



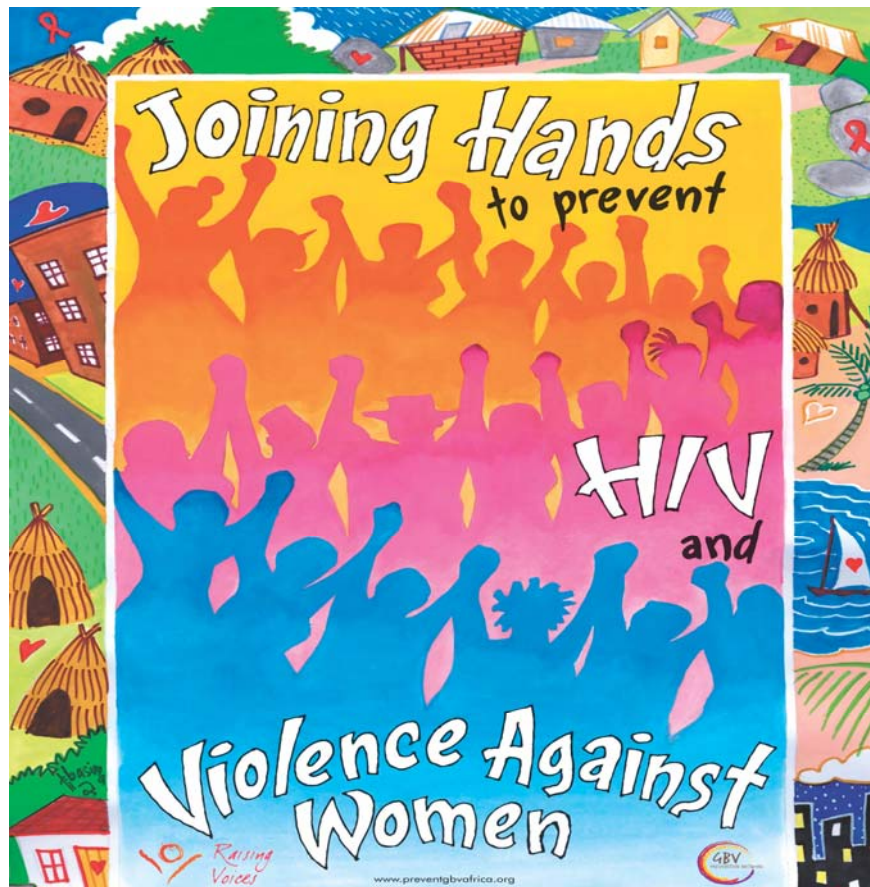
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16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM 2009



Theme

COMMIT – ACT – DEMAND: WE CAN END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



“Violence against women is perhaps the most shameful human rights violation. And it is perhaps the most pervasive. It knows no boundaries of geography, culture or wealth. As long as it continues, we cannot claim to be making real progress towards equality, development, and peace.”

Kofi Annan, Former Secretary-General of the United Nations



Introduction

The Coexist Initiative, which is a national network of men and boys organizations was founded in October 2002 and formally registered in September 2004 as a not for profit organization dedicated to nurturing gender parity, human rights and good governance. The organization principally works with men and boys in its assorted thematic focuses. (Visit: www.coexistkenya.org)

Background

The 16 days of activism is being marked at an epoch when women and girls in Kenya are increasingly vulnerable as brutality remains pervasive and persists in all layers of society. Violence against women affects one in three women in Kenya¹. A current World Bank report affirms that women between the ages of 15 and 44 in many parts of Africa are at a greater risk of rape or violence than cancer, malaria, war or car accidents.

It's paramount to affirm from the onset that the history of violence against women is tied to the history of women being viewed as property and a gender role assigned to them to be subservient to men. Male tacit supremacy over women has historical extractions and its functions and manifestations change over time. Amongst the historical power relations responsible for violence against women are the economic and social forces, which exploit female labour and the female body. Economically disadvantaged women are more vulnerable to sexual harassment, trafficking and sexual slavery. In addition, denying women economic power and economic independence is a major cause of violence against women, as it prolongs their vulnerability and dependence.² While the family is a foundation of positive nurturing and caring values, it also doubles up as a social institution where labour is exploited, male sexual power is violently expressed and where socialization that disempowers women takes place.



It has to be emphasized that violence is used to control female sexual behavior and this is why violence against women often finds expression in sexual forms, either as rape, sexual harassment or female genital mutilation. Additionally, the prevalence of ideologies justifying female subordination promotes this problem. In many ideologies, traditional legitimacy is given to using violence against women. There are cultural sanctions for husbands to beat their wives in certain circumstances. The ideologies base their discussion on a particular construction of sexual identity. Masculine construction requires manhood to be equated with the ability to exert power over others, especially through the use of force. Masculinity, it is espoused, gives man power to control the lives of those around him, especially women.

