



# Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence Report on CSW57, 6<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2012.

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## Acronyms

CA	Community Activist
CEDAW	Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
CSW	Commission for the Status of Women
DV	Domestic Violence
GBV	Gender Based Violence
ICGBV	Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
MWIA	Medical Women's International Association
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OECD/DAC	OECD/ Development Assistance Committee
PEP	Post-Exposure Prophylaxis
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
WHO	World Health Organisation
WHRD	Woman Human Rights Defender
WHRDIC	Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition

## Key Messages



We would not be here were it not for the strength, determination and persistence of the **women's movement** at every level. The movement is a powerful and effective force. It requires – and deserves – ongoing funding.

**Funding for women's rights work** needs to be flexible and long term. It should support networks, alliance-building, and also work to “hold the line” against regressive policies and laws.

**Violence against women is preventable.** This is proven: the evidence cannot be denied or ignored.

It is necessary to invest in **more robust research** to generate more evidence about what works and what doesn't. Investment in research can inform policy and practice, and give solid arguments for advocacy. Both **qualitative and quantitative research methods are necessary.**

There is power in **identifying the cost of violence against women and girls to the national economy.** This can provide a compelling argument for engaging policy makers. However, economic arguments should never be used without recognising that protection from violence is a fundamental human right.

**Men and Boys** are critical to ending violence against women and girls. This work must be transformative, addressing deep-seated cultural norms and assumptions. It must operate within a framework of women's rights. And it requires additional funding, so that it doesn't take resources away from the women's movement.

**Faith provides both solutions and challenges.** Faith and faith organisations have an essential part to play in changing social norms. There are many good examples of faith organisations showing leadership. However, **religious fundamentalisms undermine this work** and even seek to roll back on agreed women's rights.

In order to end violence against women, a **holistic and multi-sectoral response** is necessary involving health, education, justice and economic sectors. A multi-sectoral approach should address the whole person, the whole community and the whole society. It should work on a continuum between prevention and response.

## How to read this report

This is the report of the Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence from the 57<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women. The purpose of our attendance, and the outcomes, are outlined on pages 7 and 8 of this report, in the section titled “The GBV Consortium at the CSW”.

The CSW comprises a wide variety of events: formal discussions; side events held at the UN; parallel events held by civil society; formal negotiations and networking. Throughout our engagement with the CSW, a number of themes emerged repeatedly. This report outlines the main lessons under each of the major themes, and gives links to further information and expert agencies. Each section heading contains information gleaned from one or more events at the CSW. Annex 4 gives the titles of the events, and where possible the speakers at them.

# The CSW: Overview

The fifty-seventh session of the [Commission on the Status of Women](#) (CSW) took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 4 to 15 March 2013. The CSW is the principal global policy-making body dedicated exclusively to gender equality and the advancement of women. Every year representatives of Member States attend the CSW to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards, and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and women's empowerment worldwide.

The main output of the CSW is a set of Agreed Conclusions. These were considered especially strategic this year, as they will feed into the discussions on gender equality at the planning session for the Beyond 2015 framework at the UN in September. The formal session of the CSW involves general discussions of the priority theme, review theme and emerging issue, and informal consultations on the agreed conclusions.

- **2013 Priority theme:**  
Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls.
- **Review theme:**  
The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS ([agreed conclusions](#) from the fifty-third session)
- **Emerging issue:**  
Key gender equality issues to be reflected in the post-2015 development framework



**Michelle Bachelet, head of UN Women**

Much of the formal deliberation is recorded and available by webcast: see the programme and webcasts [here](#). Through Ireland's presidency of the European Council, Minister of State with responsibility for Equality Kathleen Lynch addressed the Commission on behalf of the EU at the opening session. You can read her speech [here](#).

In addition to the formal session, states host side events within the UN building. The purpose of these events is to influence the deliberations through showcasing good practice and cutting edge findings from research and analysis. Ireland hosted two and co-sponsored another two side events, and also co-sponsored a UN Women/UNAIDS high level consultation on HIV and gender based violence (for full details of these events see Annex 2).

In addition to these official side events, a large number of parallel events are hosted by civil society (NGOs, churches, academics) in locations close to the UN building.

## Violence against women and girls: What the evidence tells us:

- Globally 26% of women report experiencing intimate partner violence at some stage during their lives
- 38% of murders of women are committed by intimate partners
- 11.8% of women have been sexually assaulted by someone other than a partner
- Sexual violence causes the greatest burden of disease for 15-44 year olds, in terms of both physical and mental health.

## Agreed Conclusions

The main output of the CSW is the Agreed Conclusions. This negotiated document includes an analysis of the priority theme and sets out concrete recommendations to Governments, intergovernmental bodies and other institutions, civil society actors and other relevant stakeholders on the priority theme – in this case elimination and prevention of violence against women and girls (VAWG). The Agreed Conclusions establish international norms, not international law. Every UN member state is expected to bring its national policies into line with the Agreed Conclusions. This doesn't happen automatically and depends on in-country pressure to really make a difference. The benefit of the Agreed Conclusions is that they give countries guidelines for good and accepted practice and a leverage point to pressure one another – and for civil society to hold governments to account. This year, after extremely lengthy negotiations, an [Agreed Conclusions document](#) was produced.

UN Women is the Commission's Secretariat and provides substantive support to the Commission and to its Bureau. Following a series of regional consultations and preparatory meetings and a high level Stakeholders Forum UN Women in consultation with the bureau prepared draft Agreed Conclusions.



This document was circulated in early February and was the starting point for negotiations, which began with discussions in regional blocks in advance of arrival at the formal session in New York, and continued in regional blocks at the UN. Ireland negotiates as part of the EU block, and this year in its presidency role Ireland supported the European External Action Services (EEAS) in representing the EU position in negotiations. In our experience, Ireland and the EU played a positive role in promoting the language of the zero draft, and in championing new developments such as the inclusion of women human rights defenders in the final draft. The final draft is agreed by consensus by the [45 countries](#) who are members of the Commission.

Civil society plays a role in bringing analysis and evidence to the negotiators, and in lobbying negotiators to use specific language. Civil society networking and shared planning is important. Every morning, there was a briefing session for civil society, and towards the end of the second week, NGOs began to meet in their regional caucuses most evenings. UN Women also organised two briefing meetings for CSOs which also included Member States during the negotiations.

There was much valuable detailed analysis of the negotiation process in the media. Some useful links include [this article](#) from Open Democracy, and articles on the [Guardian Poverty Matters blog](#).

After tense negotiations, the conclusions of the 57th CSW were finally agreed late on the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2013. The negotiations ultimately resulted in a strong document, which goes further than previous commitments, particularly in the areas of sexual and reproductive health. The document covers all key aspects of a multi-sectoral and multi-level prevention and response approaches to addressing violence against women and girls. This includes: recognising the link between GBV and HIV; the importance of engaging men and boys; working with all service providers to address the root causes

of gender inequality; and including specific protections for women human rights defenders. The table in Annex 3 highlights the key strengths and weaknesses of the adopted conclusions.

## **The GBV Consortium at CSW 57**

Concern Worldwide, Trócaire, and World Vision attended the CSW alongside Irish Aid for the Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence, as part of the Irish official delegation which included staff from the Human Rights Unit within DFAT, the Dept of Justice and Equality and domestic NGOs (see Annex 1 for the full list of delegation members). The event was an opportunity to actively share the Consortium's learning and to network and explore new avenues for the Consortium.

### ***ICGBV Side Event on GBV in post-conflict and fragile states***

This side event drew on the research carried out by the Consortium in Sierra Leone and shared learning on good practice in addressing GBV in post-conflict and fragile states.

#### **Speakers:**

- Kathleen Lynch, TD - Ireland's Minister of State for Disability, Equality, Mental Health and Older People
- Aisling Swaine PhD – Independent Consultant and author of "Addressing GBV in post-conflict and fragile states: a case study of Sierra Leone"
- Massie Bah - Director, Campaign for Democracy and Human Rights, Sierra Leone (Trócaire partner).

