans in all SADC countries. GL has, over time and with support from the UN Trust Fund (this grant came to an end in 2011) assisted nine SADC countries to develop National Action Plans to End Gender Violence. In March 2012 GL facilitated a SADC meeting to take stock of progress to date. The results are summarised in the table below:

NO PLAN	DRAFT	ADOPTED	SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION	COSTED AND BUDGETED PLANS
Angola	Botswana	DRC	Mauritius	Lesotho
Madagascar	Swaziland	Malawi	Mozambique	Seychelles
	Zimbabwe	South Africa	Namibia	
		Zambia		

Only two SADC countries (Angola and Madagascar) have no plan at all. Three countries - Botswana, Swaziland and Zimbabwe) have draft action plans. There is substantial implementation of the GBV Plan in Mauritius even though it has not been formally costed and budgeted for. Although Mauritius has not formally costed their Plan there has been sustainable implementation over the last four years. Lesotho and Seychelles have costed and allocated a budget to their Plans. Implementation of the plans in Lesotho and Seychelles is underway. The DRC, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia adopted National Action Plans between 2008 and 2010. There is little implementation since the adoption of the Plans. The main reason cited for the lack of implementation is a lack of resources.

Challenges that countries are experiencing in implementing their NAPS include:

- Lack of financial and human resources to address GBV.
- Although support services exist for survivors, they are insufficient to meet the demand.

- Lack of costing around GBV and NAPS. Seychelles and Lesotho are the only countries where the NAPS have been costed and serve as an example of good practice.
- Insufficient capacity in to implement prevention, response and support services to address GBV.
- Inadequate monitoring and evaluation on GBV.
- Issues of tradition, religion, custom and culture make it difficult to address GBV.
- The dual legal system in several countries affects the effective implementation of legislation that prohibits GBV.
- In the absence of specific all encompassing legislation, sentencing in cases of GBV is inconsistent, sometimes resulting in lenient sentencing in cases of GBV.

Country representatives identified the following key actions required to implement the NAPS:

- Need for concerted effort to increase political will and buy in from governments to allocate more resources to addressing GBV.

- The costing and budgeting of National Action Plans is necessary in order to increase consistent funding and to track progress.
- There is a need for greater collaboration between the government and civil society organisations.
- Botswana, Lesotho, and Swaziland need assistance getting baseline information, while Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi need collaborative and harmonised data

- collection.
- Need for increased male participation.
- Sustained monitoring and evaluation to track progress at the national level and to measure change.
- Need for a comprehensive strategy to address human trafficking and abuse.
- Need to educate citizens on the legislation and their rights in order to combat violence and abuse.

GL joins the SA National Council on GBV



Minister of Women Children and People with Disabilities Ms Lulu Xingwana and Gauteng Premier Nomvula Mokonyane at Government launch in Pretoria, South Africa.

Photo: Colleen Lowe Morna

South Africa is an example of how one SADC country is taking the challenges of implementation seriously. With support from GL, South Africa developed and adopted a 365 Day National Action Plan to End Gender Violence in March 2008. However, as a result of a change in leadership and various controversies over which agency to lead the plan, this largely remained on the shelf.

One of the key issues concerned the creation of a credible, inclusive structure for addressing GBV in such a large and diverse country. GL consistently advised government and inter-governmental agencies to draw lessons from the National Aids Council that is chaired by the Deputy President, and includes a broad cross section of stakeholders. This Council has turned the animosity that existed between government and civil society into a powerful creative tension that is delivering results, with rates of HIV and AIDS infection finally beginning to decline, treatment, care and support extended.

The Ministry for Women, Children and People with Disabilities created in 2009 undertook a comparative analysis of the NCA and has established the National Council Against GBV in order to provide strategic guidance and to monitor the implementation of all programmes dealing with the elimination of GBV in the country. GL is one of three NGOs in South Africa invited to be part of the founding steering committee.

