

**Reporting Gender based Violence
For Botswana Media Professionals**

REPORT OF THE TRAINING WORKSHOP HELD ON 20 - 21 OCTOBER 2012



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Gaborone, Botswana

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Reporting Gender Based Violence

INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES



ABOVE: Media, Non governmental organisations and the local community met to discuss Gender Based violence



Reporting Gender Based Violence

INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

Gender Links Botswana Chapter held the Media Gender Based Violence (GBV) training workshop on October 20 – 21, 2011 at the President Hotel.

25 participants from different Media houses, non-governmental convened in Gaborone with an additional 15 members of the Merapelo community committee and the Botswana Police service who interacted with the participants at Mochudi.

The GBV participants also paid a field trip to the Stepping Stones initiative in Mochudi.

The objectives of the GBC workshop were

1. To broaden participants' understanding of the different forms and causes of GBV
2. To analyse how the media in Southern Africa reports on GBV
3. To review, based on research findings, how women's views and voices are represented and portrayed in reporting on GBV
4. To gain an understanding of how GBV stories can be enriched by going beyond court reporting
5. To explore how the provisions on GBV and media in the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development provided a framework for media's watchdog role. (Botswana is still to sign the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, which up to date hasn't be signe

TRAINING WORKSHOP DELIBERATIONS

OFFICIAL OPENING – Ms Phemelo Maitetso – Womens Department

The Women's Affairs Department chief gender officer, Phemelo Maitetso had earlier on remarked that cases of

violence against women and children in Botswana were on the rise. She said this calls for dialogue where concerned stakeholders could reflect on their

possible contribution to address gender power relations.

"This includes reconsidering the way we socialise the boy and girl child in a way that can positively impact their social relations," she said.

Maiketso said it was a documented fact that socio-cultural factors, to an extent, contributed to the spread of HIV and the impact of HIV and AIDS on women and men, boys and girls.

"I am not saying that culture is bad, all I am saying is that some aspects of it have clearly come to disadvantage us," she said, adding that there was a need to revisit culture and see how to adjust it so that it becomes relevant to contemporary society

Maiketso said that one way of ending GBV was through the media. However

one journalist at the forum said the media had done enough reporting on the issue.

But Maiketso stressed that the media's continued support was critical as they are better placed to sensitise the public on issues concerning gender-power relations.

"It is also essential for the media to be taught how to report sensitively and fairly in order to raise awareness in a constructive manner," she said.

Maiketso revealed that the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs is working on a number of strategies to address GBV including facilitating a GBV Pitso to be held in Maun on October 27-28. –

Source Mmegi Monitor

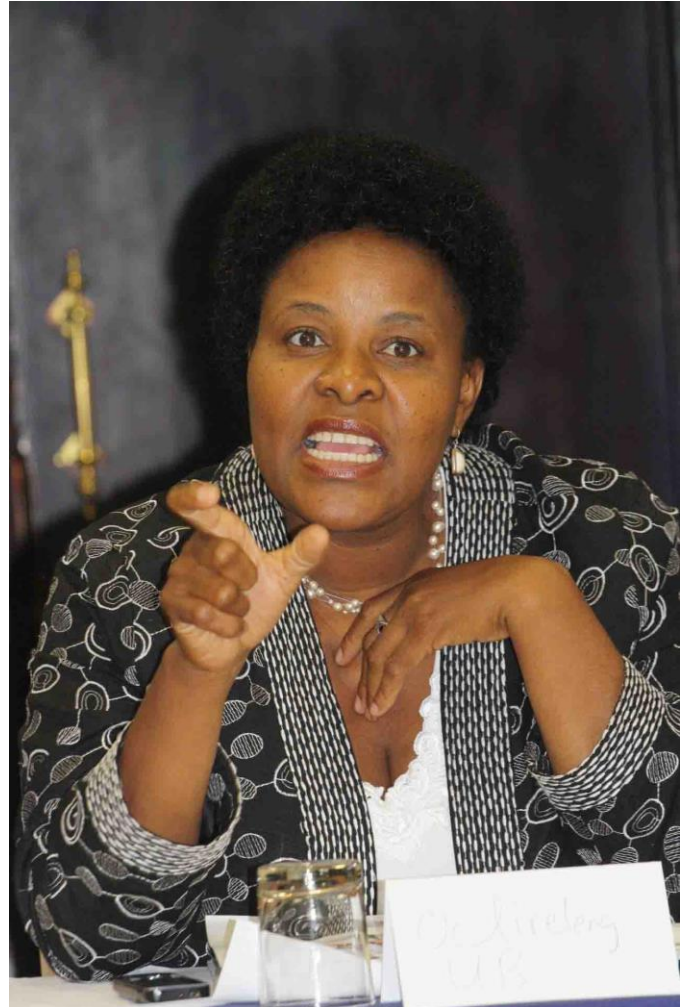
MEN ARE ALSO AFFECTED BY GENDER BASED VIOLENCE – Dr Odirile Jankey