The event was chaired by Helen Keogh, CEO of World Vision Ireland, and chairperson of the Joint Consortium on Gender Based Violence.



### ***Meetings with government representatives***

The delegation met with Minister for State Kathleen Lynch, and with Ireland's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Anne Anderson. The meetings provided insights into key processes, in particular the post-2015 goal-setting process, which Ireland is co-facilitating.

In addition, members of the delegation met regularly with Irish officials involved in the negotiations of the Agreed Conclusions to share insights from side events and civil society networking, to flag specific issues and gaps, and to propose wording.

### ***Summary of participation***

The trip was extremely successful, and it is definitely worth considering attendance in the future. The relationships between different agencies on the ICGBV and with Irish Aid were strengthened through working together and pooling our experience and analysis. The Consortium itself gained profile as a unique learning and advocacy space, whose members are piloting valuable work worldwide. In a space occupied by thousands of NGOs, international agencies and governments, we learned a great deal and got a detailed overview of the major issues related to the elimination of violence against women and girls worldwide.

# Multi-Sectoral approaches to prevent and respond to VAWG

The need for a multi-sectoral response to VAWG was a much discussed issue at the CSW and also formed a key part of the final Agreed Conclusions. A multi-sectoral response includes health care services (including services for sexual and reproductive health); legal aid; psycho-social counselling; shelters; economic support; and ensuring effective responses from the police and justice sector. The [December 2012 Secretary General's report](#) clearly identified a need for standards and guidelines for all services.

## A holistic response to violence against women

"We need to understand why women don't seek assistance from the health service. A lot has to do with how women are received and treated. There is a need for a **whole woman approach**, not just engaging with a single issue. We need a **whole society approach** that addresses power relations between women and men and how they keep being reproduced. Violence against women is extremely efficient in upholding power structures that some people want to keep in place. It is not just a cause of suffering, but a way of keeping a system in place".

- Heikki Holmas, Norwegian Minister for International Development

## Changing the health sector

In spite of significant evidence about the prevalence, causes and best responses to VAWG, health sectors worldwide still don't have violence against women and girls on their agenda. The Medical Women's International Association (MWIA) maintains that in the majority of cases, survivors do not disclose their experiences of violence, and doctors do not ask. This subsequently has long term health impacts for survivors. Medical education needs to change. Doctors need to understand the long term impacts of violence, and need to be taught the appropriate cues to recognise women experiencing, or at risk of violence, and that they become an important part of the multidisciplinary team necessary to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. Women doctors need to be part of the discussion. Doctors need to learn to listen better, and to ask the right questions.

"We would know we have been successful if women who have been traumatised felt they could tell their treating doctors & feel listened to, understood & having their physical & psychological needs addressed respectfully"

- Medical Women's International Association

The health sector needs to link with police and legal services. Health practitioners are unknowingly dealing with forensic evidence when women present as victims of VAWG; they need to learn to protect and preserve evidence in order to build a case against perpetrators.



## Guidelines for medical practitioners are being developed

The WHO is currently developing guidelines for the health sector for the clinical care of victims of VAWG and sexual assault. These have been produced through a long process of systematically reviewing evidence and good practice and bringing together experts from different disciplines. The guidelines cover a range of issues including the importance of women centred care (confidentiality, basic support, non-judgmental support, listening); building the capacity of all health providers to provide first line response; and post rape clinical care, including emergency care, PEP, psychological support and issues of identification. The guidelines are just a beginning in strengthening the health sector response. They still need to be adapted and put into practice and countries need to be supported to do this. In terms of building the capacity of health providers, the WHO recommends in-service training and basic frontline training.

## Challenges to a multi-sectoral approach

**Political commitments and accountability:** A major challenge with political commitment is how to measure it. One way is through the existence of laws to end VAW; not just legislation, but implementation. Two thirds of countries globally have laws against VAWG, yet the incidence is not reducing. Budgets are a very direct way of measuring political commitment: women's rights groups are often starved of funds. It's important to cost the delivery of services, but has to be done in a way that acknowledges that protection from violence is first and foremost a human rights issue. In relation to transparency, one big issue is that we need to make data publically available. This helps in holding governments to account. WHO has methodologies and systems in place to do this.

**Culture:** Most cultures still blame women and girls for the sexual violence they have experienced. There needs to be a greater acknowledgement that social and cultural factors and power relations between men and women impact hugely on women's health.

**Conflict:** Conflict has a huge impact on both women's access to health services, and health workers' ability to work with patients. Challenges range from the huge obstacle of the number of check points a woman has to get through in prohibiting her access to essential services, to maintaining the cold chain for vaccines, to guaranteeing the safety of health practitioners.

**Access to Justice:** Like health practitioners, police must be sensitive to women's situations, or the stigma surrounding much VAWG will continue. Women must be aware of their rights, and how to seek justice, especially when dealing with violence.

## Useful links

- Agenda and panellists MWIA side event: [http://mwia.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/agenda\\_UN\\_march\\_7.pdf](http://mwia.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/agenda_UN_march_7.pdf)
- Powerpoint presentations MWIA side event: <http://mwia.net/about/projects-and-publications/violence-against-women/>
- Training manual for mainstreaming gender in health: <http://mwia.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/TrainingManualonGenderMainstreaminginHealth.pdf>
- Training module for healthcare workers: <http://www.nextgenu.org/> This includes a free module to train health practitioners on addressing violence against women and girls

# Justice Issues: 'Sextortion', Femicide & Woman Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs)

## Sextortion

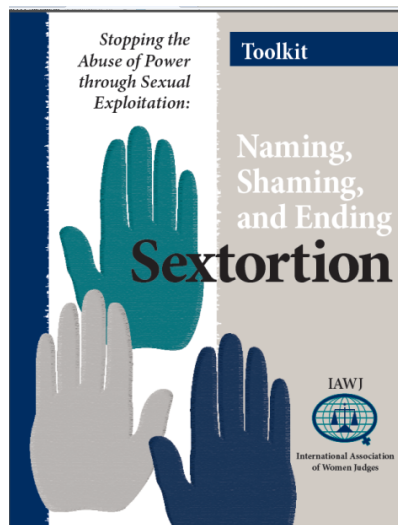
'Sextortion' is a form of violence against women and girls that falls under the category of sexual abuse or harassment.

Sextortion was first highlighted in early 2000 in Latin America, when it emerged that this was a big issue for women migrating across borders. When migrant women had multiple borders to cross and had no money left to bribe officials, they were forced to have sex with officials. Some examples of 'sextortion' were shared at the Sextortion side event: one

from Tanzania where employers coerced sexual acts from women in return for employment; and one from Uganda where male HIV positive prisoners were refused medicine brought by their wives unless the women had sex with the prison officers.

### Sex + corruption = Sextortion

Sextortion is a new term used to describe conduct which is not only sexually abusive, but also incorporates the element of corruption. The perpetrator must be a person in legitimate authority who abuses that authority by demanding or accepting a sexual favour in exchange for money/ goods.



Paradoxically, because sextortion involves both sex and corruption, it is less likely to be prosecuted. The Tanzanian Women Judges Association has recognised this and provides training to judges, magistrates, police and prison officers on sextortion. Awareness raising on sextortion is also carried out in schools, colleges, and with local authorities and media. The Dutch MDG3 Fund is providing funding to name, shame and end sextortion. However, very little research has been done to date on sextortion. The area is particularly difficult to assess, as victims are more likely to report it a long time after the act has actually taken place. The psychological consequences of sextortion on victims needs to be further explored.

In relation to a multi-sectoral response, there needs to be links made between gender units and corruption units to address this issue effectively.

## Useful Links

Blog on Sextortion: <http://lulacvoices.wordpress.com/2013/03/15/abuse-of-authority-for-purposes-of-sexual-exploitation-sextortion/>

International Association of Women Judges Toolkit on sextortion: [http://www.iawj.org/IAWJ\\_International\\_Toolkit\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.iawj.org/IAWJ_International_Toolkit_FINAL.pdf)

## Women Human Rights Defenders

As a result of a strong civil society lobby, especially from Latin America, the final Agreed Conclusions included reference to WHRDs. According to the Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition, a WHRD is a 'woman who defends all rights and it's all people no matter what gender, who defend the rights of women and rights relating to gender'.

