

# **CELEBRATING TEN YEARS OF THE GBV PREVENTION NETWORK**

**Our Members, Our Momentum, Our Movement!**



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Design & Layout: Ivan Barigye, 10/10 Digital Avenue.

## **OUR MEMBERS, OUR MOMENTUM, OUR MOVEMENT!**

Dear Colleagues,

It brings us great pleasure to mark the GBV Prevention Network's tenth anniversary this year! It has been ten years of growing, building connections, learning, and bringing ideas to life for preventing violence against women (VAW). Over the years, the Network has become a driving force for increasing momentum for preventing violence against women in the region.

As we celebrate ten years together, we reflect upon the expansion of work to address VAW in the region. In 2003, we began as the vision of just 30 organizations. Now, we are more than 450 members strong. This rapid growth brings great hope as well as great responsibility. Despite the vast increase in organizations and interventions working to address violence against women, the problem persists at alarming rates. This is a call to all of us to rethink our business as usual.

We believe that increasing momentum around violence against women prevention will enable us to elevate our work to new standards and deepen our impact on the lives of women and communities. The Network is committed to achieving this by strengthening shared analysis of the core drivers of violence against women, fostering solidarity with one another and increasing our collective action. Our momentum is pivotal to the success of our movement.

This publication is a celebration of the GBV Prevention Network's members in our first ten years together. It honors their tireless dedication to preventing violence against women. We invite you to take the journey through these pages to learn our stories, get inspired, and celebrate with us. We hope you, too, will feel the momentum!

With energy and commitment,

**The GBV Prevention Network Coordinating Office**





We are a dynamic group of activists dedicated to creating a world that is safe and dignified for women and their communities.

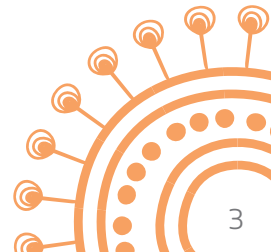


# WHO IS THE GBV PREVENTION NETWORK?

We are a dynamic group of activists dedicated to creating a world that is safe and dignified for women and their communities. We are practitioners, organizations, academics, donors, and individuals. We are women and men. We are different nationalities, religions, ages and ethnicities, but we are united by the same goal. We believe that change is possible and we are committed to taking action!

The GBV Prevention Network was established in 2003 as a collaborative space for activists from the Horn, East and Southern Africa working to address violence against women. The idea grew from a regional dialogue of 30 organizations who became our first members and selected Raising Voices to host and coordinate the Network. Since that time, the GBV Prevention Network has grown to 450 members in 16 countries.

Our members are involved in a wide range of individual and community-level prevention programs, from offering services to survivors such as health, legal aid, emergency, and psycho-social care, to advocating for VAW prevention policies and laws. The Network provides a platform for members to share ideas and experiences, build connections with each other, and ultimately strengthen our work towards preventing VAW. Our activities are strategically designed to build momentum for violence against women prevention in the region.

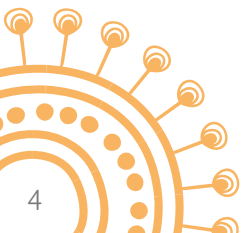




## CELEBRATING OUR MEMBERS

Amidst the tangled web of day-to-day activities and ongoing challenges, we often do not take the time to reflect on how far we have come and the achievements we have made. Yet it is important that we cultivate these moments to fuel our spirit and shape our way forward. This publication is our moment to celebrate each other. We remember all of the gains we have made in our journey and the amazing friends and allies who have aided us in our successes as individuals, organizations, and as a Network.

It is with great pride that we celebrate our members — the women and men who devote their lives to preventing violence against women in their homes, communities, and societies. They are the heart and soul of our activism. We are thankful for your hard work, optimism and vigor, united in the Network with the hope of creating a better tomorrow for women and communities in the region and beyond.