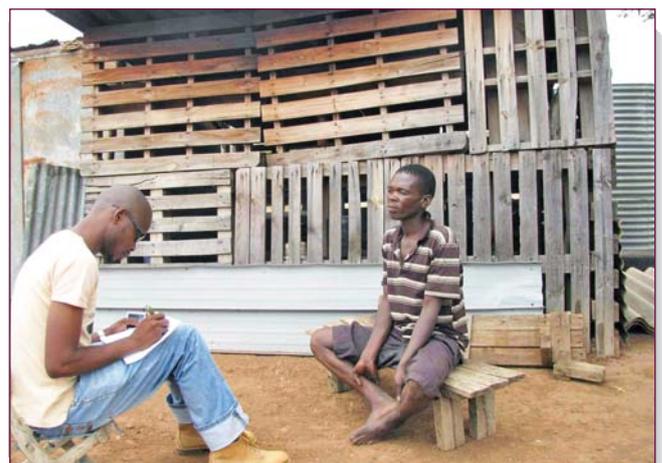
Described as a “forceful authoritative structure capable of adopting comprehensive measures in addressing all forms of violence against all women and girl children,” the ministry says it wants this body to focus on “policy and strategic issues by coordinating all activities on this matter.” The body aims to “ensure a comprehensive helping response to victims and survivors of GBV; formulate and implement strategies to prevent GBV with the aim of eliminating GBV by 2030.”

GL has called on political leaders and key decision makers to:

- Address GBV holistically in their public discourse.
- Allocate budgetary allocations for the implementation of NAPs.
- Support capacity building for GBV service providers
- Ensure the establishment of centralised country GBV databases to allow for reporting on instruments such as the CEDAW and the SADC protocol on Gender and Development.

GBV Indicators research

The GBV Indicators project conducted in the three countries in 2010/2011 is providing baseline information on GBV. Feedback from stakeholders indicates that these baselines fill a critical knowledge gap because the extent of GBV in these countries has mainly been anecdotal. Findings from the GBV Indicators project implemented in the selected countries have been and will continue to be disseminated to assist in strengthening the implementation of the South African and Mauritian national plans. The findings in Botswana were used to review and advocate for the adoption of the draft plan by government.



Male Researcher interviews a male participant at Tlokweg village.

Photo: Oarabile Monngae

GL uses a combination of research methods to test a comprehensive set of indicators and establish a baseline of GBV in each of the studied areas. These include:

- Prevalence and attitudes household survey;
- Analysis of administrative data gathered from the criminal justice system (police, courts), health services, and government-run shelter;

- Qualitative research of men's experiences of intimate partner violence as well as first-hand accounts of women's and men's experiences, or "I" Stories.
- Media monitoring.
- Political discourse analysis.

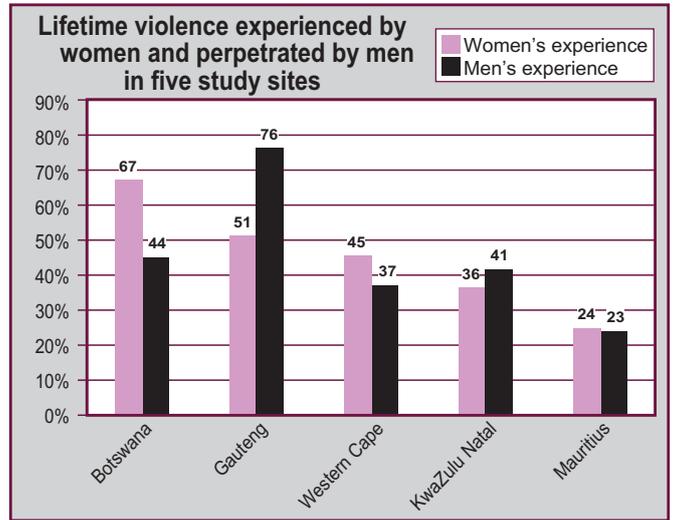
The research triangulates findings to answer key questions relating to extent, effect, response, support, and prevention. The flagship tool is the prevalence/ attitude study, justified on the basis that statistics obtained from administrative data do not cover many forms of gender violence, and even those that are covered are under-reported.

However, the "I" stories, or lived experiences, give a human face to all aspects of the research. The administrative data, media monitoring and political content analysis provide key insights in relevant areas. More about the research and findings can be found on: <http://www.genderlinks.org.za/page/gender-justice-measuring-gbv>.