WHRDs face violence by state and non-state actors and there are no regional or geographic boundaries. The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Margaret Sekagya, has stated that VAWG and harassment were systematically used against women activists during the Arab Spring. Police and judiciary are frequently implicated in threats to WHRDs. In Mexico, we heard an example of police protection, where the police officer assigned to protect a woman HRD was her presumed rapist.



**A packed room heard powerful testimonies from three WHRDs from Papua New Guinea, Zimbabwe and Mexico**

Women's activist experience is often absent in the analysis of human rights defenders issues and it is absolutely necessary to bring a gender analysis to bear on laws and protection measures as what is appropriate in terms of protection from violence for men is not necessarily appropriate for women. One positive example of this is in Colombia, where a security protocol exists that gives special protection to WHRDs in cases of death threats against them.



**MakeEveryWomanCount** @MakeWomenCount

12 Mar

I have been arrested as many as 200 times in the past year-Fadzai Mupautsa A human rights defender, Coalition of African Lesbians #CSW57

Retweeted by Carol Ballantine

Expand

## Useful Links

- The [website](#) of the WHRD IC contains many useful resources. These include a useful guidance note called [Ten Insights to Strengthen Responses for Women Human Rights Defenders at Risk](#).
- Summary of the side event on WHRDs at the CSW: [http://www.defendingwomen-defendingrights.org/sideevent\\_57commission.php](http://www.defendingwomen-defendingrights.org/sideevent_57commission.php)

## Femicide

Femicide is the killing of women and girls because of their gender. Femicide is usually perpetrated by men, but sometimes female family members may be involved. Femicide differs from male homicide in specific ways. For example, most cases of femicide are committed by partners or ex-partners, and involve ongoing abuse in the home, threats or intimidation, sexual violence or situations where women have less power or fewer resources than their partner.

### Some examples of femicide (non-exhaustive):

- Murder of a woman through intimate partner violence;
- Killing of women and girls in the name of “honour”;
- Targeted killing of women and girls in the context of armed conflict;
- Dowry-related killings of women;
- Female infanticide and gender-based sex selection foeticide;
- The killing of aboriginal and indigenous women and girls because of their gender;
- Genital mutilation related killing of women and girls;
- Accusations of witchcraft.



**Rashida Manjoo, UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, hosted a high level event on femicide.**

It is necessary to have legislation which specifically names women and protects them from gender-based attacks. Currently, the language of “passion” and “violent emotion” is still used in courts to provide loopholes/ excuses for violent attacks on women. Prosecutors are often not proficient in using a gender analysis in the course of formulating a hypothesis about why crimes occurred. It is necessary to give guidance and training to integrate gender analyses in determining the motivation of a killing.

Investigations of gender-based crimes are hampered by many factors. These include: a failure to collect evidence immediately after a crime; inefficiency and delays in the system; and stigmatization of victims and their families. Legal systems often limit admissible evidence to physical evidence and testimonies, to the exclusion of other types of evidence: it is necessary to integrate psychological information in the evidence in order to establish guilt for femicides (especially in the case of family and intimate partner violence).

## Useful Links

[Report](#) of the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women (addresses the topic of gender-related killings of women)

## Engaging Men and Boys

Engaging men and boys was a key theme that was touched on in most sessions at the CSW. Because violence against women is driven by social and cultural norms, it is essential to engage with the whole of society – not only women. Men and boys are the most common perpetrators of gender based violence; but they also have relationships with women and girls, and can be allies in the defence of the rights of women. Societal transformation will not come about unless men and boys are included.

Many of the causal factors are outlined in Section 2 on data to prevent violence against women; although it's important to note that these overlap and interact in complex ways. It is necessary to understand the local context and culture to analyse the exact causes of VAWG in any particular context.

**Masculinity** is an issue that comes up again and again. Macho constructions of masculinity can result in expectations that are difficult for men and boys to live up to. Men who live in a gang culture surrounded by weapons find violence is normalised. Rather than opposing these norms outright, it is important for responses first to understand what masculinity means in any given context, to understand the values that men and boys have, and to speak their language.

Another important theme was the role of faith and faith leaders, who frequently have influence over the values of men and boys. **Faith leaders must be allies**; therefore we need to understand their positions, and learn to use language that they can understand.

### What causes men and boys to commit violence – some factors

#### Individual:

- Sense of control/ entitlement over women
- Tough “macho” definitions of masculinity
- Personal experience of violence, especially in childhood; and past experience of homosexual violence.

#### Societal:

- Gender inequality
- Conflict and post-conflict situations
- Insecurity, poverty, powerlessness

asestudy

MOBILISING MEN ALL OVER THE COUNTRY TO JOIN IN AND SUPPORT

**Power** was an interesting shared theme which came up from American male activists against gender based violence, and Raising Voices in Uganda. Both groups said that they didn't find it helpful discussing gender roles in communities. Instead they said, begin the conversation with an open discussion about power: the power we have, and the power we don't have. Lori Michau from Raising Voices explained that the SASA! approach used at community level is about conscientisation, rather than delivering a message. The challenge is to train facilitators to unpack complex issues, without judgement.

### Tips for interventions to engage with men and boys:

- Interventions around early childhood, child protection and working with parents to ensure safety of children are a core part of a prevention strategy, along with working with young people to address attitudes around valuing men over women. This helps to shape healthier relationships.
- Other interventions should include mobilising communities to change social norms, and promoting community norms around non-violence. For example the SASA! approach provides alternatives to dominant notions of “manhood”.
- It is important that as we become better at engaging men and boys, progress is not stopped on empowering women and girls. Programmes to engage men need to be implemented in the context of women’s rights, in terms of transforming gender relations and with additional resources (that is, not taking funding from the important work of working with women and women’s organisations)



**South African organisation Sonke Gender Justice Network engages men and boys to project positive, non-violent images of masculinity.**

### Useful links and information

- [Webcast](#) of Partners for Prevention Side Event on the causes of violence in men
- [www.Partners4prevention.org](http://www.Partners4prevention.org)
- A nice video helping men to respond to street harassment in a non-violent/ non-confrontational way. This is very US-centric, but it’s a good idea that could be adapted. [Shit men say to men who say shit to women in the street.](#)



# Post conflict/fragile states

The Irish Consortium on GBV along with the Irish government hosted a side event on GBV in Fragile States based on learning and recommendations from research carried out by the ICGV in 2011 on addressing GBV in Sierra Leone. The OECD/DAC 'Principles on Fragile States and Situations' were used as a framework for the research, recognising that differentiated approaches are needed in post conflict programming.

A recent World Bank Development Report found that **no fragile state will achieve any of the MDGs by 2015** and that violence is the main constraint to achieving the MDGs.

According to the OECD DAC definition, 47 states in the world are defined as fragile.

## Challenges

The complexity of working in a post-conflict settings is that the system can be totally fractured, and the state-run health, justice and education services necessary to address GBV are often non-existent. We cannot rely only on INGOs to develop and run such services; the challenge is to also build state capacity to do so. There is also a need for a specific approach to development in post-conflict states. Agencies that do development and humanitarian programming often don't link up, or draw lessons from development programmes. Humanitarian workers often don't talk to men and women. This is all key to 'Doing no Harm'. Another challenge is often in post conflict settings, it is 'easier' to address GBV in camps, but when people move back to their communities, there is a lack of services and different types of violence emerge. Finally, when developing GBV programming we are creating demand, but the supply end may not be ready to respond. When women learn to demand rights and services, there is a responsibility to ensure that these are available.