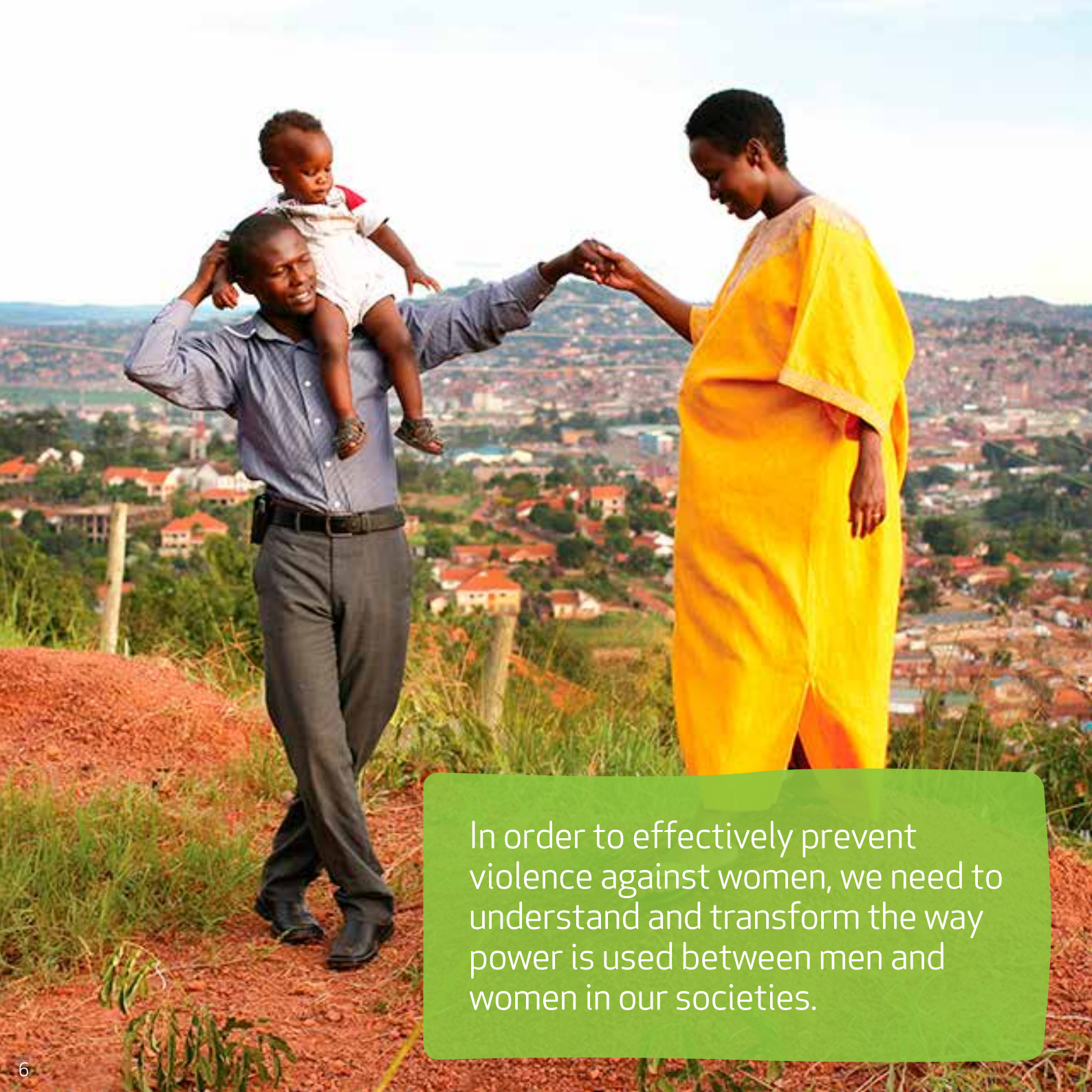


## INCREASING MOMENTUM FOR VAW PREVENTION

What does it mean to increase momentum for VAW prevention? It means ensuring that our work is grounded in a solid and common understanding of violence against women across organizations and countries. It means valuing the synergy of our unique efforts and forging opportunities to join our power with others. It means transferring our thinking into doing!

With this understanding, the Network centers its activities around three main pillars for generating momentum in our movement- strengthening shared analysis, fostering solidarity, and increasing collective action. Over the next pages, you will read about the amazing work of some of our members, both individuals and organizations. Although we are all using different strategies, we are rooted in these foundations and interconnected in our purpose.





In order to effectively prevent violence against women, we need to understand and transform the way power is used between men and women in our societies.



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# STRENGTHENING SHARED ANALYSIS

The main driver of violence against women is the imbalance of power between women and men.

