

Helpdesk Research Report: Violence Against Women Interventions

Date: 08.10.09

Query: What international evidence exists on effective policy responses to address violence against women – outside of conflict-affected contexts?

Enquirer: DFID India

- 1. Overview**
- 2. General evaluations**
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- 4. Responding to VAW**
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1. Overview

There are few rigorous evaluations of interventions and approaches to prevent or respond to violence against women (VAW) – and even less that engage in a comparative analysis. This is highlighted in much of the literature and confirmed by several experts. There are, however, a number of evaluations that focus on individual projects in specific countries. These have been included in this research report.

Some general findings on effectiveness and best practice in addressing violence against women can be drawn from a review of available evaluations. They include:

- A multi-agency, multi-sector approach (coordinated community response model), has been shown to be particularly effective in addressing violence against women. This involves, for example, collaboration between police, prosecution and probation officers in the justice sector; and partnerships with health and social services sectors – in order to prevent gaps in victim protection and perpetrator accountability; and to provide comprehensive support for victims of violence.
- Legislation to address violence against women and national plans of action, while challenging to implement, has provided the political space and in some cases, the resources to address VAW. The act of criminalising such violence has also been effective in changing public perceptions of VAW.
- Routine screening of abuse and violence in the health sector, for example, has been effective in preventing and reducing violence.
- Awareness and support programmes that have sought to empower women and provide them with emotional, legal, and/or financial support have been effective in improving the ability of women to leave or renegotiate violent relationships; and in encouraging them to participate in the criminal justice system.
- Specifically targeting men and boys in awareness campaigns through tailored messages has been effective in changing individual male attitudes and behaviours that are conducive to violence.
- Training manuals and workshops have been particularly effective tools in promoting awareness, disseminating information, and changing the behaviours of agencies who deal with victims of violence.
- Sharing information and best practice across agencies and across countries has been effective in increasing the capacity of organisations to address VAW.

2. General Evaluations

Morrison, A., Ellsberg, M. and Bott, S., 2007, 'Addressing Gender-Based Violence: A Critical Review of Interventions', *The World Bank Observer*, vol. 22, no. 1, pp. 25-51
<http://wbpro.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/reprint/22/1/25.pdf>

The paper reviews international evidence of the effectiveness of three types of interventions to prevent and respond to gender-based violence (GBV): 1) increasing access to justice for survivors of gender-based violence, 2) providing support to women who have been affected by violence, and 3) preventing gender-based violence. Findings include:

Access to justice

- The most effective interventions to improve institutional response have entailed reforming the justice sector as a whole and building partnerships between the justice sector and other sectors, such as health and social services (coordinated community response model). In the United States, for example, such a response has been shown to significantly improve law enforcement outcomes, such as number of arrests, percentage of cases resulting in prosecution, and the percentage of men ordered to attend batterer treatment programmes.
- The creation of specialised women's police stations is a common intervention. The existence of several such stations or units within police stations in Latin American countries appears to have increased reporting of abuse and the likelihood that women will receive forensic exams, counseling, emergency contraception, and protection against sexually transmitted infections. Evaluations have also identified problems, however, including the false presumption that female officers will automatically respond better to victims of violence; and the concern that they have allowed regular police stations to relinquish responsibility for violence against women. Instead, a 'whole system' approach, in which male and female police officers both receive gender-based violence training may be preferable. Such a model has been adopted in Nicaragua and has resulted in improved quality of service for women survivors of violence.

Support for survivors of violence

- Many programmes have aimed to strengthen the health service response to violence against women. Although there are few evaluations, a promising approach has been the adoption of a system wide approach and universal screening. In developing countries, where universal screening may not be feasible, selective screening can be adopted. The education sector has been neglected in programming despite growing evidence that sexual harassment and other forms of GBV are prevalent in educational settings and is likely to affect girls school enrolment in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

Prevention of gender-based violence

- Programme evaluations demonstrate that mass media campaigns and community-based education have been successful in increasing awareness and knowledge and modifying attitudes. They have focused on promoting non-violent behaviour, challenging beliefs in women's subordination, and encouraging women and men to be more supportive of their friends and family members who experience violence. The impact of these programmes on actually reducing violent behaviour is less clear, however.
- Substantial evidence suggests that violence prevention requires community-wide interventions.

