GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION
NEWSLETTER N° 1 — JANUARY 2003

This is the first edition of a new quarterly newsletter of the Global Campaign for Violence Prevention, through which the World Health Organization will update campaign members and other interested parties on activities surrounding the campaign. It is hoped that this newsletter will help in sharing information, generating discussion on violence prevention activities, and encouraging initiatives to achieve the aims of the Global Campaign for Violence Prevention.

WORLD REPORT ON VIOLENCE AND HEALTH

In October 2002, WHO launched the World report on violence and health, the first report of its kind to address violence as a global public health problem. While figures from the Report illustrate the severity of the problem, many acts of violence are in fact hidden from public view and go unreported. As stated in the Report, every day around the world over 4,000 people die violent deaths – at the hands of other individuals, through suicide or as a result of war. Many thousands more are injured or suffer other serious health consequences as victims, perpetrators or witnesses of violence. In addition to these many tens of thousands of lives destroyed and families shattered, huge economic resources are diverted – in a direct way for treating victims, supporting families, rebuilding infrastructure, and prosecuting perpetrators, as well as indirectly through loss of productivity.

This Report makes a major contribution to our understanding of violence and its impact on societies. It illuminates the different faces of violence, from the “invisible” suffering of society’s most vulnerable individuals to the all-too-visible tragedy of societies in conflict. It advances our analysis of the factors that lead to violence, and the possible responses of different sectors of society. And in doing so, it reminds us that safety and security don’t just happen: they are the result of collective consensus and public investment.

The Report examines in depth a broad spectrum of violence, including child abuse and neglect by caregivers, youth violence, intimate partner violence, sexual violence, elder abuse, self-inflicted violence and collective violence. For all of these types of violence, their magnitude and impact in different cultural, social and economic settings is explored, with descriptions of the various prevention efforts that have been proposed or undertaken. In a foreword to the Report, Nelson Mandela wrote:

For those of us involved in violence against women, the Report is a huge achievement, the end of a ten-year campaign to highlight the issue of violence against women - Mrs Lori Heise, Senior Associate, Programme on Appropriate Technology in Health at the global launch of the World report on violence and health

The World report on violence and health, and its accompanying summary document, were launched at the Egmont Palace in Brussels on 3 October 2002, at a gathering hosted by the Government of Belgium. The approximately 200 participants included: His Majesty King Albert II of Belgium; Mr Guy Verhofstadt, Prime Minister of Belgium;

Our humble task it to give equal value to every human life every moment of the day. The report is the first step to breaking the silence about violence and its myriad consequences - Dr Derek Yach, Executive Director, Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health, WHO at the global launch of the World report on violence and health

A summary of the World report on violence and health is available in seven languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish

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Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland, Director-General of WHO; Ms Anna Diamantopoulou, European Union Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs; Mr Antanas Mockus Sivickas, Mayor of Bogotá, Colombia; as well as ministers and ambassadors from various countries, and leading members of NGOs and other organizations involved in violence prevention.

The successful global launch of the Report provided an occasion to set out a clear agenda for combating violence and dealing with its victims and to call for collaboration – both internationally and between governments and civil society – to implement the Report’s recommendations and support the Global Campaign for Violence Prevention.

The World report on violence and health, edited by E. Krug, L. Dahlberg, J. Mercy, A. Zwi, and R. Lozano is available in PDF format at: http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/ or can be ordered by writing to bookorders@who.int.

I deeply appreciate the effort of WHO to develop this Report. Putting violence in a broader perspective, involving different sectors, is so much needed. Too often, the policing approach is a reactive one. The World report on violence and health will help us, in India and also world over, develop a pro-active approach of policing to tackle the problem of violence

- Dr UNB Rao, IPS, Joint Commissioner of Police, Delhi, India at the regional launch for South East Asia in Delhi, India

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Following the launch of the World report on violence and health, Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland, Director-General of WHO, launched the Global Campaign for Violence Prevention. The objectives of this campaign are:

- to raise awareness about violence as a major public health problem, including raising awareness about the impact of violence on public health and the role that public health can play in the prevention of violence

- to advocate for increased human and financial resources for violence prevention at local, national and international levels.

The Campaign aims to promote discussion and debate about violence and concrete ways of implementing the Report’s recommendations. Up to the time of writing, 19 national or regional releases of the Report have taken place (see Table on page 3), with strong support from WHO Regional and Country Offices. These launches bring together the various sectors involved in violence prevention, and provide a useful means for highlighting the impact of violence in the particular country or region and discussing prevention activities at national and community levels.

From left to right, Ms Anna Diamantopoulou, European Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs; King Albert II of Belgium; and Mr Guy Verhofstadt, Prime Minister of Belgium, at the global launch of the Report in Brussels, Belgium.

Dr Etienne Krug, Director of WHO’s Department of Injuries and Violence Prevention (left), and Mr Marcos Luidzon de Arauja from the Xukuru's de Ororuba (centre) at the launch of the Report in Brasilia, Brazil.