This stems from long-held attitudes and beliefs about the value of women and their role in society. Our social norms allow men to use their power to control women's lives in different ways. In order to effectively prevent violence against women, we need to understand and transform the way power is used between men and women in our societies. This is the heart of the feminist approach to addressing violence against women and is essential to quality programming. The GBV Prevention Network nurtures members' shared analysis of violence against women as the foundation for designing and implementing effective, ethical interventions and building cohesion as a movement.

Read on to see how our members ground their work in shared analysis addressing violence against women.

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## COALITION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (COVAW), Kenya

We are convinced that violence against women exists and is entrenched in society as a direct result of power imbalances between women and men. It is by addressing these imbalances and deconstructing patriarchal structures that women and men realize their power within, the power to rise and challenge the status quo. We strongly believe that African women have the agency and immense power to find home-grown solutions to the problems affecting them.

We engage custodians of culture in an effort to influence a change in beliefs, attitudes and ultimately behaviors towards women.

This reinforces the recognition that patriarchal culture is a root cause of violence against women. We seek to strengthen the voices and influence of women and girls, which in turn enables them to challenge the social order of things. To achieve this, COVAW trains and supports community elders who are respected for the key role they play in arbitrating conflicts in their communities and influencing community attitudes and beliefs. Our organization uses unique community mobilization activities to help elders think differently about social and cultural practices that subjugate women and regard them as inferior, such as FGM and domestic violence.

We apply intersectionality as a feminist theory to guide COVAW's work, in the spirit of recognizing the multiple identities of women and multiple forms of discrimination. We are aware that in order to eradicate violence against women we require a critical mass of individuals who are committed to our cause and with whom we can build effective partnerships to influence policies and engender processes at the regional and national level.





## LUSAJO KAJULA, MUHIMBILI UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH AND ALLIED SCIENCES (MUHAS), Tanzania

Using a feminist analysis, we understand that the power dynamics between men and women put women at increased risk of violence and HIV infection, often co-occurring in the same relationship. Existing gender norms condone violence against women and grant men the power to control the terms and conditions of their sexual relationships with women. This includes engaging in high-risk sexual behaviors.

**Our research, therefore, focuses on addressing violence against women as that which fuels the HIV epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa, where prevalence rates of young girls are four to seven times higher than boys the same age in some countries.**

Social networks can have a powerful influence on behavior change. Interventions designed not only to change the behavior of individuals, but also to work with social networks to promote risk reduction are likely to result in sustained behavior change. Peers have consistently been shown to influence adolescent behavior related to smoking, substance use and sex. We are, therefore, conducting research aimed at identifying feasible and effective strategies to engage young men in VAW and HIV prevention efforts. Our team is carrying out an innovative, multi-level intervention that combines microfinance and health leadership training for networks of young men to reduce violence against women and risk of HIV infection. Through a nomination process, the young men in our study will identify leaders within the networks who are respected and trusted. These leaders will be invited to participate in training workshops to improve their communication strategies and bolster their social influence around reduction of violence against women and HIV risk behavior. We are measuring violence using the WHO violence against women instrument. Using a feminist analysis helps us to design ethical and effective studies that can contribute valuable learning to the field of violence against women prevention.

## MENTORING AND EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME FOR YOUNG WOMEN (MEMPROW), Uganda



MEMPROW works with girls and young women ages 14 to 29. Our approach is based on the belief that empowering girls and young women with feminist knowledge and advocacy skills is key to eliminating violence against women. Violence against women thrives in contexts where there is limited understanding of the power of patriarchy, which facilitates established gender dynamics and power relations that subordinate women. A feminist analysis reveals that in Uganda, the culture of violence and the silence about it are legitimized and entrenched in all social processes, even our traditional proverbs.

**MEMPROW works with young women to build the confidence and self-esteem necessary to live vibrant, healthy lives as feminists.**

To be young and feminist in a strong patriarchal setting is a challenge. Girls are brought up to accept violence through a well-defined socializing process. Young women are under pressure to be stereotypically feminine in body and behavior. MEMPROW helps young girls to analyze their self-images through a feminist perspective. Using feminist analysis, they explore the power dynamics of common sexual expectations and understand how women's bodies are sexualized in society. By helping young women to positively shift their ideas and understand harmful expectations about their bodies and sexuality, we build their personal power to recognize exploitative situations. This can help to reduce their vulnerability to sexual violence and grow them into leaders of social change.

