

North Rift Gender Violence Prevention Network- Kenya
C/o Jumuiya Women Group (JWG)
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ACTIVITY REPORT

16 days of activism against gender violence

theme: End Violence against Women

LOCATION: ELDORET TOWN, KENYA

THEME: PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



This Activity was made possible with the Kind Support from the GENDERHOPES

1.0: SUMMARY OF THE ACTIVITY

Jumuiya Women Group and allies which include, the Rural Women Peace Link and other groups within Eldoret town, Kenya organized the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence between **25th November – 10th December 2012, in Eldoret town** as part of the international campaign to address the plight of women.

Among other activities, GBV network printed and distributed full color **posters** calling for commitment from everyone to prevent GBV including, up to 2000 **“Prevent Violence Against Women” purple ribbons, held a regional Stigma Roundtable Discussion** which was attended by all stakeholders, presented a **press release** that explained how the prevention of violence against women is a tenet of all faiths and demands individual and community, **Organized a public procession** along the streets of Eldoret town, sent **text messages** to over the campaign period with provocative messages that prompted reflection and action to respond to or prevent sexual violence.

The 16 Days Campaign was focused and intended to achieve the following results;:

- Raised awareness about gender – based violence as a human rights issue at the local and national levels.
- Strengthened local work around violence against women
- Established a clear link between local and international work to end violence against women
- Demonstrated the solidarity of women around the city of Eldoret united against violence against women
- Strengthened local work around violence against women.

2.0: SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS OF NORTH RIFT

The problem of gender based violence is acute in North Rift region of Kenya. A woman is assaulted - usually by her husband. Marital abuse, however, is not the only threat. Many women and girls are victims of sexual coercion by male relatives, classmates or neighbors. Coercion can take the form of wanton rape.



In the 2008 post elections violence, many women suffered from wanton rape, which was used as a deliberate weapon of violence during the time. This cruelly alone meted on women and girls – inflicted a lot of pain and humiliation but also the threat of sexually transmitted diseases, such as AIDS. Owing to the rising poverty levels, the trafficking of girls and women is yet another tragic context for sexual violence. It is now common to find young girls and women being trafficked to major towns in this region where they are ushered into marriage, and prostitution. In the pastoralist communities, young girls are regularly forced to take much older husbands, who are already married, after being forced to undergo the Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

It is therefore no underestimation to argue that Violence against women takes place at all levels of society and within all social classes. Gender-based violence is in the home, the work place, on the street with strangers and all around us. Such violence is often sexual, political, sadistic or criminal. No society can lay claim to full humanity unless it removes the cancer of gender-based violence from its midst.

Advocacy against GBV is of high importance thus in order to reduce violence by reaching out to women and men through a transformational framework that addresses their social consciousness towards gender. But such transformation is not possible unless we tackle the menace at a regional level where activities aimed at mitigating the menace are coordinated and properly harmonized. That is why we have formed the GBV Network, North Rift, Kenya chapter.

3.0: ABOUT THE NORTH RIFT GENDER BASED VIOLENCE PREVENTION NETWORK

The 16 Days Activism against Gender Violence was organized by the North Rift GBV Prevention Network-Kenya, whose secretariat is at the offices of JWG. The network seeks to become a vibrant space in the region for innovation, expertise, experience and exchange on GBV prevention. Our members comprise of activists and practitioners committed to preventing gender based violence in the region. Membership is composed of more than 25 grassroots women groups which are actively contributing to helping the Network reach our objectives. JWG is acting as the Regional Coordinating Institution (RCI) of the network in the North rift region, with its base in Eldoret, KENYA. Our conceptual understanding is based on the following issues

- We recognize that girls and women are most affected by GBV and therefore they are the core focus and priority in our work. We believe that primary prevention of violence against girls and women is critical. We hold a feminist analysis of GBV, meaning that we recognize that violence against women happens because of the imbalance of power in relationships and we are committed to programming that addresses this power inequity.
- We believe that men have an important role to play in creating violence-free relationships, families and communities.
- We recognize that in order for violence against women to end, fundamental changes in long-held attitudes and beliefs about the value of women and the roles they are able to play need to change.

Our network aims to achieve four very specific objectives.

- To provide member organizations with relevant information about and access to resources on violence prevention;
- To build solidarity between organizations working on violence;
- To strengthen capacity of members on critical issues and methodologies; and,
- To advocate for increased interest and investment for gender-based violence prevention in the regions.