University of Botswana (UB) lecturer in social work, Dr Odirile Jankey, has argued that the emotional abuse of men by their female partners is what causes

men to be physically abusive to their spouses.

She said that most men are affected by gender based violence (GBV) but because the media usually fails to look at the root cause of men becoming

physically abusive, the issue appears to only affect women negatively. Jankey was speaking last week during a training workshop on GBV for the media in Gaborone. She said that men are usually abused emotionally but because society has taught them not to express their feelings, they become physical. – *Source Mmegi Monitor*



How the media reports on GBV: GMPS findings - By Roos van Doorp

Gender Links advocates for gender equality through three closely linked programmes:

Media, governance and gender justice

Working with partners at local, national, regional and international level, we aim to:

- Promote gender equality in and through the media and in all areas of governance
- Conduct effective campaigns for ending gender violence, HIV and

AIDS•Build the capacity of women and men to engage critically in democratic processes that advance equality and justice.

Gender and Media Progress Study

In Botswana, the research took place in 2009, covering seven media houses and 880 news items.

The study is part of a regional survey that covered 14 countries in Southern Africa and 33.436 news items.

Gender equality is not given priority in Botswana, constituting only 0.6% of all topics covered during the monitoring period: Politics was given the most coverage at 20%, followed by economics at 17% and sport at 14%.

The proportion of primary sources is higher in Botswana than the regional average: Primary sources make up 87% of all sources compared to the overall regional average of 69%.

The voices of experts and spokespersons dominate the news in Botswana: Experts make up 61% of sources and spokespersons 18%. Eyewitnesses (1%), popular opinion (1%) and personal experience (4%) of "ordinary people" do not feature much in the news in Botswana or in the SADC region.

MEDIA AND GBV

Articles about GBV or that mention GBV account for 5% of topics covered: This is slightly higher than the regional average of 4%.

Women make up only a quarter of sources in stories about or that mention GBV: Men speak for women, even on issues that affect women most intimately.

Survivors constitute 29% of all sources on GBV: This is higher than the regional average of 19%, but lower than the proportion of perpetrators whose voices are heard (37%). The fact that perpetrators speak more openly than survivors in Botswana is cause for concern.

www.genderlinks.org.za

What IS Gender?

After a passionate deliberation on the attitudes survey following participants filling the Gender

Sometimes it is hard to understand exactly what is meant by the term "gender", and how it differs from the closely related term "sex".

"Sex" refers to the biological and physiological characteristics that define men and women.

"Gender" refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviours, activities, and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for men and women.

To put it another way:

"Male" and "female" are sex categories, while "masculine" and "feminine" are gender categories.

Aspects of sex will not vary substantially between different human societies, while aspects of gender may vary greatly.

score card for media houses, the group brainstormed on the definition of Gender and Gender based violence.



Gender based violence

The 1993 UN Declaration on the Elimination of GBV defined GBV as "any act which results in, or is

likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of

such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivations of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life"

This definition is not limited to:

- **Physical, sexual and psychological violence in the family,**
- **battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household,**
- **dowry-related violence,**

- **marital rape,**
- **female genital mutilation**
- **and other traditional practices harmful to women,**
- **non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation;**
- • Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community including
 - rape,
 - sexual abuse,
 - sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere,
 - trafficking in women and forced prostitution;

HANDS ON: THE "I" STORIES AND POWER OF PERSONAL ACCOUNTS

FRAMING THE ISSUES

The SADC Protocol on gender and development media provisions on covering GBV DVD was shown to participants who thereafter did an exercise on areas of GBV covered mostly by the media using the Reporting GBV handbook.