Dr Etienne Krug handing over the World Report on Violence and Health to Mrs Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, South African Minister of Health, at the launch in Port Shepstone, South Africa.
## Events Related to the Global Campaign for Violence Prevention

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Event and Follow-up Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>03.10.2002</td>
<td>Brussels, Belgium</td>
<td>Global launch of the <em>World report on violence and health</em>.</td>
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<td>16.10.2002</td>
<td>Bogotá, Colombia</td>
<td>Subregional launch for Andean countries. In the “Declaración de Bogotá” the Vice-ministers of Health for Colombia, Peru and Venezuela pledge to address violence as a public health problem in the region. The Colombian Vice-Minister of Health announces that the nine recommendations of the Report will be included in the country’s new National Plan of Action.</td>
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<td>28.10.2002</td>
<td>Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>Country launch, with the Minister of Health attending.</td>
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<td>03.11.2002</td>
<td>European Parliament</td>
<td>Presentation. Parliamentarians to the sub group on Women’s Rights welcome the Report and call for a European year on violence prevention.</td>
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<td>15.11.2002</td>
<td>New Delhi, India</td>
<td>Regional launch for South East Asia. Press launch by Dr Uton, WHO Regional Director, followed by a seminar in which the implementation of the Report in the South East Asia Region is discussed.</td>
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<td>18.11.2002</td>
<td>Lima, Peru</td>
<td>Presentation at the meeting of the Ministers of Health from the Andes subregion.</td>
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<td>18.11.2002</td>
<td>Sydney, Australia</td>
<td>Conference entitled “World report on violence and health: the Australian response”. Commitments are made for a plan of action based on the recommendations of the Report. A follow-up national seminar will be held in March 2003. The <em>World report on violence and health</em> will be discussed further at the first Asia-Pacific Conference for Injury Prevention (Perth, 03.2003).</td>
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<td>27.11.2002</td>
<td>Manila, Philippines</td>
<td>Country launch with the participation of the Director of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women.</td>
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<td>09.12.2002</td>
<td>Port Shepstone, South Africa</td>
<td>Country launch attended by 5,000 participants. The Minister of Health commits the country to implementing the recommendations of the <em>World report on violence and health</em>.</td>
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<td>14.12.2002</td>
<td>Brasilia, Brazil</td>
<td>Country launch of the Portuguese version of the <em>World report on violence and health</em> translated and printed by the Ministry of Justice. Participants commit themselves to creating a network for violence prevention and producing a document on successful violence prevention approaches in Brazil. They also agree to hold annual follow-up meetings and local launches. During an official memorial ceremony, the Secretary of State for Human Rights announces the creation of the João Yunes Violence Prevention Award. This will be given every year by the President, on Human Rights Day, to a leading person or agency involved in violence prevention.</td>
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<td>16.12.2002</td>
<td>Maputo, Mozambique</td>
<td>Country launch by Dr Pascoal Mocumbi, Prime Minister of Mozambique.</td>
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To date, some 15,000 copies of the Report have been disseminated – to Ministries of Health, Justice and Education, WHO Collaborating Centres, NGOs, libraries, academic institutions, journals and commercial book distributors throughout the world. A number of educational institutions, have announced that they will use the Report as required reading for their courses. In addition, extensive media coverage has been important in spreading the Report’s messages. More than 500 press articles on the Report have already been published in over 70 countries. The Report has also stimulated discussion on violence as a public health issue in the scientific press. Some 20 editorials, articles or reviews have appeared in leading journals such as the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health, the British Medical Journal, the Indian Journal of Medical Research, Injury Prevention, Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, The Lancet, and the South African Medical Journal.

Rosalie Wolf Memorial Elder Abuse Prevention Award

The Department of Injuries and Violence Prevention and the Ageing and Life Course Programme, WHO were presented the Rosalie Wolf Memorial Elder Abuse Prevention Award for their dedication and commitment to preventing and reducing the incidence of elder abuse. The annual award was established by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the Family Violence & Sexual Assault Institute to commemorate the life of Dr. Rosalie Wolf, who served as President of the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, founding Chairperson of INPEA, and was a lead contributor to the Chapter on Elder Abuse.

UN COLLABORATION

In January 2003, WHO published the Guide to UN resources and activities for the prevention of interpersonal violence, reflecting the work of 15 UN agencies to prevent interpersonal violence. The Guide was the result of a November 2001 meeting, hosted by WHO, which addressed violence occurring in the home, in schools, workplaces and communities. Its aims were to document current work of UN agencies on violence prevention and to identify areas for future UN collaboration. Participants recognized the major role that most UN agencies have to play in preventing interpersonal violence, and they committed to collaborating on joint activities in research, prevention and advocacy. In a message supporting the Guide, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan noted that the roots of violence are deep and complex, and that its prevention requires collaboration across all sectors of society, as well as the engagement of many parts of the UN system. The Guide is available on our website or can be ordered by writing to bookorders@who.int.

For more information on the Campaign, contact Sabine van Tuyl, Communications Officer, Injuries and Violence Prevention, WHO, CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland; tel: +41 22 791 3342; e-mail: vantuyls@who.int or visit http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/

The WHO wishes to thank the California Wellness Foundation, The Global Forum for Health Research, the Governments of Belgium, Brazil, Japan, Sweden and the United Kingdom, the Rockefeller Foundation and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, for their generous financial support for the campaign and for the development and publication of the Report.

LOOKING AHEAD

A number of important events have been planned for the coming months.

• In mid-January 2003, members of the WHO Executive Board will discuss the Report and consider a proposed WHA Resolution on implementing the Report’s recommendations.
• In 2003, launches are being planned in more than 20 countries including Croatia, Jamaica, Jordan, Mexico, the Russian Federation, Thailand and the United States of America.
• On the 30th of January, the Report will be presented in New York at an event hosted by the UN Department of Public Information for their community of NGOs. The theme of the event is: “Preventing violence, Promoting Health: Shared strategies.” This event will also open the Ghandi King Season for Nonviolence. Furthermore, events are being planned in Washington and in California.
• WHO will be holding a consultative meeting on Documenting Good Practices for Violence Prevention on the 6th and 7th of February 2003.

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