## MUSASA PROJECT, Zimbabwe

Musasa offers direct services to women experiencing violence, including shelter for survivors. Feminist analysis is central to our work as it helps us to engage appropriately and meaningfully with clients.

**By understanding how power dynamics in society shape women's experiences and contexts, we are able to offer more supportive services that help women to make informed decisions to address their situations.**

In all of our work, we never judge women. This lays the foundation for incorporating feminist analysis into our service provision. We appreciate that women who have gone through traumatic experiences need space to recuperate and regain their self-confidence in order to decide their own way forward. We understand that due to ongoing violence, control, and social conditioning, most of our clients will be compelled to go back to their abusive partners. We appreciate this without judgment and offer a range of services to help our clients regain power in their lives. We offer a safe and nurturing space for women and their children. We offer trainings in a wide range of income-generating activities such as gardening, raising livestock, candle making, and tie and dye so that when women can have their own source of income when they reintegrate back into society. Power imbalances in relationships are exacerbated by the economic influences men usually exert over women. Therefore, these life skills enable women to cope financially in the world. Above all, we put our clients first, honoring their experiences, their beliefs, and their decisions.



## AKINA MAMA WA AFRIKA (AMWA), Uganda

Akina Mama is a feminist NGO that employs a feminist approach in all its programs. Feminist analysis provides us an understanding of inequality by examining power relations between women and men that form the basis of women's social roles and lived experiences. For our work to address violence against women, it provides the ideology and tools to identify the underlying issues behind women's oppression and develop strategies to tackle them.

Exploring different types of power –power within, power with, power to and power over — helps us to understand how power operates in our lives and to conceptualize patriarchal power in practical terms.

Asking the “hows” and “whys” of women's oppression enables us to demand for change and strategically engage patriarchy in a vigorous manner.

Akina Mama wa Africa incorporates a feminist analysis into all of our work by applying feminist principles and values at the work place, engaging in feminist movements such as the Uganda Feminist Forum (UFF) and the African Feminist Forum (AFF), conducting African feminist research, and anchoring the African Women's Leadership Curriculum on Feminism. The African Women's Leadership Institute (AWLI) is one of the most important examples of feminist analysis in our work. The program emerged from feminist analyses of African women during the post - Beijing Conference era and is designed by African women. The ultimate aim of the AWLI is to encourage and train significant numbers of women to take on informed leadership positions that will ultimately promote a progressive African women's development agenda.





## THE NISAA INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN S DEVELOPMENT, *South Africa*

Feminist analysis is extremely important in addressing and preventing violence against women because it enables us to recognize how inequality and patriarchy, discrimination and sexual objectification, stereotypes and myths affect and operate in women's lives and how such oppressions can be overcome. It provides a framework and philosophy for women and girls to understand oppression and to become empowered as individuals in their own right.

Gender and power are central to both feminist thought and the therapeutic practice of feminist counseling, where the context of women's lives and experiences is validated.

At Nisaa, we listen carefully to women's stories and understand their situations within the dynamics of gender and power. Our counselors integrate feminist analysis gradually into the counseling sessions, beginning first by establishing relationships of trust, respect and equality. We believe and respect clients' experiences without judgment. We elicit their own opinions, ideas and choices to help them in making their own decisions. Feminist counseling also stresses the importance of the counselor's attitudes, values, and beliefs on the therapy process and outcome. We must maintain an equal relationship with our clients at all times. This involves taking steps to reduce any power imbalances between the counselor and client and emphasizing the client's power to make her own decisions.



When activists connect through thoughts, feelings, and shared histories, it ignites a feeling of unity and strength that intensifies the power of our work



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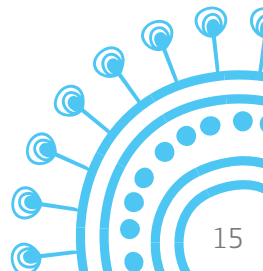
# FOSTERING SOLIDARITY

In order to build momentum for preventing violence against women, we need to mobilize individuals and groups who share common experiences, interests, and beliefs about the attitudes and behaviors that perpetuate violence.

