GBV Law and Policy Review for 10 DREAMS Countries

SELECTED FINDINGS:

• GBV or DV is not clearly defined (3 of 10)

• Customary law can override Constitutional gender non-discrimination provisions (at least 2 of 10)

• Child marriage illegal – must be 18 – no exception (4 of 10)

• Marital rape not criminalized; marital status a defense to rape (6 of 10)

• Protection orders available for adults and children (6 of 10)

• Legal provisions facilitate reporting GBV/DV committed against adults (7 of 10)

• Child sexual abuse must be reported to police (8 of 10)

ACTION: Through a greater understanding of GBV laws and policies we can:

- Shape a multi-sectoral response with our clinical, law enforcement, education, justice, and child protection partners to support the health and human rights of the girls and women in our HIV and violence programs.

- Support the enforcement of laws by helping our partners and participants understand their rights.

- Share examples of laws that protect human rights with government and civil society partners and support changing harmful laws and ongoing law reform.