

III. Behaviours accepted by Timorese Society

Intimate partner violence (commonly called Domestic Violence):

- A man has a right to assert power over a woman and is socially superior;
- A man has a right to “correct” or discipline a female behaviour;
- A woman’s freedom should be restricted;
- Physical violence is an acceptable way to resolve conflicts within a relationship;
- When a *barlak* (payment from the husband to the bride’s family) as a part of marriage, violence can occur because it becomes synonymous of purchasing and thus owning a wife;

Sexual violence:

- Sex is a man’s right in marriage;
- Sexual violence is an acceptable way to putting women in their place or punishing them;
- Sexual activity (including rape) is a marker of masculinity;
- Sexual violence such as rape is shameful for the victim, which prevents disclosure;

Youth violence:

Violence is acceptable way of resolving conflict.

Child maltreatment:

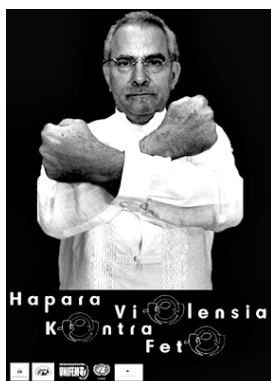
Female children are valued less in society than males, where female children are considered to have less social and economic potential;

Children have a low status in society and within the family;

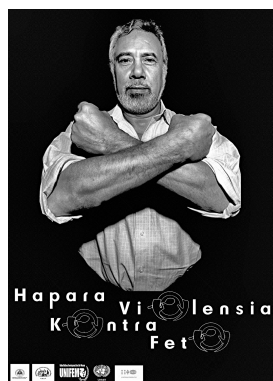
Physical punishment is an acceptable or normal part of rearing a child.

(Author, based on interview with Timorese people and WHO (2009))

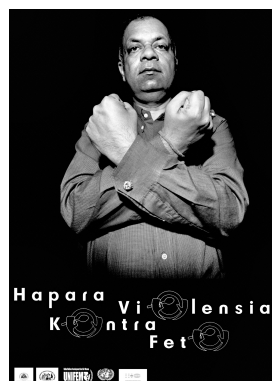
IV. Posters of the Campaign “*Hapara Violensia Kontra Feto*” (Stop Violence against Women)



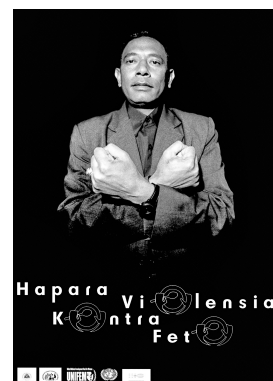
José Ramos-Horta, former President of the Republic of Timor-Leste



Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, Prime-Minister



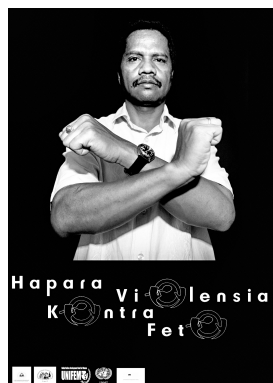
Atul Kare, former Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste



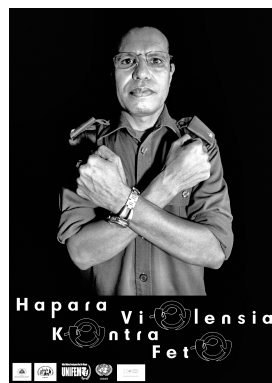
Fernando “Lasama” de Araújo, former President of the National Parliament and acting Vice Prime-Minister



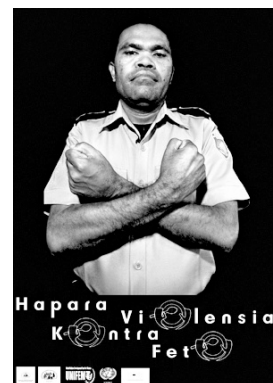
Cláudio Ximenes, Chief of Justice and President of the Court of Appeal



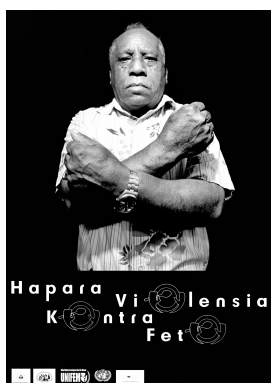
Aniceto Guterres Lopes, Member of the Parliament for FRETILIN



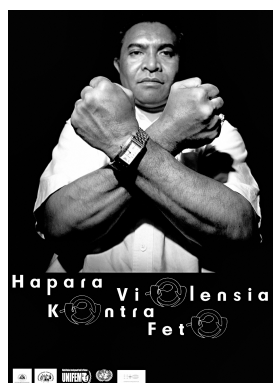
Taur Matan Ruak, former Commander-General of F-FDTL and acting President of Republic Democratic of Timor-Leste



Afonso de Jesus, Deputy of the Commander-General for Polícia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL)



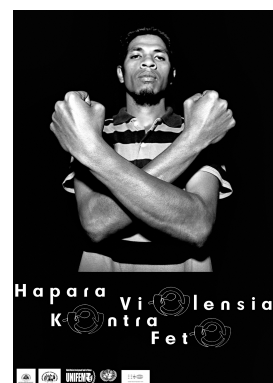
Francisco Xavier do Amaral, President of the political party Asosiasaun Demokrátiku Timor (ADST) (died on March 2012)



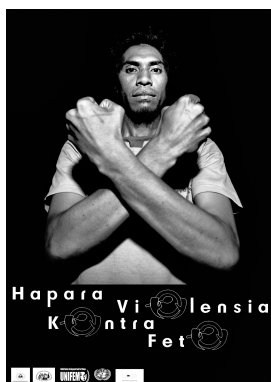
Rui Araújo, Adviser for Ministry of Health