- One promising approach to behavioural change is “edutainment”—the use of radio and television to promote health and social change. The strategy, used in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, has demonstrated effectiveness in changing behaviours related to reproductive health, AIDS education, and the status of women.
- Research has also found that programmes cannot focus solely on equipping victims to protect themselves but must also focus on changing the attitudes and behaviours of young men. Evaluations of programmes in Brazil, Peru and South Africa aimed at promoting non-violence among men have shown promising results in changing male attitudes and behaviours – in particular those of boys and younger men.

Hester, M. and Westmarland, N., 2005, ‘Tackling Domestic Violence: Effective Approaches and Interventions’, Home Office Research Study, no. 290, Home Office, London

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hors290.pdf>

This research study reports on the findings of an evaluation of 27 domestic violence projects, funded by the Home Office as part of a Crime Reduction Programme (CRP). The projects involved: criminal and civil justice; protection and prevention; Black and other ethnic minorities; health; multi-service provision; education; and rural work. A key finding was the need for a multi-agency response, including a range of advocacy, support, engagement with the criminal and civil justice systems and with other voluntary and statutory sector agencies. Without a comprehensive approach, advocacy and support work, for example, was frustrated by shortcomings in other services, notably a slow-moving or ineffective civil and criminal justice process. The projects that were most successful in reducing repeat victimisation combined tailored advocacy and support with engaging in criminal and civil justice processes. Routine enquiry and primary prevention were also important.

Chapter 8 (see pp. 91-96) provides an overview of effective interventions and approaches in preventing and reducing domestic violence; and dealing with the impacts. They include those aimed at: primary prevention through raising awareness and challenging attitudes among youth (e.g. student-centred drama techniques); outreach and publicity campaigns (e.g. using a wide range of media); support for women in disclosure of domestic violence (e.g. routine enquiry in health care settings), in reporting to the police (e.g. legal advocacy) and in going through the courts (e.g. accompaniment in court; ‘one-stop-shop’ service provision); and support for women through individual and group work (e.g. structured outreach to increase self-awareness; and emotional support to ‘move on’). The chapter also provides recommendations on how to effectively target different groups: children and youth; women experiencing domestic violence but not actively seeking help; and women who have been subject to repeat victimisation and who are actively seeking help.

Morrison, A., Ellsberg, M. and Bott, S., 2004, ‘Addressing Gender-Based Violence in the Latin American and Caribbean Region: A Critical Review of Interventions’, World Bank Policy Research Working Paper, no. 3438, World Bank, Washington, DC

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2004/11/05/000160016_20041105120943/Rendered/PDF/wps3438.pdf

This working paper presents an overview of good practice interventions to prevent GBV or to offer services to its survivors or perpetrators, focusing on justice, health, education and multi-sectoral approaches. It notes where available the results of evaluations – primarily in the health sector and based in areas of multi-sectoral coordination.

The paper highlights the adoption of an integrated approach for working with violence in the health sector in the region, which goes beyond screening for abuse and referrals to service providers (the common approach in many industrialised countries) to include medical care;

counselling; and community-focused prevention initiatives. NGOs have engaged in work to promote community-wide changes in attitudes and practices related to gender norms and violence against women - often as a component of HIV/AIDS prevention or reproductive health programmes. Evaluations of these initiatives have demonstrated that such community level approaches can be effective in changing violence-related attitudes and behaviours. Health sector-based programmes that aim to change individual behaviour by working with individual men and boys have also reported a positive impact on men's self reported attitudes and behaviours.