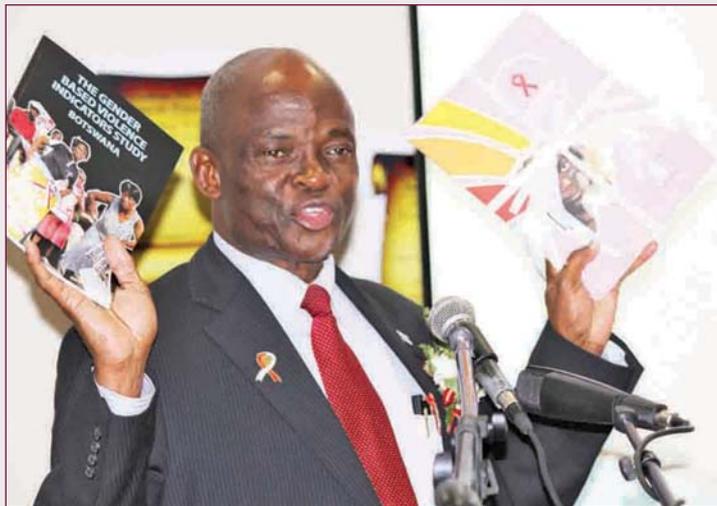
Top line findings

GL has successfully conducted household surveys in the five sites. The results from the survey show that the prevalence of GBV is high and warrants accelerated efforts by all stakeholders.

The chart shows the lifetime prevalence of GBV experienced by women, and the extent to which men concur with these findings. The results range from 67% women in Botswana experiencing violence in their lifetime to 24% in Mauritius, with the three South African provinces in-between. In all cases, and especially in the case of Gauteng, there is a strong degree of concurrence by men with what women say, confirming the validity of the findings.



"Shocking" study on gender violence a call to action in Botswana



Honourable Minister Edwin J. Batshu, Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, launching the GBV Indicators report in Gaborone, Botswana. Photo courtesy of the Voice Newspaper

Botswana. The Ministry, with support from the UNDP and UNFPA, provided the oversight, staff and logistics for the research, while GL provided the methodology, data analysis, and technical assistance in the preparation of the report. Cost wise, this unique collaborative effort resulted in a 80:20 split between the Ministry and GL.

Most important, the collaboration resulted in a high level of ownership with the Botswana government grasping the nettle on GBV in the same way as it confronted HIV and AIDS head on a decade ago. The pandemic is now on the decline in this Southern African nation well known for its good governance, but still lagging behind on women's rights indicators.

Responding to the research findings Minister Batshu said, "Clearly there is a crisis of confidence. Women are not engaging and so not enjoying the full benefits of the very systems that are supposed to offer them redress. These research findings are a wake up call for all to realise that the GBV challenge looms much larger than individual and isolated stand-alone efforts of conventional institutions with custodial responsibility for safety from GBV. It takes a community to root out GBV."

"Shocking!" This is how Minister of Labour and Home Affairs Edwin Batshu described the findings of the Botswana GBV Indicators report showing that two thirds of Botswana women have experienced violence when he launched the report in March 2012. "Rather than be defensive and find ways of distancing our society from the depicted reality, it is wiser to pick the lessons and get to work. In many ways the results of this study are a wakeup call to everyone," he added.

Gender Links conducted the ground breaking GBV Indicators Research in Botswana in collaboration with the Women's Affairs Department (WAD) University of Botswana (UB), Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA) and Statistics

Launched on the eve of the Botswana Gender Justice and Local Government (GJLG) Summit in March 2012 the report generated wide media coverage. Minister of Local Government (MoLG) Peter Siele committed to "to play our role" as local government is "strategically placed to reach out to our communities in giving the message about the importance of combating GBV."

Mariah Tshosa, an administrator at the Botswana Association of Local Authorities (BALA) said when she read the research report: “my attention was aroused by the statistics and some experiences that women of my age and younger go through. The real life stories that made me want to read more. The stories showed me the reality of GBV as compared to what I always read in the newspapers. All stories were an eye opener to the reality of GBV in our communities. More of such stories need to be told to alert the nation on the rising cases of GBV.”

The political discourse analysis in the report showed that only 6% of the speeches by politicians over the last year focused on GBV. With an average of two to three weekly reports or radio discussions on GBV, since the launch of the report, this scourge is now firmly on the political agenda. President Ian Khama has issued a cabinet directive for all ministries to step up efforts to address GBV. The Ministry of Defense, Justice and Security has teamed up with the Attorney General's Chambers to information campaign on the Domestic Violence Act, the Penal Code and GBV services. WAD has committed to use the extensive baseline data generated by the research to strengthen and adopt its draft 365 Day National Action Plan for Ending Gender Violence by the end of 2012.

