

ENDING VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN
AND GIRLS

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

When you have been
raped:

Ensure your personal
safety by going to a
safe place like a
hospital or police
station

Don't shower, bathe,
brush your teeth, cut
your nails or throw
away your clothes;
preserve the clothes
in a brown bag

Get preventive treat-
ment for HIV/AIDS,
STI's, pregnancy
within 72 hrs.

Report the matter to
the police and seek
psychological coun-
selling

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THE KIBERA GBV LINK

A NEWSLETTER FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT LINK

(Kibera GBV Working Group Edition)

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Kibera Gender Based Violence Working Group

Kibera is the largest slum in Africa with a population of 170,070 according to the 2009 Kenya population and Housing census reports with the residents coming from all the major ethnic backgrounds of Kenya. Poor infrastructure affects the delivery of health care services, water and sanitation, and the economic livelihood of the Kibera community with these dire conditions becoming catalysts for high alcohol and substance abuse, which previous data has shown to be contributing factors of Gender Based Violence.

After carrying out a thorough research, Women's Empowerment Link (WEL) in collaboration with USAID APHIA II 2010 managed to successfully establish a GBV working

group as a coordination team with members drawn from the local administration, Community Based Organizations, Faith Based Organizations and relevant government ministries dealing with response



Members of the Kibera
Working Group during a
meeting session

and prevention of GBV. The capacity of the working group and prevention of GBV. The members were then trained on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) prevention

and response and thus formed response, referral, medical and legal teams.

The members then worked together to map out organizations doing similar work to avoid duplication of activities already being implemented by other organizations and identify linking partners for convenient referrals and coordination of activities. Group dynamics was also highly emphasized to ensure all members would learn how to work well with each other cohesively. Both men and women comprise part of the Kibera working group but the key component was using men to reach out to other men to bring Sexual and Gender Based Violence to an end via a concept that would help men reach out to other men.

A Case Study by the Kibera Working Group

The Kibera working group members have handled cases since their inception with cases ranging from rape, child defilement, child labor, child abuse, domestic violence, and many other atrocities.

One such case the working group has handled was that of a child who lived with her aunt and uncle who repeatedly beat her up, including the aunt inserting

bottles into her private parts causing the child to have bladder problems whereas the uncle would rape the girl. The working group members came in and took the girl to the Kenyatta National Hospital and immediately put on ARV's after doctors discovered she had contracted HIV and then taken to a shelter after consultation with CLAN.

Both the uncle and aunt of the girl were arrested.

**ENHANCING SECURITY OF
WOMEN AND GIRLS
REFERRAL WITH A
DIFFERENCE!**

Share your success stories

The Safe Spaces/Shelters



WEL staff distributing bed sheets to a safe shelter representative

What next after networking?

In 2010, WEL then partnered with Pathfinder International and enhancing & establishing safe spaces and shelters with a vision of ensuring that SGBV survivors were guaranteed security, social welfare and referral to organizations where they can seek further help and ensure abuse does not recur.

Nine safe spaces and shelters were identified and established and the representatives trained on survivors management, referral procedures, preserva-

tion of evidence, basic trauma counseling sexual Offences Act; children's Act and HIV/AIDS. To facilitate Economic empowerment the shelters owners were trained with entrepreneurial skills .

Why safe spaces & shelters?

Women and girls everyday continue to be violated in the private, public and learning institution as well as work-places. Their security is paramount while they receive other support.

“ The safe spaces act as havens to the abused women and children, survivors of SGBV in Kibera.

Support a survivor by providing dry foods; clothes , shoes & beddings !!

Call Nancy from WEL on 0711 907 132

“No country can be developed or become democratic if women are not recognized as equal social, economic and political factors”

The Safe Havens

According to Lydia, a member of the referral working group in Soweto, the concept of the safe spaces and safe shelters have helped a lot of women, girls and boys in the area who have undergone SGBV since they are taken to these havens albeit temporarily as they undergo psychosocial counseling. *“We handle SGBV cases every single day, says Lydia”. Violation of women and children is an everyday norm in Kibera. “One recent case I dealt with was of a 7 year old girl who was raped by*

their neighbour and were it not for the fact that another neighbour saw the girl leaving the man's house, then her rape ordeal would have gone unknown and un-reported. We're glad the neighbour was concerned and keen enough to notice that Angel (not her real name), didn't reply when her mother was calling her and questioned the young girl after she came out of the man's house, said Lydia. Angel in response said that the man had raped her. According to Lydia, if this had

happened in the yesteryears, it would have been difficult for Angel to access any form of help but since the safe spaces were established, a great deal had changed. Lydia, with two members of her working group took her to Silanga Dispensary where she was given Prophylaxis Emergency Pills (PEP) and then referred on to Kenyatta Hospital for further tests and then to Kilimani Police Station where a warrant of arrest was handed out. While hosted at a safe haven

The Working Group on the 16 Days of Activism

The Kibera working group chair, Yasmin, during last year's Sita Kimya campaign



The 16 days of activism is an international campaign that is commemorated every year in fighting violence against women and the working group members dove headlong in commemorating this day last year. Sita Kimya was about refusing to

allow social pressure to stop both women and men in the society from talking about GBV.

