SVRI sexual violence research initiative

Enhancing Communication Between Policymakers and Faith Actors to Address Gender-Based Violence

FAITH ACTORS: SHAPING VALUES AND SOCIAL NORMS

LACK OF COMMUNICATION:

- SLOW PROGRESS
- OUT OF TOUCH POLICIES
- POOR IMPLEMENTATION
- LOW IMPACT
- MISTRUST
- WASTED RESOURCES

POLICYMAKERS: SHAPING LAWS TO PROTECT PEOPLE FROM HARM

ANTI-RIGHTS VOICES MISUSING RELIGION

LACK OF SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS

BUT

WHEN POLICY AND FAITH COME TOGETHER

LAWS GROUNDED IN LOCAL REALITIES AND PROGRAMS THAT RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS

HOW CAN WE STRENGTHEN THIS VITAL COMMUNICATION?

1. **GOVERNMENTS:** ESTABLISH REGULAR MEETINGS WITH FAITH GROUPS, GBV SURVIVORS AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVISTS.

2. ACKNOWLEDGE THE POSITIVE ROLE MANY FAITH ACTORS PLAY

POLICYMAKERS:
- REFLECT ON THEIR OWN BIASES
- UNDERSTAND THE LOCAL, CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE OF TERMS RELATED TO GBV

AND

3. MEANINGFUL FACT-BASED DIALOG

ALSO ENGAGE LOCAL ACTIVISTS, RESEARCHERS AND GBV SURVIVORS

4. **FAITH ACTORS** START AT COMMUNITY LEVEL

5. BUILD ALLIANCES

ENDING GBV REQUIRES MEANINGFUL, SUSTAINED COMMUNICATION BETWEEN FAITH ACTORS AND POLICYMAKERS

ILLUSTRATED BY PAULINA ZAWISKA