During the regional Gender Justice and Local Government Summit in April 2012, a Botswana delegation led by WAD



requested assistance in cascading the research to all ten districts of the country, to provide specific data for strengthening local 365 Day action plans to end GBV. This further research is being devised in tandem with a push by GL and BALA to extend the Centres of Excellence for Gender in Local Government to all Botswana's 32 councils. GL's theory of change is that if every community commits to ending gender violence, nations can overcome this gross human rights violation in the same way as positive results are starting to emerge on HIV and AIDS. Botswana again has the chance to lead the way.

2011 Sixteen Days of Activism

Under the global theme “From peace in the home to peace in the world: Let's challenge militarism and end violence against women”, Gender Links and regional partners implemented a Sixteen Days campaign in 2011 under the banner, “From peace in the home to peace in the world, end gender violence by 2015!” This twist in theme placed the focus on the SADC Gender Protocol target of halving GBV by 2015.

GL also took advantage of the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP 17) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) being hosted in Durban and launched a campaign to address the gendered dimensions of climate change. The dual campaign aimed to take advantage of the two events taking place together.

After twenty years of commemorating Sixteen Days of Activism globally and just over a decade in the region, partners decided to put on a campaign that addressed the critical questions of what had been achieved in all this time of campaigning.

GL responded to this by working with local authorities across the region, strengthening the links between the justice and governance programmes. Local authorities participated in training designed to develop capacities for using IT for advocacy. Participating councils across the region collaborated with media institutions to connect

Sixteen Days at a glance

- 73 events in 9 countries.
- 23 local authorities in Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe participated.
- 688 participants in cyber dialogues across the region.
- 102,570 GL website hits recorded in November and 86,404 for December.
- 109 “1” Stories primarily on GBV collected.
- 39 GL media appearances.

them with possible sources for stories on GBV in the time leading up to and during Sixteen Days. Media institutions' involvement in Sixteen days activities included training on GBV with the aim of journalists doing more gender sensitive reporting.

This approach to the Sixteen Days campaign created rich synergies for GL programming in both the local government and media COEs. The combined project introduced a potential verification system for local efforts in response to GBV and connected local authorities and organisations to media coverage not often accessible. While it was the first attempt to include media in GBV activities at the local level, initial results demonstrate that combining the local government and media COE activities around GBV will ensure cases of gender violation that often go unnoticed or ignored can be brought to the fore and the media will increasingly report in gender sensitive ways.

Local Government COEs

In 2011, GL sought to ensure that the campaign extended beyond urban centres to reach communities in the often more remote areas of the region as well as make the link with the gender and climate module in the COE's. Gender and Local Government Centres of Excellence in Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia Zimbabwe hosted face-to-face and online discussions for community members to discuss gender and climate justice.

Gender justice begins at home

“Beware of bursting storm water drains!” warned a sign along the route taken by gender activists marking the start of the Sixteen Days of Activism campaign with a “Take Back the Night” march in Alexandra, Johannesburg.

The notoriously polluted Juskei River that runs through this densely populated, low- income neighbourhood next door to the plush suburb of Sandton in Southern Africa's largest metropolis has witnessed some of the worst cases of rape and murder in the City.

The lighting of candles along the banks could hardly have been more symbolic as the world descended on South Africa for the other major event in November/December- the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP 17) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The links are plainly evident in Alexandra, one of the most polluted and degraded living environments in South Africa; also one with among the highest rates of gender violence.

A high-density suburb of 150 000 people mostly living in shacks and make shift homes; Alexandra comprises a roughly rectangular piece of land located about 16 kilometres to the north of central Johannesburg. The area is unique in that it is the only black Johannesburg township located in close proximity to industry and a range of characteristically urban amenities.

The environment plays a role in both physical and psychological health. There is an on going association of Alexandra with crime and violence. Data from the South African Police Services shows the levels of murder, rape, and robbery and housebreaking exceed the average for the nation as a whole.

While the Juskei River should offer opportunities for recreational activities for members of Alexandra and other communities, water quality investigations have indicated the river to be extremely littered and polluted, posing an eyesore and serious health risks to all who use it.



