



## **Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls**

**UN Women in cooperation with  
ESCAP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO**

**Bangkok, Thailand  
17-20 September 2012**

\* The views expressed in this document are those of the experts and do not necessarily represent the views of the United Nations

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## 1. BACKGROUND

1. In accordance with its multi-year programme of work for 2010-2014, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will consider ‘the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls’ as its priority theme during its fifty-seventh session, from 4 to 15 March 2013. In order to contribute to a deeper understanding of the issue and to assist the Commission in its deliberations, UN Women in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) convened an expert group meeting (EGM) on ‘Prevention of violence against women and girls’ from 17 to 20 September 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand.
2. This report reflects the shared discussion and analysis of the major issues, gaps and challenges identified at the EGM and presents key findings and recommendations. It is intended to build on the individual papers on specific issues provided by experts prior to the meeting, and the Background Paper prepared by the rapporteur, which are available on the EGM website (see below). It will provide inputs for the reports of the Secretary-General to the CSW and widely disseminated in preparation to the fifty-seventh session of CSW.

## 2. ORGANISATION OF WORK

3. The EGM brought together a diverse group of people from different backgrounds and regions including academics, practitioners, representatives from women’s organisations and staff members of the United Nations system (see Annex I).
4. This report and all documentation relating to the meeting are available online at: <http://www.unwomen.org/events/59/expert-group-meeting-prevention-of-violence-against-women-and-girls/> (see Annex II for the programme of work).
5. The experts elected a drafting committee (including two co-chairs) which was tasked to draft the report of the meeting, including conclusions and recommendations. The following experts were elected to the drafting committee:

- Sunila Abeysekera (Co-Chair)
- Marai Larasi (Co-Chair)
- Fatuma Chegue
- Edwina Kotoisuva
- Tatiana Moura
- Hibaaq Osman
- Jeanne Ward
- Lara Fergus (Rapporteur)

### 3. INTRODUCTION

6. Experts noted that violence against women and girls is defined as ‘any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women [or girls], including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.’<sup>1</sup> It exists in multiple, interrelated and sometimes recurring forms, and is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women.<sup>2</sup>
7. Experts stressed that we are at a critical moment where international bodies, nation states and civil society can and must come together to solidify commitments to ending violence against women and girls, as fragile and – in many places – deteriorating economic conditions, persistent environmental degradation, internal conflicts and wars, all contribute to the exacerbation of violence against women and girls, and violations of their rights.
8. Experts noted that the impacts of the global financial crisis, the economic pressures on Governments to reduce funding to social services and programmes, and the ongoing resource constraints faced by conflict-affected and developing countries, all risk limiting or reducing the investment States will make in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls.
9. However, they highlighted the enormous costs violence against women and girls entails to States and societies as a whole, in terms of reduced human capital, decreased productivity, exacerbated social inequalities, lowered overall educational outcomes, and broad strains on public services. Violence diminishes women’s and girls’ ability to gain an education, earn a living and participate in public life, and live a life free of fear. It has significant health impacts, including psychological consequences, physical injuries, sexual/reproductive health issues and death.<sup>3</sup> In war-affected settings, violence against women and girls inhibits efforts towards peace-building and sustainable recovery, contributing to the risk of resurgent conflict. In development settings, it hinders progress towards achievement of several of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), including those relating to education, HIV/AIDS, maternal health and child mortality.<sup>4</sup> It has intergenerational impacts, given that women use disproportionately more of their income toward supporting their families, and because violence diminishes their ability to fully participate in their societies (for example in politics, work or education) they are less able to invest in their children’s futures. One study in Chile found that women’s lost earnings alone as a result of domestic violence cost US\$1.56 billion or more than 2 percent of the country’s Gross Domestic Product.<sup>5</sup>
10. Violence against women and girls therefore entails massive costs to the State, and has a dragging effect on all other social and economic development efforts, particularly in humanitarian and development contexts. It is only by lowering the incidence of violence against women and girls, preventing recurrence, and responding effectively to existing violence to minimise ongoing

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women*, A/RES/48/104, Article 1.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, preamble.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2006) *In-Depth Study on All Forms of Violence against Women: Report of the Secretary General*, A/61/122/Add. 1.

<sup>4</sup> UN Millennium Project Task Force on Gender Equality, see <http://www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/301-consequences-and-costs-.html>, citing primary sources.

<sup>5</sup> Morrison, A. and Orlando, M.B. (1999) ‘Social and Economic Costs of Domestic Violence: Chile and Nicaragua’ in Morrison, A., and L. Biehl (eds), *Too Close to Home: Domestic Violence in Latin America*, Inter-American Development Bank

impacts, that the overall costs of such violence to any economy will be reduced.<sup>6</sup> Experts noted that, in the face of such evidence, prevention is not only possible, but central to the social and economic advancement of developed and developing countries alike. It was reiterated that all States have not only a responsibility to significantly strengthen their planning and budgeting efforts for prevention of violence against women and girls, but that doing so will contribute to positive social and economic outcomes.

11. Experts brought together experiences from across developing and developed countries, and from humanitarian contexts (arising from conflict and natural disasters), demonstrating that violence against women and girls could be prevented regardless of political, social and economic conditions. Levels of violence against women and girls vary across countries that with similar economic status or political systems – a variation that can be attributed to different laws, policies, practices, norms, behaviours and attitudes that contribute to, justify or excuse violence against women and girls. Such factors must be targeted to prevent and reduce violence within and across all settings.
12. Across developing and developed countries alike, more comprehensive, multi-sectoral and sustained approaches were recognised as necessary to achieve such change, with investments commensurate to the enormous scale of the abuse and its impacts. While the allocation of more resources to prevention remained high on the priority list for experts, political will was also identified as a key factor. It was noted that organisations and communities in some developing countries have led the way in testing and expanding new models for prevention, however experts did not believe any State was currently meeting its full normative obligations in this area.
13. Experts reiterated that violence against women and girls is a pervasive and systematic human rights violation, caused by – and reinforcing – gender inequality and entrenched discrimination. While most violence against women and girls is committed by non-State actors or individuals (usually men known to the victims/survivors, often husbands/intimate partners or other family members), experts were adamant that laws, policies and practices emanating from the State – as well as from traditional or customary practices – could also result in direct violence against women and girls, fail to respond to it, or create an environment where such violence was tolerated, excused or justified.
14. To this end, experts noted that the prevention of violence against women and girls could not be achieved without the full implementation of the existing legal obligation on States – under the *Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)* to ‘take all appropriate measures to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women,’<sup>7</sup> along with the more detailed obligations relating to the elimination of violence against women and girls outlined in the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA)*.<sup>8</sup> Experts emphasised, as central to the latter, the obligation on States to ‘refrain from invoking any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations’<sup>9</sup> to eliminate violence against women and girls.

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<sup>6</sup> An Australian study, for example, calculated that for every woman whose experience of violence can be prevented, AUD\$20,766 in costs can be avoided: National Council to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children (2009) *The Costs of Violence against Women and their Children*, Commonwealth of Australia.

<sup>7</sup> United Nations *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (1979) GA res. 34/180, art 5(a).

<sup>8</sup> United Nations, *Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action*, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, 27 October 1995.

<sup>9</sup> Paragraph 124(a).

15. A key message from experts was that the call for greater efforts to prevent violence against women and girls is not a ‘new demand,’ but well supported by international legal and normative frameworks. What is new is the emergence, in recent years, of an unprecedented evidence and practice base that provides concrete guidance on the application of proven and effective strategies, and makes prevention of violence against women and girls a tangible and measurable goal. We now know that to effectively prevent violence against women and girls, efforts must go beyond simple awareness-raising projects and instead work to actively (and measurably) transform discriminatory and violence-supportive attitudes and behaviours, community norms, institutional practices and systems, laws and policies, and society as a whole.
16. Experts noted that this holistic and comprehensive approach to prevention has the potential to create numerous benefits for communities beyond reductions in violence, because it also addresses the discrimination, inequality and other violence-supportive practices and behaviours that contribute to a range of social ills. Prevention of violence against women and girls is ultimately about building relationships, communities and organisations that are equal, non-violent and respectful of all individuals. It results in the creation of more peaceful, egalitarian and productive societies where women and girls live free from the discrimination, harassment, violence and fear of violence that can block them from reaching their full human potential.

### ***Defining prevention***

17. The focus of the meeting (and this report) was on prevention of violence against women and girls *before it occurs*, that is, by identifying and addressing its underlying causes and promoting shifts in the social environment that ultimately reduce the number of new incidences of violence against women and girls.
18. Experts noted that prevention of violence against women and girls remains a poorly understood concept across sectors and stakeholders. Prevention is often conflated with early intervention or the response to existing violence, or else limited to awareness raising or social marketing campaigns. Simplistic analyses and programmes aimed at single-cause factors such as alcohol abuse, or placing the responsibility to prevent violence on women and girls themselves (such as self-defence programmes) can in some cases do more harm than good, and are not uncommon. Cynical perceptions that violence against women and girls is somehow an inevitable part of society, and that efforts to prevent it are well-intentioned but ultimately ineffective, are also widespread. There is therefore a need to build not only evidence, but shared understandings of the complexity and causes of violence against women and girls, and of how it can be effectively prevented.
19. Experts recognised that this transformative agenda engages all levels of the socio-political system, from policy and legislative development, to the development and delivery of programmes and services ‘on the ground’, and the capacity building of the institutions responsible for implementation. Confronting existing social and gendered realities that continue to use arguments based on culture, customs and ‘traditional’ values and practices to justify discrimination and violence against women and girls, and treat them as subordinate and second-class citizens, remains a major challenge in addressing the social and cultural environments that permit violence against women and girls to flourish with impunity. As the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences has noted: ‘no form of interpersonal violence against women is devoid of structural violence – as in all places, such abuse is

underpinned by beliefs about the perpetrator's right to harm another, based on societal notions of gender and rights.<sup>10</sup>

20. Experts were particularly keen to convey that, in prevention terms, violence against women and girls in the private sphere and/or perpetrated by non-State actors could *not* be considered as something 'separate' from the actions of the State. Experts stressed that violence against women and girls – in every context – can be perpetuated by State decision-making mechanisms, laws, policies and practices when these systematically marginalize women and girls and/or fail to promote their rights. These include not only legal policies and programs that fail to criminalize violence against women and girls or adequately punish it, but also State-sanctioned discrimination, for example: excluding women from political participation (such as assemblies, high-level government positions, and key decision-making bodies like constitutional committees); constitutional language that threatens women's rights (whether existing or developing in emerging State structures); or discriminatory laws, policies and budgets which disproportionately limit women's and girls' rights, neglect their voices and concerns, and fail to promote full substantive, as well as formal, equality between men and women.
21. State-sanctioned violence and discrimination against women is significantly tied to cultural and social norms that pervade a nation, which are then used to justify, excuse or tolerate violence against women and girls. When laws and policies limit women's freedoms or deem women as 'complementary' instead of 'equal to' men, this trickles down to public perception of women and girls and their role in society, and undermines their safety and security within the State. These social and cultural norms are similarly impacted by the respect, or otherwise, of women's civil and political rights (such as their political participation), and their economic, social and cultural rights (such as their access to work and education). Greater levels of social and economic equality between men and women, for instance, are closely correlated with lower levels of violence against women and girls at the population level. Similarly, greater visibility of women in leadership roles, including in constitution committees, assemblies and high-level posts in government, in peacekeeping troops and in peace-building talks, promotes positive and egalitarian norms and combats gender stereotypes in a way that counters discriminatory and violence-supportive attitudes and the marginalization of women and girls.
22. Prevention of violence against women and girls is often conceptualised in terms of awareness raising or community mobilisation, and these are important components. Experts reiterated the importance of grassroots community mobilisation in driving attitudinal and behavioural transformation at the local level. However, in light of the above, experts stressed the more expansive and multi-level nature of effective prevention, in particular the critical role of government to create an 'enabling environment' through undertaking policy, legislative and budgetary reform to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, and actively address the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and disadvantage that place women and girls at risk of violence. They emphasised the additional role of States in providing support to women's and other civil society actors, including women, men and youth community and religious leaders and opinion-makers, in their prevention efforts.
23. Experts further stressed the importance of continued investment in an effective *response* to existing violence against women and girls – including through improving legislative, police,

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<sup>10</sup> Manjoo, R. (2011) *Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences*, A/HRC/17/26, para 24.

justice and service systems<sup>11</sup> – as a fundamental ‘building block’ for prevention, establishing accountability and redress, and protecting women and girls from further violence. Effective response systems are also necessary to ensure support of women and girls who may identify violence in their own lives as a direct result of prevention activity and seek help and redress. Experts acknowledged that a separate stream of work on building an effective multi-sectoral response was being undertaken in preparation for CSW.

24. Experts recommended that prevention and response strategies be developed and implemented as a holistic and integrated system that upholds the human rights of girls and women to live in societies, communities and families that are free of such violence. However, while essential, experts noted the evidence that an effective response has, in itself, only a limited impact on reducing the number of new incidences of violence. Specific actions to address the foundations of violence – discriminatory and violence-supportive practices, laws, norms, behaviours and attitudes – are also necessary in order to prevent violence against women and girls from happening in the first place, within and across all settings. These are the focus of discussions and recommendations in this Report.

## ***Describing the context***

25. The emphasis on economic growth in the development agenda globally has led to growing inequalities and a reduced focus on redistribution. The rolling economic crises currently gripping almost all of the world’s countries has resulted in increased unemployment and poverty, a shortage of housing, and cutbacks in social spending including subsidies for health and education. These multiple crises have in turn fuelled communal and ethnic tensions, mass migration and displacement, rendering millions homeless and poor, and more vulnerable to trafficking and diverse forms of exploitation. In most communities, this also results in the heightened vulnerability of women and girls to violence and exploitation.
26. Experts noted the evidence that violence against women and girls is intensified and exacerbated in situations of socio-economic stress, conflict and other crisis situations. In addition to the impact of economic crises described above, global warming and associated rising sea levels and severe weather events, as well as environmental degradation and resource depletion, can all contribute to conditions of social and economic vulnerability, including homelessness and mass migrations. They can also lead to the disaster or crisis situations in which violence against women and girls is known to increase.
27. As discrimination based on sex and gender continues to dominate social formations even in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, experts noted that violence against women and girls continues to be perceived as ‘normal’ in many contexts. The pervasive nature of militarization and the growth of all forms of religious fundamentalisms and other forms of extreme nationalism creates cultures where women are reduced to being symbolic ‘bearers’ of their culture and have their mobility and autonomy restricted in many different ways.
28. Exacerbated by the conditions described above (and even without them) women and girls experience daily harassment, abuse, discrimination and violence across the numerous settings in which they conduct their lives, from workplaces, schools and other educational institutions,

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<sup>11</sup> Including legislation criminalising violence, police protection, access to safe accommodation, physical and mental health care, post-rape care, crisis counselling, legal assistance and social support for victims/survivors.



community and faith organisations and groups, market places, shops, on public transport, in social settings, online and via social media, during flight and while displaced as a result of conflict and natural disasters, and above all in their homes.

