

STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY
OF HEALTH SYSTEMS TO PREVENT
AND RESPOND TO
VIOLENCE
AGAINST
WOMEN



DAY 1

- Opening Ceremony
- Feature address
 - “Health care systems are critical front line institutions... and are critical for dealing with violence against women”
 - The establishment of formal protocols and policies between health and other stakeholders
 - Need for accurate data on violence against women and more information on violence against men
 - “Together we can change our culture...”

“Step up to the plate and live the theme every day. Be bold for change.” Ms. Beverly Reynolds



MORNING SESSION - PLAN OF ACTION

- Actions that the health sector can take
 - Publicly commit to address and condemn all forms of violence against women
 - Allocate budget resources
 - Integrate violence against women prevention and response
 - Advocate to adopt or reform laws and policies
 - Designate a unit or focal point



MORNING SESSION- EVERY CARIBBEAN WOMAN AND EVERY CARIBBEAN CHILD

- Caribbean Initiative
 - 4 priority areas
 - Adolescent pregnancies
 - Violence against women and children (to include trafficking)
 - Cervical cancer
 - Mother to child transmission of HIV



MORNING SESSION- EVERY CARIBBEAN WOMAN AND EVERY CARIBBEAN CHILD

- Common Gaps and Barriers
 - Lack of data
 - Lack of policies
 - Inaccessible programmes
 - Human resource constraints
 - Financial Resource constraints
 - Cultural biases and myths



MORNING SESSION- UNDERSTANDING THE EVIDENCE...

- Understanding the public health approach
- Most common form of violence against women is intimate partner violence
- Measured by both victimization and perpetration
 - Under reporting is a challenge
- Violence starts early
 - Prevalence is highest in the younger age groups
- High levels of violence during pregnancy
- Health consequences
 - Injury
 - Mental health problems
 - Limited sexual or reproductive health control
 - Difficulty seeking health care
- Negative affects on children
 - Behaviour and health problems
 - Higher rates of infant mortality
 - Poor school performance
- Socioeconomic consequences
 - Loss of wages and productivity



MORNING SESSION- UNDERSTANDING THE EVIDENCE...

- VAW is widespread
- Consequences for women and their children
- Intergenerational consequences
- Adverse socio economic impact on families communities and society



AFTER BREAK SESSION- RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS

- Identifying
 - Most effective prevention programs work on reducing risks and enhancing protective factors
- Individual
 - Social history
- Relationship
 - Characteristics
- Community
 - Neighborhood settings, social norms
- Societal
 - Laws
 - Level of empowerment



AFTER BREAK SESSION- RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS

- Individual
 - Childhood abuse
 - Low education
 - Harmful use of alcohol
 - Personality disorder
- Relationship
 - Mens control
 - Quality of relationship
 - Men having multiple sex partners



AFTER BREAK SESSION- RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS

- Men's perpetration
 - Frequent quarreling
 - Childhood emotional abuse or neglect
 - Transactional sex
 - Witness abuse of mother
 - Childhood physical and sexual abuse
 - 2+ lifetime sexual partners



AFTER BREAK SESSION- RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS

- Look at data in our own countries
- Look at the risk factors and identify the ones that can be changed
- Look at target group and determine which ones will be affected by the largest number of risk factors
- Risk factors
 - Childhood abuse
 - Gender inequality
- Development of prevention measures
- Reduce risk and enhance protective factors



RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS-EXERCISE

- Lifeline
- Problem Tree



PROMISING OR EFFECTIVE INTERVENTIONS

- 27 effective interventions
- Framework
 - Access to justice
 - Support services for survivors
 - Shelters
 - Crisis centres
 - Screening and referrals
 - Violence prevention



PROMISING OR EFFECTIVE INTERVENTIONS

- Batterers interventions did not work
- Health care interventions
 - Encourage autonomy and empowerment of women
 - Multiple interventions
 - More than a six months in duration
 - Addressed social norms
 - Victim advocacy



PROMISING OR EFFECTIVE INTERVENTIONS

- SASA - means “now”
 - Involves institutions and community leaders to build critical mass
 - Talks about the imbalance of power in the household
 - Stages of change model
 - Learning about the community
 - Helping activists gain confidence
 - Strengthening skills and connections between community members
 - Trying new behaviors, celebrating change



UN FRAMEWORK TO UNDERPIN ACTION TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- Promotes a common understanding on preventing violence against women
- Scope
 - Intimate partner violence
 - Focus on adolescent girls
 - Focus on stable context
 - Prevention as part of a comprehensive approach
 - A theory of change approach
 - Identification of specific factors at local, regional and national level which protect against violence



UN FRAMEWORK TO UNDERPIN ACTION TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- Violence is taking place due to deep rooted gender inequality
- Levels of prevention
 - Response
 - Early intervention
 - Changing the trajectory
 - Prevention



UN FRAMEWORK TO UNDERPIN ACTION TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- Framework
 - Complements efforts in response
 - Resource, support and encourage prevention activity
 - Underpin a unified approach
 - Contribute to sustained and planned action



HOW TO WORK WITH MEN WITHIN FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE

- Community prevention program
 - Targeting prevention in young men and women
- The Caribbean has many of the elements that make for a successful intervention
 - Need to be melded into a coordinated comprehensive program
 - Developmental progress
- Caribbean male action network
- Men as allies and men as partners



WORKING GROUP – GUIDING QUESTIONS

- Rich discussion on strategies for prevention and response



THANK YOU