Marchers Take Back the Night Alexandra Township 2011. Photo: Colleen Lowe Morna

Flooding affects Alexandra annually. A large number of informal dwellings have been erected within the flood lines of the Jukskei river. The water level rises rapidly during periods of heavy rainfall, washing away dwellings along its banks. Women and children are the worst affected by the dislocation and attendant diseases - cholera, diarrhoea and other water borne diseases.

The struggles for climate and gender justice in this neighbourhood are like twin sisters. Since 2010, the provincial department of agriculture, City of Johannesburg and City Parks have launched the Upper Juskei River Clean Up project that has involved a high proportion of women, door- to- door awareness and education.

- Excerpt from a commentary by GL CEO Colleen Lowe Morna

Activities included:

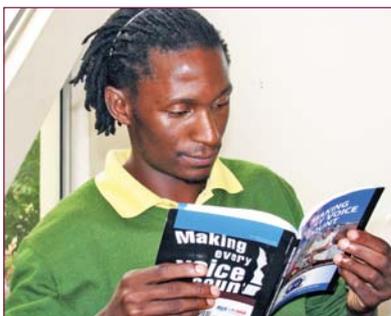
- Planning meetings aimed at developing Sixteen Days Action Plans and calendars in 23 councils.
- Identifying ten local sources (including survivors) of GBV willing to be interviewed in 7 countries.
- Collating GBV sources into a directory of sources - for use by journalists across the region.
- 16 training workshops on IT for Advocacy Training.
- Documenting personal accounts of GBV survivors in 23 councils. 109 stories were documented.
- 23 face-to-face discussions on a variety of topics including gender and climate justice.
- Setting up 27 hubs to link into regional cyber dialogues.
- Take back the night marches. Six citizen action initiatives (marches) for awareness raising and safer spaces in communities.

Training journalists from the media COEs on covering GBV

As part of the Media COE process, GL trained journalists and media students to firstly, effectively and creatively cover GBV stories and secondly, to collaborate with commu-

nities and local councils to publicise 16 Days campaigns. Actions to promote local actions to end gender based violence were carried out in 23 councils in 9 countries that were part of the COE process in Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Media training was also undertaken in Tanzania.

The work with the media aimed to expand and improve the coverage of GBV. In the 2010 Gender and Media Progress Study (GMPS) GL found that only 4% of media coverage in a month was on GBV out of a sample of over 30,000 news items from 14 SADC countries. Only 27% of the sources in these stories were women. Men spoke more on all aspects of GBV including rape (75%) and domestic violence (76%).



Kutlo journalist intern at The Echo, Botswana. Photo: Roos van Dorp

Activities included:

- Training workshops with journalists on gender sensitive coverage of GBV in 7 countries. 156 journalists trained.
- Gathering GBV stories in seven countries and 14 localities.

- Visits and collecting stories from local councils during Sixteen Days: staff collected 50 Stories.

Gender and climate justice newsletter and cyber dialogues

Every year during the 16 Days of Activism campaign GL runs daily cyber dialogues, preceded with face-to face discussions. A total of 688 women and men participated in the dialogues, conducted in the three official languages of SADC (English, French and Portuguese) as well as several indigenous languages such as Zulu, Sotho and Shona.

Three days of the campaign in 2011 focused specifically to gender and climate change: 29 November, "Gender and climate justice start with local government"; 8 December, "We have Faith: The role of the church in gender and climate justice"; and 9 December, "Peace begins at home: Gender and climate justice by 2015."

To keep the momentum going GL began the cyber dialogues on other days with an update from COP17 and a discussion

on the key issues raised in the e-newsletter. COP 17, anchored by the GMDC (see previous section) offered opportunities for staff growth.

Comments during the cyber dialogues

"I'm worried about people on the ground, do they understand COP17?" - *Swaziland*.

"Was in a taxi the other day and a guy next to me said he didnt believe in global warming." - *South Africa*.

"We need people who will teach the community on the ground about climate change"- *Namibia*.

"I am of the view that the more you pollute, the more you should pay for the environment!!." - *Buddah male*.

"Lets help people understand this climate change. We should not discriminate who to teach this climate change. It must be gender balanced."- *Gerleen, Mazabuka*.

Part of the action at COP17

By Daud Kayisi, GMDC Officer

When I sit back and think of the things that I will live to remember in my career, the 17th Conference of Parties (COP17) between 28 November and 9 December 2011 tops the list.