We demonstrate solidarity through support, trust and positive engagement with others.

We demonstrate solidarity through support, trust and positive engagement with others. It takes courage, dedication, and creativity to unite different hearts and minds. Our members work in solidarity to enhance the impact of their efforts. In this section, we share with you some of the extraordinary ways in which our members are fostering solidarity within their communities and across movements.

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## CENTER FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION (CEDOVIP), Uganda

Preventing violence against women is a collective effort that needs to be continuous, comprehensive, and come from the heart. We at CEDOVIP work closely with several actors across the social spectrum because we believe in the unique and useful contribution that every individual and organization brings to our movement.

We have united men and women at the community level, local leaders, the police, healthcare workers, and policy makers to recognize that violence against women is an injustice.

Each person's actions helps to sustain efforts to create positive social norms that are supportive of women living free of violence.

CEDOVIP starts by building and maintaining open, respectful relationships with community activists. We move beyond the rhetoric of participation and nurture relationships that are authentic and supportive. This involves knowing where activists live, where they work, who their family members are, as well as participating in their family events (e.g. weddings and funerals) and sharing their moments of joy and sorrow. It also means supporting them to develop much-needed skills for preventing and responding to VAW through mentoring, practical activities, and training. We connect the activists to other organizations and institutions within their community. Collective power is more capable of transforming the world than isolated individual actions.

Fostering solidarity requires recognizing small but significant successes along the way and celebrating the successes with the entire team. CEDOVIP shares progress of the work systematically with community activists on a quarterly basis and enables each of them to find their individual and collective contribution to the process of change. The honest feedback keeps the team feeling hopeful, resourceful and valued throughout all phases of our work.

## SEX WORKERS ADVOCACY TASK FORCE (SWEAT), South Africa

As with every nation, South Africa is no stranger to violence and brutality against women.

We work to demonstrate that unifying women across movements, especially with vulnerable groups such as sex workers, is essential to preventing violence against women.

One example of our work across movements is our recent participation in the One Billion Rising (OBR) events. This was a global call to women and men across the planet to gather in their communities to dance and demand an end to violence against women and girls on the 14th February 2013. Sisonke, the only national movement of sex workers, participated in the One Billion Rising events to show that as women, sex workers are also affected by violence against women.

SWEAT hosted a Sisonke expressive art workshop aimed at finding ways to engage with one's body to claim, affirm and celebrate oneself. This was followed by a massive collection of diverse activists meeting in solidarity at Thibault Square in Cape Town. On Black Friday, 15th February, Sisonke concluded the OBR campaign by joining members of the South African National AIDS Council and Women's Sector (SANAC, WS) in a peaceful protest in response to brutal rape and murders being perpetuated in South Africa. Though this campaign has ended, our solidarity continues. It is the cornerstone of our work.





## WOMEN'S PROMOTION CENTER, Tanzania

We believe in the ideals of equality, dignity, and human rights. Yet in our society, discrimination against women occurs both on an individual level (directed to individual women and perpetrated by individuals) and institutional level (by a social system that does not value women).

Within this context, violence against women is everyone's responsibility. Thus, we must work in solidarity with others in order to initiate the changes necessary to achieve gender equality.

At Women's Promotion Center, we work in solidarity with communities—local women, leaders and community-based organizations—to guide their own processes of change. We train community members to become pro-active community facilitators on issues related to violence against women. We organize women's forums at village, ward, and district levels and support them in conducting public/street awareness raising campaigns.

Working in solidarity means helping to bring the voices of community members to institutional decision-makers. We build capacity of community-based women's organizations (CBOs) to analyze policies and provide feedback. These CBOs are able to reveal possible gaps or shortcomings within policy, conduct group and community consultation forums and agree on policy agendas, and advocate for policies that address women's issues. The CBOs also monitor policy implementation at community level and network with national and regional women's organizations for a united and strong advocacy voice.

# THE UGANDA ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS - FIDA , Uganda

Mobilising the support of like-minded individuals, communities and organisations in order to generate publicity and lobby decision makers is how we best describe fostering solidarity. Violence against women has existed for many years and has become entrenched in our societal systems. This presents a challenge greater than any one individual or organization.