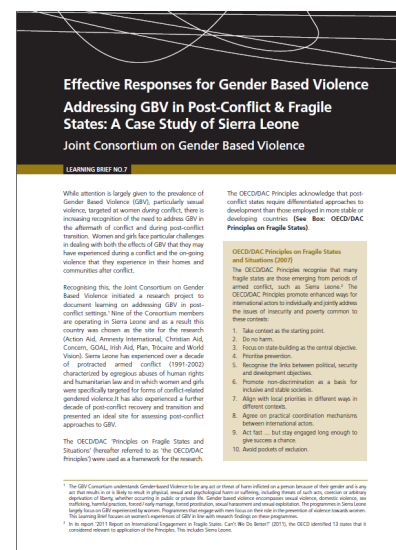
## Opportunities

In Sierra Leone, the issue of GBV became visible because of the conflict, and often in the aftermath of conflict we see more progress around addressing GBV than in non-post conflict settings. The Truth and Reconciliation process also gave women an opportunity to speak out about violence; some women insisted on telling their stories in public hearings, rather than in closed sessions. Local organisations can assume new roles in linking communities with emerging national level mechanisms and policy debates. CDHR played a leading role in bringing together communities to feed into the development of gender-related acts for example.

## Recommendations

Conflict-related early warning systems should include VAWG/GBV. A model in Timor Leste is being developed using an indicator on increased reporting of GBV at community levels as indicative of conflict and with a system for monitoring and counting VAWG at the local level. If fewer women are visiting the market place, this can be a sign of impending violent conflict. Ultimately, it is also extremely important to address attitudes and norms that allow VAWG to continue.

**Useful links:** [www.gbv.ie](http://www.gbv.ie)



## Faith organisations and VAWG

Faith was a theme that arose frequently at the CSW: the positive role that faith leaders can play to end VAWG, and the negative impact of religious fundamentalism on women's rights.

While fundamentalists use the language of religion, culture and tradition, their positions are not about religious teaching, but more often than not about money and power. Fundamentalism is often not really conservative or traditional: it can in fact impose radically new practices on communities – such as the mandatory introduction of headscarf-use in communities where this was not previously observed.

The misinterpretation of holy texts to condone gender based violence is a huge issue. It is necessary to have a deep understanding of religious texts so that we can challenge such misinterpretations and highlight verses that prohibit violence and oppression. Imam Shamsi Ali highlighted how the Koran has been misinterpreted to justify violence against women. He maintained that we need to become religiously literate to tackle this. Reverend Ann Tiemayer, from Ecumenical Women acknowledged the abuse within Christian institutions and stated “Christian faith has covered up and even caused violence against women.” She highlighted the importance of using Church services to talk about violence against women.



**Sean Farrell, Trócaire country director in Uganda, with members of the Catholic Bishops' Conference launching their domestic violence resource**

Since faith can be part of the problem, it must be a part of the solution. Women's rights and human rights activists were encouraged to seek alliances with faith based organisations, as particularly in countries where faith is a huge part of people's lives, it can be used as a tool for combating violence. For example, in Uganda, Trócaire, Raising Voices/Cedovip and the Catholic Church have developed a unique alliance to address VAW in Uganda – see the case study at the end of this report.

### Useful Links:

AWID [resources](#) on “Resisting and challenging religious fundamentalisms”

Silent No More: The untapped potential of the church in addressing sexual violence: Tearfund [report](#)

Interreligious Council of Uganda: <http://www.ircu.or.ug>



## Funding for women's rights work

The progress that has been made on women's rights in the last 100 years is as a direct result of women organising and demanding change, often at personal risk. A recurring theme of the CSW was the essential role of women's rights organisations, and the risk that they were losing out in the changing funding environment. In Latin America for example, donor flight has meant that women's organisations struggle to stay afloat, at a time when femicide is on the rise and the need for their work is huge.

The Dutch MDG3 Fund (now relaunched and named 'FLOW') was highlighted as a positive example of a flexible fund that specifically invested in gender equality and VAWG. Some of the achievements of this fund included: its reach and coverage; the funding of new innovations and programmes that struggled to get funding elsewhere; support for movement building work; support for women's leadership; support for organisations that were at risk of collapse due to lack of funding; support for effective advocacy work and funding the scale up of emerging successful strategies. Some key lessons learnt emerging from this fund include:

- The fund was very flexible and supported core work, organisational infrastructure, capacity building and organisational strengthening
- The average grant duration of 4 years allowed for changes in programming along the way
- 74% of organisations funded used 3-5 strategies to work on VAWG-showing the need for a multifaceted approach to address VAWG.

### Broader advocacy lessons:

- It is possible to increase funding for gender equality if political commitment is there.
- Impact is not always about new positive change but also stopping things from getting worse. Funding for 'holding the line' work is key-e.g. stopping regressive laws.
- We need to lobby for other governments to follow suit with similar grants.
- We need to engage a much larger constituency of people to build a culture change around VAWG.
- Funding less traditional type projects requires boldness on behalf of the funder.
- Building collaborations that are deep and wide take time and commitment.

#### *What Works: MGD 3 Fund Recipient:-Breakthrough India 'Ring the Bell'*

This is a multi-media campaign which engages men in challenging VAWG, building on the idea that men need to stand up and interrupt violence against women as partners. It has reached 150 million people in India through print, radio and other media, and has trained 150,000 activists. It ended up becoming a question on 'Who wants to be a billionaire' and in 4 episodes of an Indian soap opera. It has been adopted in China, Vietnam and Malaysia, and has now become a global campaign linking in with other key Engaging Men groups such as Sonke and Promundo. See <http://www.bellbajao.org/>

**Useful Links:** Women Moving Mountains: AWID [report](#) on side event  
<http://www.government.nl/issues/development-cooperation/grant-programmes>

## Evidence and data for ending VAWG

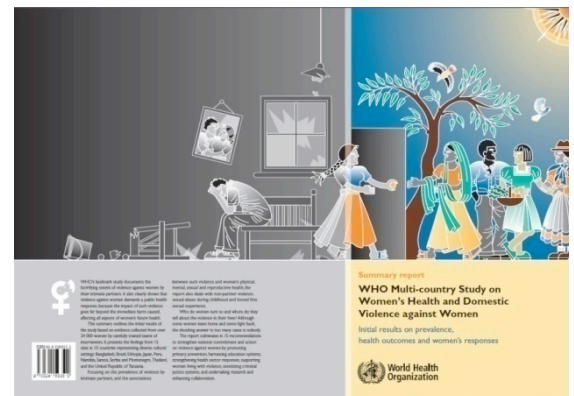
There is ever-growing evidence that violence against women and girls is preventable: this evidence should be shared, and built upon. According to Claudia Moreno of the World Health Organisation (WHO), 86 countries have at least one study on prevalence of intimate partner violence (IPV). These studies give clear evidence as to the causes and effective responses to IPV. However, in spite of this, many health systems around the world have not put VAW on their agenda.

Robust, quality data enables us to design the right policies and interventions, to define precisely what the problems are, who is most vulnerable, where and when. Data can be a key factor in ending violence against women and girls.

It follows that investment is needed to gather robust data – both qualitative and quantitative – to support the case for better policy and programming. This funding needs to be additional to the necessary resources for interventions themselves.

### Guidelines on gathering statistics on VAWG

One of the most cited data sources on violence against women is the WHO [multi-country study](#) on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women, first published in 2005. The methodology used in this study is considered international best practice. The UN Statistical office and UN Women have now developed 9 global indicators on VAW that governments will be urged to use from 2014 on. These are built and based on the WHO multi-country study, and will be available on the [WHO website](#) in 2013.



The guidelines will give detailed step-by step advice on what to measure (prevalence, severity, impact of VAWG) and how to go about it from design through dissemination. They will reflect the special features of surveys on VAWG, in particular the ethical issues. There are many forms of violence: the guidelines only cover those that can be measured directly through sample and survey data.