Regarding multi-sectoral approaches, the paper notes that almost all Latin American governments have established inter-sectoral national plans on violence against women. Although there are no rigorous evaluations of the effectiveness of these national plans, qualitative reports suggest that the existence of a national plan on violence against women is considered an important achievement in itself, as it creates a political space for greater dialogue between civil society and the state, while committing government to a public discourse that encourages sanctions against violence.

European Commission, 2005, 'The Daphne Experience 1997-2003: Europe Against Violence Towards Children and Women', European Communities, Luxembourg

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/2004_2007/daphne/doc/daphne_experience/daphne_experience_en.pdf

The Daphne programme, launched by the European commission in 1997, provides funds to government authorities and NGOs to implement projects that contribute to combating violence towards children and women. The six Daphne objectives are: support to multidisciplinary networks; exchange of good practice throughout Europe; studies, research and data collection; information campaigns; information sources; and recognition and reporting of violence. This report evaluates seven years of Daphne activities and finds that the programme has had positive impacts on partners, target groups and end-beneficiaries.

Regarding partners, the programme has been effective in increasing the capacity of organisations in Europe to protect children, young people and women from violence – through knowledge exchange and networking opportunities (e.g. conferences, seminars and workshops) and adoption of best practices among partners. Regarding target groups (people who work directly with end-beneficiaries and indirectly –i.e. national authorities, judicial staff and politicians), the programme has been effective in increasing awareness of issues of violence through dissemination activities and increasing attention to prevention activities. The study finds that training packages and manuals were particularly effective in changing behaviours of target groups regarding prevention of violence – indicating that information campaigns are useful in actually preventing violence. End-beneficiaries also benefited from dissemination activities in terms of increased awareness about their rights. The study notes, however, that direct advocacy with and support to end-beneficiaries are of greater importance than general information and awareness-raising. The study finds that projects coordinated by NGOs were more effective in improving access to assistance in terms of guiding end-beneficiaries towards services and in interfacing with providers of services and end-beneficiaries.

Health Canada, 2002, 'The Family Violence Initiative: Year Five Report', Health Canada, Ottawa <http://dsp-psd.pwgsc.gc.ca/Collection/H72-2-2004E.pdf>

This report presents an overview of the achievements of the federal government's investment in family violence prevention, under the Family Violence Initiative. Its mandate has been to:

- promote public awareness of the risk factors of family violence and the need for public involvement in responding to the problem;

- strengthen the ability of the criminal justice and housing systems to respond to the problem; and
- support data collection, research and evaluation efforts to identify effective interventions.

The report finds that the initiative was successful in fulfilling its mandate. Its multifaceted research, evaluation and knowledge synthesis activities provided valuable information that contributed to improvements in policies, programmes and practice in various sectors including health, social services, justice and housing and across all levels of government. The initiative also supported a range of community activities that contributed to community capacity, networks and partnerships to address family violence - including the production of accessible resources and tools.

The initiative also improved the cooperation, coordination and collaboration of provincial and territorial officials in the research and evaluation of legislative effectiveness. This contributed to improvements in the criminal justice legal framework for addressing family violence by offering better protection for the safety and security of victims; improving the protection of children from sexual exploitation; and strengthening sentencing provisions and refining penalties. The initiative was also effective in raising awareness of legislation through multi-language public legal education and information and innovative projects to reach Canadians in rural areas. Other efforts to raise public awareness of domestic violence more generally have also been effective, in particular the dissemination of information through a dedicated resource centre: the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence; and the targeting of specific groups such as health and social service, professionals and specific populations. The engagement of the community as a public awareness strategy was particularly effective: for example, the use of ethnic media was found to be an effective way to reach specific communities beyond linguistic and cultural barriers.