29. Experts also identified emerging contexts and issues that have an impact on violence against women and girls. For example, experts agreed that the role of new media presents a number of layered and complex challenges, as well as opportunities, for the prevention of violence against women and girls. In the first instance, new media is often a platform for the perpetuation of harmful masculinities and the objectification of women and girls. This can take a number of forms from everyday hyper-sexualised, one-dimensional images of women and girls to hard-core pornography which has moved from the peripheries to the mainstream of the pornography industry. Virtual spaces are also utilised to perpetuate direct attacks on women and girls. This can range from cyber-stalking to the posting of inappropriate images / videos of women. For example, women have increasingly reported incidents of footage of them engaged in sexual activity (filmed both with and without consent) being posted on internet sites without their consent. In a number of cases this has included the posting of footage of actual rapes.<sup>12</sup>
30. Violence in the virtual space and the wider issues of how women and girls are objectified in the media has particular implications for girls and younger women, who are much more likely to engage with social networking sites, instant messaging, etc. Despite the range of violations, incidents can be hard to prosecute, especially as the internet is not limited to nation spaces. There are also real challenges around balancing the right to freedom of expression with the right to be protected from discrimination.<sup>13</sup>
31. Experts also noted with concern the emerging evidence that adolescent girls and young women may also be targeted for sexual violence in the context of serious youth violence (e.g. youth gangs) and/or broader urban violence. They may also be members of gangs themselves and involved in perpetration of violence against other young women and girls within or between gangs. Experts further expressed the concern that adolescent girls and young women were frequently overlooked in policy and programming responses designed for young men, adult women or for children in general, yet the context of their lives may be quite distinct and require specific approaches, particularly given they are the age group at greatest risk of sexual violence.<sup>14</sup>
32. In humanitarian crises caused by conflict and/or natural disasters, women and girls are at risk of violence throughout all stages: during crises, during flight from crises, while living in displaced settings, and during and following return. In situations of armed conflict, women and girls can be exposed to violence at the hands of armed actors, including soldiers, military and UN peacekeeping forces assigned to protect civilians and assist in their safe flight from conflict. They may be recruited into armed groups and serve as sexual slaves to combatants. In some settings women and girls continue to be used as 'weapons of war,' subject to sexual assault by all parties to conflict, at times in front of their husbands, children, and other family or community members. And while this sexual violence at the hands of combatants has received relatively widespread attention, the significantly increased risk that women and girls face of

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<sup>12</sup> In the case of girls, under the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, no consent can be given to sexual activity – the act is rape and any resulting film is child pornography.

<sup>13</sup> The UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression has begun to consider these issues and there is an opportunity to build on his recommendations. The International Telecommunications Union is also considering the issue of internet regulation at its December 2012 conference, and the conference itself presents an opportunity for advocates to engage with these issues in advance of CSW 2013.

<sup>14</sup> Johnson, H., Ollus, N., Nevala, S. (2008) *Violence against Women: An International Perspective* (drawing on the International Violence against Women surveys).

domestic and sexual violence perpetrated by family members in wartime has been neglected in policy and programming terms.<sup>15</sup>

33. While much attention has been accorded to sexual violence against women and girls during conflict, they suffer many additional forms of violence in humanitarian emergencies, including sexual exploitation, trafficking, early marriage, and intimate partner violence.<sup>16</sup> Experts noted that all of these forms of violence can be averted or reduced with effective prevention programming from the contingency planning phase through to recovery, and States' responsibilities to work towards the prevention of this violence are reinforced by a broad normative framework mandating protection of women and girls from sexual and other forms of violence in emergencies. And yet, prevention programming remains weak in virtually every humanitarian setting around the world.
34. Experts further noted the evidence that while more than 740,000 men, women, and children die each year as a result of armed violence, the majority of these deaths – 490,000 – occur in countries that are not affected by conflict.<sup>17</sup> The proliferation of small arms increases the vulnerability of women and girls to violence, and exacerbates the seriousness of that violence. This is particularly true in the context of urban/serious youth (e.g. gang) violence (referred to above), but also in the case of violence in the home, where the presence of small arms significantly increases the risk of the victim being killed.<sup>18</sup> The violent deaths of approximately 66,000 women and girls are attributed to armed violence globally each year.<sup>19</sup>
35. Experts were finally keen to emphasise that – even within the same geographic or socio-political setting, 'context' was not the same thing for different women and girls. Women and girls often experience multiple and intersecting forms of social disadvantage and discrimination (in addition to that based on gender), and this compounds their individual and collective vulnerability to violence. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, has recently noted that theories on violence have often 'failed to provide a comprehensive understanding of how various forms of discrimination, beyond a male/female gender binary, contextualize, exacerbate, and correlate to high levels of violence in given societies. The lack of an intersectional approach can lead to the reinforcing of one form of discrimination in attempts to alleviate another.'<sup>20</sup> Factors such as race, ethnicity, caste, class, age, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, geographic location, disability, HIV status or status as a refugee or internally displaced person, will all influence the forms and nature of violence women and girls may suffer, and the relationship of these factors to prevention is discussed in the 'Key Findings' section.

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<sup>15</sup> For a more detailed analysis of this, and of the emerging linkages between conflict-based abuses and existing pre-conflict inequalities, see the Human Security Report Project (2012) *Human Security Report 2012* and the Government of Liberia / UN Joint Programme on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence / Swedish International Development Cooperation (2011) *In-depth Study on Reasons for High Incidence of Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Liberia*.

<sup>16</sup> For a broad overview of violence against women and girls in conflict-affected settings, see UN Women's virtual knowledge library at [www.endvawnow.org](http://www.endvawnow.org).

<sup>17</sup> Geneva Declaration Secretariat (2011) *Global Burden of Armed Violence 2011: Lethal Encounters*. See also the Small Arms Survey: <http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/security-programmes/armed-violence-prevention-and-reduction.html>

<sup>18</sup> Wiebe, D.J., (2003) 'Homicide and Suicide Risks Associated with Firearms in the Home: A National Case Control Study', *Annals of Emergency Medicine*, Volume 41, American College of Emergency Physicians.

<sup>19</sup> Geneva Declaration Secretariat (2011) *Global Burden of Armed Violence 2011: Lethal Encounters*.

<sup>20</sup> Manjoo, R. (2011) *Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences*, A/HRC/17/26, para 42.

## 4. GLOBAL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE/NORMATIVE FRAMEWORK

36. The international community is committed to eliminating violence against women and girls<sup>21</sup> and has recognised – in various global and regional legal and policy instruments – the important role of prevention towards this end.
37. Above all, State responsibility for prevention of violence against women and girls through social and behavioural change is supported by the foundational treaty on women’s human rights, the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW), which establishes signatories’ legal obligation to take ‘all appropriate measures [to] modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women.’<sup>22</sup> General Recommendation 19 of the CEDAW Committee defines violence as a form of discrimination against women, and establishes the obligation of States to act with ‘due diligence’ to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls.
38. The *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women* enhanced the definition of violence against women and also included protection of women from violence committed in the private domain as being an obligation of the state.<sup>23</sup> Responsibilities of the State to prevent violence, abuse and neglect of girls are further supported by the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, requiring States parties to ‘take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse’ including ‘forms of prevention,’<sup>24</sup> along with its two Optional Protocols.<sup>25</sup>
39. The *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* (BPfA), adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, recognised the complexity of the underlying causes of violence against women and girls, and the need to link prevention and response activities. Paragraph 118 notes that:

*violence against women throughout the life cycle derives essentially from cultural patterns, in particular the harmful effects of certain traditional or customary practices and all acts of extremism linked to race, sex, language or religion that perpetuate the lower status accorded to women in the family, the workplace, the community and society. Violence against women is exacerbated by social pressures, notably the shame of denouncing certain acts that have been perpetrated against women; women's lack of access to legal information, aid or protection; the lack of laws that effectively prohibit violence against women; failure to reform existing laws; inadequate efforts on the part of public authorities to promote awareness of and enforce existing laws; and the absence of educational and other means to address the causes and consequences of violence. Images in the media of*

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<sup>21</sup> States’ obligations are elaborated in international and regional human rights treaties, documents emanating from United Nations conferences and summits, as well as resolutions adopted by United Nations bodies.

<sup>22</sup> United Nations *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (1979) GA res. 34/180, art 5(a). Similar requirements exist in the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*.

<sup>23</sup> United Nations *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women*, A/RES/48/104.

<sup>24</sup> Article 19.

<sup>25</sup> United Nations *Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography* (2002) A/RES/54/263, and *Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict* (2002) A/RES/54/263.

*violence against women, in particular those that depict rape or sexual slavery as well as the use of women and girls as sex objects, including pornography, are factors contributing to the continued prevalence of such violence, adversely influencing the community at large, in particular children and young people.*<sup>26</sup>

40. The BPfA identified violence against women as one of the twelve critical areas of concern requiring urgent action if the goals of equality, development and peace were to be achieved. The Beijing +5 review saw the Special Session of the UN General Assembly emphasizing violence against women, including trafficking and in armed conflict, as among those challenges requiring emphasis. During its five, ten and fifteen year reviews, the call for preventive action was reiterated
41. The UN Security Council Resolutions on Women Peace and Security (1325, 1820, 1888/9 and 1960) all have articles relevant to prevention. For example, Resolution 1325 – the first to link women to the peace and security agenda – ‘calls on all parties to armed conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, and all other forms of violence in situations of armed conflict.’<sup>27</sup> Resolution 1820 – recognising conflict-related sexual violence as a matter of international peace and security – calls for effective steps to prevent and respond to acts of sexual violence as a way of contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security. Article 3 ‘demands that all parties to armed conflict immediately take appropriate measures to protect civilians, including women and girls, from all forms of sexual violence, which could include, inter alia, enforcing appropriate military disciplinary measures and upholding the principle of command responsibility, training troops on the categorical prohibition of all forms of sexual violence against civilians, debunking myths that fuel sexual violence, vetting armed and security forces to take into account past actions of rape and other forms of sexual violence, and evacuation of women and children under imminent threat of sexual violence to safety.’ Finally, Resolution 1889 addresses obstacles to women’s participation in peace processes and peace-building, of critical importance for the prevention of violence against women and girls in post-conflict settings.
42. Other major treaties and conventions similarly uphold the right of women and girls to live free from violence, such as the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with a Disability*, Article 6 of which notes the multiple forms of discrimination experienced by women and girls with a disability and the obligation of States to take appropriate measures addressing this, and Article 16 of which notes the gender-based aspects of violence and abuse experienced by people with a disability and places an obligation on states to ‘prevent the occurrence of all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse.’<sup>28</sup> The ‘Durban Declaration’ of the 2001 *World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance*, notes ‘that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance reveal themselves in a differentiated manner for women and girls, and can be among the factors leading to a deterioration in their living conditions, poverty, violence, multiple forms of discrimination, and the limitation or denial of their human rights’<sup>29</sup> It calls for specific reforms to include a gender dimension in all programmes of action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

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<sup>26</sup> United Nations *Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action*, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, 27 October 1995.

<sup>27</sup> Article 10.

<sup>28</sup> United Nations *Convention on the Rights of Persons with a Disability* (2008) UNTS 2515/3.

<sup>29</sup> United Nations, Declaration adopted at the *World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance*, 8 September 2001.

for instance in immigration policies and legislation to ensure that migrant women and girls in abusive relationships have the programmatic and legislative support to free themselves from these.<sup>30</sup> The *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* also calls on States to adopt measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.<sup>31</sup>

43. The *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children*, supplementing the *Convention against Transnational Organised Crime* calls on signatories not only to implement security and border control measures to prevent trafficking, but also broader socially-focused prevention strategies, such as research, advertising and social or economic support.<sup>32</sup> The Durban Declaration further affirmed ‘the urgent need to prevent, combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in persons, in particular women and children,’ and additionally recognised ‘that victims of trafficking are particularly exposed to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.’<sup>33</sup>
44. Other international frameworks relevant to the prevention of violence against women include the 1958 International Labour Organisation’s *Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention*, which protects workers from violence and harassment (including sexual harassment) and outlaws discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, colour, religion, political opinion, national or social origin; and the 2011 International Labour Organisation’s *Domestic Worker’s Convention*, which binds members to taking ‘measures to ensure that domestic workers enjoy effective protection against all forms of abuse, harassment and violence’ and to ensure that minimum age requirements are met.<sup>34</sup> The *Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development*, outlines guidelines and programming for reducing the armed violence that can exacerbate and intensify some forms of violence against women and girls.<sup>35</sup>
45. Many regional instruments have also identified the requirement for preventing violence against women and girls, including the *Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa* (2003) (The Maputo Protocol);<sup>36</sup> the *African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child* (1999);<sup>37</sup> the *ASEAN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women*;<sup>38</sup> the *Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women* (the Convention of Belem do Para) (1994);<sup>39</sup> and the *Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence* (2011) (‘the COE Convention’);<sup>40</sup> and the *Council of Europe Convention on*

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<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*, para 30(h).

<sup>31</sup> Article 22 (2).

<sup>32</sup> Article 10.

<sup>33</sup> United Nations, Declaration adopted at the *World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance*, 8 September 2001, para 30.

<sup>34</sup> Articles 5 and 4 respectively.

<sup>35</sup> See <http://www.genevadeclaration.org/en/measurability/monitoring-armed-violence/indicators-of-violence-against-women.html>. A number of other international conventions and agreements target different aspects of armed violence and make repeated reference to the negative impact of armed violence on sustainable human development. Some focus on controlling the availability of illicit small arms and light weapons while others emphasize the protection of human rights and vulnerable groups. Important instruments include the *Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects* of July 2001; the World Health Assembly resolutions on the prevention of violence; and the *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women*.

<sup>36</sup> *Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa* (2003).

<sup>37</sup> *African Charter on the Welfare and Rights of the Child* (1990) OAU Doc. CAB/LEG/24.9/49.

<sup>38</sup> Association of Southeast Asian Nations *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the ASEAN Region* (2004), Articles 4 and 6.

<sup>39</sup> *Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women* (Belem do Para) (1994), Articles 7 and 8.

<sup>40</sup> Council of Europe *Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence* (2011) CETS 210, Chapter 3

*the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse* (2010) ('the Lanzarote Convention').<sup>41</sup>

46. Intergovernmental bodies have themselves placed an increasing focus on prevention of violence against women and girls. Through all its resolutions on the intensification of efforts to eliminate violence against women over 2006, 2007 and 2008, the General Assembly called on Governments to 'take positive measures to address structural causes of violence against women and to strengthen prevention efforts that address discriminatory practices and social norms,'<sup>42</sup> and in 2010 again renewed its call for an increased focus on prevention, recognising the important role of the family, the community and civil society in the efforts to eliminate and prevent violence against women and girls.<sup>43</sup> The Commission on the Status of Women addressed the need for prevention initiatives in its agreed conclusions of 1998 on violence against women,<sup>44</sup> and its agreed conclusions of 2007 on the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child.<sup>45</sup>
47. Global and regional law and policy is increasingly recognising the need for States to underpin their work on prevention (as well as response) with national action plans, in order to provide the institutional mechanisms, resourcing and monitoring necessary to effectively address such a deeply-entrenched problem. The BPfA for instance, urged Governments to formulate and implement, at all appropriate levels, plans of action to eliminate violence against women,<sup>46</sup> and this has been reiterated by the General Assembly and international and regional treaty bodies.<sup>47</sup> The former Commission on Human Rights called on States in 2003 and 2005 to formulate, implement and promote, at all appropriate levels, plans of action, including time-bound measurable targets where appropriate, to eliminate violence against women and girls,<sup>48</sup> and its successor, the Human Rights Council, noted in 2010 that effective prevention of violence against women and girls requires action at all levels of government, the engagement of several actors and the adoption and implementation of multifaceted and comprehensive approaches that promote gender equality and empowerment of women.<sup>49</sup>
48. Two major Secretary General's studies were released in 2006, the first on violence against women and the second on violence against children. Each reiterated the immense scale, costs and consequences of the violence, and regretted the lack of commensurate action on the part of States to undertake comprehensive prevention measures. The former noted that 'progress in the development of international legal norms, standards and policies has not been accompanied by comparable progress in their implementation at the national level, which remains insufficient and inconsistent in all parts of the world. [...] Lack of political will is reflected in inadequate resources devoted to tackling violence against women and a failure to create and maintain a political and social environment where violence against women is not tolerated.'<sup>50</sup> The latter

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<sup>41</sup> Council of Europe *Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse* (2010) CETS 201.

