

United Nations  Nations Unies

**United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, now part of UN Women
United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America/ Subregional
Headquarters for the Caribbean**

**Expert Group Meeting on good practices in national action plans
on violence against women
United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America/ Subregional
Headquarters for the Caribbean
Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
13-15 September 2010**

**MODEL STRATEGIES AND PRACTICAL MEASURES ON THE
ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE FIELD OF CRIME
PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

Support paper prepared by:
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

During its 17th session, held in April 2008, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to

ENGLISH only

? remove any provisions that allow for or condone violence against women or that increase the vulnerability or re-victimization of women who have been subject to violence

? ensure that all forms of violence against women are criminalized and prohibited and adopt measures aimed at preventing, protecting, empowering and supporting survivors, adequately punishing perpetrators and ensuring available remedies for victims

? ensure that civil law decisions reached in marital dissolutions, child custody decisions and other family law proceedings for cases involving domestic violence or child abuse adequately safeguard victims and the best interest of children

? ensure that provisions of multiple legal systems, where they exist, comply with international human rights obligations, commitments and principles, in particular the principle of non-discrimination

II. Criminal procedure

-

ENGLISH only

? develop and implement policies and appropriate responses regarding the investigation and collection of evidence that take into account the unique needs and perspectives of victims of violence

? conduct risk assessments that indicate the level or extent of harm victims may be subjected to based on the vulnerability of victims, the threats to which they are exposed, the presence of weapons and other determining factors

? ensure that laws, policies, procedures and practices pertaining to decisions on the arrest, detention and terms of any form of release of the perpetrator take into account the need for the safety of the victim and others related through family, socially or otherwise and that such procedures also prevent further acts of violence

? establish a registration system for judicial protection, restraining or barring orders, empower and equip police, prosecutors and other criminal justice officials to respond promptly to incidents of violence against women, including by drawing on a rapid court order where appropriate and by taking measures to ensure the fast and efficient management of cases

? ensure gender equitable representation in the police force and other agencies of the justice system, particularly at the decision-making and managerial level

? provide victims of violence, where possible, with the right to speak to a female officer,

ENGLISH only

- ensure that the perpetrators of violence against women are sentenced in a manner commensurate with the severity of the offence
- provide reparations for harm caused as a result of the violence
- promote the rehabilitation of the perpetrator

? ensure that national laws take into account specific circumstances as aggravating factors for sentencing purposes including, for example, repeated violent acts, abuse of a position of trust or authority, perpetration of violence against a spouse or a person in a close relationship with the perpetrator and perpetration of violence against a person under 18 years of age

? ensure the right of a victim of violence to be notified of the offender's release from detention or imprisonment

? take into account, in the sentencing process, of the severity of the physical and psychological harm and the impact of victimization, including through victim impact statements

? develop and evaluate treatment and reintegration/rehabilitation programmes for perpetrators of different types of violence against women that prioritize the safety of the victims

? ensure that judicial and correctional authorities, as appropriate, monitor perpetrators' compliance with any treatment ordered

? ensure that there are appropriate measures in place to eliminate violence against women who are detained for any reason

? provide adequate protection to victims and witnesses of acts of violence before, during and after criminal proceedings

V. Victim support and assistance

? provide women who have been subjected to violence with relevant information on rights, remedies and victim support services and on how to obtain them and information about their role and opportunities for participating in criminal proceedings

? encourage and assist women subjected to violence in lodging and following through on formal complaints by providing protection to the victims

? prevent hardship for victims during the detection, investigation and prosecution process

EGM/GPNAP/2010/SP.01

8 September 2010

ENGLISH only

ENGLISH only

? establish, where possible, specialized units specially trained to deal with the complexities and victim sensitivities involved in cases of violence against women and where victims can receive comprehensive assistance, protection and intervention services

? encourage the development of specialized health services, including comprehensive, free and confidential forensic examinations by trained health providers and appropriate treatment, including HIV specific treatment

VII. Training

? provide for or to encourage mandatory cross-cultural, gender and child-sensitivity training modules for police, criminal justice officials and professionals involved in the criminal justice system on the unacceptability of all forms of violence against women and on their harmful impact and consequences on all those who experience such violence

? make sure that police, criminal justice officials and other professionals involved in the criminal justice system receive adequate training and continued education on all relevant domestic laws, policies and programmes, as well as international legal instruments

? ensure that police, criminal justice officials and other relevant authorities are adequately well trained to be able to identify and respond appropriately to the specific needs of women victims of violence

? encourage relevant professional associations to develop enforceable standards of practice and behaviour and codes of conduct that promote justice and gender equality

VIII. Research and evaluation

? set up and strengthen mechanisms for systematic and coordinated data collection on violence against women

? collect, analyse and publish data and information, including data and information disaggregated by gender, in particular concerning:

- the dif

ENGLISH only

- the effect of various types of intervention on the individual offender and on the reduction and elimination of violence against women as a whole
 - the use of weapons and of drugs, alcohol and other substances in cases of violence against women
 - the relationship between victimization or exposure to violence and subsequent violent activity
 - the relationship between the violence experienced by women and women's vulnerability to other types of abuse
 - the consequences of violence on those who witness it, particularly within the family.
- ? monitor, and publish annual reports, on the number of cases of violence against women reported to the police as well as other criminal justice agencies. Such reports should disaggregate data by type of violence and include, for example, information on the sex of the perpetrator and his or her relationship to the victim
- ? evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice system in meeting the needs of women subjected to violence and evaluate and assess the impact of current

ENGLISH only

? develop multidisciplinary and gender-sensitive approaches within public and private entities that seek to prevent violence against women, especially through partnerships

8 September 2010

ENGLISH only

? continue exchanging information concerning successful intervention models and preventive programmes in eliminating all forms of violence against women

? cooperate and collaborate at the bilateral, regional and international levels with relevant entities to prevent violence against women; provide safety, assistance and protection for the victims and witnesses of violence and their family members, as p

-13.5 TD 1.422 Tc 1.578 TwTw (reventiv676r the 0.0tak)dmpvicpril,422 87() Tj Tw 289ev

3nwi80270th)DfAnst ofDisgr 26 vTan 63.05 DW TDDCy ds, st 3p -lj305 PFDola 422T 1027378p 4.T6405e 0841904f0e (in 30

n s t w o m e 0 6

ENGLISH only

violence to give testimony and participate in all stages of the proceedings while protecting the safety, interests, identity and privacy of those women

? cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children, in performing their mandated tasks and duties by supplying all information requested and responding to the Special Rapporteurs' visits and communications.