Step -it Up : Social Mobilisation to Prevent Gender –Based Violence in the Caribbean

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Gabrielle Henderson. UN Women MCO Caribbean
Why a focus on Gender Based Violence?

Recognizing women’s greater vulnerability to intimate partner violence, rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, sexual coercion, child sexual abuse, and intimate partner homicide (VAWG). The MCO also includes a focus on gender based violence taking into account violence (particularly sexual violence) experienced by men and boys as well as violence experienced by LGBTIQ population which is also considered to be gender-based.
A FRAMEWORK TO UNDERPIN ACTION TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
What drives and reinforces violence against women?

The triangle represents the gendered drivers of violence against women.

Factors outside the triangle can reinforce the gendered drivers to increase the probability, frequency or severity of violence against women.

- Condoning of violence in general:
  - Normalised or valorised as an expression of masculinity
  - Condoned or excused for men in certain circumstances

- Experience of and exposure to violence:
  - Witnessing violence against women
  - Child abuse
  - Racist violence, lateral and community violence, conflict / war

- Weakening of pro-social behaviour (e.g., harmful use of alcohol)

- ‘Backlash’ factors (increases in violence when male dominance, power or status is challenged)

- Socio-economic inequality and discrimination

Gender inequality in public and private life

... and in the context of other forms of social inequality

And support the normalisation, justification and tolerance of violence against women

Underpin and produce these specific drivers of violence against women

The structures, norms and practices of gender inequality, in the context of other social inequalities
Social Mobilization – Expected Outcomes

Developing momentum for the adoption/revision of key pieces of legislation that address Gender-Based Violence
Social Mobilisation – Expected Outcomes

Increasing Public Education and awareness about rights and services in overcoming GBV.
Impact values, attitudes, beliefs and behaviours through culturally relevant and community-based leadership and dialogue on the root causes of gender-based violence, including the concepts of masculinity.
Programming - State and Civil society organisations

- Schools – students, teachers, guidance counsellors
- Churches, church leaders other faith based organizations
- Interventions in Communities (The Clothes line project)
- Local radio stations. Talk Radio programmes
- Town Hall Meetings
- Television guest appearances and information programmes,
- Public Service Announcements and promotional material.
- Use of Film
- Engage Young women and men in social media campaign
- Capacity building for partners and peer educators.
Programming - Focus on work with Cultural Actors

- Capacity development
- Support to production of popular songs linked to region wide campaign
- Collaborative community theatre productions (training of Theatre in Education practitioners)
- Support to development and curation of community based visual art exhibition and installations.
Programming - Gender Advocates

Capacity development to support community dialogue – Multi-Country
Programming - Masculinities – Men and Boys

• Capacity development
• Dialogue and support to groups of men and boys working toward Gender equality – (CariMAN)
• Research (Masculinity and Violence Study + prog. review)
• Regional Advisory Group
• GBV prevention education programming with young women and men in schools and communities
• Facilitator training
Challenges

- Culture which normalizes violence and GBV
- Resistance – Male
- Half the conversation
- The process of change
- Continuing the conversations (men and women)
- Demonstrating Results
Successes

- Incremental change
- Having the conversation/ engaging communities, men and boys.
- Psycho –educational programming
- Partners for Peace
- Regional reach and exchange
- Opportunity-Caribbean paradigm of GBV prevention methodology