<sup>42</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2007) *Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence against Women*, A/RES/61/145, art 8(f).

<sup>43</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2010) *Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence against Women*, A/RES/65/187.

<sup>44</sup> E/1998/27-E/CN.6/1998/12.

<sup>45</sup> E/2007/27-E/CN.6/2007/9.

<sup>46</sup> Paragraph 124(j).

<sup>47</sup> For example, the experts of the Mechanism to follow-up the Convention Belem do Para (MESECVI) have adopted a set of indicators on national action plans for the implementation of article 8 of the treaty, under which States Parties agree to undertake a range of specific measures, including programmes, to prevent, violence against women. See also Council of Europe Recommendation Rec (2002)5 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the protection of women against violence; CEDAW/C/HTI/CO/7 para.25, A/57/38 para.332, A/55/38 para.70; and CCPR/C/AUS/CO/5, para.17; CCPR/C/SDN/CO/3, para.14.

<sup>48</sup> Resolutions 2003/45 and 2005/41, on the elimination of violence against women.

<sup>49</sup> A/HRC/14/12 on accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: ensuring due diligence in prevention

<sup>50</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2006) *In-Depth Study on All Forms of Violence against Women: Report of the Secretary General*, A/61/122/Add. 1.

noted that ‘efforts to address violence against children are frequently reactive, focusing on symptoms and consequences and not causes. Strategies tend to be fragmented, rather than integrated, and insufficient resources are allocated to measures to address the problem. In addition, international commitments to protect children from violence are often not translated into action at the national level,’<sup>51</sup> and called for States to prioritise allocation of resources to prevent violence before it occurred.<sup>52</sup>

49. The appointment of a Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences, by the UN Human Rights Commission (now the UN Human Rights Council) in 1994 and the regular annual reports of this mandate have provided standard-setting knowledge and analysis in the field of violence against women. Despite the obligations and commitments outlined above, the former UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, noted in her 2006 report that ‘relatively little work [has been] done on the [...] obligation of prevention.’<sup>53</sup> She stressed that the obligation of States to exercise due diligence encompasses prevention, including the obligation to address the root causes of violence against women. The Rapporteur suggested that despite the longevity and clarity of the CEDAW obligation, the guidance of the BPfA, and numerous regional agreements, few governments worldwide have taken a sustained and systematic approach to promoting gender equality and non-discrimination, or addressing the ‘social and cultural patterns of conduct’ and the ‘practices based on [...] stereotyped roles for men and women’ that contribute to ongoing violence against women and girls.
50. The current Special Rapporteur is analysing interpretation and implementation of the due diligence obligation by States on this issue for her 2013 thematic report, and this is expected to provide clearer and further guidance on State obligations to prevent violence against women and girls under international law.<sup>54</sup> Her 2011 report is also of relevance here as it extended conceptualisations of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, analyzing the structural aspects of discrimination – including structural and institutional inequalities which create social and/or economic hierarchies not only between women and men but also among women – and the potential ramifications of these for policy and programming to prevent violence. She concludes that ‘a holistic approach for the elimination of all forms of violence against all women therefore requires systematic discrimination and marginalization [of all sorts] to be addressed.’<sup>55</sup>
51. Other Special Rapporteurs have also provided important analysis and extension of the international policy framework with regards to prevention of violence against women and girls, such as the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders in her 2010 report, which looked at the specific risks faced by women human rights defenders and others working on women’s rights and gender issues, precisely because they challenge ‘accepted socio-cultural norms, traditions, perceptions and stereotypes about femininity, sexual orientation, and the role and status of

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<sup>51</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2006) *Report of the Independent Expert for the United Nations Study on Violence against Children*, A/61/299, p.24.

<sup>52</sup> *Ibid.*, p.26.

<sup>53</sup> Ertürk Y. (2006) *Integration of the Human Rights of Women and the Gender Perspective: Violence against Women – The Due Diligence Standard as a Tool for the Elimination of Violence against Women*, Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, E/CN.4/2006/61, para 14.

<sup>54</sup> Manjoo R. (pending in 2013) *State responsibility for eliminating violence against women*, Report of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences.

<sup>55</sup> Manjoo, R. (2011) *Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences*, A/HRC/17/26, para 19.

women in society'<sup>56</sup> – norms which themselves have been identified as contributing to violence against women.

52. In conclusion, while the normative framework has clearly developed an obligation for States to take holistic, comprehensive, strategic and well-resourced action to prevent violence against women and girls, and while States have increasingly ratified the relevant treaties and in some cases brought these obligations into their legal frameworks, much work remains to be done before the normative obligations will be fully implemented. Gaps remain in terms of resource allocation, legislative and policy development, and systems and mechanisms for coordinated and sustained action.
53. In considering the above analysis, experts believed that a significant global shift in perceptions was necessary towards greater recognition of the widespread and systematic nature of violence against women and girls, deserving of more serious attention by States and the international community. Experts returned to and supported the international definition of violence against women and girls in the *Declaration*, i.e. as a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against them, that shall mean all acts of gender-based violence that result in, or are likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women and girls, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.<sup>57</sup>
54. However, some experts noted that such violence is not isolated or sporadic, but could be seen as part of a widespread or systematic practice intended to humiliate or degrade an identifiable group. As such, they called for violence against women and girls to be considered a crime against humanity. Others cautioned against linking violence against women and girls to current definitions of crimes against humanity, given the existing limitations of international law and jurisprudence. It was noted that the landmark February 2008 judgement of the Sierra Leone Appeals Chamber of the Special Court in the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council case had set an historic precedent in recognising forced marriage as a distinct category of crimes against humanity in international criminal law.<sup>58</sup> Experts therefore agreed that calling for violence against women and girls to be recognised as a crime against humanity was intended as an aspirational statement and advocacy goal, one which would expand current definitions and understanding of crimes against humanity – in a way similar to the Sierra Leone case – and help drive a global shift in perceptions towards one that recognises the full seriousness of violence against women and girls, and the urgency with which we must prevent it.

## 5. KEY FINDINGS

55. Based on comprehensive discussion at the EGM, review of the papers presented by experts, and an analysis of the global context, normative framework and evidence and practice base, experts agreed on the following key findings. Experts noted the significant development, over recent

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<sup>56</sup> Sekaggya, M. (2010) *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders*, A/HRC/16/44, para 23.

<sup>57</sup> United Nations *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women*, A/RES/48/104, Article 1.

<sup>58</sup> In the appeal case of the *Prosecutor vs. Alex Tamba Brima, Ibrahim Bazzy Kamara and Santigie Borbor Kanu*. The trial decision had stated that what had occurred had not been forced marriage but sexual slavery. However the appeals hearing considered the nature of the 'relationships' that were established during the conflict – with one of key issues being the recognition that the forced marriages that had occurred during the conflict mimicked the features of peace-time marriages.



years, of guidance to States and other stakeholders in the development, implementation and monitoring of policy and programming to prevent violence against women and girls,<sup>59</sup> and again referred to the papers submitted to the EGM as providing further information on current practice. Rather than reiterate that guidance here, experts have confined their findings below to the emerging issues, and those perceived to be of most critical relevance to CSW.

56. Experts wished to reiterate, as a finding and central tenet of their recommendations, that prevention of violence against women and girls is a positive endeavour, a precondition for enabling women and men to reach their full potential, and is essential to the creation of healthy, equitable, stable and productive communities, workplaces, schools and universities, faith and cultural institutions, sporting and recreation organisations, and societies as a whole.
57. Noting recent research highlighting the unique and catalysing impact of women's organisations on enduring and effective policy development to end violence against women and girls,<sup>60</sup> experts were unanimous that effective prevention of violence against women and girls was not only often driven by, but *required* the involvement of women's organisations, working in partnership with national, provincial and local Governments, communities, civil society groups, donors, the private sector and other non-state actors.
58. Experts emphasized the importance of moving away from short-term, ad hoc sensitisation and awareness raising activities and towards more comprehensive, longer-term prevention efforts that are grounded in communities and work systematically to change unequal power relations between women and men. Such social norm change requires working with a cross section of the community from women and men, young people, religious and cultural leaders, health care providers, police, government officials, the media and others, over time and in varied ways, to challenge norms that perpetuate violence and emphasize the positive benefits of non-violence, justice and equality for individuals, families and the broader community. Civil society plays an essential role in mobilising communities to rethink the acceptability of violence and supporting positive change.
59. However, while women's and other civil society organisations and communities themselves have been at the forefront of developing the practice and evidence base for prevention programming, factors such as time, reach and workforce constraints can prevent many good initiatives from being evaluated, expanded or otherwise scaled-up. Research has also shown that those working to end violence against women and girls can themselves face discrimination, hostility, repudiation and even violence, precisely because they challenge traditional notions of the family and gender that contribute to such violence.<sup>61</sup>
60. To maximise the impact and sustainability of such work, therefore, Governments have a key role to play in supporting and creating an enabling environment for women's organisations and others working to prevent violence against women and girls to continue to drive and innovate prevention programming, safe from violence and discrimination themselves. Governments should also activate their reach and mandate to ensure the scale-up, systematisation and

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<sup>59</sup> See, for example: World Health Organisation (2010) *Preventing Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Against Women – Taking Action and Generating Evidence*; Heise, L. (2011) *What Works to Prevent Partner Violence – An Evidence Overview*, STRIVE; Ending Violence against Women Coalition (2011) *A Different World is Possible: A call for long-term and targeted action to prevent violence against women and girls*; VicHealth (2007) *Preventing Violence Before it Occurs: A Framework and Background Paper to Guide the Primary Prevention of Violence against Women in Victoria*; Bott, S., Guedes, A., et al (forthcoming) *Prevention Module*, UN Women Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls.

<sup>60</sup> Htun, M. and Laurel Weldon, S. (2012) 'The Civic Origins of Progressive Policy Change: Combating Violence against Women in Global Perspective, 1975–2005,' *American Political Science Review* Vol. 106, No. 3 (August 2012).

<sup>61</sup> Sekaggya, M. (2010) *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders*, A/HRC/16/44.

embedding of good practice in laws, policies and through public institutions (e.g. schools, social and health services, media and workplace regulation) for long-term sustainability.

61. Experts noted that without States taking their full responsibility for sustained, systematic and coordinated policy, programming and investment for prevention, the transformative social development necessary to end violence against women and girls cannot be achieved. Few States worldwide had implemented their obligations to this end. A 2011 review of National Action Plans on Violence against Women found that most policies were limited to responding to existing violence. Those that did contain specific prevention actions largely focussed on raising awareness of new laws or where to access services, with some containing one-off or single-sector prevention activities such as social marketing campaigns or schools-based programmes. Only one identified plan took a long-term, multi-sectoral and holistic approach to prevention, with appropriate institutional support mechanisms and commensurate investment.<sup>62</sup>
62. Importantly, one-off, single-sector or small-scale interventions, while they may have some effectiveness for participating individuals, are unable to change the social norms at the community or society level that have a dampening effect on such attitudinal change. Therefore, they can never in themselves decrease prevalence of violence against women and girls across society as a whole. Broad and sustainable change is only achieved when such activities are implemented in a long-term and cumulative way, mutually reinforced across various settings. These should be linked to a prevention framework which is coordinated to ensure that all levels are appropriately engaged, with evaluation and monitoring for continuous improvement. It is particularly essential that all strategies and interventions are supported by policy and legislative reform that promotes gender equality, challenges discrimination, and provides an effective response to existing violence.
63. The BPfA calls for ‘a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to the challenging task of promoting families, communities and States that are free of violence against women,’ recognising the complexity of the social, community, organisational and individual change such an endeavour requires. The factors contributing to or perpetuating violence against women and girls exist across the many sectors and environments in which people conduct their everyday lives, and opportunities for prevention also exist in these settings. Holistic prevention strategies target people across the multiple settings where they interact, such as schools, workplaces, health and social services, sporting clubs and faith institutions.
64. The BPfA further called on Governments to ‘refrain from invoking any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations’ with respect to the elimination of violence against women. Experts reiterated the necessity of maintaining vigilance in the identification and transformation of those social and cultural norms and customary practices that contribute to silencing and denial of violence against women and girls, in every society, and of ensuring that all methodologies designed to prevent violence against women and girls have an awareness of this reality embedded in them.
65. Prevention strategies go to the heart of constructions of gender roles, gender stereotyping and discrimination, and the unequal power between men and women that flows from, and contributes to, such constructions. In addressing such deeply-entrenched and long-standing constructions, prevention work can therefore challenge those who would see aspects of gender discrimination

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<sup>62</sup> UN Women (2010) *Handbook for National Action Plans on Violence against Women*, citing Government of Victoria, Australia (2009) *A Right to Respect: Victoria's Plan to Prevent Violence against Women 2010-2020*.

and inequality retained in the name of tradition or religion, in all societies. Rather than taking such backlash as a justification for inaction, experts encouraged it to be seen as an indicator of progress, and managed as part of policy and programming.

66. Addressing unequal power relations through economic, social and political empowerment of women and girls is one of the main responsibilities for Governments within the spectrum of prevention. This includes strategies to increase women's participation in all aspects of public life, and the development and implementation of laws and policies to ensure that women and girls have equal rights to education, social security, work and livelihoods, political participation and an adequate standard of living.<sup>63</sup> Strategies for women's economic empowerment have shown some of the best-evaluated outcomes in terms of reducing future victimisation, especially when accompanied by discussion groups on issues such as intimate partner violence, which provide women a supportive space.<sup>64</sup>
67. Comprehensive and holistic approaches to prevention involve a range of institutions and agencies implementing various components, across public and private sectors, as well as civil society and communities themselves. The various groups and actors that will be involved in implementation should be engaged right from the design stage, to help build shared understandings and a sense of joint ownership of the prevention effort from the grassroots in organisations and communities. Prevention needs to be embedded as the core work of public institutions such as schools and universities, health and social welfare sectors, police and courts, and structures for the representation of such sectors in the development, implementation and monitoring of comprehensive prevention strategies should be established (or existing cross-government structures engaged). It is also essential to engage non-public institutions such as the private sector, philanthropic agencies, faith institutions, arts and cultural institutions, and so forth.
68. The BPfA notes the 'strength of the non-governmental sector, particularly women's organisations and feminist groups, [as] a driving force for change'<sup>65</sup> Women's organisations have a long history of promoting and supporting the development of laws and policies that define and respond to diverse forms of violence against women and girls, and of developing and delivering programmes to prevent it. Their expertise, commitment and long experience in communicating issues of violence against women and girls, creating and strengthening partnerships with generalist agencies, and translating specialist knowledge into 'mainstream' models of practice is invaluable to broader prevention efforts. One of the most effective mechanisms for ensuring sustainable change in the lives of women and girls lies in supporting women's organisations and their allies to build strong, gender-sensitive and inclusive social movements.<sup>66</sup> It is essential that women's organisations and others already engaged in activity to prevent violence against women and girls are supported and have their capacity built so that they can train others in 'newer' sectors and advocate for prevention.<sup>67</sup>

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<sup>63</sup> World Health Organisation (2007) *Expert Meeting on the Primary Prevention on Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence – Meeting Report*, May 2-3, p. 35.