3. Preventing VAW

Legislation

Postmus, J. L. and Hahn, S. A., 2007, 'Comparing the Policy Response to Violence Against Women in the USA and South Korea', *International Social Work*, vol. 50, no. 6, pp. 770-782 <http://isw.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/50/6/770>

This article analyses the impact of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in the US and the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Victim Protection Act (Protection Act) in South Korea. VAWA provides new legal remedies for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and trafficking. It aims to enhance the ability of law enforcement departments, prosecutors and victim assistance programmes to increase services for women victims of violence, to increase victims' safety and offenders' accountability. These goals are reached through the strategic leadership of the federal government to increase coordination among entities involved with women victims, along with providing federal funds for more policing, prosecution and victim services. Under South Korea's Protection Act, state and local governments are responsible for providing measures to prevent domestic violence within families and to protect victims. These measures include: establishing and operating a reporting system for domestic violence; conducting research, providing education and running public awareness campaigns to prevent and prohibit domestic violence; establishing and operating protective facilities for victims of domestic violence and providing other assistance to the victims; investigating and assessing the actual occurrence and conditions of domestic violence; and revising laws related to the prevention and prohibition of domestic violence and establishing and enforcing policies to prevent and prohibit domestic violence,

Based on a review of studies on the impact of VAWA and the Protection Act, the article states that they have had a big impact in both countries. In the US, victim agencies have been able through the provision of funds to expand services to reach more victims: police departments have improved the quality of cases with the purchase of additional equipment such as cameras; and prosecutors have been able to take additional steps to reduce repeat victimization. Police have also been more receptive to cases of violence. VAWA has also increased victim and public awareness of the problem. The combination of greater awareness; better information about the criminal justice system; greater collaboration between agencies; and a shift in organisational culture has resulted in more reports to police and victim agencies.

The enactment of the Protection Act has also had profound effects on Korean society: it affected the public awareness of domestic violence; and expanded the resources available to victims. It redefined what was regarded as a natural dispute between couples or a traditional means of control of a wife by her husband to a crime punishable by law. This has affected and changed Korean citizens' consciousness towards domestic violence. In terms of practical intervention effects, there have been drastic increases in the facilities for domestic violence victims and in the number of women who have received social services. The number of shelters across the country has increased drastically, for example, since the Act took effect.

Cho, H. and Wilke, D. J., 2005, 'How has the Violence Against Women Act Affected the Response of the Criminal Justice System to Domestic Violence', *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare* http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0CYZ/is_4_32/ai_n16418565/

This study examines the association between the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in the US and various dimensions of the criminal justice system's involvement in violence against women (e.g. the domestic violence incidence rate, rates of police notification, rates of arrest, and judicial authorities' involvement). It finds that victim involvement with judicial authorities increased significantly after enactment of the VAWA. In addition, the overall incidence of domestic violence decreased while police notification and perpetrator arrest increased over time. The study concludes that the Violence Against Women Act has significantly strengthened victims' involvement with criminal justice authorities such as prosecutors and court officers; and that victims' responses to domestic violence have increasingly involved the criminal justice system.

Awareness campaigns and empowerment

Kayangarara, S., 2005, 'Good Practices In Combating Violence Against Women In SADC Countries', Expert Paper written for the meeting, Violence Against Women: Good Practices in Combating and Elimination Violence Against Women', UN Division for the Advancement of Women and UN Office on Drugs and Crime, 17-20 May, Vienna <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/vaw-gp-2005/docs/experts/kayangarara.vaw.pdf>

This paper explores the effectiveness of NGO interventions to raise awareness of VAW in Southern Africa and to improve police responses. The latter has included thorough assessment of existing laws that protect women in order to dispel the view that the police cannot act in 'domestic' matters. This information has been presented in workshops with police and in police training. The paper finds that these efforts have been effective in improving police attitudes to women who suffer from violence. Police stations have also since appointed counselling officers who are dedicated to dealing with VAW. The paper stresses that it was beneficial for NGOs to have adopted a partnership approach with the police rather than a confrontational, demanding approach in order to ensure that women are given empathic reception at police stations. It was also beneficial to engage ministers and Police headquarters, given the hierarchical and bureaucratic organisation of the police.