Facilitator Beata Kasale urged the media to mainstream Gender on their reportage and to discard the myth that gender issues were "women" stories. They were encouraged to make gender issues interesting to the reader.

She emphasised that gender issues were as relevant as political, corruption, sports as well as sports stories.

Ms Keabonye Ntsabane discussed the power of "I" stories. She encouraged journalists to report GBV stories of real people with real issues and introduced participants to Ms Icaboth Pilane who has survived a rape and five years later survived gun shot wounds on the stomach.

HANDS ON: Journalists visit Mochudi

INTERACTION WITH THE COMMUNITY

The media went for a field trip to Mochudi where they interacted with a committee of concerned villagers who in liaison with the Botswana Police service who as an intervention to escalating crime formed a committee to combat the issue. One of the villagers shared a story of how her niece was butchered by a jealous lover who ripped off her heart in the gruesome murder. The participants also visited the Stepping Stones initiative which is a shelter and institution for vulnerable children.

STORY IDEAS

The following story ideas were discussed

Story ideas:

1. GBV statistics – Mochudi

Icabothe, *The Gazette* – Written by Phaladi (See published stories)

2. RB1/2 on Stepping Stones

Dr Jankie

GBV workshop

Icabothe/ Women's Shelter

3. GBV, where are we in reducing GBV before 2015

The Voice, Women's Shelter, Mochudi heart story – Francina

4. GBV Documentary with victims – E Botswana

Gender Links

General public

5. Vox Pop – 16 Days of activism – Francina – The Voice

Gender Links

6. Covering GBV – BOPA

Heart story

7. Mme Kruger – Politics, BOPA

Politics and GBV

8. Perpetrator, Counselling, family, psychological effects by Social Welfare Participants

STORIES - E BOTSWANA

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE by E Botswana

Gender based violence (GBV) is an escalating concern in Botswana and Africa as a whole. Many atimes victims end up losing lives or even end up with disabilities as a result of this. A lot of people who experience GBV are women, that is: in reference to the statistics , however this does not in any way that men are not abused.

Even though there is an increasing number of cases of GBV, the nation is still dragging feet to fighting GBV and reporting cases.

CONCEPT

The documentary centers around abused women and men who have endured gruesome experiences at the hands of their spouses or perpetrators. It will feature families, witnesses and next of kin who have been with the victims before and after their experiences.

Questions FOR the FAMILIES

- Behaviour of the victim before and after the experience
- Living conditions and the atmosphere in the home
- How the community is responding to the victim/ any victimizations and “name calling”

STORIES - Botswana Gazette

- **Gender based violence haunts Mochudi**
- Escalating figures give Police service headache
-
- By PHALADI LETSWAMOTSE
-
- The police in Mochudi village are worried about the escalating numbers of gender based violences (GBV) cases reported to them. Members of the Mochudi

Police Service are part of a crime prevention committee in Boseja South ward which was formed to fight crime and “passion killings” in that part of the district.