<sup>64</sup> Gupta, G.R., Ogden, J., and Warner, A. (2011) 'Moving forward on women's gender-related HIV vulnerability: The good news, the bad news and what to do about it,' *Global Public Health*, p.3372, citing Pronyk, P.M., Hargreaves, J.R., Kim, J.C. *et al* (2006) 'Effect of a structural intervention for the prevention of intimate-partner violence and HIV in rural South Africa: a cluster randomized trial,' *Lancet*, 368, 1973-1983; Pronyk, P.M., Kim, J.C., Abramsky, T. *et al* (2008) 'A combined microfinance and training intervention can reduce HIV risk behaviour in young female participants,' *AIDS*, 22 (13), 1659-1665.

<sup>65</sup> Article 26.

<sup>66</sup> United Kingdom Department for International Development (2012) *A Theory of Change for Tackling Violence against Women and Girls*, CHASE Guidance Note 1.

<sup>67</sup> *Ibid*, p.11.

69. Other civil society organisations are also involved in work to prevent violence against women and girls, including those in child protection and welfare, HIV/AIDs, sexual and reproductive health, and human rights, especially of marginalised communities and those affected by armed conflict. More recently, some ‘mainstream’ community organisations such as religious, community or sporting organisations have begun to work on promotion of gender equality and prevention of violence and discrimination. The private sector should also be harnessed to more effectively, ‘not only in terms of philanthropy, but also through employee policies, high-visibility marketing outlets for awareness-raising, or in-kind contributions of expertise.’<sup>68</sup> Ensuring meaningful participation from these groups enables their knowledge and expertise to be harnessed and also serves to build partnerships, shared understanding, and broad capacity for the implementation of the strategy’s actions. However experts stressed that the work of mainstream organisations must sit within a wider human rights framework and, where resources are limited, should not be funded at the expense of women’s organisations which have strong gendered analysis and whose existence affirms women’s leadership and participation.
70. Experts also noted the positive and active role played by non-violent men (including young men and boys) in helping prevent violence against women and girls, and in shaping respectful, gender-equitable attitudes and behaviours among peers, colleagues, children and friends.<sup>69</sup> While most men do not perpetrate violence against women and girls, it is perpetrated mostly by men, so supporting men to challenge unequal gender power relations, sex discrimination and gender stereotyping is an essential component of any prevention strategy.<sup>70</sup>
71. A range of programmes have been developed to engage men and boys in achieving gender equality, from community mobilisation, to public/legal advocacy and social marketing/social change organising.<sup>71</sup> A growing body of evidence shows that such programmes can reduce men’s violence against women and promote gender equitable attitudes and practices amongst men.<sup>72</sup> Civil society organisations aiming to promote gender equality and women’s rights can identify and engage men to act as advocates or ‘ambassadors’ for prevention of violence against women and girls. Such a process, however, should ensure that potential ‘ambassadors’ have the capacity to effectively convey messages of equality and respect between men and women in social networks, educational or work environments and/or at public events. Training and support should be provided, informed by the expertise of specialist women’s services. Skills building of men as ‘active bystanders’ can engage men even earlier to address attitudes of discrimination and/or those attitudes that perpetuate negative gender stereotypes with their friends and peers. Programmes that engage men and boys often address multiple topics jointly, such as HIV/AIDS and violence prevention. Although some programmes work with adult men, many focus on adolescents or younger boys, recognising that gender norms and attitudes may be more easily shaped or transformed during this time rather than later in life.<sup>73</sup>

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<sup>68</sup> United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (2010) *Vision 2015: The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women Strategy 2010–2015*, p.20.

<sup>69</sup> Greig, A., Basnyat, A. and Lang, J. (forthcoming) *Men and the Prevention of Gender-based Violence: A Conceptual Framework for Policy Change*, Partners for Prevention.

<sup>70</sup> *Ibid.*, and United Kingdom Department for International Development (2012) *A Theory of Change for Tackling Violence against Women and Girls*, CHASE Guidance Note 1, p.12, and; World Health Organisation (2010) *Preventing Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Against Women – Taking Action and Generating Evidence*, pp.55-6.

<sup>71</sup> Donovan, R. and Vlasis, R. (2005) *VicHealth Review of Communication Components of Social Marketing/Public Education Campaigns Focusing on Violence Against Women*, p.204. The authors recommend Michael Kauffman’s ‘comprehensive theoretical and applied paper’ for examples, at [www.michaelkauffman.com/articles/pdf/the-aim-framework.rtf](http://www.michaelkauffman.com/articles/pdf/the-aim-framework.rtf)

<sup>72</sup> World Health Organisation (2007) *Engaging men and boys in changing gender-based inequity in health: evidence from programme interventions*.

<sup>73</sup> Bott, S., Guedes, A., *et al* (forthcoming) *Prevention Module*, UN Women Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls.

72. However efforts must be made to ensure the engagement of men and boys actively addresses the risk factor of unequal power between women and men, promotes women's rights and supports the empowerment of women and girls. In all such engagement, men should be engaged in challenging constructions of masculinities that contribute to violence against women and girls, such as male dominance or control of wealth in relationships, men's sense of entitlement, and weak support for gender equality.
73. Experts noted that notions of masculinities can be bound up with a number of factors, including the use and abuse of alcohol. Studies on partner violence in particular cite the harmful use of alcohol as presenting a complex contributing relationship to violence against women and girls, potentially exacerbating and increasing the severity of physical partner violence, as well as the first time perpetration of sexual assault.<sup>74</sup> However, alcohol is not a universal nor necessary contributing factor to violence against women and girls, and the most consistent predictor of the use of violence by men against women or girls 'is their agreement with sexist, patriarchal and/or sexually hostile attitudes.'<sup>75</sup>
74. Experts emphasised that many attitudes, behaviours and beliefs are formed in childhood and adolescence, and this is a crucial time to educate and build skills around respectful relationships. While schools and other educational institutions are important sites for respectful relationships education and other prevention initiatives, adolescents and young people learn much about relationships from other sources – such as peers, media, and the way relationships are modelled in their own families. It is important to engage young people through a variety of channels (especially, but not only, through schools) in child and gender-sensitive initiatives.
75. The experience of living with and being exposed to violence against a mother or female caregiver has been shown to have impacts on children and young people that are indistinguishable from those of direct violence<sup>76</sup> – including depression, anxiety and low self-esteem – poor school performance and behavioural disturbance.<sup>77</sup> It also exposes them to relationship models that can – especially in the absence of effective support, early psycho-social intervention and prevention strategies – influence their own behaviour and limit their capacity to imagine alternatives, potentially increasing the risk of future perpetration.<sup>78</sup> Prevention education (and early intervention with those exposed to or experiencing violence) can provide children and young people with the skills, role models and reinforcement to choose positive, respectful behaviours and to engage in non-violent relationships.
76. Moreover, the mobilisation of adolescents and young people of both sexes can 'have a ripple effect in present and future generations, with impacts not only in terms of preventing violence against women but on the gender equality and development agenda more broadly.' Experts emphasised that above all, young people are 'a tremendous resource in the global movement to

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<sup>74</sup> Heise L (2011) *What Works to Prevent Partner Violence – An Evidence Overview*, STRIVE, p.7.

<sup>75</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>76</sup> Flood, M. and Fergus, L. (2008) *An Assault on Our Future: The Impact of Violence on Young People and their Relationships*, White Ribbon Foundation.

<sup>77</sup> In Nicaragua, for example, 63 percent of children of abused women had to repeat a school year and they left school on average 4 years earlier than other children. See : <http://www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/301-consequences-and-costs-.html>

<sup>78</sup> Surveys in Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, the Philippines, Poland and Switzerland revealed that boys who witnessed their father using violence against their mother were 3 times more likely to use violence against their partners later in life. See, for a summary of the research: <http://www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/301-consequences-and-costs-.html>

end violence against women and girls, and major assets among their peers, their families and communities to achieve the social transformations needed.<sup>79</sup>

77. A ‘life-cycle approach’ takes into account the fact of violence against female human beings as a reality that is traceable from the embryonic stage through infancy, childhood, adolescent, and adulthood, to old age.<sup>80</sup> It recognises that girls and women – and indeed men and boys – of different ages are not homogenous groups, and have age-specific experiences, contexts, needs and aspirations which require age-appropriate programming. This approach, therefore, ought to be mainstreamed into prevention strategies to ensure that all pertinent actors in the lives of girls and women – including girls and women themselves – develop progressive and holistic knowledge and skills that are critical in challenging and preventing violence in various socio-cultural contexts. A life-cycle approach applies as much to men and boys as it does to girls and women, and ensures that all interventions to prevent violence are not only age-appropriate and strategic but also tailor-made to help prevent violence everywhere all the time.
78. Importantly, experts were clear that planning, implementation, evaluation and monitoring of all prevention efforts must include and pay heed to the voices of women and girls themselves, especially survivors of violence and those experiencing additional forms of disadvantage or discrimination.
79. Prevention strategies should be informed by an analysis of the particular factors affecting violence against women and girls in a specific context.<sup>81</sup> Different contexts generate unique social norms, behaviours and practices contributing to violence that need to be recognised and addressed, and strategies that have been effective in one context may not necessarily be transferable to another, even within the same country. States, including local institutions, will need to formulate prevention strategies in a way that responds most effectively to the particular forms of violence against women and girls in their territories and their unique national and local contexts.
80. Similarly, prevention strategies should be locally-designed and locally-owned in order to ensure that solutions presented will be accepted, shared, and promoted at the local level, and that investment will have sustainable results. At the same time, they must be nationally – even globally – endorsed, supported, and reinforced in order to ensure local actors are empowered with sufficient technical and financial resources and capacity to create broad-based change.
81. An important ‘influencer’ of attitudes and norms around gender and violence that transcends the local and increasingly the national context is mass and new media. Experts noted that media regulation, nationally or internationally, is often a vexed issue which is further compounded by concerns around censorship and limiting press freedom. However, they believed significant opportunities exist to use instruments such as CEDAW, CRC and frameworks such as the BPfA to develop a global position on media, gender equality and violence against women and girls. Key areas for attention include print and broadcast media (including magazines), the internet and associated elements such as social media and pornographic material, electronic games,

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<sup>79</sup> United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (2010) *Vision 2015: The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women Strategy 2010–2015*, p.20.

<sup>80</sup> Hege, L. (1994) *Violence against women: the hidden burden*, World Bank. Hege outlines violence against women and girls from infanticide, to girlhood female genital mutilation, unequal access to foods, schooling and trafficking; to adolescent courtship-related violence, sexual harassment, forced prostitution and marriage, to intimate partner abuse, marital rape, honour killing and to elderly neglect, widow abuse, and rape.

<sup>81</sup> United Kingdom Department for International Development (2012) *A Theory of Change for Tackling Violence against Women and Girls*, CHASE Guidance Note 1.

advertising and music videos. The principle of co-regulation<sup>82</sup> presents opportunities for all media agencies to work in partnership with civil society actors to regulate, rather than censor, media treatment of women and girls. Anxieties about the details of regulation being enshrined in legislation can be mitigated by legislating for ‘how’ (i.e. the required structures) and ‘who’ (i.e. media bodies working in meaningful partnership with women’s and civil society organisations etc). Where legislation does exist to prevent / challenge harmful representations of violence against women and girls it is essential that implementation is prioritised.

82. Experts further stressed that research and evidence (including practice learnings) should inform the development and implementation of programmes, strategies and policies. This includes drawing from the evidence to identify and address the underlying causes of violence against women and girls, assessing the particular context in which prevention policy and programming is to take place, and developing and adapting strategies accordingly, including in-built monitoring and evaluation throughout.<sup>83</sup>
83. However, while developing programmes and strategies based on what is already known is obviously the best way of ensuring that they have the desired impacts, experts were unanimous that the lack of evidentiary ‘proof’ regarding the effectiveness of interventions can never be used by States or donors as a justification for avoiding investment or innovation in policy and programming for prevention. Prevention of violence against women and girls is a relatively new field of activity where evidence and innovative practice is still being generated, but violence against women and girls remains a human rights abuse that imposes a significant and immediate obligation upon States to take action. It is important for States, donors and programmers to continue innovating new practice in order to discover further evidence on what makes successful strategies, especially as ‘what works’ may vary from setting to setting and for different groups of women and girls or forms of violence.
84. Prevention strategies should be developed, implemented and monitored through processes that affirm and uphold human rights, as such processes will ‘inevitably determine the success, utility and acceptance of the outcome.’<sup>84</sup> Human rights based approaches recognise every human being as a rights holder who should be empowered to act as a key actor in processes and decisions that affect them. Principles such as meaningful participation of stakeholders, accountability, non-discrimination and equality of outcomes for different groups of people regardless of their status or identity, empowerment of women and girls, and linkages to international human rights standards are central to a human rights based approach.<sup>85</sup> Respect for the rule of law, the independence of the judiciary and the media, and the presence of strong democratic institutions are imperative for initiatives that respect human rights and seek to prevent and end violence against women and girls to succeed.
85. A human rights-based approach may particularly mean giving priority to those groups of women and girls whose rights are often ignored, and calls for a more equitable distribution of resources in their favour.<sup>86</sup> It should aim for equality of outcomes for every group as a central guiding principle across all areas of action. ‘Universal’ strategies for prevention will not necessarily have a uniform effect on all population groups, although they should be conceptualized in such a way

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<sup>82</sup> For example, as proposed by Media Watch, Canada. See, for an explanation:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/media2002/reports/EP3Cishecki.PDF>

<sup>83</sup> World Health Organisation (2010) *Preventing Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Against Women – Taking Action and Generating Evidence*, p.2.

<sup>84</sup> United Nations Population Fund UNFPA (2006) *Human rights-based programming: what it is/how to do it*.

<sup>85</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>86</sup> *Ibid.*

as to be as inclusive as possible. Additional measures and tailored strategies specifically targeted to the needs of groups experiencing multiple forms of disadvantage – and addressing the intersections of inequalities and discrimination – are essential.

86. Violence affects women and girls irrespective of cultural, religious, socio-economic or other background or identity characteristics,<sup>87</sup> but it can affect different groups of women and girls disproportionately or in specific ways. The 2007 General Assembly resolution on the *Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence against Women*, calls on states to have ‘regard to women who need special attention in the development of policies to address violence, such as women belonging to minority groups, including those based on nationality, ethnicity, religion or language, indigenous women, migrant women, stateless women, women living in underdeveloped, rural or remote communities, homeless women, women in institutions or in detention, women with disabilities, elderly women, widows and women who are otherwise discriminated against.’<sup>88</sup>
87. The BPfA notes that girls, for instance, are at risk of specific forms of violence, including ‘sexual and economic exploitation, paedophilia, forced prostitution and possibly the sale of their organs and tissues, violence and harmful practices such as female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, incest, female genital mutilation and early marriage, including child marriage.’ Harmful practices such as child marriage can result in early and unwanted pregnancies that pose life-threatening risks for adolescent girls. Female genital mutilation increases the risks of obstructed labour, childbirth complications, newborn deaths, postpartum bleeding, infections and maternal mortality. Studies in some countries show from a quarter to a third of girls report experiencing sexual assault or rape at school or en route, with many changing or leaving school as a result of hostility after they reported the violence.<sup>89</sup>
88. Adolescent girls and young women are at particularly high risk of many of the above forms of gender-based violence. This is an often-overlooked group in responses to violence (for example, programmes and services are largely designed for adult women, and those focussed on children tend to operate with a gender neutral ethos), and as such there is often little by way of programming to address violence (including within the context of a relationship) against adolescent girls and young women, and they may have little redress when experiencing such violence. This gap risks being perpetuated in prevention activity, for example, awareness raising activities often fail to acknowledge the complex landscape that many young women must now navigate.
89. Women and girls with disabilities experience violence at a significantly higher rate, and in different forms, than other women and girls, and they have greater difficulty in accessing support services. Many women and girls with disabilities are isolated and marginalised from participating in various mainstream settings (e.g. educational institutions, workplaces and sporting clubs) and so it is vital that agencies like disability services, special schools, and residential facilities are also engaged in developing and implementing prevention strategies.<sup>90</sup>

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<sup>87</sup> United Nations *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (1979) GA res. 34/180.