4.0: ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BETWEEN 25TH Nov – 10th December 2012

4.1: Advocacy campaign through public procession:

JWG and the GBV network held a public procession at the famous Nandi Arcade. The procession attracted more than 200 women and men and other stakeholders who came together to support the movement in fighting against GBV. During the procession, members of the network sang and chanted slogans against GBV. The activity also culminated the launch of the 16 days at the same venue. This activity was a sure public interest



case that opened the way for other women who are victims of the same violation and raise awareness to encourage other women to speak out and begin to have faith in the justice system. The procession began at 10 am with a procession down the streets of Eldoret from Eldoret Municipal grounds and was be lead by a colorful band of Eldoret ensemble players. This all day event had; entertainments, educative material, musicians and skit players, opportunity for free counseling and testing and information sharing. GBV partners assisted over 40 people by giving advice on legal issues relating to GBV.

4.2: GENDER BASED VIOLENCE SKIT:

The team playing the skit repeated the theme of last year (2011) which was about wife inheritance for purposes of acquiring property and physical violence against women. one of the actors, a lady was complaining of the husband selling of family property with the sole intention of spending sex workers and on wanton drinking of alcohol.



The skit revealed that most of the violence against women is mainly sexual and lack of decision making powers regarding property rights. Participants were urged to read through the new constitution which has provided the women more decision making powers regarding land ownership and sale. The meeting agreed to address the vice and begin by empowering the youths from a young age. The society has brought up boys to believe that they should not for example cry, play with dolls and therefore they become violent.

The media was criticized for not advocating against gender based violence. Instead it covers only politics. Capacity building for police doctors should also be considered and their number increased as well as train them on how to handles cases of GBV. The issue of religious leaders should also be given much attention. The role of the churches should remain as a place where people can run and seek help from and not be mediums of condemnation on those who have suffered GBV or the survivors of HIV & AIDS.

4.3: Regional Stigma Roundtable Discussion:

In marking the 16 days of activism against gender violence, Jumuiya Women Group organized an open air round table discussion as see in the phot below. The forum was used to discuss Gender based violence, human rights and HIV issues that afect both men and women. This was attended by many partners from civil society- NGOs and CBOs in human rights, HIV and AIDS, gender and gender violence, faith, positive women, sex workers, youth and children, all under the Gender Based Violence Network. This meeting helped bring the linkages between GBV and HIV infection and the importance of various interest groups working together for a combined, stronger voice that has greater effect and impact.

The facilitators for the workshop were experienced trainers from Jumuiya women group and the GBV network who work in the different fields of HIV, Gender Based Violence,



and women rights. Each facilitator was selected based on their area of expertise.

The primary purpose of the workshop was to discuss about gender based violence and human rights. In particular, the workshop content focused on clarifying the roles and responsibilities of different organizations in addressing Gender Based violence and human rights. Part of the workshop tools involved showing of pictures and graphs. A secondary goal of the workshop was to engage women and the society at large in issues affecting women at the grassroots, on GBV, Sexual and Reproductive Health rights and stigma and discrimination. The facilitators were women with experience in HIV, Human rights and Gender Based Violence. The workshop methodology included PowerPoint presentations, real life experience sharing, pictures and skits, as most of our participants were young women; variety in presentation was important for easy understanding and participation.

5.0: PRESENTATION ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE by Milka Cherotich

The facilitator took the participants through the definition of types of GBV and effects of GBV at societal, community and individual level. Comments were given by participants. The session was then followed by discussion on the presentation.

The presenter analyzed the issues as follows:

Types of GBV

- i. Sexual violence
- ii. Physical violence
- iii. Economic violence (include early marriages due to poverty)
- iv. Emotional violence

These types of violence come in different forms which may include Personal, Community and Societal violence. What needs to be done is to empower those directly affected or is likely to be affected by such kinds of violence. Session two took place after break which started with discussion

6.0: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations were made:

- Create awareness in the communities as very few people understand that GBV is a crime punishable by law, yet they continue to practice it
- Educate the communities. There are social laws for example those of the city council. Educate the people on such laws for example so that they be able to educate others on what they learn.
- Problems of recognition: - look at a community and what that community values. If a person speaks in a community and that community listens, then change the minds of such people as they are likely to be very influential allies and agents of change at community level.
- Organizations fighting such vices to formulate a joint strategy and come together and [push forward (together) for a policy;
- Stigma: - go back to the drawing board and strategize new ways of curbing gender based stigma. It is not enough to sing about violence but tell them the consequences of gender based Violence;
- The kind of mobilization: - the GBV Network needs to identify more stakeholders at a larger geographical region then Empower such a groups;