- According to Mochudi Police Station Commander Gagogosha Onneetse GBV cases are increasing at an alarming rate in Botswana. He indicated that a total number of 62 were reported in 2006. In 2007 the number increased to 101, the number decreased in 2008 to 81, in 2009 the number increased to 93 and last year only the total number of GBV cases increased to 105.
- Onneetse expressed concern over some victims of gender violence issues who report their cases to them and later withdraws them. He said when one reports a case they must be sure that they will not withdraw it as it costs the government to investigate such cases.
- “We are trying all our best as police officers in this district to try to combat this violence but it is hard for us because after we use government resources like cars to establish the facts of reported issues, the same victims who reported their case later withdraws them,” pointed out Onneetse.
-
- On the other hand the residents of Mochudi condemned the police in handling GBV issues. One victim of GBV indicated that they report the perpetrators to the police and the following day they see the same perpetrators walking in the street.
-
- “I am a victim of GBV. I was nearly raped by a man 2001 and I fought for my survival. In 2007, a male customer shot me in the stomach with a gun after we fought over P30 which he alleged that I did not give to him as change after I sold him a traditional beer. My neighbors rushed me to Princess Marina where I fought for my life. I reported the matters to the police and right now both my perpetrators are walking freely,” said Icaboth Pilane a victim of GBV.
-
- The residents of Mochudi also indicated that seeing a perpetrator walking in the streets do not put them at ease as they do not trust the offenders any more. They indicated that this also haunts the families of the victims.
-
- Meanwhile the station commander urged the general public to approach the relevant people like the social workers to raise, discuss their issues and able to get help. He indicated that as the 16 days of Gender Based Violence activism begins in 25th November to 10th December people must refrain from gender based violence during this period and beyond..
-
- Pilane attended a Gender Links training workshop held for journalists last Thursday at the President Hotel to discuss her experiences as a Gender based violence survivor.

- **Media encouraged to help fight GBV**
- By Aobakwe Molefhi and Olekantse Sennamose
- GABORONE, October 21 (BOPA): Gender Based Violence (GBV) is a real modern day problem and the media should see itself as a vital organ in the fight against it. Speaking in an interview recently, one of the counsellor's at the stepping Stones International, Ms Connie Mogara pointed a finger at the local media, accusing them of not doing enough in reporting on the issues GBV.
- She said most of the time the media only covers GBV issues when there are some incidents, but do not make follow ups for further feedback. She however acknowledged the bottle necks that the media often encounters in that most of the time the victims are reluctant to come forth and share their experiences, hence failure by the media to report satisfactorily on such issues.
- "I know how hard it is to get the victims to talk about their ordeals, but it is up to the media to find ways and means to get the stories and enlighten the nation." She said.
- Ms Mogara also said that our culture and legal system competes with each other so much so that foster homes where victims can share knowledge freely with the assurance of their safety and freedom are needed.
- Ms Mogara's sentiments were echoed by the spokesperson for Aunties and Uncles, an extension of the Stepping Stones International, who said people should know that perpetrators of GBV are mostly people whom the victims usually trust, like close relatives, neighbours and care-givers.
- Ms Eunice Montlane said such perpetrators usually come home after indulging in alcohol and sometimes drugs, which might play a part in driving them to such commit such heinous acts, although she said drugs and alcohol should not be used as an excuse for such criminal activities.
- She also indicated discontent with the charges metered out at the offenders, saying they are not stiff enough to deter them from repeating the offences or even scaring away would-be perpetrators.
- Ms Montlane also complained that such cases take a long time to be solved and urged the justice system to improve its delivery as the slow pace makes the battle against such issues a tough one.
- Aunties and Uncles was formed by the community of Mochudi with an effort of assisting victims of GBV to easily access services they need, and it shares similar objectives with Stepping Stones International, which is a Non Governmental Organization based in the same village and provides psycho-social support to vulnerable kids from the age of 12-18.

STORIES - BOP – DAILY NEWS

- **Politicians accused of ignoring GBV issues**
- By Aobakwe Molefhi and Olekantse Sennamose

- GABORONE, October 21 (BOOPA): There have been some concerns from some organizations that deal with gender issues that politicians are ignoring the issues of Gender Based Violence (GBV) or social ills, and instead only focusing on their political work.
- This brings fears that the country is likely to fail on the SADC protocol, which dictates that by 2015, all the member countries should have halved gender violence by 50 percent.
- However, the Deputy Mayor of Lobatse Town Council, Ms Malebogo Kruger disputed the claim, saying as politicians they deal with people at grassroots level and encounter daily social problems such as domestic violence, which are reported to them as councilors.
- She said they even receive reports of suspected abuse of kids from teachers at schools, and that as councilors they follow them up as it is their obligation, stressing that the well being of the community they represent is their priority.
- She said they usually hold kgotla meetings to sensitise the community about issues of GBV, and that while she was still the Coordinator of Botswana Association of Local Authorities (BALA), they held meeting with all the councils across the country educating councillors about issues of GBV.
- Ms Kruger said during such meeting the response of councilors was positive, and that in Lobatse they held marches during the past activities of 16 Days of Violence against Women and Children to unsafe spots where such crimes were prevalent.
- She also said they have also started targeting places mostly frequented by men such as bars as they(men) are the most perpetrators.
- Although she did not present any statistics to back up her case, she said more people are coming forth to report such incidents, which indicates that people are now willing to come forth with information.
- In her words of advice, she said that the struggle against GBV continues and that abuse does not build the nation adding that such barbaric acts are not part of our culture.