<sup>88</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2007) *Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence against Women*, A/RES/61/145, art 8(f).

<sup>89</sup> In a study in Ethiopia, for example, 23 percent of girls reported experiencing sexual assault or rape en route to or from school; in Ecuador, adolescent girls reporting sexual violence in school identified teachers as the perpetrator in 37 percent of cases; in South Africa, 33 percent of reported rapes of girls were perpetrated by a teacher. Many girls changed schools or left school as a result of hostility after they reported the violence:  
<http://www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/301-consequences-and-costs-.html>

<sup>90</sup> Ortoleva, S. and Lewis, H. (2012) *Forgotten Sisters – A Report on Violence against Women with Disabilities: An Overview of its Nature, Scope, Causes and Consequences*, Northeastern University School of Law Research Paper No. 104-2012.



90. Older women may be at increased risk of violence in similar ways, especially where they are economically or physically dependent on family or carers.
91. HIV-positive women and girls face stigma and other forms of discrimination and disadvantage that can increase their risk of violence and/or make access to systems of support and justice more difficult. Strategies and programmes to prevent HIV/AIDs should include specific interventions to address violence against women and girls, and vice versa.<sup>91</sup>
92. Article 22 (2) of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* affirms the rights and special needs of indigenous women and children, and calls for States to adopt measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination. The January 2012 Expert Group Meeting on Combating Violence against Indigenous Women and Girls stressed that work to prevent violence against indigenous women and girls cannot be separated from efforts to address racism, dispossession and intergenerational trauma.<sup>92</sup> Integrated and culturally competent prevention strategies that incorporate indigenous history, understanding of kinship networks, values and experience are essential (and more detailed recommendations can be found in the Final Report of that meeting).
93. Where prevention strategies are not designed by, or in equal partnership with, women and girls from diverse communities within a local area, state or region, they are likely to at best exclude and at worst have negative impact on indigenous and minority ethnic communities.<sup>93</sup> While considerations must be given to language and areas of disproportionality (for example, in terms of taking into account lower or higher prevalence rates of different forms of violence), it is insufficient to limit prevention work with indigenous and minority ethnic communities to these issues alone, and women and girls from these communities themselves are best placed to articulate their needs and aspirations for prevention programming. The principle of ‘by and for’ – i.e. initiatives which are designed *by* indigenous and minority ethnic women and girls *for* indigenous and minority ethnic communities – should be a key element of any prevention strategy to ensure that it appropriate, accessible, and tailored to the specific and diverse situations of all women and girls.
94. For newly-arrived immigrant women, particularly migrant workers, the workplace may be the only contact with systems of support in their host countries – and this is therefore an essential setting for preventing (and responding to) violence against this group (as well as against all women and girls).<sup>94</sup> However, some workplaces may actually increase the vulnerability of women (and girls) to violence, and this is especially the case for domestic workers in private residences who suffer high levels of sexual violence and exploitation. The 2011 International Labour Organisation’s Domestic Worker’s Convention binds members to taking ‘measures to ensure that domestic workers enjoy effective protection against all forms of abuse, harassment and violence’ and to ensure that minimum age requirements are met.<sup>95</sup>

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<sup>91</sup> UNAIDS (2010) *Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic*, p.137.

<sup>92</sup> United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (2012) *Final Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Combating Violence against Indigenous Women and Girls*.

<sup>93</sup> See for example: Rowland, C. and Carnegie, M. (2011) ‘Violence against women in indigenous, minority and migrant groups,’ in *State of the World’s Minorities and Indigenous Peoples*.

<sup>94</sup> VicHealth (2007) *Preventing Violence before it Occurs: A Framework and Background Paper Guiding the Primary Prevention of Violence against Women in Victoria*.

<sup>95</sup> Articles 5 and 4 respectively.

95. Women in the sex industry experience high rates of violence including from law enforcement actors, clients, other stakeholders involved in the sex trade (as well as intimate partners), along with frequent discrimination. Violence against women in the sex industry is often not taken seriously by the police and justice systems, and legal policies fail to effectively outlaw and punish such violence, or contribute to prevention by making firm laws protecting and guaranteeing rights of women in the sex industry to live free of violence. As a result, women in the sex industry are unlikely to report violence or are denied justice when they face violence. In countries which have decriminalised the sale of sexual services, provided comprehensive and rights-based services and justice responses for women in the sex industry who are victims/survivors of violence (and for victims of trafficking), and criminalized those who purchase sexual services, evaluations have found those experiencing violence have better access to justice, redress and services; that there have been attitudinal shifts against the purchase of sex (particularly among young people); and, importantly, that it has a significantly reduced sex trafficking and the involvement of organised crime in the sex industry.<sup>96</sup>
96. Lesbians and bisexual women and transgender people experience both sexist and homophobic violence, discrimination and stereotyping. Some of the contributing/risk factors for violence against women and girls in general (e.g. around gender role stereotyping) are shared in part with those for homophobic violence. To be effective, prevention strategies need to explicitly challenge homophobia and its relationship to gender stereotyping. Violence can also occur in same-sex relationships. Prevention work has to make it clear that violence in any relationship, perpetrated by either sex is unacceptable.
97. Prevention strategies need to take into account that the pressure of social norms may be greater in small or isolated communities and that women and girls may fear breaches of confidentiality when participating in initiatives (or accessing support).<sup>97</sup> At its 2012 session, CSW expressed ‘deep concern about the pervasiveness of violence against women and girls in all its forms and manifestations worldwide, particularly those living in rural and remote areas as they face additional barriers to accessing support and protective services.’<sup>98</sup> For women and girls in remote or under-served contexts, prevention strategies implemented through ‘mainstream’ settings such as health or social services may have limited reach, and creative community-based strategies – that challenge stigma, isolation, and respect women’s and girls’ rights (including to confidentiality) – may need to be prioritised.
98. The BPfA notes the disproportionate impact on women of the increasing rural to urban migration that has marked the last two decades, with ‘these massive movements of people hav[ing] profound consequences for family structures and well-being and [...] unequal consequences for women and men, including in many cases the sexual exploitation of women.’<sup>99</sup> Prevention strategies need to take into account such migration where it occurs and work with the particular risk and protective factors generated, especially with regards to trafficking and other forms of exploitation of women and girls.
99. There is a lack of documented prevention strategies for humanitarian, conflict or post-conflict settings. Displaced women and girls who have fled war, civil unrest and/or natural disaster, may

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<sup>96</sup> For example, see the Swedish Ministry of Justice, English summary of the *Evaluation of the ban on purchase of sexual services, 1999-2008*, (2 July 2010) pp. 34-5, 37: <http://www.government.se/content/1/c6/14/92/31/96b1e019.pdf>

<sup>97</sup> Immigrant Women’s Domestic Violence Service (2006) *The Right to be Safe from Domestic Violence: Immigrant and Refugee Women in Rural Victoria*, Immigrant Women’s Domestic Violence Service, Melbourne.

<sup>98</sup> Committee for the Status of Women (2012) *The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges: Chair’s Summary*, p.3.

<sup>99</sup> Article 36.

be dealing with the after-effects of previous exposure to violence (by State and non-State armed actors as well as community members), in addition to new risks related to their displacement. These women and girls may also face further risk in the host countries, especially in refugee camps where instances of coercion to offer ‘sex for food’ tokens have been reported.<sup>100</sup> As asylum seekers, women and girls not only may be suffering the impacts of reduced access to services due to breakdown in systems related to humanitarian crises, they may also be less likely to disclose experiences of violence or to seek support than other women and girls, particularly if their immigration status is uncertain or fragile. Outreach strategies combining prevention with measures to respond to disclosures of past violence may be particularly necessary, taking into account the profound impacts of past trauma and ongoing social isolation that many displaced and asylum-seeking women and girls experience.

100. Prevention strategies must also take into account a myriad of other factors impacting on the lives of women and girls affected by conflict and natural disasters, such as: isolation from schooling and lack of access to trade posts/land/areas through which they secure their livelihood; absence of husbands or other male family members, placing the financial burden and responsibility for the household on females; insecurities related to unsafe living conditions; and challenges related to reintegration for returnees, such as issues related to demobilisation of women and girls in fighting forces, land tenure and inheritance rights for returnee women and girls, community stigma for rape survivors, and potentially elevated levels of intimate partner and family violence.
101. While there is some emerging work ‘building prevention in’ to early intervention and response strategies in humanitarian settings;<sup>101</sup> or linking prevention to post-conflict interventions such as the engagement of women and girls in peace-building, or disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR),<sup>102</sup> there is clear potential for more comprehensive work to be done.
102. Finally, some experts noted that the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (and related resolutions on women, peace and security) could and should be adopted to work in ‘non-conflict’ settings of high armed violence. While the resolution does not specifically mention small arms control, it is being increasingly incorporated into small arms control initiatives<sup>103</sup> and vice versa. Experts noted the need for States to broaden the scope of their women, peace and security policies beyond the sphere of foreign affairs, humanitarian assistance and peace-building efforts, given ‘peacetime’ does not necessarily translate into safety and security for women and girls. Experts called for more efficient protection and public security policies which consider the role of firearms and ammunition in the perpetuation of violence against women and girls.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

103. Experts stressed the critical importance of women’s organisations, civil society, international institutions, donors and States working together to go beyond ‘ad hoc’ approaches to prevention, and for States to take their responsibility for developing long-term and multi-sectoral strategies so that activity can be coordinated, and evidence built, to achieve real results. With an increased

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<sup>100</sup> Women’s Refugee Commission (2009) *Building Livelihoods: A Field Manual for Practitioners in Humanitarian Settings*.

<sup>101</sup> See for example Ward, J. (forthcoming) *Conflict/Post-conflict Module*, UN Women Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls.

<sup>102</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>103</sup> For example, National Action Plans on violence against women from Portugal and the Philippines

commitment from all actors to such an approach, and corresponding investment, many experts believed violence against women and girls could be ended within a generation. To this end, experts have made recommendations (see below) for a coordinated and target-focussed approach to preventing violence against women and girls, driven by two overarching activities – a Global Implementation Plan – framing the work of international, regional and national institutions (including States) toward the goal of ending violence against women and girls, along with a Global Advocacy Campaign – driven by women’s and other civil society organisations to create momentum and provide accountability for the above.

104. Also, given CSW’s specific mandate with regards to implementation of the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*<sup>104</sup> experts have made further recommendations for immediate implementation, aligned with the BPfA’s strategic objectives of taking integrated measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women, and studying the causes and consequences of violence against women and the effectiveness of preventive measures. While the BPfA objectives cover both prevention of, and response to, violence against women and girls, and experts supported full implementation of all of these, the recommendations below build on those areas focussing on prevention.
105. Finally, experts identified recommendations arising from emerging issues or gaps in the evidence and practice base regarding prevention of violence against women and girls in certain contexts and settings. These include recommendations for prevention in settings affected by humanitarian crises such as conflict and natural disasters; contexts of serious urban or youth violence; with regards to representation of women and girls in the context of mass media as well as in new social media; and in the context of the global financial crisis and shifting geopolitics. In addition to the broad recommendations below that are relevant to all settings, special attention has been given to certain contexts and settings in order to highlight specific strategies for prevention related to these particular areas of concern. Experts have also chosen to highlight certain recommendations specific to preventing violence against girls, including adolescent girls, and young women, as a frequently overlooked group worthy of special consideration.

## ***A Global Implementation Plan to End Violence against Women and Girls***

106. Experts agreed that while an international legal and normative framework for preventing violence against women and girls is already in place, there are two major barriers to its implementation. The first is that social and cultural norms and customs are often used as a shroud or excuse for laws, practices and behaviours that are either directly violent and discriminatory towards women and girls, or else contribute to and support violence against them. **The BPfA clearly calls on States to ‘refrain from invoking any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to its elimination as set out in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,’**<sup>105</sup> and experts were adamant that this entails an active obligation on States to examine their own laws and policies, and challenge the communities, organisations and individuals in their jurisdictions, to eliminate

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<sup>104</sup> ECOSOC resolution 1996/6 requires the Commission to integrate into its programme a follow-up process to the 1995 Conference, and to regularly review the critical areas of concern in the Platform. It is to ‘assist the [Economic and Social] Council in monitoring, reviewing and appraising progress achieved and problems encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at all levels,’ and ‘maintain and enhance public awareness and support for the implementation of the Platform for Action.’

<sup>105</sup> United Nations *Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action*, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, 27 October 1995, paragraph 124(a).

norms and customs that excuse, justify or tolerate violence against women and girls, and which exist in all societies.

107. A second barrier to full implementation of existing obligations is the lack of a coordinated, strategic agenda at international, regional and national levels for **modifying ‘the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women,’<sup>106</sup> required by CEDAW.** This is an essential precondition and support for the sustainable prevention of violence against women and girls. As noted above, such prejudices, practices and stereotypes are rampant in all societies, expressed as much through channels such as media and popular culture, as through institutions more identifiable as the bearers of custom or ‘tradition’ (e.g. faith institutions). A much greater commitment and level of resourcing is required from all States, along with significantly improved coordination of policy, programming and research at global, regional and national levels towards a shared strategic agenda to eliminate these and so meet the legal obligation under CEDAW.
108. To this end, an overarching recommendation from experts was that Member States commit, at CSW in 2013, to develop a Global Implementation Plan to End Violence against Women and Girls, to be launched in 2015, with a particular focus on prevention of violence against women and girls. This Plan should aim to provide vigilance on established international obligations (particularly the overarching BPfA and CEDAW obligations cited above), and serve as the tool for operationalising these norms into national policy and programming in a coordinated and results-based way.
109. The Global Implementation Plan to End Violence against Women and Girls, endorsed and supported by Member States at its launch, would aim to:
  - a. Intensify and scale-up global awareness of violence against women and girls as a global emergency.
  - b. Combine the best thinking on how to proceed with concrete pledges for action.
  - c. Mobilise international, regional and national action by governments, multilaterals, the private sector and civil society.
  - d. Build the foundation for an evidence and practice-informed global prevention strategy.
  - e. Increase resources available to end violence against women and girls.
110. Development of the plan should be linked to the processes defining the post-2015 development agenda, to ensure that the prevention of violence against women and girls is rightly understood as crucial to the meeting of other internationally agreed development goals, and that targets relating to the prevention of (and response to) such violence are explicitly identified and well situated in the post-2015 development framework.
111. Development of the plan would require, among other things:
  - a. Identification of a small set of key policy, legal and programme-delivery targets (institutions) at the national level towards which global violence prevention efforts can be directed.

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<sup>106</sup> United Nations *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (1979) GA res. 34/180, art 5(a).