NGOs have complemented their work with police departments by raising awareness, at community and individual levels, of the wrongfulness of VAW. They have tailored messages to different sectors of the community – e.g. to women as victims and survivors, to men as potential perpetrators etc., using electronic and print media, advertising on billboards and buses, workshops and extensive media campaigns based on events. These interventions have been considered successful due to the higher coverage of VAW in the news, signalling growing community intolerance for VAW; the rise of men's organisations seeking to influence other men to stop violent behaviour; and the increase in the number of women who have approached the courts seeking peace orders against perpetrators as well as arrests of men violating such peace orders.

Kim, J. C. et al., 2007, 'Understanding the Impact of a Microfinance-Based Intervention on Women's Empowerment and the Reduction of Intimate Partner Violence in South Africa', *American Journal of Public Health*, vol. 97, no. 10, pp. 1794-1802

<http://www.ajph.org/cgi/content/full/97/10/1794>

This study seeks to evaluate the effectiveness of a combined microfinance and training intervention in South Africa in preventing or responding to intimate partner violence. Microfinance was provided on the basis that women who live in poverty are more likely to experience violence. Training programmes were participatory and sought to enhance dialogue and understanding of HIV infection, gender norms, domestic violence and sexuality. The study finds that the combination of microfinance and training generated social and economic benefits, leading to reductions in levels of intimate partner violence among participants. After 2 years, the risk of past-year physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner was reduced by more than half. Qualitative data indicate that the reductions in violence resulted from women becoming empowered to challenge the acceptability of such violence, expect and receiving better treatment from partners, leave violent relationships, give material and moral support to those experiencing abuse, mobilise new and existing community groups, and raise public awareness about the need to address both gender-based violence and HIV infection.

Screening

McFarlane, J., Soeken, K. and Wiist, W., 2000, 'An Evaluation of Interventions to Decrease Intimate Partner Violence to Pregnant Women', *Public Health Nursing*, vol. 17, no. 6, pp. 443-451

<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/120707261/abstract?CRETRY=1&SRETRY=0>

This study seeks to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions to identify and address abuse in the health sector, focusing on public health prenatal clinics in the US. It finds that two groups of pregnant women who received either (i) a referral card and a brochure about abuse; or (ii) counselling and mentoring during their pregnancy reported lower levels of physical violence after several months. Given similar results for the two groups of women, the main finding is that a screening assessment itself may be the most effective intervention to prevent abuse to pregnant women. This could be because assessment signals that abuse is serious and of concern to the health care provider, and that help is available if needed. The study recommends that abuse assessment be incorporated into routine prenatal care as a prevention measure.

4. Responding to VAW

Support and empowerment

Carcedo, A., 2005, 'Woman You are Not Alone: An Efficient Proposal', Expert Paper written for the meeting, Violence Against Women: Good Practices in Combating and Elimination Violence Against Women', UN Division for the Advancement of Women and UN Office on Drugs and Crime, 17-20 May, Vienna

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/vaw-gp-2005/docs/experts/carcedo.vaw.pdf>

This paper reports on the impact of the 'Woman You Are Not Alone Programme', implemented by CEFEMINA in Costa Rica. At the core of the programme is a Self Help Group that brings together abused women in an unstructured and free space to talk and support one another. An impact study, comprised of focus groups and interviews, demonstrated that a majority of the women who attended the group had been able to reclaim a life without violence, either by leaving the abusive relationship or by renegotiating the relationship. Most stated that their ability to achieve this was due in large part to their participation in the group. The paper highlights some good practices of the programme: the language of 'violence against women' was always used instead of family violence or domestic violence in order to punctuate that women are the objects of violence; and the overarching philosophy was that women are strong subjects capable of making good decisions and capable of leaving abusive relationships and standing on their own.

