From: Ine Vanwesenbeeck [mailto:i.vanwesenbeeck@rutgers.nl]
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 4:39 PM
To: violencegap
Cc: Willy van Berlo; 'Ennis, Ruth.‘; Ine Vanwesenbeeck; 'Barbara Krahé'
Subject: comment to the draft global plan of action to strengthen the role of the health system to address interpersonal violence

Dear WHO colleagues,

Let me start by extending my sincere compliments for your second draft Global Plan of Action to strengthen the role of the health system to address interpersonal violence. It certainly covers a lot of ground and definitely deals with many of the most urgent needs.

However, I also take the opportunity to draw your attention to the group of young people specifically, not least adolescent girls (and boys) and young adult women (and men). In many reports and action plans relating to the fight against (notably sexual) aggression and victimization, youth often fall between two stools of, on the one hand, policies targeting (aggressors of) adult partnered victims and, on the other hand, actions targeting (perpetrators of abuse of) innocent children. Adolescent girls starting their sexual careers or young adult women developing their intimate lives may identify with neither of these categories. This is an all the more regrettable fact because sexual victimization is highly prevalent among youth specifically. Your draft Plan most certainly does take girls into account as well as women, but I take the liberty to once more stress the need of targeted action towards the group of girls (and boys) and young women (and men) that tend to not be addressed in many actions in this field.

I therefore forward some of the products from a European collaborative project on Youth Sexual Aggression and Victimization (YSAV) that has received funding from the European Union in the framework of the Health Program and was conducted between July 2010 and December 2013. The documents attached comprise:

- the laymen’s report out of the project (YSAV summary),
- a youth statement on the matter developed during our conference in 2013,
- a report with recommendations on combatting YSAV in the European Union
- two of our scientific publications on prevalence and factors in Youth Sexual Aggression and Victimisation In the EU (Krahé et al. 2014, 2015).

I do hope this information will be helpful in formulating your final Plan of Action.

Kind regards,

Prof. dr. Ine Vanwesenbeeck
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