### *What works? Nicaragua: using data to lobby government*

Dr Mary Ellsberg of the George Washington University shared a story of how data has been used to influence governments and drive policy. The Nicaraguan women's movement tried to get a law passed on VAWG in early 1990's, but the government argued that there was no data on VAW and therefore no justification for a law. Dr. Ellsberg supported the collection of the first data set on VAWG, which was used by the women's movement to lobby government. In 1996, Law 230 was passed unanimously in parliament, for the first time ever making Domestic Violence illegal in Nicaragua.

## Lessons for carrying out research

In every country there is huge underreporting of VAWG. This means that administrative records (police and health statistics, for example) only capture those who have reported abuses or sought services: they do not capture prevalence.

When it comes to using Randomised Control Trials (RCTs) to assess and evaluate the effectiveness of particular approaches, we have to be careful in allowing too short an evaluation timeframe: if we don't show change, this may not be because the intervention was not effective, but because it wasn't given time.

Data is only useful when accompanied by a skilled analysis: there is a great danger in drawing conclusions from generalised findings. Generalisations mask the specifics.

Interviewers for quantitative surveys should be carefully selected, and receive specialised training and ongoing support to avoid burn out. Frequent pitfalls include lack of male and female interviewers, lack of privacy, and interviewers not being trained to deal with sensitive issues. Field workers must be trained to refer women requesting assistance to sources of support. The safety of respondents is paramount.

The way questions are asked about violence matters. Women don't always recognise that they have experienced violence. The WHO multi-country study gives useful wording which is very specific, and is a good guide.

A key rule of thumb is: Bad data is worse than no data-if you cannot meet the standards, then don't do data-gathering.

Overall, quantitative information must be backed up by qualitative, which explores and interrogates effective practice.



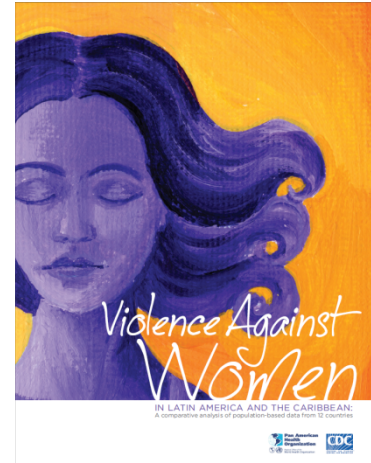
**Dr. Charlotte Watts, London School for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene; Lori Michau, Raising Voices; and Tina Musaya, Cedovip**

### *What works? India: Participatory Action Research for programme design:*

Prema Panduga was a project carried out by ICRW and Care International in India over three years, focused on sex workers' vulnerability to HIV. The research involved repositioning sex workers as agents of change, and enabling them to define their own needs. The research found that the needs which most motivated sex workers were: savings and loans; literacy; and finding high school equivalency options. Through addressing these issues, female sex workers took control of their own lives. Self-reported outcomes showed that the use of condoms went up, while experience of physical aggression and forced sex went down. The work illustrates the need to allow women to define the problems and solutions themselves, through research and action.

## Findings from the research on causes and responses to VAWG

A number of studies have been carried out on causal factors. There is clear evidence that violence is intergenerational: men who grow up with experience of violence and abuse are more likely to perpetuate IPV. Unsurprisingly, when men have attitudes of dominance and discrimination against women, they are more likely to commit violence – conversely, those who have high levels of empathy are less likely to do so. Therefore, understandings of masculinity are essential to prevention of violence. Men themselves who were interviewed about motivations to commit violence stated that alcohol was the least important motivation. Linked to all of this, societies with high levels of inequality, and societies with high levels of violent conflict are more likely to experience widespread violence against women.



The prevalence of VAWG is not always highest amongst those with lowest wealth/education: there is a higher risk of IPV in settings where women's increasing education and employment challenges existing gender roles, resulting in violence as a backlash against empowerment of women. This means that women's economic empowerment interventions need to protect women. Evaluations of cash transfers have shown reductions in violence in the short term, but this was not sustained in the long term. On the other hand, there is strong evidence that combined micro-finance and social empowerment/ gender empowerment does have an impact-e.g. [IMAGE intervention](#). The IMAGE programme in South Africa is now reaching 18,000 households at a cost of less than \$18 per client.

### Useful Links:

- Pan American Health Organisation study on causes and consequences of VAWG in 12 countries in Latin America: [www.paho.org/violence](http://www.paho.org/violence)
- [www.Partners4prevention.org](http://www.Partners4prevention.org) research on causes of VAWG in men
- Raising Voices Ugandan organisation delivering SASA! methodology [www.raisingvoices.org](http://www.raisingvoices.org)
- International Rescue Committee carried out RCT on intervention in Ivory Coast [www.irc.org](http://www.irc.org)
- London School of Tropical Medicine responsible for RCTs in Uganda and Ivory Coast [www.lshtm.ac.uk](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk)
- WHO Guidelines 'Putting women first'. [www.who.org](http://www.who.org)

# Costing: Capturing the costs and consequences of violence against women and girls

## Why measure the cost of violence?

The session on costing VAWG set out clearly that violence against women is first and foremost wrong from a human rights point of view, and we should tackle VAWG from a rights based framework. Unfortunately, however this alone does not get VAWG prioritised by policy makers. Violence against women is often not seen as a development or economic issue. Highlighting the productivity and related costs of VAWG can generate greater buy in from policy makers and governments.

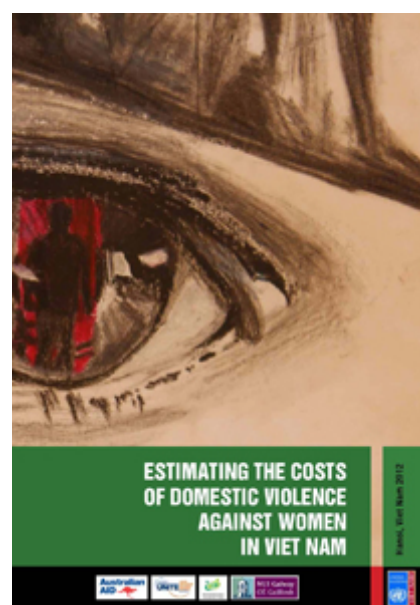
Another benefit to costing services, is to support advocacy for scale up, and to be able to develop realistic budgets. However, all panellists stressed that we need to be clear on our reasons for doing a costing as this will inform the methodology.

## Challenges exist in costing VAW

Mary Ellsberg argued that when you try to apply costing methodologies to low income settings, where there is both a lack of data and lack of quality services, costs often do not turn out to be very high as you are not capturing the full picture and cost arguments might not be very compelling.

There is also the issue of causality-for example in relation to lost earnings, it is hard to say whether or not women are losing incomes as a result of experiencing violence, or if they were already losing income which made them more vulnerable to violence. If we look at contexts where women are not involved in paid work, then our costing of “lost earnings” becomes meaningless.

We also need to be clear that economic arguments do not override other arguments. We need to find ways of recognising and costing non-monetary costs – there are a lot of dangers in monetising intangibles relating to pain and suffering.



## Suggested ways forward

While most research to date has dealt with the cost of intimate partner violence, it is important to expand the discussion to include other forms of violence against women, for example torture, femicide etc. We need to move beyond thinking of violence as a global south issue, and carry out comparative analyses between north and south. We need to start assessing government programmes and budgets, and linking these to prevalence of violence. There are countries engaging in monetary and fiscal policies which could lead to increased violence against women. We need multi-disciplinary costing to advocate with policy makers.

Finally and very importantly, we cannot and should not just attach a monetary value to cost of violence. The economist's perspective should be seen as complementary to other forms of costing.

## Case study: Estimating the cost of domestic violence against women in Vietnam

Over the past 1.5 years, Nata Duvvury (NUI Galway) has been involved in a study on the costs of violence against women in Vietnam. One of the challenges of costing was the lack of consistent and reliable available data as no service provider had any systematic data base, so trying to determine costs based on services women use was impossible. To overcome this, Nata and her team conducted surveys with women using the WHO multi-country study and adding a module which involved asking women where they sought help when faced with violence. From this, they were able to estimate the out of pocket expenditure of 1000 women surveyed, of whom, 439 reported incidences of violence.