I did not go there as a passive observer but to file gender and climate change articles for Daily Links, a Gender Links' Gender and Climate Justice online newsletter. I formed part of a seven-member team that GL had assembled to report on the gendered aspect of COP17 proceedings.

As a journalist, I have always believed that the media is a powerful tool to among other things help bring development to the marginalised people and to empower women through realisation of their rights. The Durban experience equipped me with knowledge and furthered my journalistic skills. Every evening we had diary meetings where we shared news ideas. Daily production meant we had to meet deadlines: a challenge indeed!

I will always remember taking part in COP17 demonstrations on the 3rd of December: people of different races and ethnic backgrounds spoke with one voice and demanded climate justice from people in "blue suits", a term we used to refer to UN main delegates that were convening at the International Convention Centre.

The full effects of climate change for the Southern African region are yet to be realised. Moreover beyond women and other vulnerable groups being the worst affected by variations in weather patterns there is limited knowledge on the links between climate change and GBV. Sentiments shared by Southern Africans during the cyber dialogues and face-to-face discussions were evidence that so much more has to happen where awareness raising on climate change is concerned.

Furthermore the fact that members of the general public remain technically ignorant of its effects demonstrates the urgency of an Addendum to the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development to include this area of climate change. An addendum will provide the platform for SADC member states to conduct relevant research, develop action plans and undertake necessary advocacy and lobbying.



Daud Kanyisi marching for gender and climate justice at COP 17, Durban, South Africa.

Photo: Gender Links

Outputs

- Research reports, pamphlets and commentary pieces.
- GBV Gauteng launched on 22 August 2011.
- GBV Botswana launched on 29 March 2012.

Outreach

- GL is using social networks for example the “Enough is Enough” Facebook page which was created following the outcomes of the Gauteng research. The page is a campaign initiative aimed to promote activism against GBV. To date more than 11,000 people 'like' this page.
- Women 24, SABC News, Iq4 News and Cape Times republished the commentary piece entitled “Police statistics still do not include domestic violence” which called for the South African police to honour their

commitment to include domestic violence statistics in the annual crime reports following the recommendations of the Gauteng study.

- All Africa, Mopane Tree, Silo Breaker, Africa Focus, I4u & African news wire republished the commentary titled “State of Emergency call to end violence against women” which calls for action to address the high prevalence of GBV shown by the Botswana study.
- The justice programme had the highest number of media mentions and website hits in the year under review.
- Following on from the GBV indicators research that includes political discourse analysis, GL is working to ensure high level political muscle in the forward processes - see example of Mauritius below.

Leadership from the front in Mauritius

By Loga Virahsawmy, Francophone Director

After agonising with the results of the GBV indicators research and convinced that Mauritius needed leadership on this at the highest level, I tried my luck getting an appointment with the Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam. I telephoned his Secretary followed by an e-mail giving some of the gruesome statistics. To my delight, the Prime Minister gave me an audience on 16 January 2012.

I took a dossier of key facts, including several personal testimonies. Two years ago, the Prime Minister launched GL's “I” stories book in Mauritius and insisted that every school in Mauritius have a copy. I knew the profound effect that these first hand accounts had on him.

When we met, I began by thanking the Prime Minister on behalf of the Board of Gender Links for all the progressive laws Mauritius has put in place and especially the amendment to the Constitution and the Local Government Act stipulating at least 33% women on party list. I shared a copy of GL @ 10 with a case study of his contribution to gender justice in the region. I went through the process of the research and the gist of the findings with him. I highlighted that one on four women in Mauritius have experienced GBV.

The Prime Minister suggested that a high-powered committee chaired by himself with the Secretary to the Cabinet and the Minister of Gender Equality be formed to explain the findings. He welcomed the idea of a reference group meeting to finalise the report. The Prime Minister agreed to write the foreword to the report. We left on a very positive note when he confirmed that I could inform my colleagues at Gender Links that Mauritius would sign the SADC Gender Protocol (see Alliance section of the report).

On 8 March 2012, International Women's Day, the Prime Minister told a packed hall in a speech carried on national television and radio: “I got a shock, real shock I am telling



Loga Virahsawmy and Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam.

Photo: Gender Links

you when Loga Virahsawmy shared the findings of the GBV Report with me. She asked for an appointment and I received her. I must thank her for the hard work she is doing. I have told all my Ministers that they must engage with the report.”

