Violence against women

What non-governmental organizations are doing

Over the last decade, in all parts of the world, movements to end violence against women have emerged at local and national levels. Countless organizations, collectives and ad-hoc groups are working for change in many sectors. WHO recognises the effort of these organizations, not only in advocacy but also in developing strategies, services and counselling to respond to the needs of women. The commitment of these non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and many individuals has put the issue on the international agenda and promoted discussion of strategies, at national and international levels, to deal with violence against women. Examples of their work can be found in the information sheets, Violence against women in families and Rape and sexual assault.

Growing awareness of violence against women, spearheaded by the efforts of hundreds of women’s organizations, has resulted in a range of initiatives that deal with the problem at almost every level of society. Most of the NGOs working in the field of reproductive rights, reproductive health, and women’s health, women refugees, include violence against women in their mandate. We provide here a profile of several regional organizations working on violence against women and involved in networking. The reader may also look to their local or national organizations for further information.

Asian Pacific Resource & Research Centre for Women (Arrow)
2nd Floor, Block F, Anjung Felda
Jalan Maktab
54000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Tel: (603) 2929913
Fax: (603) 2929958
E-mail arrow@po.jaring.my
Homepage: http://www.asiaconnect.com.my/arrow/

ARROW produces bibliographies, annotated resource materials and a bulletin. A recent issue of the bulletin was entitled Violence against women: a silent pandemic. The organization advocates for more extensive national data collection and research, gender sensitive health interventions and swift implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

Coordination of Women’s Advocacy
CH-1271 Givrins, Switzerland
Tel: (22) 369 4090
Fax: (22) 369 4070
E-mail: cwa@iprolink.ch

Coordination of Women’s Advocacy is a network which consists of women in twelve countries specialized in legal, psychosocial and medical, developmental and emergency aspects of women’s human rights abuses in times of war and conflict.

Health and Development Policy Project (HDPP)
6930 Carroll Ave, Suite 430
Takoma Park
Maryland 20912, USA
Tel: (301) 270 1182
Fax: (301) 270 2052
E-mail: hdpp@igc.apc.org
HDPP works to ensure that the field of international health becomes a constructive force in addressing violence against women. Presently, HDPP is developing a manual on conducting research on gender-based violence and is collaborating with in-country partners to implement pilot prevention projects.

Isis-Women’s International Cross-Cultural Exchange (Isis-WICCE)
P.O. Box 4934
Kampala, Uganda
Tel: (256 41) 244007/8
Fax: (256 41) 268676
E-mail: isis@starcom.co.ug

Isis-WICCE works to change the social, economic, political and cultural institutions that perpetuate or reinforce gender violence. It carries out advocacy work through the provision and exchange of information with women, using an international cross-cultural exchange programme. Isis-WICCE also provides information to influential actors and policy-makers.

Latin American and Caribbean Women’s Network against Domestic and Sexual Violence
Casilla 2067, Correo Central
Santiago, Chile
Tel: (562) 633 4582
Fax: (562) 638 3142
E-mail: isis@reuna.cl

The Network has members in most countries of the region. It has ensured the issue of violence against women is on the public agenda through organizing seminars, coordinating regional campaigns, and raising the issue with governments and international organisations. The Network produces a quarterly newsletter, ‘Boletin’.

Match International Centre
200 Elgin Street, Suite 1102
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K2P 1L5
Tel: (613) 238 1312
Fax: (613) 238 6867
E-mail: matchint@web.apc.org

Match International is a development agency which works collaborates with women’s groups in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and South America. In partnership with Match, women around the world are setting up sensitization campaigns, awareness raising activities, assertiveness and para-legal training, popular theatre, and action research to tackle the issue of violence against women.

Women in Law and Development, Africa (WiLDAF)
PO Box 4622
Harare, Zimbabwe
Tel: (263-4) 752105
Fax: (263-4) 733670

WiLDAF, a Pan-African Women’s Human Rights Network with membership in more than 22 countries, works for the promotion and protection of women’s human rights. They lobby governments for policy and law reform, advocacy, and public eduction on violence against women. Each year, from 25 November to 10 December, WiLDAF organizes the campaign, 16 Days of Activism on Gender Violence.