### Key Findings from the Research

- Cost of out of pocket expenditure: 9% of household income,
- Women missed on average 5.5 days of work a month because of experiencing violence. This amounted to approximately 13% of woman's monthly income.
- Women's productivity in the home, and the wellbeing of children were impacted. This amounted to 34 hours of household work: 8-10% of household income.

The study concluded that both out-of-pocket expenditure and lost earnings represented nearly 1.41% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Vietnam in 2010. Moreover, it estimated that women experiencing violence earn 35% less than those not abused, representing another significant drain on the national economy. As a result, an estimate of overall lost productivity comes to 1.78 % of GDP.

Nata acknowledged that these costs did not look at the larger issue of pain and suffering. However, she argued that it is only when economic costs are clear, do policy makers pay attention. This study has led to the government of Vietnam to invest resources to address VAW. The full study is available [here](#).



# The development agenda post-2015



The post-2015 agenda was the “emerging theme” for the CSW. The priority theme in 2014 will be “Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls”. The post 2015 agenda will be addressed in 2015 along with a review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and PfA. As an emerging theme, post-2015 was discussed by the formal session as well as being a dominant theme in many of the side and parallel events. In addition, as members of the GBV Consortium, we met with Anne Anderson, the

Irish Permanent Representative to the UN, who is co-facilitating the planning for the General Assembly event on post-2015 this September.

There is consensus that gender was weak in the MDGs, and that it must be addressed more comprehensively in the post-2015 goals. Ban Ki Moon is a champion of women’s rights, and the members of the High Level Panel also have a strong commitment to gender equality. The final summit to decide on the framework to replace the MDGs will take place in 2015, which coincides with the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the [Beijing Conference](#) on Women. Thus, there is a very strong likelihood that whatever the new framework looks like, it will involve a standalone goal on gender equality. This is a result of concerted advocacy by the women’s movement, and that support and encouragement should continue in the light of positive signs from policy makers.



The political blockages are predictable, and similar to the blockages around the Agreed Conclusions: sexual reproductive health and rights; traditional values; and also more generally the role and inclusion of civil society in setting and monitoring the goals. It is worth remembering that in the development of the MDGs, rights and equality weren’t just forgotten: they were most likely eroded in the negotiation process. Therefore, concerted advocacy will need to be maintained.

“Having MDG 3 has been critical to keep gender equality on the international agenda as otherwise it may have fallen off donors’ list of priorities. Violence is the big gap but it gets left out because of the many dimensions and impacts that are difficult to measure. “

- Patti O’Neill, Coordinator, DAC Network on Gender Equality (interviewed for ICGBV discussion paper)

**Useful Links:** ICGBV Discussion Paper on post-2015 Agenda; <http://gbv.ie/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Discussion-Paper-Post-2015.pdf>

# Women in Politics

2012 was the first year ever where more than 20% of the world's parliamentarians are women (the global average is now 20.3%). Quotas are undeniably successful in increasing women's numeric representation. Of all elections held in 2012, women took 24% of seats in parliaments with legislated quotas, compared with just 12% of seats where there were no quotas. However, it is important to be strategic about how quotas are enforced: political parties will exploit any loopholes possible to avoid changing their structures and losing entrenched power.

Quotas alone will not bring about transformational change: while 25% of parliamentarians in Afghanistan are women, many are effectively mouthpieces for parties and individuals with a patriarchal and fundamentalist vision. Quota legislation needs to be linked with complementary reforms, for example to ensure that parties invest in female candidates, to support civil society to engage with the political process, and to target violence against women in politics. Where quotas are in place, civil society can play an important role by proposing lists of possible female candidates. It appears to be the case that most women who run for any political office do so only after being asked/ invited.

The rural-urban divide can be enormous. In Afghanistan, women in urban areas are more likely to vote in elections. In many rural provinces, polling stations for women could not be opened because no women were available to staff them. Rural women also have limited access to public space, for example they are not permitted to go to mosques to speak to men the way male candidates can. Women depend on men to campaign for them and to provide them with information about the election.

## What works – going beyond quotas

- In **Burkina Faso**, a party gets a 50% bonus in its funding if it successfully elects (not nominates) more than 30% women representatives. This puts pressure on the party to run women in winnable seats.
- In **Timor Leste**, all political parties get a defined and equal amount of broadcast time for election campaigns. They get additional time for women candidates.
- In **Papua New Guinea**, parties are required to demonstrate, not only that they are running female candidates, but also that they are investing in those candidates' campaigns.
- In **Sweden**, all of the statues and portraits in the parliament building were of men. One room was designated as the women's room, with commissioned portraits of women who had held important office. As Sweden has never had a woman prime minister, there is a mirror at the top of the stairs with a sign saying First woman prime minister.
- Violence against women in politics is an increasingly important problem. **Bolivia** has issued a law criminalizing this specific act

## Useful Links:

The Inter-Parliamentary Union produces some useful research on women in parliament, tracking the situation globally on an annual basis. Up to date research and tools [here](#).



# CASE STUDY: SASA! and community-based responses to VAWG in Uganda

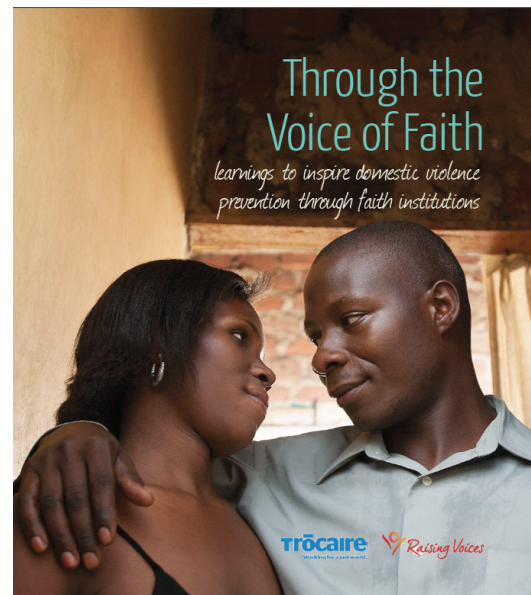
## Moving from data to action

The levels of VAWG are higher in Uganda than in most other countries in East Africa and elsewhere. HIV prevalence in Uganda is also very high, and the close link between violence against women and HIV is well documented. In 2008, Irish Aid and Trócaire carried out a scoping study to understand the nature of VAWG in Uganda in greater detail. It was common to attribute the unusually high levels of VAWG to the post-conflict situation, but the scoping study showed that in fact levels were very high all over the country, and not just in the conflict-affected north east. The same study also highlighted that very little work was happening with faith institutions. 42% of the Ugandan population (over 14 m) are Catholic. Irish Aid concluded that it was critical to respond to the widespread violence, and to bring the Catholic Church on board.

## Faith leaders tackling domestic violence

In 2009, with Irish Aid's support, Trócaire, Raising Voices, Cedovip and the Catholic Church developed a unique alliance to address VAWG. This served to break the silence on an issue that is often seen as taboo, as it was the first time the biggest church in Uganda ever spoke out publicly about VAWG and its harmful effects. The Catholic Church in Uganda owns 9 radio stations, which the programme uses to speak out on VAWG; it is also embedded in remote communities throughout the country, allowing for unique access to people.

Since 2009, the Interreligious Council of Uganda (IRC) has joined the programme. It brings together all religions through joint activities and meetings to avoid polarisation between religions. It also uses Islamic scriptures to counter VAWG.



## The SASA! methodology

The methodology used in this unique partnership was SASA!, developed by Raising Voices and Cedovip. SASA! uses popular education techniques to mobilise communities against violence. SASA! employs a community mobilisation approach working through Community Activists (CAs): community-based agents of change reaching out to their fellow community members. CAs are identified by local organisations from within groups-e.g. video hall operators, people involved in football clubs, local leaders etc.

## What is SASA!?

SASA! is a Kiswahili word that means *now*. Now is the time to take action to prevent violence against women and HIV! It is also an acronym for the four phases of community mobilization that scale up the stages of change to enable a community to move through a series of activities and experiences naturally.

