



Gender News

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Regional Workshop on Human Trafficking drafts a Plan of Action



Over the past decade, trafficking in persons has reached epidemic proportions and research has shown that no country, region or continent is immune to this form of organized crime. In Southern Africa trafficking in persons has become a major concern and there is growing awareness of the issue and the need for well-coordinated joint initiatives at the regional and sub-regional levels,

notably with the Confederation Cup and FIFA 2010 quickly approaching.

In recognition of this issue, SADC Secretariat and the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) have partnered on a regional project to strengthen the technical and legal capacity of Member States to address this crime. As part of phase one of the project, on March 16, representatives of eleven Member States and of different regional organisations gathered at the Protea Hotel in Pretoria, South Africa to discuss, strategize, and share experiences on human trafficking. Officers from the UNODC and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) gave presentations on the current situation of human trafficking in the region, while Ms. Magdeline Mathiba-Madibela, Head of the Gender Unit, presented human trafficking in relation to the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development. After presentations, Member States discussed a draft regional plan of action, which will be further negotiated at a subsequent Ministerial regional conference in May to be held in Maputo, Mozambique.

Defining the Terms

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

“Means the recruitment, transportation, harbouring or recruitment of persons, by means of threat, abuse of power, position of vulnerability, force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud or deception to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person for the purpose of amongst other things, sexual and financial exploitation”

- Article 1 of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, 2008

Gender and Daily Bread

The IOM has found that Angola, Botswana, DRC, Lesotho, Mozambique, Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe are all source countries for human trafficking in the Region. South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe are all transit countries, while the main destination country in the Region is South Africa.

- IOM 2009

Upcoming Gender Unit Business

Inception Workshop on Mainstreaming Gender in Trade Policy

21-22 April, 2009
Organised by the African Trade Policy Centre and UNECA
Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia

Women's Economic Empowerment, CHANCE Project Partners Meeting

11 May, 2009
JCCI House, Auckland Park, South Africa
SADC/InWent Capacity Building Project on Women in Trade

Human Trafficking Regional Conference

26-28 May, 2009
Finalising the SADC Strategic Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Humans, especially Women and Children
Maputo, Mozambique





Parade with GBV messages



Joyce Ramphaleng, GBV survivor, giving a testimony



H.E. Mr. D.F. Moopeloa, High Commissioner of R.S.A

International Women's Day 2009 is a Success!

SADC Secretariat celebrated International Women's Day 2009 at Cresta Lodge on March 13, 2009, under the theme "Women and Men: United to End Violence Against Women". With many people sporting the event t-shirt, the celebration began with a rousing introduction from the Head of the Gender Unit, Ms. Magdeline Mathiba-Madibela, followed by a traditional attire fashion show that set the tone for the event with strong messages against gender-based violence (GBV). Dr. Tomaz Augusto Salomao then gave a SADC statement to commemorate the event, stressing that "SADC fully acknowledges that regional, social and economic integration in the region will only be real and sustainable if all citizens of Southern Africa are safe from violence and abuse." His remarks were followed by an invigorating address by the keynote speaker, His Excellency Mr. D. F. Moopeloa, High Commissioner of the Republic of South Africa to Botswana. He spoke of the different causes of violence against women, and how it might be addressed. Mrs. Marty Legwaila, Director of Women's Affairs, spoke of violence against women in Botswana, while Mrs. Kgomotso More highlighted the work of the Women's Shelter, of which she is a director. Ms. Imelda Molokomme gave a summary of some of the experiences survivors of GBV have shared with her,

which can also be found in her book "Stories of Courage by Women" (2008).

Participants were moved, some to tears, by Ms. Joyce Ramphaleng, who told her story of how her husband abused her in countless ways for many years. When she was finally able to divorce him, he left her and her five children with nothing. Even with no job and no electricity, she explained the weight that was lifted from her shoulders and the happiness she is able to embrace now that she no longer fears her husband. The Gender Unit recognizes the incredible courage required to recount such a story, and is deeply appreciative of Ms. Ramphaleng for making the message of IWD 2009 tangible to participants.

The vibrant Ms. Priscilla Vencatachellapathée closed the event with a powerful poem "With No Immediate Cause" and an inspiring message from Maya Angelou. Mr. Omphemetse gave a vote of thanks. At the close of the proceedings, participants enjoyed refreshments and music. The Gender Unit thanks all participants for coming and sharing in the message of ending violence against women! We look forward to celebrating IWD 2010 with you!



GU on Retreat

From March 18 to 21, the Gender Unit stepped back from the hectic office atmosphere and went to Rustenburg, South Africa to reflect on the accomplishments of the past year and to plan ahead for 2009-2010. The GU is now ready to delve into another year of working towards gender equity in the Region. The GU would like to thank Dr. Mulumba, from SHD&SP, for being a part of our retreat; his reflections and inputs were invaluable.

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