STORIES - Mmegi MONITOR



WEBSITE: www.TheMonitor.co.bw

DATE: Monday, 24 October 2011 (Vol. 12,
No. 39)

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CORRESPONDENT

University of Botswana (UB) lecturer in social work, Dr Odirile Jankey, has argued that the emotional abuse of men by their female partners is what causes men to be physically abusive to their spouses.

She said that most men are affected by gender-based violence (GBV) but because the media usually fails to look at the root cause of men becoming physically abusive, the issue appears to only affect women negatively. Jankey was speaking last week during a training workshop on GBV for the media in Gaborone. She said that men are usually abused emotionally but because society has taught them not to express their feelings, they become physical.

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"It is also essential for the media to be taught how to report sensitively and fairly in order to raise awareness in a constructive manner," she said. Maiketso revealed that the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs is working on a number of strategies to

address GBV including facilitating a GBV Pitso to be held in Maun on October 27-28.

"The Pitso will be followed by the 16 Days of Activism Against Violence on Women and Children campaign to be commemorated from October 27-28 and the establishment of a GBV Referral System," she said.

Meanwhile, Beata Kasale who was a facilitator of the workshop, urged journalists to find interesting ways of reporting on GBV. She said that most newspaper editors overlook GBV stories because they are considered boring.

STORIES - VOX POP – The Voice

- By FRANCINAH BAAITSE
- The police statistics suggest that incidents of gender based violence (GBV) remains high despite the countr's pledge to have halved the crime by 2015. A recorded number of Six hundred and twenty-eight women were killed since 2003 as compared to fifty four women in passion killing incidents.
- Following a Gender Based Violence training workshop, organized by Gender Links Botswana, The Voice went into the streets to find out whether people were aware of this kind of crime and what they were doing to fight it.
-
- Eric Masole
- I am a Christians and therefore I live under the authority of God. Like you know according to Christian values a husband is the head of the household and the wife the neck. In the family, the husband is the provider and protector. You therefore do not expect him to hurt his family. Gender based violence is a cause of concern for me as a male citizen.
- We are talking about the sixteen days of activism against such kind of violence, yet we have leaders who are advocating for anti-Christ behaviours such as homosexuality. These things seeks to destroy marriage because what would happen is that women would lose respect on men and men would treat women as equals. If a woman is a husband to another woman it means she is physically competent with men.
-
- Ontiretse Majola
- Men are victims of violence as well, it is just that it is embarrassing for them to talk publicly about it. Imagine a man talking about how his girlfriend or wife assaults him and all that stuff, people would think he is not man enough. Man must be able to withstand pressure and not cry in public.
- But my contention is that we are raised in a community which dictates how we behave. Violence cut across the board and it is you journalists who have to spread the message and promote behavior change. Go out and investigate why

it still happens and you would realize that there are underlying factors that cause people to hurt others.

- Mmuso Makofi
- People especially men do not openly talk about these things. We maybe very aware on the sixteen days of activism against GBV, but we still have cases of people who abuse defenceless children. Although it is mostly men who are the perpetrators, there are women who commit very violent crimes against their partners and children. These things needs to stop and it talks me and you to spread the message. We realized that people are
- Do you believe that gender violence especially against women and children do exist in the country?
-
- Molefe Molefe (Councillor Boseja South Mochudi)
- We are encouraging people to turn to God for assistance.
- We think that if we can turn to God, things would be better