- During the first phase, **Start**, violence against women and HIV/AIDS are introduced as interconnected issues and community members begin to foster *power within* themselves to address these issues.
- In the second phase, **Awareness**, community members experience a growing awareness about how our communities accept men's use of *power over* women, fueling the dual pandemics of violence against women and HIV.
- Throughout the third phase, **Support**, community members will discover how to support the women, men and activists directly affected by or involved in these interconnected issues, by joining their *power with others*.
- In the fourth and final phase, **Action**, community members will explore different ways to take action. Use your *power to* prevent violence against women and HIV.

The approach is distinct from the more traditional NGO training and awareness raising in the sense that CAs don't call people for training workshops: rather, they meet them where they are-e.g. women at water bore holes, men in bars, 'boda boda' drivers etc. They use community conversations, quick chats, board games and other tools to raise awareness and discuss VAWG and HIV and promote critical reflection and in turn action.

Community mobilisation goes from awareness to action, and focuses on maintaining the change that is generated. Community Activists are trusted and rooted in communities. It is not NGO staff doing SASA! who pop in and out, but community members. This helps avoid a project mentality and increases 'stickiness' in the community. In fact, Raising Voices and Cedovip avoid using the word volunteer – as it's linked to stipends and NGOs. Rather, men and women give 4 hours of their time to personal learning once a month – and otherwise, they embody the practice of SASA! in their daily lives, wherever these are.

A community mobilisation approach also means involving health workers, local council workers, local police and other duty bearers and building their capacity to prevent and respond to VAWG and HIV.

Certain core principles underpin the SASA! approach. It is Freirean in the sense that rather than bringing messages, it raises awareness. It does not stigmatise, or judge, but rather helps people to reflect on the issue and ask what can I do? It promotes the principles of equity and rights, but without using complicated language. SASA! is about developing critical consciousness and unpacking complex issues through a lens of power. The approach is person to person, informal and contextualised.

## Impacts of SASA!: what the evidence tells us:

A Randomised Control Trial was carried out by the London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene over 2.8 years on the impact of the SASA! methodology in Uganda. The trial looked at social acceptability of VAW, levels of physical and sexual violence and HIV risk behaviours over 2.8 years of programming.

Initial findings indicate:

- Lower levels of sexual concurrency in intervention sites (this is a major factor in the spread of HIV, and will hopefully result in reduced HIV infections);
- A significant reduction in acceptability of VAWG in intervention sites compared to control sites;
- A greater reduction in physical violence than sexual violence;
- Participants spoke of improved relationships.



## Lessons learned from the first phase:

- SASA! uses multiple strategies to prevent violence against women; not just one (eg training sessions/ awareness raising). It has a range of different activities for use in communities, as well as tools for using with the broadcast media and for communication materials. It engages with the widest possible range of stakeholders: violence affects everybody. Prevention cannot be achieved using one approach only.

“SASA! is the medicine that gets rid of violence” –  
Research Participant

- It is important to work with different Ministries at different times-e.g. when laws were being passed; the Ministry of Justice was very involved. Now Cedovip is working with this Ministry to build capacity of the judiciary to deal with VAWG cases. They are also working with the police through the Interior Ministry.
- If you create demand you also need to think about supply (this came up repeatedly at the CSW in the context of raising awareness of the rights of victims of violence). In Uganda there is a huge need for basic services for survivors of violence.
- Initially, the messages emphasised gender roles, but this did not resonate with men and women in communities, who cared more about being valued, cared for, and respected. SASA! aims to change attitudes and transform power relations between men and women, so messaging focuses on power, and how you can use it positively and negatively.

## Useful links:

[www.raisingvoices.org](http://www.raisingvoices.org)

<http://www ircu.or.ug/>

[Video](#) on Irish Aid's programme in Uganda, mainly on SASA!

## **Annex 1: Official Irish Delegation to the CSW**

**Ms. Kathleen Lynch, T.D.** Minister of State for Disability, Equality, Mental Health and Older People

**H.E. Ms. Anne Anderson**, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations

**Mr Jim Kelly**, Dep. Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations

**Ms. Pauline Moreau**, PO, Gender Equality Division, Department of Justice and Equality

**Mr John Gilroy**, First Secretary, PMUN, Department of Foreign Affairs

**Ms. Clare Lawson**, Advisor, PMUN, Department of Foreign Affairs

**Mr. Pdraig Devine**, APO, Gender Equality Division, Department of Justice and Equality

**Mr. Patrick O'Leary**, APO, Gender Equality Division, Department of Justice and Equality

**Ms.Áine Doody**, Gender Advisor, Irish Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs

**Ms. Carol Hannon**, Development Specialist, Department of Foreign Affairs

**Mr. Adrian McLaughlin**, Private Secretary to Minister Lynch, Department of Health

**Ms. Fiona Neary**, Director, Rape Crisis Network Ireland

**Ms. Cliona Saidleir**, Rape Crisis Network Ireland

**Ms. Sharon O'Halloran**, Director, Safe Ireland

**Ms. Caitriona Gleeson**, Safe Ireland

**Ms Sarah McCann**, Trócaire and Gender Based Violence Consortium

**Ms Carol Wrenn**, Concern Worldwide and Gender Based Violence Consortium

**Ms Helen Keogh**, CEO World Vision and Chair Gender Based Violence Consortium

## Annex 2: Events hosted by Ireland at the CSW

- **Mobilising communities to prevent and respond to VAW – lessons learned from Uganda**  
Chair Minister Kathleen Lynch; panellists: Sean Farrell Trócaire CD in Uganda; Tina Musaya Trócaire partner Cedovip in Uganda
- **Gender based violence and fragile states** hosted by Ireland and the GBV consortium, profiling the research carried out by the consortium in Sierra Leone:  
Chair Helen Keogh, chair ICGBV; panellists: Minister Kathleen Lynch; Aisling Swaine, consultant researcher for ICGBV; Massie Bah, director, CDHR Sierra Leone
- **Exploring the evidence in preventing violence against women**  
Chair: Áine Doody, Irish Aid; panellists: Dr. Charlotte Watts, researcher London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene; Lori Michau, Raising Voices Uganda; Tina Musaya, Cedovip Uganda; Heidi Lehman, IRC, Cote D'Ivoire
- **Women Human Rights Defenders – a resource at risk?** Obligations and Practical measures to support women human rights defenders and protect them from intimidation, reprisals and violence  
Moderator Cynthia Rothschild; Panellists: Anne Anderson, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the UN; Ivan Simonovic ASG OHCHR; Helen Hakena, Director, Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency (Papua New Guinea); Daphne Cuevas, Director, Consorcio para el Dialogo Parlamentario y la Equidad (Mexico); Fadzai Mupautsa, Coalition of African Lesbians (Zimbabwe)
- **High level consultation on HIV and GBV**

## Annex 3: Analysis of Final Agreed Conclusions

The following analysis was carried out by Carol Wrenn, and is based on discussions with the civil society caucus and UNWomen over the course of the negotiations of the Agreed Conclusions.

<b>Strengths of adopted conclusions</b>	<b>Weaknesses of adopted conclusions</b>
Reaffirms previous resolutions and declarations such as BPFA, CEDAW as well as previous agreed conclusions on VAW (1998) and VAW against the girl child (2007)	The zero draft called on states to “ratify and fully implement CEDAW”, the languages in the agreed conclusions, calling on states to “consider ratifying/acceding to CEDAW..”
Specific reference to UNSCR 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889 on women peace and security. As well as UNSCR1882 and 1998 on children and armed conflict and post conflict situations	The word “gender” got dropped from numerous paragraphs, but paragraph 11 defines VAW in terms of “gender based violence”.
Affirms that VAWG is rooted in historical and structural inequality and persists in every country. It is characterised by use and abuse of power and linked with gender stereotypes. Acknowledges the physical, sexual and psychological harm as well as economic and social harm caused by violence.	References to “Intimate partner violence” were dropped from the text, largely due to conservative perspectives that this implies partnerships outside of marriage.
States are urged to refrain from invoking a custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations in elimination violence against women and girls and are urged to devote particular attention to abolishing practices and legislation that discriminate against women and girls or perpetuate and condone violence against them. Paragraph (qq) makes specific reference to addressing “child, early and forced” marriage. Including “early and forced marriage” is an important gain, as countries have different definitions of “child”	CSOs were hoping that “harmful traditional practices” would be included in the conclusions, and there was some discussion around having “traditional and contemporary harmful practices”. These practices are a product of social norms which aim to uphold cultural ideas about gender roles and social relations. However, paragraph (tt) lists a number of “traditional” practices which should be eliminated. The problem with listing though is that it means some areas may be left out.

