



PPDVP Conference

Regional Conference Newsletter - Tuesday 12 October 2010

Country reports

The presentations focused on what activities exist in each country and identified issues faced nationally. Key themes emerged from the presentations and central to this was the need to work together in 'Partnerships'.

The country reports reinforced the fact that domestic violence happens in all countries and that they are not working in isolation. Regionally we face common issues and challenges. Issues coming out of the presentations included a requirement for the police to be a top down and bottom up commitment.

There is also a need to develop domestic violence legislation in some countries and a focus on the judiciary. The NGO's identified funding as a big issue and that many are heavily reliant on volunteers.

In many cases culture can be a barrier to reporting incidents of domestic violence. The theme of 'Break the Silence, End the Violence' was heard from many presenters.

Mentor's View



Day two started with the Cook Islands keeping us alert, even though we could not follow instructions!

We continued our tour through the islands, hearing stories from the dedicated and committed men and women of the Pacific. A special welcome to the staff from Tokelau who only recently joined the PPDVP family and had to undertake an "adventure" to attend the conference.

There were common themes throughout the presentations, which were consistent with day one. One of the strongest themes was that "Law" can have a huge effect on the way family violence is addressed, whether it be positive or negative.

Shamima and Marilyn presented in the afternoon covering the 16 days of activism, male advocacy programme for women and safe houses. The presentation highlighted the importance of a rights based approach, developing your "own" programme, issues around "donors" and the importance of accountability.

The afternoon was topped off by Mr Cam where he took us on a whirl-wind tour of the PPDVP website and CMIS.

Another informative day is over and we look forward to the workshops to come. Keep up the good work everyone.

PPF Advisor Jo Linton, Solomon Islands

Highlights COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS

GUAME

- dedicated family violence unit & crime victims assistance unit
- Enic's House - exchange site, visitation, reports, parenting classes, referrals

We try a lot of things - if it doesn't work - we try something else that will work for us

Time spent teaching is never lost

MARSHALL ISLANDS

- Attitudes of police are changing - serious offending → detention / no drop policy
- Women United Together Marshall Islands - project → work with government to craft law on DV - funding from Iceland!

It's about friend-raising (not fund-raising)

KIRIBATI

- DVSO - 1 constable at 4 stations to deal with victims - available 24/7
- Draft for Family Law is on its way
- Our Lady of Sacred Heart established Womens Crisis Centre - take care of women/children & provide counselling with men

68% of homes reported serious domestic violence

We have to work with what we have got - push police to do what we can

NAURU

- Domestic Violence Unit in place & have DV committee
- Safe House established

The success of any development is partnership... Working together

TONGA

- starting victim support within People Squad
- Have DV response policy
- Safe House through National Centre for Women & Children & WCCC

PALAU

- Customary law still exists & DV is rarely reported - seen as family matter
- Womens conference is lobbying national government to introduce DV legislation

I am looking forward to taking information from this conference back

PNG

- Appointment of National Sexual Violence Coordinator
- Establishment of Family Sexual Violence Unit & Specialist Sexual Offence Squad
- Active support from NGO partners
- City Mission PNG: "Hous Ruth" Women & Childrens Refuge Centre 2009: 304 cases

Latest Statistics: - 2 in 3 women experience violence by husband & other family member - 1 in 2 women experience rape & sexual violence

Women are receiving better attention from specialist units than when report to front counters

We encourage men to come in & get counselling

64% of women & children experience violence in the home

POHNPEI

- Nov 2009 kick off of domestic violence project
- have 1 coordinator & currently putting together policy
- Pohnpei Women Advisory Council & Chuuk Women Council - raising DV issue on International Womens Day

Our view is not to penalize the offender but to change their attitudes

We need to encourage women to come forward & report "isolated incidents"

VANUATU

- 1997 - Family Protection Unit estab
- 2009 - Family Protection Act - DV a crime
- 2010 - DV legislation signed MOU with PPDVP
- Vanuatu Womens Centre - with safe house - Human rights approach

Over 100 child & sexual offences investigated each year - 90% domestic related

Port Vila Police: 85 DV incidents/month - 20% identified as criminal offences

TUVALU

- DV Unit - one coordinator
- Police Powers & Duties Act 2009 includes DV
- No drop policy
- changing police attitudes

10 Pacific Island Law Officers Network drafted legislation

National Council of Women - DV & violence Against Women Project

2007 15-14yrs suffered Physical Abuse: 163 victims Emotional Abuse: 555 victims Sexual Abuse: 123 victims

SOLOMON ISLANDS

- NGO: Family Support Centre with Christian Care Centre (safe house)

establishing investigation & sexual assault unit

No legislation - Family Violence Police & standard operating procedures just signed

Our limitation comes if we don't have legislation to enforce

Together building a strong foundation for a brighter future - one step at a time



New Zealand Government





Country reports continued...

Inter-agency Partnerships

Shamima Ali from the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre and Marilyn Tahu from the Vanuatu Women's Centre led the group through a session on the work of the women's crisis centres and the regional network of centres.

The network leads to other international networks which allows the members to ensure that they have the best available resources and information available to them.

They emphasised the "Male Advocacy for Women's Rights" training and support activities where men are trained by the centres.

An active discussion developed on the value of refuges for victims and the benefits and risks and responsibilities that establishing these brings to the operators. It was clear that the benefits and risks need to be carefully weighed up and that they are alternative support mechanisms which may also meet the need to provide shelter and support for victims.

COOK ISLANDS

- DV unit with 1 coordinator
- Have Manual of Best Practice - for front line & DV follow up
- Is currently draft of Family Law Bill
- Use DV Form
- Cook Islands Women's Counselling Centre Punanga Tauturu Inc. - signed MOU with police

Men are coming to us more & more... we are working for everyone

SAMOA

- DV established 2007
- 9 staff
- DV manual in progress
- Draft Family Safety Bill
- Advocacy: TV ad & banner
- Partnership with 5 NGOs
- Mapusaga O Aiga Inc - Family Haven - one of NGOs - provide services for all of family

It takes the sweetness of all fruits to make a fruit salad.

TOKELAU

- PPDNP - police visited in September to do assessment (familiarisation) training
- DV does exist but is not seen as a problem
- This is an opportunity for us to go back &

BREAK THE SILENCE

Domestic Violence IS NOT OK

OUR CHALLENGE IS PUTTING OUR VISION INTO REALITY.

The next two days

Now that the country reports have been completed, the regional workshop will move on to look at ways that information can be shared between the police and their partners. This will be followed by sessions on developing a profile of a family violence offender and of the victim which can be used to inform police staff so that they can respond effectively to any complaints which are received. The two days will be a mix of discussions and workshops where participants will have the chance to share their knowledge.