- b. Detailed review of existing action plans, indicators, recommendations, platforms for action, policy agendas, and recommendations outlined by the Security Council, UN Treaty bodies, the special rapporteurs, and various UN agencies, with a view to closing implementation gaps and building the next stage.
  - c. Creation of a cohesive global community of key stakeholders.
  - d. Designation of strong coordinating mechanisms.
  - e. Development of an accountability framework with indicators to measure State responsiveness to the policy, legal and programme-delivery goals identified and an independent monitoring mechanism.
112. Development of the plan should include the proactive engagement of new partners (such as the private sector, sporting organisations, religious and cultural leaders, the media and entertainment industry), with a critical eye to the internal structures and methods of operation of such partners to ensure they fully support and in no way undermine the human rights of women and girls.

### ***A Global Advocacy Campaign for Prevention***

113. Experts further recognised the crucial and catalytic role of women’s organisations and called for them to help build support and momentum for the above. A global ‘movement for prevention’ is needed, engaging a critical mass of individuals, groups and institutions working together to create communities and countries that are safe for women and girls and where their rights are respected.
114. Experts’ second overarching recommendation was therefore that women’s organisations, in partnership with other civil society organisations and identified willing international and regional institutions, States and other relevant parties, lead a Global Advocacy Campaign to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls, as a crucial accompaniment to the development of the Implementation Plan above. The Advocacy Campaign could include the creation of plain language communications materials, mechanisms to share information and practice, avenues for capacity development, and advocacy strengthening, for example through the training of male and female youth and veteran activists and leaders to monitor progress of nations on international agreements, produce reports, and represent women’s and girls’ priorities and interests in international fora. The aim of the Advocacy Campaign would be to create momentum for the Implementation Plan, ensure the consistent promotion of evidence-informed, rights-based prevention activity, and hold international, regional and national stakeholders accountable to women and girls.

### ***Integrated measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls***

115. While the Global Implementation Plan may take one to two years to develop, there are many areas of work that States have already committed to under the BPfA Strategic Objective D1 – to take integrated measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women – and upon which they can and should take immediate action. Below are recommendations elaborated by the

experts in line with the growing evidence and practice base on prevention, in support of these existing commitments.

116. **In line with BPfA’s Paragraph 124(j), calling on Governments to ‘formulate and implement, at all appropriate levels, plans of action to eliminate violence against women,’ and Paragraph 124(p) calling for the allocation of ‘adequate resources within the government budget and mobilis[ation of] community resources for activities related to the elimination of violence against women, including resources for the implementation of plans of action at all appropriate levels,’** experts recommend that States work in partnership with funders, international and regional institutions, women’s and civil society organisations and other stakeholders to develop, implement, evaluate and monitor coordinated, multisectoral and sustained prevention strategies, alongside and reinforcing strategies to improve the response to existing violence. Such strategies:

- a. Should address the underlying causes of violence against women and girls in norms and practices at socio-structural, community, organisational, relationship and individual levels, and include a performance monitoring framework, and coordination and accountability mechanisms.
- b. Be comprised of a variety of coordinated interventions to be implemented in a mutually-reinforcing way across settings and sectors.
- c. Include the review and revision of policy and legislation to ensure a consistent whole-of-government framework for the prevention of violence against women and girls that promotes women’s and girls’ human rights and gender equality in line with international norms. This review and reform process should ensure law and policy: aligns with and responds explicitly to State obligations under relevant human rights treaties, intergovernmental agreements and international standards/guidelines, repealing and reforming discriminatory laws and criminalizing violence against women and girls; defines violence against women and girls according to international norms, acknowledging that such violence is a form of discrimination and manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women, and the recognising the particular vulnerabilities of girls; and recognises that women’s and girls’ experience of violence is shaped by factors such as disability, age, ethnicity, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, marital status, sexual orientation, HIV/AIDS status, migrant or refugee status and exposure to conflict or natural disaster.
- d. Be supported by multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms, with the involvement of representatives from across government institutions and also civil society, donors and other stakeholders who can aid in implementation. These mechanisms should begin by identifying where existing capacity could be harnessed in particular programmatic areas for immediate impact (e.g. through existing health or education sectors, or existing nongovernment programming), and provide for the development of capacity (e.g. a human rights training curriculum and mandatory training for all elected officials and civil servants at every level of government) across other sectors for mid to longer-term work.
- e. Ensure earmarked budgets are in place in each relevant Ministry – including human and technical resources – to fund such strategies over the short, mid and long-terms. Working to integrate prevention of violence against women and girls into all leading policy and funding frameworks can also provide strategic avenues and a broad base

from which to strengthen efforts and secure budgets. Examples of these include poverty reduction and development strategies and national plans, and sector-wide reforms related to education, health, security, justice, HIV and AIDS, peace-building, transitional justice, reconstruction and conflict prevention strategies and frameworks in post-conflict situations, and contingency planning strategies and frameworks in settings affected by cyclical natural disasters.

- f. Set specific targets and include mechanisms for monitoring progress towards them, across implementing institutions, and agencies in international/regional systems. Institutional responsibilities and reporting arrangements against these targets should be articulated, and mechanisms for accountability established. For example, regular and participatory multi-sectoral assessments at the national and local levels, across line ministries and related public sector institutions can strengthen accountability for performance in terms of agreed-upon budgetary commitments and/or related performance on budgetary allocations.
- g. Aim to create an enabling environment for women's and civil society organisations working on prevention of violence against women and girls. Resource allocation models should maximise collaboration between community organisations, and continuity of funding for programmes where they are shown to be effective through appropriate evaluation (see paragraph 131).
- h. Include – across all settings and frameworks – efforts to engage men and boys in achieving gender equality and preventing violence, informed by the expertise of the women's sector, and with mechanisms to ensure accountability to women and girls.

117. Experts further recommend that UN agencies mirror what is recognised as good practice for Governments above, and adopt a coordinated, interagency approach to prevent (and respond to) violence against women and girls, with support from the highest political level (i.e. the Secretary General). As part of the Global Implementation Plan, UN agencies should develop a system-wide workplan building on related system-wide initiatives (e.g. the Secretary Generals' UNiTE Campaign) and through existing coordination mechanisms, to support and promote national implementation of, monitor progress against, and advance the international normative framework. Regional institutions should similarly develop and implement coordinated workplans to support Member States implement regional normative frameworks for prevention of violence against women and girls, monitor progress against these frameworks, and advance the frameworks themselves. Such workplans might include strategies to:

- a. Expand normative interpretations and understandings of prevention activity – beyond awareness-raising, education and sensitisation of the media – to make linkages with and encompass positive obligations on States to promote gender equality and change social norms contributing to gender stereotyping, discrimination and violence against women and girls, across all levels, jurisdictions, sectors and settings.
- b. Provide policy guidance, technical advice and knowledge management to support States develop, implement and monitor holistic, systemic and sustained approaches to prevention.
- c. Ensure coordinated and sustained national and regional programming for prevention across different agencies and funding streams, and in different settings, such as conflict-affected contexts, natural disasters, low, middle and high-income countries (e.g.



through UNDAFs, humanitarian funding streams, and in cooperation with regional bodies).

- d. Ensure outcomes and targets for prevention of violence against women and girls are a key component of the post-2015 development agenda.

118. **In line with BPfA’s Paragraph 124(k) ‘Adopt all appropriate measures, especially in the field of education, to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, and to eliminate prejudices, customary practices and all other practices based on the idea of the inferiority or superiority of either of the sexes and on stereotyped roles for men and women’,** experts recommend that States:

- a. Develop, implement and monitor compulsory education promoting human rights and gender equality, challenging gender stereotypes, discrimination and violence against women and girls, and building skills for equal and respectful relationships and for peaceful conflict resolution, at all levels of schooling, from kindergarten to the tertiary level and in non-school educational settings.
- b. Review teaching and learning materials to support the above, elaborating relevant curricula and materials in partnership with specialists on violence against women and girls, and ensuring that such education is gender-sensitive, comprehensive and fully-integrated and includes assessment and reporting measures.
- c. Provide for specialized training and resources for teaching and support staff to deliver the above curricula, implement gender-sensitive approaches to instruction through non-violent pedagogy, and support students who may disclose violence.
- d. Support schools, tertiary institutions and other educational settings to promote broader ‘whole-school/institution cultures’ of equality, non-violence and respect, through engagement of leadership, events and extracurricular activities, and involvement of the community, as well as through policy and practice reform such as instigating institution-wide bans on all violence – including corporal punishment – and protocols and procedures for responding to violence, discrimination, bullying and harassment, whether in the staff-room, the classroom or elsewhere on the school/institution grounds.
- e. Monitor and support girls’ completion of secondary schooling which multiple studies suggest is strongly protective against domestic and sexual violence.

119. **In line with BPfA’s Paragraph 126(a), calling for the development of ‘programmes and procedures to eliminate sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women in all educational institutions, workplaces and elsewhere,’** experts recommend that States, employers, trade unions, community and youth organisations and non-governmental organisations, as appropriate:

- a. Review regulatory frameworks, codes of conduct, protocols and procedures, of workplace, educational institutions, sporting clubs, community and faith organisations, the military, police and other organisational/institutional environments, to ensure they work to eliminate discrimination and harassment, and build organisational environments that are safe and inclusive of women and girls, and encourage women’s and girls’ participation and leadership.
- b. Foster collaboration between employer and other organisations, and with women’s and other civil society organisations – especially those with expertise in engaging men and

boys for gender equality – to recognise the role of organisations/institutions in prevention of violence against women and girls. Such a role is not only limited to addressing violence, discrimination and harassment within the organisation itself, but also extends to the organisation/institution as a ‘change-maker,’ capable of contributing to the transformation of attitudes, practices and social norms in their communities and society as a whole.

- c. Develop and implement awareness-raising and bystander capacity-building initiatives for employees or other members of the organisation, especially those aimed at supporting men to proactively challenge men’s violence or early warning signs of such violence.
- d. Identify women and men who can act as positive role models and ambassadors for prevention among employer and other organisations.
- e. Ensure protection and regulation in both the private and public sector for migrant workers to help combat harassment, discrimination and trafficking incidences.

120. **In line with BPfA’s Paragraph 125(e) calling for the organisation, support and funding of ‘community-based education and training campaigns to raise awareness about violence against women as a violation of women’s enjoyment of their human rights and mobilis[ation of] local communities to use appropriate gender-sensitive traditional and innovative methods of conflict resolution,’** experts recommend that States, local authorities, civil society organisations, communities and community organisations, promote gender equal and non-violent relationships, families and communities through new and existing holistic prevention efforts, services, programmes, events and grant/funding initiatives; prioritise prevention of violence against women and girls in grassroots efforts, urban and municipal planning; and implement legislative, regulatory and community-based programming initiatives to prevent violence and harassment of women and girls in private and public spaces.

121. **In line with BPfA’s Paragraph 125(f), recognising, supporting and promoting ‘the fundamental role of intermediate institutions, such as primary health-care centres, family-planning centres, existing school health services, mother and baby protection services, centres for migrant families and so forth in the field of information and education related to abuse’** experts recommend that States and partner organisations:

- a. Develop, implement and monitor programmes combining respectful relationships skills building and counselling support for children and young people, especially those who have been exposed to, or are identified as at risk of, violence.
- b. Develop, implement and monitor intensive early-intervention programmes for children and young people demonstrating violence-supportive attitudes and/or who are using violence, recognising that this may be a result of prior victimisation and using a model that empowers them with the skills and inner resources for non-violent conflict resolution and healthy relationship-building.
- c. Develop, implement and monitor positive and non-violent parenting programmes, including those specifically targeting fathers/men.
- d. Integrate issues of gender equality and prevention of violence against women and girls into health and social welfare programmes including sexual, reproductive and maternal

health, HIV-AIDS programmes, and programmes promoting equal, respectful and non-violent intimate and family relationships.

- e. Support the role of these sectors in identifying women and girls at risk of violence and referring them to early intervention or response services.

122. **In line with BPfA’s Paragraphs 125(d) and (e), supporting ‘initiatives of women's organisations and non-governmental organisations all over the world to raise awareness on the issue of violence against women and to contribute to its elimination,’ and organising, supporting and funding ‘community-based education and training campaigns to raise awareness about violence against women as a violation of women's enjoyment of their human rights and mobilise local communities to use appropriate gender-sensitive traditional and innovative methods of conflict resolution,’** experts recommend that States, including local governments, with community organisations, non-governmental organisations, educational institutions, the public and private sectors, particularly enterprises, and the mass media, as appropriate, develop and implement – in concert with wider strategies above – social marketing, communications and holistic community mobilisation efforts addressing the underlying causes of violence against women and girls, such as through the promotion of positive, respectful and non-violent masculinities; challenging gender stereotypes; raising awareness of the unacceptability of violence; and promoting critical thinking within the community on violence against women and girls as a manifestation of inequality and a violation of women’s human rights.
123. **In line with BPfA’s Paragraph 126(d) calling for ‘special measures to eliminate violence against women, particularly those in vulnerable situations, such as young women, refugee, displaced and internally displaced women, women with disabilities and women migrant workers, including enforcing any existing legislation and developing, as appropriate, new legislation for women migrant workers in both sending and receiving countries,’** experts recommend that States, employers, trade unions, community and youth organisations and non-governmental organisations, as appropriate, recognise the multiple vulnerabilities of women and girls to various forms of violence throughout their life cycle, and identify clear prevention activities and budgets for this work.
124. **In line with UNSCR 1325,** experts recommend that States ensure they have and implement action plans on women, peace and security, including comprehensive strategies to address the proliferation of small arms and armed violence, whether in conflict, post-conflict or ‘peacetime’ settings. Such initiatives should specifically include:
  - a. The support of arms control and disarmament initiatives and policies that take into account the needs and perceptions of both men and women, namely through consultation and threat assessment, and provide adequate incentives for participation, namely in regular campaigns of gun registry and civilian disarmament.
  - b. The harmonisation and implementation of laws that address domestic violence and firearms and ammunition – banning individuals with a history of violence from access to firearms, and ensuring guns are seized and gun licences suspended in domestic violence cases.
  - c. The improvement of the police officers’ capacity to conduct psychosocial evaluations, along with strengthened police training on violence against women and girls and the role of firearms, reaching beyond those working in special victim units.