PROGRAMME



PROGRAMME



Media GBV Training Workshop, President Hotel, Gaborone

20 – 21 October 2011

DAY/TIME	ACTIVITY	TIME	WHO
DAY 1 - Thursday 20 October 2011			
8:00 – 8:30	Registration	30 min	
8.35 – 8:40	Welcome remarks	5 min	Keabonye Ntsabane, GL Coordinator
8:40 – 8:55	Introductions and objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To provide background and agree on objectives for the workshop - Expectations from participants - To develop ground rules of participation 	15 min	Facilitator Beata Kasale
8:55 – 9:10	Official opening by Women’s Affairs Department	15 min	Phemelo Maitetso, Chief Gender Officer
9.10 – 9.20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How the media reports on GBV: GMPS findings Quantity Sourcing Portrayal of women	10 min	Gender Links
9:20 -9:30	Questions and comments	10 min	All
Key concepts & definitions			
9:30 – 9.45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is gender? - What is gender based violence 	15min	Facilitator Beata Kasale
09:45 – 10.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 16 days quiz 	15 min	
10. 00 -10:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exercise: Media monitoring 	30min	

DAY/TIME	ACTIVITY	TIME	WHO
10:30 – 11.00	TEA		
Covering GBV			
11:30 – 12.00	- Framing the issues: SADC Protocol on gender and development media provisions on covering GBV	30 min	DVD
12.00 – 12.15	- Exercise: Which areas of GBV are covered mostly by the media	15 min	Facilitator Beata Kasale
12.15-12.30	- Discussion	15 min	All
12.30-13.00	- The "I" Stories, and power of personal accounts	30 min	Keabonye Ntsabane, Gender Links
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH		
14:00 – 17.00	Fieldwork & story writing	3 hrs	
DAY TWO: - Friday 21 October 2011			
8:30-9:00	- Recap of Day one	30 min	Facilitator Beata Kasale
9:00- 10:00	- Story ideas	1 hour	
10:10 – 10:45	- Identifying local sources for GBV stories	30 min	
10:45 – 11:00	TEA		
11:00 – 12.30	- Editing & Story writing		
12.30 – 13.00	- Way forward and closure		
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH		

PARTICIPANTS LIST

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FOR THE *GBV TRAINING WORKSHOP*

Event: Training for Media Practitioners

Date: 20-21 October 2011

Venue: President Hotel

NAME	Sex M/F	ORGANISATION	PHONE	FAX	E MAIL
Kristin Rasmussen	F	Stepping Stones International	76784702		krasmuss@lakeheads.ca
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Snowball Office	F	Lobatse Town Council	71307044	5332458	snowballdee@yahoo.com
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Nduku Tombizodwa Sarah	F	Kagisano Society Women Shelter	74376563	3907659	tombizoo@yahoo.com
Beata Kasale	F	The Voice	3161585	3932822	beatak@thevoicebw.com

PARTICIPANTS LIST – FIELD TRIP - MOCHUDI

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FOR THE *GBV TRAINING WORKSHOP*

Event : Media Practitioners meeting at Kgatleng District (Field trip)

Date: 20 October

Venue: (Boseja South Kgotla Shelter)

NAME	Sex M/F	ORGANISATION	PHONE	FAX	E MAIL
Dilkeledi Gouwe	F	Merapelo committee/ VDC	72438988/73838988		
Dikgang Segobaetso	F	Individual	71219467		
Letlhogonolo Mabua	F	Police	5777222/72195010		
Mpho Lekwapa	F	Police	5777222		
Gorata Seledi	F	Police	5777222		
Thowane R D	M	Police	5777222		
Elizabeth Gouwe	F	Merapelo committee(Chairperson)	72516453		
Molefe Molefe	M	Councillor	71317775		
Ntwaagae Moatlhodi	M	Ward Church leader	72436546		
Given Mlalazi	M	DRMSON	74578737		
Wanano Mosinyi	M	DRMSON	72605334		
Boitumelo Makole	F	DRMSON	72950008		
Nayang Xhiywa	F	DRMSON	74230684		

NAME	Sex M/F	ORGANISATION	PHONE	FAX	E MAIL
Vincent Galatlhwe	M	Gender Links	74116558/3188250		
Roos van Dorp	F	Gender Links	3188250		
Oarabile Monggae	M	Gender Links	72492177/3188250		
Mphoentle Gaonosi	F	E Botswana	3957654		