Kelly, L., 1999, 'Domestic Violence Matters: An Evaluation of a Development Project', Home Office Research Study, no. 193, Home Office, London

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs/hors193.pdf>

This study evaluates Domestic Violence Matters (DVM), an experimental project in Islington, London that located a team of skilled civilian crisis interveners within the police service to provide out of office hours services and to follow up police responses to domestic violence. The aims were to provide support to victims at their most vulnerable point; to enhance the response of the criminal justice system to the crime of domestic violence; and to secure better informed and co-ordinated responses by local agencies to the problem. DVM was adapted from a Canadian project, the Family Consultancy Service, based in London, Ontario.

The DVM model of crisis intervention was found to be well utilised and effective. Its importance was attributed to its provision of out of hours availability; its role in advocating for women; and its linking and coordination role with other agencies and services. However, the degree of effectiveness of the project varied. The greatest impact was in the case of personalised immediate contact soon after an incident. Early pro-active intervention was found to be effective in enabling change; users attributed their ability to end relationships and/or proceed with legal action to DVM. The study found, however, that policing and law enforcement improved minimally. Still there was some evidence that DVM increased confidence in the police amongst victims, and decreased repeat calls.

Legal systems and legal support

Cook, D. et al., 2004, 'Evaluation of Specialist Domestic Violence Courts/Fast Track Systems', Crown Prosecution Service

<http://www.cps.gov.uk/publications/docs/specialistdvcourts.pdf>

This report evaluates the effectiveness of Specialist Domestic Violence Courts (SDVC) or Fast Track Systems (FTS) in England and Wales, in terms of providing safety for victims. It finds that specialist courts are beneficial as they allow for a multi-agency response, tailored specifically to victims of domestic violence. In addition, they help reinforce the seriousness of the commitment of criminal justice system, and statutory and voluntary agencies, to reducing

domestic violence. More specifically, the report finds that SDVC and FTS have been beneficial in three key ways:

- Both 'clustering' and 'fast-tracking' domestic violence cases enhances the effectiveness of court and support services for victims: there is evidence, for example, that specialist courts sped up the legal process, in part due to the presence of a domestic violence officer at court. This could contribute to victims deciding to continue with their involvement.
- Both SDVC and FTS arrangements make advocacy and information-sharing easier to accomplish: greater collaboration across the police and criminal justice systems, for example, is likely to improve the ability to gather better evidence early on.
- Victim participation and satisfaction as well as public confidence in the criminal justice system has increased: there is evidence that victims are highly satisfied with the advice, support and information provided by lay advocates and others in the voluntary and community sectors. Further, victim satisfaction surveys indicate a link between receiving support and participating in the criminal justice process.

McFarlane, J. et al., 2004, 'Protection Orders and Intimate Partner Violence: An 18-Month Study of 150 Black, Hispanic, and White Women', *American Journal of Public Health*, vol. 94, no. 4, pp. 613-618

<http://www.ajph.org/cgi/content/abstract/94/4/613>

This study evaluates the effectiveness of protection orders, which restrict the access of one person (e.g. a male abuser) to another person (e.g. an abused woman) for a specified time. It focuses on 2-year protection orders in situations of intimate partner violence in Texas. It finds that, irrespective of whether or not a 2-year protection order was granted, abused women who sought a protection order reported significantly lower levels of threats of violence - threats of assault, physical assault, stalking, and worksite harassment - at 3, 6, 12, and 18 months after their initial contact with the justice system.