Since this public stance taken by the Prime Minister, Mauritian ministries have opened their doors to collaboration, sponsoring workshops on Media Literacy and Leadership Skills for Women in Politics. Plans are afoot for a high-level launch of the Mauritius report, with findings used to strengthen local actions to end GBV through GL's COE process.

Outcomes

Following the Gauteng study, the South African Police Services pledged to:

- introduce a relationship tick box;
- create a category for femicide;
- remove pornography and sex work from sexual offences statistics;
- include a section on domestic violence in annual police reports.

The Government of Botswana has committed to further validate and adopt the draft "365 National Action Plan to end GBV", using the evidence from the research. They have pledged to adopt the plan in 2012/2013.

GL has been appointed to sit on the steering committee of the SA GBV council a multisectoral co-ordination structure under the auspices of the Ministry of Women Children and People with Disability. The Council's terms of reference include the review and evaluate implementation of the revised South African NAP. GL will use the evidence from the research to make recommendations informing the NAP review.

GL has secured funds from SIDA and UNwomen to undertake the GBV indicators research in Zimbabwe's ten provinces, anchored by the twenty Centres of Excellence for Gender in Local Government in the country.

Zambia, Seychelles, and Lesotho have expressed an interest in undertaking the indicators research.

Challenges

A key challenge of this project is that it is a partnership project with a heavy reliance on political buy in for implementation. The scale and nature of the project requires GL to work with credible partners in each country. This is crucial to ensure that the findings are representative of the context. Political buy-in from inception is also critical for ownership of results advocacy and taking forward the recommendations.

Next steps

- Finalise the Mauritius, KwaZulu Natal and Western Cape research reports.
- Convene stakeholder meetings to validate the findings in the Mauritius, Kwazulu Natal and Western Cape research reports.
- Research report launches in Mauritius, Kwazulu Natal, and Western Cape.
- Pursue discussions with UN Women, Malawi, Zambia and Seychelles governments to support the adoption of the GBV Indicators methodology and partner with GL in measuring GBV at country level.
- Fundraise for an advocacy campaign to lobby SADC governments to adopt the GBV Indicators methodology.
- Cascade the first pilot of the local level GBV work in Limpopo province and Zimbabwe.
- Continue to lobby for a local government approach to measure GBV among SADC states.

Diaries of our lives

GL as an institution appreciates that learning is both an active and reflective process. Knowledge creation and learning in GL is anchored on a nexus of experiences (action) and thought (reflection). Reflection allows for critical enquiry, problem-solving, appraisal, isolating trends and creating meaning.

On the eve of the beginning of the 2011 Annual Sixteen Days of Activism Campaign, GL CEO Colleen Lowe Morna, on a trip in Zambia proposed that GL runs "a diary series for the Sixteen Days and COP 17 - daily observations about these campaigns that have a more personal touch". She called on the staff and consultants to contribute to the series.

The great thing about the diaries is that they are just personal thoughts as might normally be written in a personal diary. In addition to being an opportunity to reflect on daily activities, the diary series make distinctive contribution and add to GL's knowledge and learning database.

Among GL's several learning products this year is a collection of the diaries submitted to the editor of the GL opinion and commentary services as part of the 2011 Sixteen Days Campaign diary series, the first of its kind in the evolution of the GL Gender Justice programme. The collection ranges from the GL CEO's early morning reflections on what to say at a day-long seminar to kick off the Sixteen Days in Zambia, to GL Programme Officer Albert Ngosa's long bus ride to

Katete, Zambia, to work with a local council on a Sixteen Day campaign. GL Alliance and Programme Manager Loveness Nyakujarah Jambaya tells how she had to help her domestic worker find legal assistance for her son detained on charges of rape. The private and the public: there is no divide in the life of an activist.



Albert Ngosa, GL Zambia Programme Officer, with Colleen Lowe Morna, GL CEO, receiving an award at the GL Staff awards, GL Cottages, Johannesburg.
Photo: Trevor Davies

As Debbie Walter reflects "Our jobs are far from done. We must keep reaching further and further, so that no stone is left unturned and no corner untouched". Similarly Albert Ngosa reflects, "We can have workshops all we want, but behavioural change can only be attained once we visit individuals in their communities, enter their living rooms, and most importantly bring more men on board". To read these diaries go to: <http://www.genderlinks.org.za/article/gl-staff-stories-2012-05-27>.

2015, Yes we can and Yes we must!!!