Custom, tradition and religion are habitually invoked to rationalize the use of violence against women. In numerous religions, certain man-made practices performed in the

¹ Covaw, gender analysis 2007

² Dr Patricia Mbote, International environmental law research centre, 2008



name of religion malign accepted norms of women's human rights. The customary practices and some aspects of tradition are often the cause of violence against women. These include female genital mutilation, foot binding, male preference, early marriages, virginity tests, dowry deaths, and female infanticide among others. We insist that the fundamentals of national and international media also cause perceptions, which give rise to violence against women. For example, the media reproduces negative stereotypes of women as being weak and helpless or the use of pornography, which is a symptom, and a cause of violence against women.

Executive Summary



Kenya is a patriarchal society with widespread discrimination against women and girls. Official figures demonstrate that at least half of all women have experienced violence since they were aged 15 (CBS 2004b). According to Kenyan government statistics based on a demographic household survey carried out in 2005, 50 per cent of women in Nairobi have experienced violence since they were aged 15 (CBS 2004b). In the same study, one in four Kenyan women (and one in five women in Nairobi) was found to have experienced violence during the 12 months before they were interviewed. Intimate-partner violence was the most common form of violence cited. 42 per cent of ever-married women reported physical or sexual violence from their current or most recent partners. Marital rape appears to be common, with 15 per cent of currently married women reporting ever having been raped by their partners, and 12 per cent having experienced this during the 12 months preceding the study.

Poverty and traditionalism remain two grave hindrances to women's equal rights in Kenya. Violence against women is an insidious human rights violation, a public health calamity, and an impediment to parity, development, security and peace. It's a pity that Kenya is still home to high levels of violence against women and girls despite the existence of contemporary legislation aimed at stamping out the vice.

It has been established that Violence against women especially forced or coerced sex, increases women's vulnerability to HIV infection. Additionally, the fear of violence limits a woman's ability to negotiate safe sexual behavior even in consensual union. Currently, Women who are infected with HIV or who are perceived to be infected face violence or abandonment. The Fear of violence and stigma continues to dissuade women from seeking information on HIV/AIDS, getting tested for HIV, disclosing their HIV status, and seeking treatment and counseling. Since violence can affect women's willingness to be tested, it can also have a detrimental effect on larger HIV control, treatment, and prevention programs.

For us at Coexist, the 2009 sixteen (16) days of activism is about working with men and boys as key partners in the fight against gender based violence and other human rights issues at the local and national level. Its time for us to develop and share new and effective strategies of engaging men and boys as principle partners in eliminating gender based violence. It's an epoch to demonstrate solidarity with women and girls

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around the country as well as pressure the government and other administrative instruments to implement promises made to eliminate violence against women and girls. It's about honoring groups and individuals who have committed themselves to bringing violence against women to the forefront of national attention and encouraging everyone in their various capacities to take action to end the perennial act. As men, this year's campaign is about men and boys breaking out of the portrayal of gender-based violence as a women's struggle only, where almost the only role available to (all) men is that of perpetrator or policeman. Men and boys have to embrace their role as advocates against violence which is firstly a human rights violation.

**Teach your son
to respect women.**

**He's waiting.
He's watching.
He'll listen.**



In the deeply patriarchal Kenyan society, the campaign will call upon fathers and father figures, including teachers, mentors, uncles, older brothers and sports coaches to lead by example and teach boys that all forms of violence against women are wrong. It emphasizes the importance of the father as a role model to the son.

Additionally, the fight against gender-based violence, as evidenced by the 16 Days campaign, requires not just the involvement of men and women, but also of children. The campaign aims to address and raise consciousness about violence against women and girls as well as the current prevalent atrocities and child abuse in the Kenyan society. There has been a clear omission of children's voices in the previous campaigns and this intervention is an opportune undertaking.

Objectives

- To foster an increase in levels of awareness amongst Kenyans regarding violence perpetuated against women, girls and children, forms of manifestation and its impacts
- Challenge the general social acceptance of violence against women and girls and influence perpetrators towards behavior change.
- To make available men and boys inclined information communication and education materials.
- To forge networks and synergies of male pro-feminists within the civil society, police, organized labour, sectoral groups, faith based organizations and the media.
- To mobilize and recruit change makers principally among former abusers.

