



*sunday*standard

The Telegraph



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BECOMES A SOCIAL TIME BOMB

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SADC GENDER PROTOCOL SUMMIT

April 22nd 2013

GENDER EQUALITY BY 2015, YES WE MUST!

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MEDIA HOUSE

- 2 offices in Gaborone 1 office in Francistown.
- Print media though also available online with daily updates
- Circulation 25000 for Sunday Standard and 10000 for the newer Telegraph
- Single sourced and predominantly.
- 34 male and 13 female employees
- Been part of the COE for a year



Your submission

Domestic violence becomes a social time bomb

- There was a time when domestic violence was perceived as a two dimensional
- The roles of victim and perpetrator have become reversible.
- A third dimension, the children, is now part of it: 'the unintended victim'.
- Story follows a cycle observed that children who grow up in violent household turn out to be abusers or submissive in an abusive relationship

Studies conducted in Botswana indicate violence and threats of violence against women severely hamper the achievement of gender equality.



HOW DOES YOUR SUBMISSION CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE 28 TARGETS OF THE SADC GENDER PROTOCOL?

PROTOCOL TARGET	COUNCIL ACTIONS
Article 6 (B) Elimination of Gender Based Violence	The story addresses the issue of where gender based violence is rooted.
Article 20(a &b) Enact and enforce laws prohibiting all forms of violence and ensure that perpetrators are tried by a court of competent jurisdiction.	The story provides information of sanctuaries where victims can get protection (police/ Child line facilities) and rehabilitation through the aid of psychologists.

Background

- **Domestic violence becomes a social time bomb**
- The story is a reaction to having witnessed a vicious cycle of how children raised in GBV ridden environments grow up to either be abusers or submissive to abusive partners primarily because they are unaware of alternate lifestyles.
- A psychologist explained that “Personality development is a function of different aspects and one of them is the environment,”
- In a violent and abusive environment there is a high probability for maladaptive personality development. Exposure to abuse leads to abnormal thresholds and acceptance.
- Exposure to abuse and violence can also make the child more vulnerable to practising and demonstrating such behaviour.



Objectives

- The primary objective is to sensitise those in organisations established to help victims of GBV to identify this cycle and to intervene before any permanent damage is done.
- They should be able to save the 'unintended victim' (the child) and remove them from the potentially harmful environment to a more conducive one until the conditions are rectified



Targets

- Youth Groups dealing with youth empowerment
- Non Governmental organisations
- Governmental departments

IMPACT

- Triggered interest from a local youth group, 'Youth Matters'
- Introduced this to a youth group 'Bana ba Pelo'
- Social workers
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Youth
Matter!



Process

- Department of Social Services
- A psychologist
- Child line Botswana
- “The Dynamics of Domestic Violence against Women in Botswana” by Dr Godisang Mookodi of the Department of Sociology from the University of Botswana

SOURCES

1. Kefentse Mzwinila- Psychologist
2. Kesego Rabatoko, a social worker at Childline Botswana
3. Dr Godisang Mookodi of the Department of Sociology from the University of Botswana
4. Children’s Act

Feedback

- Proved to be effective among the youth groups
- Focal person regarding Gender Based Violence issues.



Follow up

- Ideally, time and financial resources allowing, it would be great to set up a group comprised of various specialists like officers of the law, psychologists, counsellors and media practitioners to go out there and set up community based sub structures who will assist social workers and police and unions stand up to perpetrators to save, protect and rehabilitate victims.
- Universal problem, rectifying has to start somewhere.