**When we foster solidarity at all levels, we gain strength in our numbers.**



Solidarity helps to keep our activism safe. Some of the actions that we undertake in pursuit of social justice are controversial and even life-threatening. The risks, however, are minimized through our collective identity and mass support for our cause. Where individual activists or organizations might face persecution, FIDA-Uganda as a united entity has been able to comment on and participate in critical areas of advocacy for advancing the rights of women.

FIDA's solidarity begins with our diverse membership; although we are all women lawyers, we are engaged in a wide range of work. In solidarity, we reach across professions and sectors to bring about changes in law and policy and to influence the attitudes of duty bearers to implement the law. In recent years, we have seen great achievements in changing policies, practices, public attitudes, behaviours, and political processes, as well as increasing women's power and influence. These successes are the result of the collective efforts by different individuals, communities and organisations, working together towards a common goal.

# PEOPLE OPPOSING WOMEN ABUSE (POWA), South Africa

POWA works in solidarity with women at all levels of our work.

We bring to life the reality and power of women's agency—the ability of women to think, act and use their power positively to change their communities and their lives.

This focus on agency has inspired us to look for solutions with women and to actively lead, support and enable the process of movement building amongst women. It is women who intimately know their own lived realities, and it is women who will find and guide the process of transforming their lives so that they are free and equal.

One of our programs at POWA is to build capacity of women to hold local government authorities accountable in promoting women's rights. Women based in local communities are trained to facilitate community conversations and dialogues as well as engage local authorities in protecting their rights. Women from these communities are the most familiar with their experiences of rights violation and are, therefore, the ones who are most qualified to engage local authorities to protect and promote their rights. As an organization, we endeavor to ensure that women play a lead role in all areas of our work.





## RAISING VOICES, Uganda

At Raising Voices, we believe that it's up to all of us to prevent violence against women. Even the most effective program, smartest individuals, and passionate activists cannot do it alone. To us, solidarity means valuing the people behind the work by emphasizing genuine respect, cooperation, and open communication. In practice, this means we work in solidarity with organizations to improve the quality of violence prevention work in the Horn, East and Southern Africa. Rather than expanding our own presence and opening offices in various places, we form partnerships with organizations already rooted in their communities and support them to strengthen their community mobilization efforts.

**We strive to build lasting relationships with partner organizations that are personal, not just focused on programmatic outcomes because we believe that when people feel valued and respected great things can—and do—happen!**

Another way we demonstrate solidarity at Raising Voices is our commitment to openness. Fundamentally, we believe that our mandate is to do whatever we can to help make communities and families safer for women. What this means in our work is that we share our ideas and approaches as widely and freely as possible. Activists can find valuable resources to download on our website, can access support at any time through phone calls or email, and are free to adapt our materials to best suit their contexts. For those using our methodologies, we offer structured technical assistance to guide the journey. We create opportunities to deepen understanding and skills through onsite visits, ongoing communication, trainings and Learning Center visits built on the spirit of genuine cooperation. Currently, there are over 40 organizations using the *SASA!* approach for preventing violence against women and HIV in a range of different contexts and communities. Together, this creates a groundswell of learning and change more powerful than any one of our organizations.

Activists are agents of positive change, dedicated to promoting social justice in our world.





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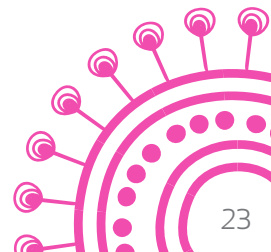
# INCREASING COLLECTIVE ACTION

Activists are agents of positive change, dedicated to promoting social justice in our world. The work of an activist is to continually question injustice and the status quo and offer a new perspective of positive alternatives.

Activists inspire our spirit and translate ideas into actions to prevent violence against women.

Valuing and supporting activism means encouraging our ability to reach inside ourselves to find our strengths, to join our voices with others, and to take collective action to create lives and communities free from violence.

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## CARE, Burundi

At CARE Burundi, we take action to address violence against women that is comprehensive and systematic. Previous prevention efforts focused on increasing awareness among individuals about women's rights. Over time, however, we realized that this is not enough to bring behavior change. Interventions must be robust in addressing the core drivers of violence against women at an individual, community, and structural level.