5. Integrated community models

Robinson, A. L., 2006, 'Reducing Repeat Victimization Among High-Risk Victims of Domestic Violence: The Benefits of a Coordinated Community Response in Cardiff, Wales', *Violence Against Women*, vol. 12, no. 8, pp. 761-788

<http://vaw.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/12/8/761>

This article reviews the effectiveness of Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs), a coordinated community process in Wales that is part of the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangement (MAPPA), designed to manage violent and sex offenders. The goal of MARACs is to provide a forum for relevant agencies within and outside of the criminal justice system for sharing information and taking joint actions to reduce harm to high-risk domestic violence victims. During the meetings, which occur monthly, the circumstances of individual victims are discussed and representatives from various agencies contribute information. This helps to identify and fill information gaps: for example, the police might have knowledge of one woman as a repeat, high-risk victim, but probation might not have any knowledge of her partner being a serious domestic abuser. Plans are then created during the meetings to help promote the safety of victims. An evaluation of MARACs demonstrated that enhanced information sharing allowed for agencies to assist victims more efficiently. The identification of risk played an important role in galvanizing people from many agencies to contribute to the coordinated community response. Data from police and victims demonstrated that victims' safety had improved as a result.

Murphy, C. M., Musser, P. H. and Maton, K. I., 1998, 'Coordinated Community Intervention for Domestic Abusers: Intervention System Involvement and Criminal Recidivism', *Journal of Family Violence*, vol. 13, no. 3, pp. 263-284
<http://www.springerlink.com/content/tp35111852203677/>

This study evaluates the effectiveness of coordinated community interventions for male domestic violence perpetrators. It first highlights the benefits of coordination of various interventions as the actions of one agency alone are unlikely to be able to have far-reaching effects. Police interventions, for example, are only one component of a system that includes prosecution strategies, probation monitoring, and court-ordered counseling for domestic violence perpetrators, and victim services; thus, effective arrest policies may have limited effects if charges are dropped or prosecution is otherwise ineffective. The study focuses on coordinated approaches in Maryland in the US. It finds that coordinated community intervention for domestic violence perpetrators – involving the cumulative effects of successful prosecution, probation monitoring, receiving a court order to counselling, attending counselling intake, and completion of counselling – were associated with lower rates of criminal recidivism (new charges for offences associated with domestic abuse).

Michau, L., 2005, 'Good Practice in Designing a Community-based Approach to Prevent Domestic Violence', Expert Paper written for the meeting, Violence Against Women: Good Practices in Combating and Elimination Violence Against Women', UN Division for the Advancement of Women and UN Office on Drugs and Crime, 17-20 May, Vienna
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/vaw-gp-2005/docs/experts/michau.community.pdf>

This paper discusses a community mobilisation approach to the prevention of domestic violence. Such an approach attempts to reach individuals, relationships, communities, and the larger society. It is based on the belief that violent behaviour grows out of a complex interplay of individual, relational, communal and societal dynamics; thus, a person's attitudes, behaviour and choices cannot be influenced without attention to all four of these spheres of influence. The five phases of community mobilisation identified are: 1) assessing attitudes and beliefs about domestic violence; 2) raising awareness; 3) building networks; 4) integrating action against domestic violence into everyday community life and community institutions; and 5) consolidating efforts such that prevention is sustainable. Strategies to reach people in each sphere of influence include the use of creative learning materials; community capacity building; media engagement; community events; advocacy and local activism.

The paper presents a qualitative impact assessment of this approach, which had been adopted by the Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention in Kampala, Uganda. The assessment found that the community mobilisation project significantly contributed to individual, relationship and community change, which resulted in decreased levels of physical, emotional, sexual and economic violence against women in the home (statistics are presented on pp. 7-9).

6. Additional Information

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Websites visited

Amnesty International, Google, GSDRC, Centre for Court Innovation, Centre for Women's Global Leadership, Council of Europe, Home Office, Ingenta Journals, International Centre on Research for Women, PreventViolence.info, Raising Voices, StopVAW.org, Tshwaranang Legal Advocacy Centre to End Violence Against Women, Women Won't Wait, World Bank, World Health Organisation, UN Division for the Advancement of Women, UNIFEM, UNDP

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