- d. The conduction of risk analysis in all centres for victim support, including assessing the presence of a weapon in the home.
125. **In line with the UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV and AIDS, and the 2010 UNAIDS Agenda for Accelerated Country Action on Women, Girls and HIV and AIDS,** integrate a focus on promoting gender equality, addressing gender based violence and engaging men and boys for gender equality into national AIDS plans.<sup>107</sup>

### ***Research on the causes and consequences of violence against women and girls and the effectiveness of prevention measures***

126. There are also several areas of work that States have already committed to under the BPfA Strategic Objective D2 – to study the causes and consequences of violence against women and the effectiveness of preventive measures – upon which immediate action can be taken. Below are recommendations elaborated by the experts in support of these existing commitments.
127. **In line with BPfA’s Paragraph 129(a) calling on Governments, regional organisations, the United Nations, other international organisations, research institutions, women's and youth organisations and non-governmental organisations, as appropriate, to ‘promote research, collect data and compile statistics, especially concerning domestic violence, relating to the prevalence of different forms of violence against women, and encourage research into the causes, nature, seriousness and consequences of violence against women and the effectiveness of measures implemented to prevent and redress violence against women’,** experts make several recommendations:
128. States should ensure the systematic collection, disaggregation (by gender, age and other characteristics), analysis and dissemination and use of data, including through supporting civil society organisations, academics and other actors engaged in research, to inform policy and strategy development on prevention. National statistical agencies and relevant ministries such as those of health or justice, should apply internationally agreed upon technical and ethical standards, ensuring consistency of concepts, regularity of data collection, and wide and timely dissemination of data. Government’s national machineries for the advancement of women should be closely associated with such efforts. Collaboration between producers and users of data should be strengthened by having users involved in all stages of data collection and dissemination. Data collection on violence against women and girls should be age-disaggregated and carried out in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, including advocates and agencies providing services to women and girls, policymakers, legislators and researchers. It is also necessary that data be collected in a way that respects confidentiality and the rights of research participants and does not jeopardize their safety.
129. International and national institutions, in partnership with research organisations, academia, and other civil society groups, should work together to identify gaps and improve research and data collection to inform prevention work, particularly in the following areas:

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<sup>107</sup> Athena Network and Sonke Gender Justice Network (2012) *Review of efforts to integrate Strategies to Address Gender-based Violence and Engage Men and Boys to Advance Gender Equality through National Strategic Plans on HIV and AIDS, an Overview of Findings.*

- a. Documenting the prevalence and characteristics of all forms of violence against women and girls, including violence experienced by particular groups of women and girls (such as women with disabilities, indigenous women, or women affected by armed conflict and/or natural disasters, to name a few), with implications for prevention programming.
  - b. Identifying risk and protective factors (for both victimisation and perpetration) and causal pathways for all forms of violence against women and girls.
- 130. International and regional institutions, in partnership with research organisations and academia, should examine processes for identifying and establishing intergovernmental agreement on common indicators to measure progress on the prevention of violence against women and girls at the international, national and local levels should be developed. Such indicators should be appropriate to the context and include both impact indicators that measure the reduction in levels of violence as well as indicators that measure short and medium term progress, such as changes in social norms, or organisational and community practices.
- 131. States, donors and international/regional institutions should provide for the regular and comprehensive evaluation of projects and programmes on prevention, with feedback mechanisms for continuous improvement. Evaluative data on the effectiveness of prevention strategies in low and middle income countries should be developed and utilized in order to facilitate the replication, scaling up and institutionalization of the most effective interventions. Evaluations should be sensitive to the long-term and complex nature of the social change required for prevention, seeking to measure not only reductions in levels of violence (which will only be apparent in the longer-term), but also shorter term indicators of change such as the shifts in attitudes, norms and practices referred to above.
  - a. Evaluation should include a variety of methods including surveys, qualitative studies, administrative statistics/data and participatory approaches.
  - b. Methods used should be appropriate to the context and scale of the interventions;
  - c. Where appropriate and feasible, longitudinal studies should be conducted to enable measurement of change over time.
  - d. Evaluation should include also include measures of cost-effectiveness and feasibility of scaling up.
- 132. International and regional institutions, in partnership with research organisations and academia, should work together to develop practical tools and resources to support States and programmers in the elaboration, implementation and monitoring of prevention activity, for example:
  - a. Monitoring and evaluation tools that are practical and feasible for small-scale organisations and in low resource settings, including those affected by conflict and/or natural disasters.
  - b. Multi-dimensional evaluation strategies capable of capturing the learnings and outcomes from holistic and multi-sectoral strategies.
  - c. Tools for the collection and analysis of comparable statistical and qualitative data across countries relevant to prevention, building on existing methodologies such as the WHO Multi-country study, the ICRW and Instituto Promundo International Men and Gender Equality Survey and the P4P multi-country Change Project surveys, and research learnings emerging from the previous recommendations.

- d. Methodologies for cost-benefit analyses of prevention activity, covering not only the saving of longer-term reduced prevalence of violence itself, but also the mid-term social and economic benefits of increased institutional capacity, early intervention, increased gender equality, etc, and guidance for costing and financing prevention strategies.
133. International and regional institutions, civil society organisations, States and research institutions should support the development of ‘learning labs’ to produce new knowledge, design, test and share innovative approaches for the prevention of violence against women and girls. An international research and programming centre/institution for prevention might be envisaged to this end, providing guidance, tools and oversight for the activities described above, and potentially playing a role in the independent monitoring of the Global Implementation Plan.

*Emerging evidence and practice have highlighted further issues for prevention of violence against women and girls only partially covered by the existing normative framework, and experts have identified specific areas of action responding to these (detailed under the sub-headings below).*

### **Mass and new media**

134. **In line with BPfA’s Paragraph 125(j) calling for awareness raising on ‘the responsibility of the media in promoting non-stereotyped images of women and men, as well as in eliminating patterns of media presentation that generate violence, and encourage those responsible for media content to establish professional guidelines and codes of conduct’ and on ‘the important role of the media in informing and educating people about the causes and effects of violence against women and in stimulating public debate on the topic,’** experts recommend that States, including local governments, community organisations, non-governmental organisations, educational institutions, the public and private sectors, particularly enterprises, and the mass media, as appropriate:
- a. Strengthen regulatory frameworks with regard to media, advertising imagery, texts, games and other popular culture mediums which portray women or girls in a discriminatory, degrading or stereotypical way, or which glorify violent masculinities.
  - b. Engage all media agencies that currently produce, or provide platforms for the distribution of, material/content which objectifies girls and women and/or which promote/distort messages around violence against girls and women, through a partnership approach, for example co-regulation. This includes the internet, mass media, music and games industries, and advertisers.
  - c. Build partnerships with journalists and other media professionals for the prevention of violence against women and girls and the promotion of gender equality, such as through training, guidelines and awards.
  - d. Include dedicated resources in national media outlets for organisational and content development supporting gender equality and non-discrimination.
  - e. Support advocates such as victims/survivors of violence, men committed to non-violence, and high-profile people to respond to enquiries from journalists and speak at events on issues of violence against women and girls, and to promote messages of gender equality and non violence.

- f. Promote inclusion and visibility of women at national conferences and in local and national media to challenge negative gender stereotypes and promote images of women leaders, intellectuals, politicians, etc.
  - g. Use the media to educate, inform and engage citizens on women's rights, in particular engaging women voters on women's issues.
135. In addition to the recommendations made in line with BPfA's Paragraph 125(j) above, wider and long term action is needed to address the role the media currently plays in contributing to, maintaining and reinforcing, gender stereotypes. Experts recommend that all stakeholders above take immediate interim action to provide children and young people with media literacy skills as a core aspect of school curricula. This should aim to build gender analysis skills to interrogate the status quo (i.e. the objectification of girls and women), critique constructions of gender roles and offer alternative interpretations and framings of the content that they are engaging with on a daily basis.
136. **In line with BPfA Paragraph 129(d), encouraging 'the media to examine the impact of gender role stereotypes, including those perpetuated by commercial advertisements which foster gender-based violence and inequalities, and how they are transmitted during the life cycle, and [to]take measures to eliminate these negative images with a view to promoting a violence-free society,'** experts recommend that international/regional organisations, States, research institutions, civil society partners and media organisations, as appropriate:
- a. Commit to the research and development of urgently-needed guidance (and where appropriate, regulatory action) for the prevention and prohibition of discrimination against women and girls and gender stereotyping across all media. This includes guidance on both the development and the distribution of material.
  - b. Fully implement the *Convention for the Rights of the Child* (Article 17) which recognises the importance of mass media and calls on states to develop 'appropriate guidelines for the protection of the child from information and material injurious to his or her well-being.'
  - c. Recognise that media is an influential mechanism that can make a real difference to a larger project of preventing violence against women and girls. As such, work with media should not just be focussed on limiting harm, but should also be focussed on media making a positive difference e.g. responsible reporting of violence against women and girls which provides accurate information and a gendered analysis (i.e. one which interrogates dominant masculinities and recognises and challenges male privilege).
  - d. Engage with the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression as he considers issues of balancing the right to freedom of expression with the right to be protected from discrimination, with a view to contributing to and building on his recommendations to support prevention of violence against women and girls. Similarly, engage with the International Telecommunications Union as it considers the issue of internet regulation at its December 2012 conference.

## ***The global financial crisis and geo-politics***

137. Given the likely negative impact of the global financial crisis on levels of violence against women and girls, and the subsequent economic, health and social costs of such increased violence (in terms of reduced productivity, strains on services, etc), experts recommend that States, international and regional institutions, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders, should proactively and collaboratively work to protect women's and girls' right to live free of violence, in order to 'stem the tide' of negative economic, health and social impacts arising from such violence and their subsequent further costs to the State. For example:
- a. States should particularly ensure that programmes to prevent violence against women and girls are not seen as a 'soft target' for funding cuts.
  - b. States should ensure that austerity policies, and other fiscal policy measures, are 'equality-proofed,' including impact assessments on women and girls (and with regards violence against them), and measures to counteract the effects of the financial crisis on women and girls.
  - c. States or regional institutions should partner with universities/research organisations to undertake comprehensive analyses of the impacts of the financial crisis on women's and girls' human rights and on levels and types of violence against them (for example, on issues such as dependency on partners due to job loss, trafficking, transactional sex, or the impact of political and ideological shifts).
  - d. Corporations and other private sector actors, in partnership with women's organisations, should prioritise corporate social responsibility work on reducing the negative impact of financial crisis on women and girls, and preventing violence against them by addressing underlying causes.
138. International and regional organisations, donors, development agencies, philanthropics and other nongovernmental organisations should ensure that allocations of aid funding in the wake of the crisis support programmes to prevent (and respond to) violence against women and girls and promote women's human rights.
139. International and regional institutions, civil society organisations and established donors should engage emerging middle income countries and new donors in the development of the new Global Implementation Plan to End Violence against Women and Girls and encourage a rights-based approach to aid investment that prioritises prevention of violence against women and girls through this international, target-focussed framework.

## ***Urban, serious youth (e.g. gang) and armed violence***

140. Experts recommend that States, nongovernmental organisations, international/regional institutions and other stakeholders as appropriate:
- a. Support investigations into the relationship between violence against women and girls and armed violence, especially the strategies of gender-based violence used within and between rival armed groups and the use and threat of gender-based violence in the private sphere by members of armed groups, especially with guns. Research should also be undertaken on the link between intimate partner / domestic violence and armed



violence, including the collection of data on the role of firearms in violence against women and girls.

- b. Increase collaboration between those working on violence against women and girls and those working on arms control at the local, national and international public policy levels.
- c. Develop, implement and monitor policies and programmes aimed at preventing and/or reducing armed violence specifically against girls and women locally and nationally that include gender-responsive protection measures in child and adolescent law and education systems.
- d. Develop, implement and monitor tailored strategies for girls and women who are involved in/associated with armed violence, and for girl children and adolescents at risk, with their active participation at all stages.
- e. Strengthen crime prevention policies to ensure a review of, and action on, the differential impact of urban violence on violence against women and girls, and by the same token, explicitly consider the impact of urban, serious youth (e.g. gang) or armed violence in policies or strategies for the prevention of violence against women and girls.
- f. Invest in knowledge creation and data collection on the typologies and motivations of young men's and women's involvement in armed and violent criminality, especially in contexts with significant gun violence rates, as well as research on armed violence victims/survivors and witnesses, recognising that the decision to join gangs and other armed groups may be fuelled by social exclusion, family violence and violence experienced while in prison or at the hand of state security forces.
- g. Support the strengthening of community policing initiatives, including specially-trained officers with a focus on youth and family violence, violence against women and girls, and on human rights. Promote greater collaboration between police forces and other security sectors for community-based prevention efforts.
- h. Integrate, strengthen and expand professional and vocational training programmes into socio-educational, juvenile justice and prison systems that are designed according to needs-based assessments, and including curricula on the gendered drivers and consequences of gun violence. Encourage and facilitate community reintegration approaches, including through supporting work with communities to prevent stigmatisation of youth who wish to reintegrate themselves into the community in a non-violent way.
- i. Engage urban young people in the development of public policies across key areas such as employment, revitalisation of marginalised neighbourhoods and housing, and cultural initiatives. Build the capacity of institutions and civil society organisations to harness the potential of young people to foster change, and position them as active protagonists in programme development, implementation and monitoring.

### ***Humanitarian crises related to conflict and natural disasters***

141. Experts noted the lack of documented prevention strategies for settings affected by conflict and/or natural disasters, and the consequent improvised, small-scale, and/or issue-specific nature

of prevention activities in these settings. They emphasised that it is critical that States – and the humanitarian, peacekeeping, civil society and development actors with whom they engage – institute broad, well-coordinated measures to prevent violence against women and girls in all stages of humanitarian intervention, and ensure that those measures incorporate strategies that reach the most vulnerable, as well as monitoring and evaluation components in order to develop an evidence base for good practice. To this end, experts recommend that States and their humanitarian partners:

- a. Integrate prevention into all contingency planning for humanitarian emergencies, and develop early warning systems to assess and avert the risk of violence against women and girls. Contingency planning and early warning strategies should engage women and girls in the affected communities in order to anticipate protection needs and develop, for example, community alert networks, safe spaces for women and girls, access to reproductive and sexual health care, widespread information about the illegality of violence against women and girls and the consequences for perpetrators.
- b. When a crisis strikes, immediately institute protections across all areas of humanitarian response, according to the *IASC Guidelines for Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings*. Collect disaggregated data to identify the particular security needs of women and girls and develop targeted tools and guidelines to facilitate protection from and prevention of violence against women and girls, including protection from sexual exploitation and abuse committed by humanitarian actors against beneficiaries of humanitarian aid. Work with international and local human rights organisations to monitor the activities of armed groups to ensure that they adhere to the rules of combat, and are prohibited from, and held accountable for, violence against women and girls. All peacekeeping operations must act in accordance with the standards set forth in the UNSCRs on Women, Peace and Security.<sup>108</sup>
- c. After the initial emergency has passed and when working towards reconstruction, collaborate to expand prevention efforts and facilitate durable solutions for lasting peace and security. This includes incorporating prevention of violence against women and girls as an integral component of post-conflict and post-disaster action plans, including national action plans on Women, Peace and Security, and throughout all transition and recovery strategies. Ensure these action plans are multi-sectoral and supported by widespread protective legislation as well as capacity building across all key sectors to monitor and address risks for violence.
- d. In the reconstruction phase, undertake programming to build social and economic assets of women and girls in order to limit their future exposure to violence, through, for example, education, livelihoods, lifeskills, and leadership. Support women's and girls' empowerment in new and existing constitutions, bolstered by national mechanisms, government programs, and civil society partnerships, particularly women's organisations addressing violence against women and girls. Identify and address risks related to perpetration of violence, particularly amongst boys who have been exposed to violence and in terms of limiting the availability of small arms.

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<sup>108</sup> For more information see Ward, J. (forthcoming) *Conflict/Post-conflict Module*, UN Women Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls, [www.endvawnow.org](http://www.endvawnow.org)

- e. In post-conflict settings, ensure the inclusion of women and girls in peace-building efforts at the national and local levels. Include elements addressing violence against women and girls committed during conflict in all peace agreements. Ensure that survivors have safe access to on-going care and treatment in all conflict-related transitional justice and reparations programmes. Include an emphasis on the special needs of women and girls who were part of fighting forces in programmes for disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration, and efforts to prevent future violence against women and girls, including by demobilised male soldiers. Work with families and communities to overcome prejudice and discrimination against women ex-combatants and women heads of household. Ensure an end to impunity by integrating prevention of (and response to) violence against women and girls into all security sector and justice reform.