It is the duty of states, regardless of political, economic and cultural systems to promote all human rights and fundamental freedoms	Paragraph 15 on the “duty of states” also includes a clause stating “while the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind...”
Closing the gender gap in education empowers women and girls and contributes to the elimination of violence. Paragraph (xx) requires states to take action on adopting national policies to prohibit, prevent and address violence against girls incl. Sexual harassment and bullying	A previous draft referred to “comprehensive sexuality education”, which changed to “comprehensive evidence based education for human sexuality”. However the fact that “comprehensive” has remained is notable progress. A previous draft had made reference to addressing corporal punishment, which is missing from the final conclusions
States are required to have a multi sectoral, multi level response to addressing VAWG, recognising the linkages with other issues such as education, health, HIV and AIDS, poverty eradication, food security, peace and security, humanitarian assistance and crime prevention.	
Specific reference to the MDGs: VAWG impedes the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. The final paragraph also explicitly calls for gender equality and empowerment of women to be a priority in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.	
Specific reference to sexual and reproductive health (SRHR): respecting and promoting women’s SRHR is a necessary condition to achieve gender equality. Paragraph (iii) references the need for emergency contraception. Paragraph (nn) is particularly strong in highlighting women’s right to have control over and decide freely on matters related to their sexuality. Paragraph (aaa) makes reference to forced sterilisations	All references to sexual orientation and gender identity were dropped from the text.
Specific reference to VAWG in public spaces and violent gender-related killing of women and girls	
Specific reference to the vulnerabilities of older women, indigenous women, women and girls with disabilities	

Specific reference to the role of men and boys in addressing VAWG. Paragraph (pp) is particularly strong in calling for increased engagement with men and boys and promoting respectful relationships.	
Specific reference to the importance of data collection	
Specific references to strengthening national efforts to address trafficking in persons	Some NGOs were hoping to include references to prostitution, but this was not included in the end and all references to protection for sex workers were dropped
Specific reference to the needs of women and girls in DRR and humanitarian assistance in addressing natural disasters (including those induced by climate change)	This is quite a narrow reference to women's needs in disasters and DRR, as there is a specific focus on "natural" disasters.
Specific reference to women human rights defenders, who face particular risks of violence	
Specific reference to ensuring that women and men enjoy equal treatment in the workplace, including equal pay for equal work, or work of equal value, and equal access to power and decision making, and promote sharing of paid and unpaid work	
Specific reference to women's rights to access economic resources and ownership of land and other property	Paragraph (hh) could have gone further in calling for control over economic resources as well as access. However, it is good to see it highlights ownership of property.



## Annex 4: List of Side Events attended

### Multi-Sectoral Approaches:

- 'Women doctors and role of the health system in the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls'. Hosted by Canada, Medical Women's International Association.
- High-level Side Event: Panel discussion on global estimates on prevalence of violence against women, health impacts and health sector guidelines to address violence against women. Hosted by Norway, Zambia, UN Women and World Health Organization (WHO).

### Justice (Sextortion), femicide, Women Human Rights Defenders:

- Sextortion: 'Ending Abuse of Authority for Purposes of Sexual Exploitation (Sextortion)'. Hosted by the Permanent Mission of Tanzania and Tanzania Women Judges Association.
- Women Human Rights Defenders – A Resource at Risk? Obligations and Practical measures to support women human rights defenders and protect them from intimidation, reprisals and violence. Hosted by the Ireland, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Amnesty International, Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition.
  - Moderator Cynthia Rothschild;
  - Panellists: Anne Anderson, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the UN; Ivan Simonovic ASG OHCHR; Helen Hakena, Director, Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency (Papua New Guinea); Daphne Cuevas, Director, Consorcio para el Dialogo Parlamentario y la Equidad (Mexico); Fadzai Mupautsa, Coalition of African Lesbians (Zimbabwe)

### Engaging Men and Boys

- 'Why to men use violence and how do we stop it: new evidence on men's use of violence against women and girls and its uses for enhanced prevention. Hosted by Australia, Sweden, UNDP, UNFPA, Un Women, UNV, WHO, Partners for Preventions

### Post-conflict/ Fragile States

- 'Gender Based Violence and Fragile States - shared learning to accelerate action on gender based violence'. Hosted by Ireland and the Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence. Gender based violence and fragile states hosted by Ireland and the GBV consortium, profiling the research carried out by the consortium in Sierra Leone:
  - **Moderator:** Helen Keogh, chair ICGBV;
  - **Panellists:** Minister Kathleen Lynch; Aisling Swaine, consultant researcher for ICGBV; Massie Bah, director, CDHR Sierra Leone

## **Faith Organisations and VAWG**

- 'The influence of faith on the elimination of violence against women and girls'. Hosted by the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and the US Federation for Middle East Peace
- 'A religious response to the causes and consequences of violence against women'. Hosted by the Holy See.
- 'Mobilising communities to prevent and respond to VAW – lessons learned from Uganda'. Hosted by Irish Government.
  - Moderator: Minister Kathleen Lynch;
  - Panellists: Sean Farrell Trócaire CD in Uganda; Tina Musaya Trócaire partner Cedovip in Uganda

## **Funding for Women's Rights**

- 'Funding for Women's Human Rights': Women Moving Mountains: The Case of the Dutch MDG3 Fund. Hosted by The Netherlands, AWID, Breakthrough India, Global Fund for Women Kenya, Casa de la Mujer from Colombia.

## **Evidence and Data**

- 'The Role of data in addressing violence against women and girls'. Hosted by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).
- 'Addressing violence against women in Latin America and the Caribbean: From data to action'. Hosted by El Salvador, Peru, PAHO/WHO, UN Women, UNITE to End Violence Against Women Campaign, Global Women's Institute at George Washington University.
- 'Exploring the evidence in preventing violence against women'. Hosted by Ireland and Raising Voices.
  - Moderator: Áine Doody, Irish Aid
  - Panellists: Dr. Charlotte Watts, researcher London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene; Lori Michau, Raising Voices Uganda; Tina Musaya, Cedovip Uganda; Heidi Lehman, IRC, Cote D'Ivoire
- 'Guidelines to Measure Violence Against Women'. Hosted by UN Women, United Nations Statistics Division.

## **Costing: Capturing the Costs**

- 'What is the price of Violence Against Women and Girls? Capturing Costs and Consequences'. Hosted by The World Bank, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), George Washington University's Global Women's Institute.
  - **Moderator:** Jeni Klugman, Director, Gender and Development, World Bank.
  - **Speakers:** Jacqueline Bhabha, Jeremiah Smith Jr Lecturer, Harvard Law School Nata Duvvury, Lecturer, Global Women's Studies Programme, National University of Ireland, Galway ; Mary Ellsberg, Director of the Global Women's Institute, The George Washington University; Liz Forsyth, Partner, Social Policy, KPMG Australia; Leader of Australia's Domestic Violence Cost Study.

## **Women in Politics**

- Women in Politics: Latest Trends. Hosted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union
- 'Elimination and prevention of violence against women and girls with special emphasis on the situation of women and girls in post conflict situations'. Hosted by UN Habitat, UN Women, FORAM Mali, Arab-Yemen Women's Union, Groots (Kenya).