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Activities and Venues

1. Media practitioners breakfast and Campaign launch—680 Hotel Nairobi	2. Forum discussion (role of men and boys in reducing GBV) Wab Hotel Buruburu	3. IEC material distribution	4. Live Radio call-in show on KBC
5. Reflection of successes and failures of past events	6. Public extravaganza Muthurwa market.	7. Screening of a documentary on Gender based violence Jericho Social hall	8. Theater performance on masculinities and Gender-Kiambiu slum
9. Door to Door Campaign-- Umoja	10. Public Forum Carton city	11. World AIDS day—Material distribution in ten schools in Nairobi	12. Release of a demand by men for a violence free country
13. Fathers role modeling day and testimonies from former abusers—St James ECK Church	14. Soccer match— Bahati estate	15. Individuals day (all campaign members allowed to individually go out and campaign against GBV	16. Wrap-up actives and projects on the way forward.

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Outcomes

- A phenomenal improvement in the health and living conditions of women and girls
- Reduction in the observance of traditional customs and rituals especially those that have direct effects to the health and well being of women and girls.
- Reduction in incidences of gender based and sexual violence
- Increase in knowledge regarding the interplay between gender based violence and HIV prevention and AIDS management
- Variety of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials developed and disseminated

Monitoring and Evaluation:

The Coexist Initiative has in place an enhanced monitoring and evaluation system which comprises of a set of tools, the monitoring and evaluation work plan, responsibilities and mandate of the monitoring and evaluation office, and the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the implementation of the projects. The system also provides for a wider scope of project evaluation, that is mid and end-term evaluation, project plans and recommendations for the way forward.

Highlights of the system include,

Emphasis on the qualitative: The need to present measurable indicators has always led to an emphasis on the quantitative aspects of projects leaving inadequate attention to the qualitative aspects

Indicators: The enhanced system disaggregates data collected during the project so as to capture the key elements of the project. It is envisaged that the key components will include, levels of GBV in diverse communities, HIV status determination, numbers of men and boys directly playing a role in HIV prevention, levels of stigma and discrimination and general women empowerment.

Tools: Tools have been introduced or improved as a way of strengthening monitoring and evaluation work of Coexist. Some of the tools include Activity Interview process, Case Monitoring and effective report back mechanisms.

Progress Reports: they shall form a principle component of the monitoring and evaluation process.

Compilation of evidence based reports



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE BUDGET

Days	Activities	Units	No. of Units	Cost Per Unit	Amount (KSHS)
1	Media practitioners breakfast and Campaign launch—680 Hotel Nairobi				
	Media practitioners stipend	Participants	20	300.00	6,000.00
	Breakfast and Conference Facilities	Bulk			30,000.00
	Sub Total				36,000.00
2	Forum discussion (Role of men and boys in reducing GBV) Wab Hotel Buruburu				
	Participants stipend	Participants	25	300.00	7,500.00
	Breakfast and Conference Facilities	Bulk			20,000.00
	Sub Total				27,500.00
3	IEC material distribution ¹				
	Posters		1,000	45.00	45,000.00
	Fliers		3,000	8.00	24,000.00
	Banners		2	12,000.00	24,000.00
	T-Shirts		50	350.00	17,500.00
	Sub Total				110,500.00
4	Live Radio call-in show on KBC	Bulk			10,000.00
5	Reflection of successes and failures of past events				-
6	Public extravaganza - Muthurwa market.	Bulk			40,000.00
7	Screening of a documentary on Gender based violence - Jericho Social hall				
	Hall hire and screening equipments hire	Bulk			20,000.00
8	Theater performance on masculinities and Gender- Kiambiu slum	Bulk			25,000.00
9	Door to Door Campaign - Umoja	Bulk			5,000.00
10	Public Forum - Carton city (Slum)	Bulk			

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					20,000.00
11	World AIDS day - Material distribution in 3 matatu terminus				
	Posters		1,000	45.00	45,000.00
	Fliers		3,000	8.00	24,000.00
	T-Shirts		50	500.00	25,000.00
	Sub Total				94,000.00
12	Release of a demand by men for a violence free country	Bulk			10,000.00
13	Fathers role modeling day and testimonies from former abusers - St James ECK Church	Bulk			35,000.00
14	Soccer match - Bahati estate	Bulk			40,000.00
15	Individuals day (all campaign members allowed to individually go out and campaign against GBV	Bulk			-
16	Wrap-up activities and projects on the way forward.				-
	Activities Total				473,000.00
	Overhead costs (communication and transportation) 5% of Activities Cost				23,650.00
	Grand Total				496,650.00

Notes

¹IEC material distribution is an overriding strategy