7.0: ACTION PLAN

The 16 days of activism came to a conclusion with a summary of issues as follows:

1. Theory and no practices won't take us anywhere-there is need to begin by doing smaller things that we are able to do.

2. Lessons learnt about GBV, its causes and effects and how it is linked with HIV and human rights.
3. Youth Empowerment- How can we empower the youth in the community to take charge of issues affecting them such as GBV, Human rights and HIV and AIDS?
4. Role of religion in addressing GBV and HIV and AIDS: How do we engage religious leaders on these issues?
5. How can we enforce laws and policies on GBV? How can we implement these laws at the community level?

Community intervention.

1. Access and sharing information: how can young people access the right information and share the information with others?
2. Strategies used in the addressing stigma- do we need to change strategies of creating awareness on HIV and stigma reduction?
3. Sexual and reproductive health and rights: How can we do advocacy for Access to youth friendly services?
4. Learn and borrow from best practices in addressing GBV for example conducting training in schools and churches.
5. Role of media in advocacy-We need to know how to deal with media-target the media who are able to reach the community.
6. Behavior change: -how do we communicate behavior change
7. Implementation of all the above.

Lessons learnt

- During the course of the events we learnt that it was important to start planning early in the year for these events.
- Further, it imperative that all partners participate actively to ensure proper organization and management of activities.
- GBV and women rights issues should be addressed throughout the year and not on specific recognized days because these issues affect people on a daily basis.



Milka Cherotich, Coordinator, GBV Network



Dorcas Kosgei-Chairlady reading a speech



APPENDIX VI: PICTORIAL PRESENTATION



APPENDIX III: ATTENDANCE LIST

No.	NAME	ORGANIZATION	GENDER
1	Dorcas Kosgey	Jumuiya Women Group	Female
2	Catherine C. Ruto	Eldoret Cheptiret Youth Group	female
3	Zipporah Kiprop	Jumuiya Women Group	Female
4	Elphas Bengo	Global Media	Male
5	Emmy Jerop	Jumuiya Women Group	Female
6	Wilfridah Ekachan	Bomas Women Group	Female
7	Caroline Wafula	Huruma Women	Female
8	Wesley Chebii	Kenya Community Sports Foundation	Male
9	martha Wangoi	Langas Women group	Female
10	Teresia Wanjiru	Sport Initiative for Change	Female
11	Dennis Korir	law student Moi university	Male
12	Joshua Arikoh	Sports development in Africa	Male
13	Simion Kipkogei Kimtai	Digitals Hearts	Male
14	Gladys tanui	International Office of Migration (IOM)	Female
15	Jelagat Kibias	Young women leader Moi University	Female
16	George Baraza	Christian Community Group	Male
17	Jerop Caroline	GBV Network Volunteer	Female
18	Esther Wamboi	Langas Women group	Female
19	Camillah Tarus	Volunteer Jumuiya Women Group	Female
20	Maina Zipporah	Kaptagat Women Group	Female
21	Dorothy Atieno	Eldoret Cheptiret Youth Group	Female
22	Jackson Cheruiyot	Kenya Community Sports Foundation	Male
23	Peris Bitok	Centre Against Torture (Human Rights Org)	Female
24	georgine Kemboi	Jumuiya Women Group	Female
25	Alice Rutto	VCT Counsellor Eldoret District Hospital	Female
26	Kennedy Otieno	Sports development in Africa	Male
27	Jonathan Chessesio	Peace Net	Male

28	Milkah Cherotich	Jumuiya Women Group	Female
29	Christine Nafula	Sports development in Africa	Female
30	Linah Chebet	EMMO Community	Female
31	Dorcas Cheruiyot	GBV Network Volunteer	Female
32	Philip Barno	YMCA	Male
33	Rose Keino	GBV Network Volunteer	Female
34	Jane Jeptum Mania	GBV Network Volunteer	Female
35	Robert Korir	Kuinet Youth Group	Male
36	Laura Chepchumba	International Office of Migration (IOM)	Female
37	Joywin Kibet	redcross Eldoret	Female
38	Loise Kipruto	Burnt forest women group	Female
39	Lucy gathura	Burnt forest women group	Female
40	Lenah Kosgei	Kipkabus women group	Female