

## **REPORTING ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**

### **LIMPOPO CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE**

**VENUE: JACARANDA LODGE, POLOKWANE**

**DATE TUESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2012**

**COMPILED BY:**

***SHEILA MMUSI***

#### **A. SYNOPSIS**

The module on Gender-based violence formed part of the Media GBV Training Workshop held from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2012 at the Jacaranda Lodge in Polokwane. Journalists, news presenters, and some station managers were present. The media houses represented by two delegates each (a total of 26 participants), were the following:

- a. Greater Tzaneen Community Radio Station
- b. Musina Community Radio Station
- c. Mokopane Community Radio
- d. Botlokwa Community Radio
- e. UNIVEN Community Radio
- f. Greater Lebowakgomo Community Radio
- g. Zebediela Community Radio
- h. Radio Turf
- i. Mohodi Community Radio
- j. Tubatse FM
- k. Sekhukhune FM
- l. Moutse Community Radio
- m. Phalaborwa Community Radio Station

Mr Madikana Matjila and Ms Sikhozile Ndlovu introduced the concepts and definitions around gender, gender based violence, violence against women through the use of the 16 Days Quiz from the course module on GBV from "Making every voice count" manual from Gender Links. Mr Matjila then did an exercise on Media Monitoring with the group leading to a very vibrant discussion on the types of GBV and who is affected by it.

At the end of the day, the participants showed an understanding of the key concepts of gender, GBV, SADC Protocol on Gender. They were also able to critique newspapers on their coverage of GBV. They also understood how to write an opinion piece. Some produced opinion pieces and emailed them to GL. They brainstormed story ideas with the facilitator, the content of which showed an understanding of the role of the media in covering GBV.

## **B. MODULE SIX: REPORTING ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**

Mr Matjila provided the group with the quiz designed to determine the group's knowledge of the SADC Protocol on Gender. The facilitator Sheila Mmusi then provided a power-point presentation on the SADC Protocol on gender and development media provisions on covering GBV based on the module on GBV. The content is summarised below:

- Understanding of different forms and causes of GBV
- Analyse how the media in Southern Africa reports on GBV
- How women's views and voices are represented and portrayed in GBV reporting (based on research)
- How GBV stories can be enriched beyond court reporting
- How the provisions on GBV and media in the SADC Protocol provide a framework for the media to play its watchdog role
- Able to analyse how media can contribute to reducing the levels of GBV

Mr Matjila and Sheila Mmusi then engaged the participants in an exercise with Limpopo newspapers and national newspapers to analyse how GBV was covered. They determined which areas of GBV were mostly covered by the newspapers and whether the articles were gender-aware or gender-blind. They also needed to identify whose voices, men or women, were represented in these stories as well as what the messages were, about women and men.

## **DISCUSSION EMANATING FROM THE PRESENTATION ON GBV IN GENERAL**

- Gays and lesbians targeted for "corrective rape" in Limpopo
- The media seems to be perpetuating the gender stereotypes through biased or gender blind reporting
- Culture and tradition is very deeply rooted among populations of Limpopo where patriarchy dominates, and
- People will take a long time to change
- Some participants insisted that women have to dress appropriately for particular occasions //they must stop wearing short skirts to avoid rape
- Police will sometimes sleep with prostitutes and this is tantamount to violence
- The media must not highlight what the victim was wearing as this in itself is a justification of GBV by the media
- Marital rape is rife as women are viewed as their husbands' property

## **DISCUSSIONS EMANATING FROM MEDIA COVERAGE OF GBV**

- Sexual abuse, murder, rape
- The victim or her family tells the story
- GBV stories are relevant and newsworthy
- Ritual will help cleanse the anger of the men
- Cleansing: rape, sexual abuse
- Killing babies: reporting sentencing by courts shows that you can be apprehended for the abuse of children
- Different women reported being raped by taxi drivers: reporting these puts the issue on the agenda for "stopping this criminal activity"

## **OUTPUTS FROM THE WORKSHOP**

- Opinion pieces sent to GL
- Preparation of questions for interviews related to 16 Days of Activism after the session on choosing story ideas
- 26 people participated in the workshop

## **OUTCOMES**

- The participants discussed their plans for the 16 Days of Activism Campaign for their radio stations
- They were given dates of their local councils activities around the 16 Days Campaign, such as "Take Back the Night"
- Individual radio stations interviewed Ms Sikhozile Ndlovu and Sheila Mmusi about GBV and the workshop itself, and relayed these live to their News and Current Affairs shows

## **NEXT STEPS**

- Preparation of stories to be covered during the 16 Days of Activism
- Cement partnerships with local government and NGO's
- They were going to strengthen partnerships with local government and traditional councils

## **ANNEXURES**

- Attendance lists
- Photos
- Monitoring evaluations
- SADC Protocol Quiz