Our activism, therefore, uses multiple strategies to transform the social norms and structural inequalities between men and women that support violence against women.

Through our community mobilization efforts, community members use a range of creative and easily accessible activities to shift the knowledge, attitudes, skills, and behaviors around violence against women in their community.

We also promote economic empowerment of women, including income generation and financial decision-making in the household through savings and loans associations known as "solidarity groups." Finally, we encourage positive experience-sharing between men who have made positive changes in their relationships with their wives and children. Taken together, this collective action helps communities to more effectively prevent violence against women.





## MZIKAZI NDUNA, UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, South Africa

Activism garners support from people who are affected by and believe in working towards ending violence against women. Activism mobilizes commitment from individuals and organizations whose work is to empower women and transform oppressive social norms and practices. Activism also builds and keeps movements alive through peer support. A sense of activism means that one is always conscious of their actions and how their daily attitudes and behaviors contribute to (or compromise) the status of women. It serves as a reminder that one stands for something — in this case denouncement of VAW in both private and public.

**Fostering activism means silence will not be tolerated and will not be perpetuated.**

As a member of the GBV Prevention Network, I recently participated in the adaptation of the In Her Shoes Toolkit for Sub-Saharan Africa. This is a powerful tool that helps participants to deeply connect with the realities of women experiencing violence and translate empathy into action. Through our collective action, this tool is now being used throughout Sub-Saharan Africa to improve VAW prevention work. In South Africa, I use the tool with different audiences including university students, academics, researchers and NGO staff. Participants are young and old, men and women, gay, lesbian, and heterosexual, experienced facilitators and ordinary community members. By training colleagues and volunteers in how to use the tool, the work is cascading. Some facilitators conduct workshops in their villages and townships, churches, and local community-based organizations. Since we started the dissemination, I estimate that the ripple effect has reached over 1,000 participants. In this way, the impact of our individual actions becomes amplified as part of a larger collective.

# RWANDA MEN'S RESOURCE CENTER (RWAMREC), Rwanda

In Rwanda, like in many other countries, gender equality work has long been misunderstood as a women's issue. Men's engagement in efforts to end violence against women has been seen as a missing link in development programming.

RWAMREC was created to proactively engage men in promoting positive masculine behaviors so that they are supportive of women's empowerment and play a significant role in ending men's violence against women and children.

We recognize our collective strength to take action. Our work involves reaching out and working together with other men to reflect upon and challenge accepted ideas about masculinity. Together we discuss how we can change our own and other men's behaviors that have a bearing on women's rights and well-being. We provide intensive training to volunteers to support and manage community efforts to prevent violence against women. Together, our individual actions add up to a greater whole. Our aspiration is to create a society where men are positive and supportive of gender equality and women's empowerment in order to promote healthier families in Rwanda.





## WOMEN AGAINST RAPE (WAR), Botswana

An activist is someone who feels deeply connected to an issue—someone who understands it, analyzes it and feels compelled to do something about it. An activist sees the work of preventing violence against women and HIV not as a 9-5 job, but as a personal mission. Fostering activism at both a personal and a collective level is important to our work because it creates ownership of the issue and inspires actions to address it.

We aim to build a critical mass of activists taking action to prevent VAW.

We provide ongoing support to teams of community activists (CAs) who work within their own social groups to help others rethink the attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors that drive violence against women.

Engaging with those already familiar to them allows CAs to reach others in different spheres of influence including religious groups, entertainment places, recreational activities and other social gatherings. We also organize training workshops for various service providers and community groups. Using community asset mapping, we identify those who can help to build on the existing strengths of the community. However, activism is not just the responsibility of community activists. At an organizational level, we recognize that change begins within all of us. We, therefore, work with our own staff to explore issues of power in our lives and become activists in our homes and communities. Finally, we work to build relationships between all of these groups. By joining our power with others, we create unity and strength, accomplishing more together than we could alone.

## WOMEN OF UGANDA NETWORK (WOUGNET), Uganda



At WOUGNET, we embrace the power of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) to raise awareness and inspire action to prevent violence against women in today's world. ICTs such as SMS campaigns, reach a wider audience than we were ever able to reach in the past. Such technologies continue to evolve so that campaigns are now more interactive and engage the public in dialogue about the possibilities of change. We, therefore, use mass SMS platforms to communicate with our members and mobilize them around ongoing efforts to prevent violence against women.

