

16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence

“From Peace at Home to Peace in the World”

The interrelation of Armed Violence and Violence against Women

2nd December 2011, 9:00 am-13: 00pm

Maison des associations, 15 Rue des Savoises, 1205 Geneva

Co-organisation :



1. Welcome and keynote address

The welcome speech was made by Ms Colette Samoya, member of PWAG, co-founder and Coordinator of BANGWE and DIALOGUE, main organizer of the event; she welcomed the keynote speakers, panellists and participants of the workshop, for their commitment and time.

Subsequently, she called upon Ms. Ruth-Gaby Vermot –MANGOLD, President of PWAG and former member of Swiss Parliament, member of Council of Europe, deliver the keynote address. In her speech she emphasized that violence against women needs special focus, as it is a recurrent problem with very gradual and little improvement. She referred to some of the practical coping mechanisms suggested earlier by the UN Women Executive Director, Mrs Michelle BACHELET, highlighting on impunity, compensation, protection for victims, and working towards changing paradigm of masculinity. At the conclusion of her address she called to the attention of participants the fact that elimination of violence has to do with behavioural change; and International organizations to avert violence against women.

Ms Alanna ARMITAGE, Director UNFPA, Geneva Office, made her speech in which she highlighted that violence is violation of Human Rights and that it is now time to call for the elimination of all its forms. She further explained actions being taken by her Organization in support of every effort being made to break silence, working in partnership with various organizations to end sexual and gender-based violence, fostering change in the dominant notions of masculinity and femininity, with particular emphasis on engaging boys and men as in all discourse.

Panel Discussion/ Panellists

After the break, the moderator of the session, Ms Elly PRADERVAND, WWSF CEO, introduced each of the three panellists respectively, Ms Christiane AGBOTON JOHNSON, Deputy Director of UNIDIR, and nominee for 1000 Women Peace Noble Price for 2005 who spoke on the subject of small arms and

light weapons (SALW) which are the commonly used tools for perpetrating armed violence whether in domestic sphere or in situation of conflict, post conflict time so called “peaceful environment “;

Dr Christiane emphasized on initiatives taken by the UN , specifically UNPOA on SALW and the Arms Trade Treaty , as these two processes are on their agenda for upcoming UN convention, and the work achieved by the IANSA Women’s Network. She noted with much regret that the participation of women in debates related to SALW and ammunitions, security, defence, negotiations on regulating arms trade and control of arms circulations has been very minimal. In her further remarks she underlined the importance of having a mainstreaming gender in some discussions (inclusion of ammunition in an ATT, do we have to regulate the legal trade versus illegal, why women and are not involved in the POA’s national coordination mechanism# or SSR processes, how to have women’s and broader human security issues taken into account in the ATT process.

In her concluding remarks, Dr AGBOTON JOHNSON suggested that women organisations:

Engage in a strategic networking with relevant organizations working on the issue;

Use a holistic approach in dealing with violence against women: trouver des espaces de coordination avec les structures travaillant sur la CEDAW, la Res 1325,1820, UNPoA, ATT, etc

In conclusion she called on participant organizations at the workshop to put together a message for Mrs Ambassador Joy OGU, the Chair designated of the next Review conference of the UNPOA for relevant intervention.

Ms Nyaradzayi GUMBONZVANDA, General Secretary of World YWCA, delivered her presentation, which highlighted on VAW as core issue for it is about Human Rights and peace. In her presentation she stressed that there would be no peace without achievement of justice and proposed the following comprehensive approaches for protection of victims and prevention of the violence against women.

Intergenerational approach: Informing, persuading and engaging young people, especially those who were once actors and perpetrators of violence to be parties to peace building. Thus, the older generation would be engaged as coaches and promoters of peaceful coexistence.

Use of Social Media: Address the negative impacts of social media on younger generations and work towards creatively and positively using both telephone and other social media for conflict prevention and dialogue.

Seek possibilities for presentation of the recommendations from this workshop to the CEDAW convention due to take place in Feb. 2012.

Facilitate immediate registration for side event presentation on “rural women” to help in bringing their issues from general to specific thematic level.

Mr. Ireneo OMOSITSON NAMBOKA, Expert trainer retired, UNHCHR, addressed the issues of masculine violence, emphasising the general perception of male human being as exclusive symbol of manhood worldwide. According to the speaker, masculine domination extends to forming content of history, taking names of places, cities, museums etc. In response to such a phenomenon He suggested the following as partial means to bring masculine violence to an end: -

Encouraging parts played by men and women as role models.

We also have to act for reshaping home and family life values of the modern day.

Evaluating and Challenging content and forms of media entertainments.

Engage in advocacy work to towards gender faire legislations and political decision-making in relevant contexts.

Promote racial harmony and gender justice.

As a feedback to the panel presentation, the participants of workshop raised questions and deliberated on the following items and proposals.

Youth must promote the role of mothers for recognition by present and future generations. Main areas of emphasis included proper care skill transformation and character development. As a motivational factor it was suggested that tokens of appreciations be given to mothers who are seen as role models in bringing up their children.

Advocate for transformation of media related games, films and varieties of entertainments in such a way that they play positive character and peace building roles.

Seek a space in the upcoming ITU meeting and present a petition against massive allocation of military and arms budget in various countries; in view of alleviating domestic and social violence against women triggered by arms in conflicts.

Encourage committed men to work in synergic approach

Conclusion and Closing Remarks

The workshop was concluded by remarks made by Mme Colette SAMOYA. In her remarks she expressed her gratitude to the keynote speaker, presenters and panellists for their important contributions and concrete recommendations through addressing issues of mutual concern and the theme of the day. More specifically she thanked the UNFPA for sponsoring this consultation. She also thanked the moderator of the day for engaging leadership and participants for lively inputs. She expressed special thanks to the interpreter.

December 2011

By

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&

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