## ***Girls, adolescent girls and young women***

142. Experts recognised that girls, including adolescent girls, and young women are often excluded from, or ‘squeezed into,’ interventions which are focussed on adult women, on boys and young men, or on children in a gender-neutral way. Experts concluded that an emphasis on prevention work specifically tailored to the needs, experiences and aspirations of girls, adolescent girls and young women is urgently needed; acknowledging the complexities of the current landscape that they are required to negotiate. Experts made the following recommendations to States, women’s and civil society organisations, international and regional institutions, public and private sectors, as appropriate:
  - a. Develop, implement and monitor tailored prevention activity with adolescent girls and young women that takes an empowerment, not protection, approach, and explicitly address their needs and rights, informed by the voices of adolescent girls and young women themselves. The onus is often placed on girls and young women to avoid / stop violence from happening to them rather than on developing widespread and embedded activities which challenge the social norms that permeate their lives. Prevention programmes should therefore address what is happening around young people (e.g. social pressures, media messaging and so forth) rather than purely on helping young women to ‘manage’ their adolescence (and the risks of violence this is assumed to entail) more effectively.
  - b. Support all adolescents and young people to understand the nature of consent and coercion, and the impact of social and environmental factors on individual ability to truly provide consent (e.g. with key messages such as ‘*your yes is only as good as your ability to say no*’). The issue of consent, and especially sexual consent, is complex and is widely misunderstood among many adults. Yet adolescent girls and young women are often expected to be able to negotiate this difficult terrain which is focussed exclusively on the nature of a ‘no’ rather than the expectation that what is required is a strong, enthusiastic ‘yes’. This in turn reinforces notions of female passivity (the object of pursuit) and male aggressor (the pursuer). Such activities would have relevance to a number of areas from teen relationships to forced marriage.

- c. Ensure a gender dimension is incorporated into multi-sectoral legislative, policy and programmatic development to prevent (and respond to) violence against children, taking into account the specific needs, vulnerabilities and voices of girls of all ages.

# ANNEX I – List of participants

EGM/PP/2012/INF.3  
ENGLISH ONLY

**Expert group meeting  
'Prevention of violence against women and girls'  
Bangkok, Thailand, 17-20 September 2012**

*Experts*

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>
Sunila ABEYSEKERA	INFORM, Sri Lanka
Mary Carroll ELLSBERG	International Centre for Research of Women, USA
Marai LARASI	Ending Violence Against Women Coalition, UK
Lori Lynn HEISE	Tackling the Structural Drivers of HIV (STRIVE), USA
Tatiana MOURA	PROMUNDO, Brazil
Mallika DUTT	Breakthrough, India
Edwina KOTOISUVA	Fiji Women's Crisis Centre, Fiji
Lori MICHAU	Raising Voices, Uganda
Dean PEACOCK	Sonke Gender Justice, South Africa
Dubravka SIMONOVIC	Member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
Jeanne WARD	Independent Consultant, Kenya
Fatuma CHEGUE	School of Education, Kenyatta University, Kenya
Margareta GRAPE	UN Office of the World Council of Churches
Yasmeen HASSAN	Equality Now, USA
Henriette JANSEN	Independent Consultant, Fiji
Hibaaq OSMAN	ED Kamara, N.Africa/M.East
Nandita BHATLA	International Centre for Research on Women Asia Regional office (ICRW)
Keshan LATCHMAN	UNiTE Global Youth, Trinidad and Tobago
Molly MELCHING	TOSTAN, Senegal

*Consultant*

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>
Lara Fergus	Independent Consultant, Australia

### *Observers*

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James LANG	Partners for Prevention (UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women & UNV Regional Joint Programme for Asia and the Pacific)
Emma FULU	Partners for Prevention (UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women & UNV Regional Joint Programme for Asia and the Pacific)
Soon-Young YOON	UN representative for the International Alliance of Women
Carole SHAW	Asia Pacific Women's Watch
Gail FARNGALO	Government of Liberia
Sofia DOHMEN	Swedish SIDA
Kathryn LOCKETT	DiFD

### *UN System*

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Roberta CLARKE	Director, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, UN Women
Nanda KRAIRIKSH	Director, ESCAP Social Development Division
Saraswathi MENON	Director, Policy Division, UN Women
Ramanathan BALAKRISHNAN	Deputy Director, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, UN Women
Kalliopi MINGEIROU	UN Women
Tania FARHA	UN Women
Shoko ISHIKAWA	UN Women, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Meryem ASLAN	UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women
Aldijana SISIC	Secretary-General Campaign UNiTE to End Violence Against Women
Clarice DA SILVA E PAULA	UNICEF
Upala DEVI	UNFPA
Riet GROENEN	UNFPA Asia Pacific Regional Office
Avni AMINA	WHO
Suki BEAVERS	UNDP
Cai CAI	ESCAP
Jori JORGENSEN	ESCAP
Heike ALEFSEN	OHCHR
Anna-Karin JATFORS	UNiTE Campaign, Asia Pacific
Sara De La Pena ESPIN	UN Women, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Nelien HASPELS	ILO
Claudia BARONI	UNODC

## ANNEX II – Programme of work

EGM/PP/INF.2  
ENGLISH ONLY

### Expert Group Meeting: ‘Prevention of violence against women and girls’

Bangkok, Thailand

17-20 September 2012

#### PROGRAMME OF WORK

Monday, 17 September 2012	
Time	Activity
8:30am	Registration of experts
9:00-10:00	<b>Briefing of experts (organisation of work) and election of co-chairs of drafting committee – Closed Meeting</b>
10:00-10:30	<b>Welcome and opening of the meeting</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Nanda Krairiksh, Director of ESCAP Social Development Division and Co-Chair of Regional Coordination Mechanism Thematic Working Group on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women</b></li> <li>- <b>Roberta Clarke, Director UN Women Asia-Pacific Regional Office and Co-Chair of Regional Coordination Mechanism Thematic Working Group on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women</b></li> </ul>
10:30-11:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:00-12:00	<b>Socio-economic and political context relating to the prevention of violence against women</b>
11:00-11:10	<b>Saraswathi Menon, Director, Policy Division, UN Women- <i>Objectives for the EGM and outline of the socio-economic and political context relating to the prevention of violence against women and girls and the</i></b>
11:10-12:00	<b>Discussion</b>
[5 mins]	<b>Lead Respondent – Hibaaq Osman, Middle East/North Africa - <i>Violence against Women in the Arab Region in all its Forms and Approaches to Mitigation in the Context of the Arab Uprisings</i></b>

	<p><b>Possible discussion questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What are the challenges arising from global economic, social, financial and political crises in addressing violence against women and girls?</li> <li>- What are the challenges for prevention?</li> <li>- Does the current economic and political architecture of the world affect escalation, tolerance and legitimization of violence?</li> <li>- What are the shifts required in policy and practice to adapt to the new reality/context and what measures can be taken to ensure that VAWG remains high on the international and national agendas?</li> <li>- What approaches work in particular contexts and why?</li> </ul>
<b>12:00-1:00</b>	<i>Lunch</i>
<b>1:00-2:30</b>	<b>Addressing different forms of violence and environments in which they arise/Groups of women and girls affected</b>
<b>1:00-1:05</b> [5 mins]	<b>Sunila Abeysekera, Sri Lanka, INFORM-</b> <i>Groups of women and girls affected by violence</i>
<b>1:05-2:30</b>  [5 mins]	<p><b>Plenary discussion</b></p> <p><b>Lead respondents</b></p> <p><b>Jeanne Ward, Kenya, Independent Consultant-</b> Prevention of VAWG in different environments (e.g. conflict)</p> <p>Possible discussion questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What can we learn from efforts to prevent different forms of VAWG – i.e. what works based on the current evidence-base?</li> <li>- Is it useful and strategic to focus on different forms of VAWG in prevention efforts or should we address the determinants of violence – i.e. vulnerabilities to all/certain types of violence?</li> <li>- How do you address prevention in different environments?</li> </ul>
<b>2:30-3:00</b>	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
<b>3:00-4:30</b>	<b>The international normative framework on violence against women and girls, achievements, gaps and challenges</b>
<b>3:00-3:05</b> [5 mins]	<b>Dubravka Simonovic, CEDAW member-</b> <i>Observations on the implementation of international normative framework on violence against women and girls, gaps and challenges</i>
<b>3:05-4:30</b>  [5 mins]	<p><b>Plenary discussion</b></p> <p><b>Lead respondents</b></p> <p><b>Yasmeen Hassan, USA, Equality Now-</b> <i>Implementation of international framework through national legal and policy frameworks to address and/or deter VAWG</i></p>



[5 mins]	<p><b>Lori Heise, UK</b>, School of Tropical Medicine and Health, London School of Economics – <i>Gaps and challenges arising from the current evidence base</i></p> <p><b>Possible discussion questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What accountability mechanisms would assist further implementation of the international normative framework as it relates to prevention of violence against women and girls?</li> <li>- To what extent does the evidence base cover forms of violence created by current inequalities and further marginalization of women?</li> <li>- What measures need to be in place to ensure that legal frameworks and policies for prevention are developed based on an assessment of the socio-economic and cultural determinants of violence and that polices address determinants through a holistic approach?</li> </ul>
4:30-5:30	<b>Conclusions and recommendations from Day 1 (to be presented by the Chair)</b>
<b>Tuesday, 18 September 2012</b>	
8:30-10:00	<b>EGM Background Paper on Violence against Women and Girls</b>
8:30-8:50	<b>Lara Fergus, EGM Consultant/Expert-</b> <i>Presentation of background paper</i>
8:50-10:00	<p><b>Plenary discussion</b></p> <p><b>Possible discussion questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Are there any other key challenges and gaps which have not been identified?</li> <li>- Are there any other key elements which have not been considered?</li> <li>- Are there any other sectors or settings that need to be considered?</li> <li>- Are there any other promising practices that should be included or discussed?</li> </ul>
10:00-10:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:30-12:00	<b>Addressing the structural causes of VAWG</b>
10:30-10:35 [5 mins]	<p><b>Mary Ellsberg, USA</b>, George Washington University- <i>Strategies to promote gender equality and economic empowerment of women and girls</i></p>
10:35-12:00  [5 mins]	<p><b>Plenary discussion</b></p> <p><b>Lead respondent</b></p> <p><b>Genoveva Tisheva, Bulgaria</b>, Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation, <i>National legal and policy frameworks to promote gender equality and protect women’s and girls’ human rights</i></p> <p><b>Possible discussion questions:</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What actions should be taken at multiple levels in order to address the structural causes of VAW?</li> <li>- What promising practices/strategies exist to address the structural causes of VAWG?</li> </ul>
<b>12:00-1:00</b>	<i>Lunch</i>
<b>1:00-2:30</b>	<b>Changing social norms and practices</b>
<b>1:30-1:35</b> <b>[5 mins]</b>	<b>Molly Melching, Senegal, Tostan-</b> <i>Creating Social Norms to Prevent Violence against Girls and Women</i>
<b>1:35-2:30</b> <b>[5 mins]</b>	<p><b>Plenary discussion</b></p> <p><b>Lead respondent</b> <b>Lori Michau – Uganda, Raising Voices – Mobilising communities for change</b></p> <p><b>Possible discussion questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What do we understand about the process of changing norms – what has worked and what has not worked?</li> <li>- What actors and groups should be engaged in changing which norms and practices?</li> <li>- How should these actors and groups be engaged?</li> <li>- What promising practices have been used to date?</li> <li>- How do we make these practices sustainable at a scale that creates and meets the demand at a national level?</li> <li>- What monitoring and evaluation frameworks have been used to evaluate the impact of initiatives undertaken?</li> <li>- What challenges remain for further implementation and replication of promising practices?</li> <li>- What efforts are required to support institutional change (e.g. capacity-building etc.)?</li> </ul>
<b>2:30-3.00</b>	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
<b>3.00-5.30</b>	<b>Working groups on practices and interventions to prevent violence against women and girls</b> <b>(3 topics)</b>
	<b><u>Working group 1</u></b>

[5 mins each]	<p><b>Transforming institutions (e.g. religious, governments/local authorities, police/military, educational institutions).</b></p> <p><b>Introductory remarks by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Margaret Grape</b> – World Council of Churches – <i>Engaging religious and faith institutions</i></li> <li>- <b>Fatuma Chege, Kenya</b> , Kenyatta University – <i>Tertiary Education</i></li> <li>- <b>Nandita Bhatla, ICRW</b> – <i>Schools, Workplaces and other organisations</i></li> </ul>
[5 mins each]	<p><b><u>Working group 2</u></b></p> <p><b>Working with Communities and Groups</b></p> <p><b>Introductory remarks by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Mallika Dutt, India</b>, Breakthrough-<i>Social mobilisation campaigns</i></li> <li>- <b>Marai Larasi, UK</b>, EVAW Coalition- <i>Working with the media</i></li> <li>- <b>Shamima Ali – Fiji</b>, Fiji Women’s Crisis Centre – <i>Local community education and awareness-raising</i></li> </ul>
[5 mins each]	<p><b><u>Working group 3</u></b></p> <p><b>Working with Individuals</b></p> <p><b>Introductory remarks by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Dean Peacock, South Africa</b>, Sonke Gender Justice – <i>Men and Boys</i></li> <li>- <b>Tatiana Moura – Brazil</b>, Promundo – <i>Principles of replication and Scaling up Effective Primary Prevention of VAW with young people - A Case Study of Promundo’s Programs H and M</i></li> <li>- <b>Keshan Latchman, Trinidad/Tobago</b>-<i>Adolescents and young people</i></li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2012</b>	
<b>8:30-10.00</b>	<b>Continuation of working groups</b>
<b>10:00-10:30</b>	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
<b>10:30-12.00</b>	<p><b>Working groups to report back to plenary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rationale, key issues, key gaps/challenges, promising practices, negative experiences, replication principles</li> <li>- Monitoring and evaluation of impact</li> <li>- Recommendations</li> </ul>
<b>12.00-1:00</b>	<i>Lunch</i>
<b>1:00-2:30</b>	<b>Research, monitoring and evaluation</b>

	<b>Plenary discussion</b>
[5 mins]	<p><b>Introductory remarks by:</b>  <b>Henriette Jansen, Asia Pacific</b>, Independent Consultant – <i>Prevalence surveys on violence against women - Challenges around indicators, data collection and use</i></p> <p><b>Possible discussion questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is the role of data on prevalence of VAW in stimulating States and other stakeholders to implement VAW prevention?</li> <li>- What are the challenges for evaluation and monitoring of prevention initiatives and programmes?</li> <li>- How do we consistently measure changes in social expectations, beliefs and attitudes relating to violence against women?</li> <li>- What are the principles of replication and upscaling of such programmes?</li> <li>- What type of national, regional and international monitoring mechanisms should be in place for monitoring and evaluation purposes?</li> </ul>
2.30-3.00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
3:00-4.30	<b>Holistic, multisectoral and sustainable prevention strategies</b>
3:00-3:10	<b>Lara Fergus, Australia</b> , Independent Consultant
3:10-4:30	<p><b>Plenary discussion</b></p> <p><b>Possible discussion questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What actions should governments take to ensure holistic, multisectoral and sustainable strategies for prevention of violence against women and girls?</li> <li>- What types of mechanisms exist to ensure a holistic, multisectoral and sustainable approach to prevention?</li> <li>- What promising practices exist to ensure holistic, multisectoral and sustainable prevention strategies?</li> </ul>
4:30-5:30	<b>Conclusions and recommendations from Day 3 (to be presented by the Chair)</b>
<b>Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2012</b>	
8.30-10.00	<b>Discussion on findings and recommendations from all working groups</b>
10.00-10:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:30-12:00	<b>Consolidation and adoption of findings and recommendations</b>
12.00-1.00	<i>Lunch</i>
1.00-2.30	<b>Discussion of draft outline of report</b>
2.30-3:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
3.00-4:30	<b>Adoption of draft outline of report</b>
4.30-5:00	<b>Closing Remarks - Saraswathi Menon, UN Women</b>