In order to engage youth, who are a large part of Uganda's population, we have also been developing campaigns to communicate with the public using social media.

With tools like Facebook and Twitter, we are able to start conversations about violence against women with more people in new ways.

These tools reach out to a demographic who require conversations in a format that makes sense to them. They demonstrate the influence and power of the collective. With the use of ICT and the latest technologies, we are encouraging a new brand of activism for preventing violence against women.

## SONKE GENDER JUSTICE, *South Africa*

Action to end violence against women comes in many forms.

At Sonke, we foster activism through campaigns and high-level advocacy that engages men to realize gender equality.

Even though there is evidence that awareness on gender equality and women's rights is increasing, widely-held beliefs about men's and women's roles in society remain strong. What it means to be a man in South Africa has long been linked to notions of strength, bravery and leadership. Through the One Man Can campaign, Sonke facilitates dialogues and activities with men in different settings to help them overcome social barriers to change. The campaign encourages men and boys to take action to end domestic and sexual violence and to promote healthy, equitable and mutually respectful relationships.

Sonke also uses high-profile political advocacy to directly confront men in public office when they make statements that contradict the values of gender equality articulated in the South African Constitution and laws. Sonke has issued numerous press statements and organized demonstrations to condemn public officials for sexist remarks or statements that contribute to violence against women. We played an active role in challenging the nomination to the position of Chief Justice based on the candidate's problematic history of rulings in violence against women cases. We successfully litigated a prominent political leader in the Equality Court for comments which were ruled discriminatory against women, leading to a public retraction and apology. Whether on the streets or in the courtroom, we are ready to act.







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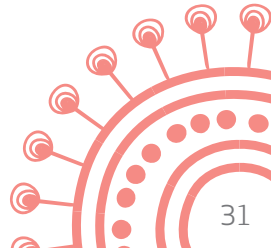
# BE PART OF THE MOMENTUM!

We know that for every great organization highlighted in this publication there are dozens more that we were unable to include, but who deserve the same degree of thanks, recognition, and respect. We express our deepest gratitude to all of our members for their bold vision and diligent commitment to creating a world where women and men, girls and boys, live together in safety, dignity, and happiness.

With ten years behind us, we emerge full of renewed vitality and hope.

Together, we will strengthen our shared analysis of the issue— recognizing power imbalances as the basis of violence against women. We will reach out to each other in solidarity, with heart and with intention. We will grow our activism at individual and organizational levels, spiraling into collective action that expresses our voice and our vision. In this way, the wheels will start turning, our engines will rev, and gears will begin to shift. This is our momentum. This is our movement!

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## DO YOU FEEL THE MOMENTUM?

Are you interested in joining us in our work to prevent violence against women? There are plenty of ways to get involved, whether you are a member or a friend!

## NOT YET A MEMBER?

- Become a member or friend of the Network today! Simply log on to [www.preventgbvafrica.org](http://www.preventgbvafrica.org) and sign up. It's free!

## ALREADY A MEMBER?

- Be a part of the *Get Moving!* process to develop a shared analysis of violence prevention and strengthen your programming:  
<http://www.preventgbvafrica.org/overview-movement-building-initiative>
- Host an in-city meeting for other Network members in the city where you work. Contact the Coordinating Office to get started ([info@preventgbvafrica.org](mailto:info@preventgbvafrica.org)).
- Participate in any of the Network's activities including the regional *16 Days of Activism campaign*, member meet-ups, in-city meetings, trainings and more.
- Send your updates to the Coordinating Office to share with members through our website, e-bulletins, and newsletters ([info@preventgbvafrica.org](mailto:info@preventgbvafrica.org)).
- Visit the Network Facebook Page and get involved in the conversation.
- Communicate with the Coordinating Office to find out what's happening in the region.
- Reach out to and invite Network members to your events.

Email us at [info@preventgbvafrica.org](mailto:info@preventgbvafrica.org) to find out more!

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We would like to thank all members who have contributed to this ten-year anniversary publication. We salute your extraordinary work and dedication to preventing violence against women.



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