The working group synchronized concurrent programs on behavior change through the use of film and art. The working group also mobilized for the event through the use of megaphones and flyers. The

official launch took place on the 26th of November with participants walking to the D.C's office via Makina.

Medical, legal and referral services were offered to both survivors and those who wanted to know more about fighting GBV. The group received overwhelming support by APHIA II and UNFPA

Safe Space/Shelter Launch



A Safe space representative addressing participants during the stakeholders' launch of the safe spaces



Safe space/shelter representatives at a group discussion in a training SGBV

“Together, we can build Empower, & protect Women for a just society for all”

The life of Kibera Working Group

Challenges are an everyday occurrence in day to day life and despite all the effort that has been put through by the working group members and their partners, they still encounter obstacles, some more demanding than others.

According to a member of the working group, some of the challenges they continue to experience include : cultural practices like fe-

male genital mutilation, religious beliefs and practices; limited numbers of safe shelters and spaces, limited financial resources to deal with large numbers of survivors of gender based violence; and poor infrastructures

The government has contributed to the shelters through occasional food rationing however for long-term growth the government will

be expected to offer security for the women survivors. The help with this initiative of sustaining these safe spaces and shelters since it is one of their required mandates to protect all its citizens and we feel like they are neglecting these survivors of sexual and gender based violence by not offering any sort of reprieve for them and ensuring that they transition to a bet-

Insecurity

Another obstacle that was highly emphasized by the working group members was security in the safe spaces & shelters which also seems to safe spaces and shelters. The representatives said they sometimes receive cases which end up being a source of danger to both themselves and their families.

Pamela, the Paradise shelter repre-

sentative gives an example of a case she received from Githurai of a minor who was involved with a vigilant group adherent and wanted to get married to the man but her father opposed the marriage and took the girl to the shelter. The man traced the shelter with the help of other members and they ambushed Pamela. She was forced to return the minor to her father's

custody.

The security of the survivor is paramount and the engagement of the police administration is to be enhanced .



An overview of the Kibera slum



Women's Empowerment Link

P. o. Box 22574-00100
Nairobi, Kenya
Muringa Rd. & Elgeyo Marakwet Junction
Off Ngong Road
Opposite Red Cliff gardens

Phone: 0711 907 132/ 0732 574 060

E-mail: info@wel.or.ke

Facebook ID: Women's Empowerment Link

Twitter ID: Women's .E. Link

**For the Strength of Women; For the
Strength of Africa**

ABOUT WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT LINK

Women's Empowerment Link (WEL) is a non-profit, non partisan non-governmental women rights organization committed to empowering women and girls to realize their potential, worth and strength politically, socially and economically through advocating for opportunities that explore their potential. WEL recognizes that the survival of women and girls is increasingly being challenged by economic dependency, illiteracy, Sexual & gender based violence (SGBV), HIV/AIDS, gender inequalities & marginalization, conflict, insensitive laws & policies which underscore WEL's purposeful programming on five key thematic areas:-

- Women Economic Empowerment
- Access to Education
- Reproductive health and rights
- Sexual & Gender based violence & HIV/AIDS
- Transformative leadership & Governance

WEL's Mission: To empower women to realize, exercise their rights and freedoms, and access opportunities and privileges towards gender equality.

WEL's Vision: A society that is gender sensitive where women and men have equal rights and opportunities for a just society



Addressing Economic Challenges

Interventions were designed with background knowledge that there is a need to focus on economic opportunities and livelihood support to address GBV in Kibera.

Economic empowerment indeed reduces pressure on households resulting in a decrease in the risk of violence for women while expanding the range of livelihood choices open to them

The main objective by WEL on this project was to economically empower women groups including survivors of Gender based violence in Kibera with skills to enhance their individual livelihood and reduce their vulnerable to SGBV Through this training, they managed to formed women groups where they practiced Savings and Loan.

The GS&L training expounds on different levels of saving and loans business management strategies and further equips women on

selection of entrepreneurial ventures. Since the people trained were representatives from various groups they came up with work plans on how they would reach the other group members and the community members and the trainings have enabled the representatives to operate as better and stronger individuals.



Women leaders economic empowerment training