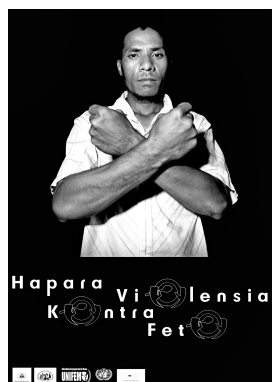
José Luís de Oliveira, Director of NGO HAK



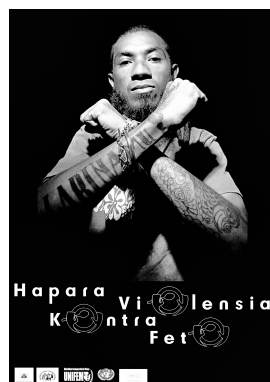
Olivio da Costa, Asosiasaun Mane Kontra Violensia (AMKV)



Florentino Fernando dos Reis,
Asosiasaun Mane Kontra
Violensia (AMKV)



Americo Santos, Asosiasaun
Mane Kontra Violensia
(AMKV)



Mely Galaxy, Citizen

V. Examples of communication materials used in Timor-Leste

Newsletter



Bringing Equality Home – Implementing CEDAW in Timor-Leste

human rights treaty to systematically and substantively address the needs of women. The Government of Timor-Leste acceded to CEDAW in April 2003, and this means that the State of Timor-Leste is obliged to respect, promote and protect women's rights and implement the provisions of the Convention.

For CEDAW to have meaning for women, it must be translated into the potential to improve women's lives and their societies.

Some key areas which need action in Timor-Leste include tackling low enrollment rate of girls in secondary and higher education, as well as girls' high drop-out rates; traditional attitudes, early pregnancies and early marriages that prevent accessibility to education; sexual abuse and harassment of girls by teachers and while on their way to school are enormous tasks. Similarly, addressing maternal and infant mortality rates which are extremely high in Timor-Leste, the lack of access, particularly in rural areas, to adequate pre-natal and post-natal care and family planning information require concerted efforts of the relevant Government ministries.

UNIFEM is the lead UN agency supporting SEPI and the Government as they work to improve the lives of Timorese women through implementing CEDAW in Timor-Leste.

16 Days campaign to End Violence Against Women launched in Occusse

The 16 days campaign against domestic violence against women this year was launched in Occusse, on 25th November 2009, by Vice Prime Minister Mr. José Luis Guterres and DSRSG Mr. Finn Riecke-Nielsen. Secretary of State for Natural Resource and acting of Promotion of Equality, Mr. Alfredo Pires, and Secretary of State for Regional of Occusse, Mr. Jorge Tenre, were also present.

Mr. Guterres in his speech said that the "Government puts all its efforts to combat domestic violence against women. This 16 days campaign is part of a national programme to push everybody to make an effort, together with the international community, to combat domestic violence". He also stressed that "if we want families and children to live in peace in this country, we should not use violence to solve problems".

UNMIT DSRSG Mr. Finn Riecke-Nielsen emphasized that "all violence against women must be stopped immediately. You



do not solve problems by way of violence... you solve problems by discussing issues and agreeing on solutions". The DSRSG added "this campaign is to raise awareness among women and men throughout Timor-Leste, that violence against women is unacceptable and must be stopped".

Three hundred participants attended the ceremony, which included an exhibition of local women handicrafts.

International Volunteer's Day

Volunteering can bring positive social change by fostering respect for diversity, equality and the participation of all. It is among society's most vital assets. Volunteers from all around the world are celebrated today as part of International Volunteer's Day. Timor-Leste has been one of the top hosting countries for United Nations Volunteers (UNV) worldwide. Since 1999, over 2500 UNVs have served here and 225 are currently working.



Not official document – for information only



In Timor-Leste, the Office of the Secretary of State for the Promotion of Equality (SEPI) chose as the theme, "The Law Against Domestic Violence: Protecting Me, Protecting My Family" for its 2010 campaign on the Elimination of Violence against Women (23 November to 10 December). The theme commemorates the landmark adoption of this legislation which, for the first time, clearly defines domestic violence as a public crime and provides for emergency medical, legal, psychological and shelter support for victims of domestic violence and their families.

The Law Against Domestic Violence: Protecting Me, Protecting My Family

and understanding of the Law Against Domestic Violence and the problem of violence against women in general. Targeting local community leaders and school teachers, activities included a series of trainings, discussions and seminars organised by SEPI in collaboration with district administration, gender focal points and civil society organizations such as Foligaper and the Akola Foundation.

UNIFEM, the United Nations Fund for Women (UNFEM) and the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) assisted SEPI, Spanish Cooperation (AECID) three-year 51.3 million joint programme on Supporting Gender Equality and Women's Rights in Timor-Leste in helping Micro, Med Foligaper, PROACT Timor-Leste and Judicial Systems Monitoring Programme (JSMP) to provide emergency medical assistance and forensic examination, trauma counselling and shelter plus information on legal services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse with.

Speak up, Stop Discrimination

The Universal Human Rights Declaration states that all human beings have rights including free speech and thoughts. On 10 December, representatives from the Human Rights Office and Provedora dos Direitos Humanos e Justiça (PDHJ) together with local youth of Suai, Covaleia district, collectively called for an end to all discrimination with poems, theatre presentations and songs, the youth expressed their desire for the protection of human rights in Timor-Leste.



"Let us each be a human rights defender." United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon



The people of Timor-Leste gathered to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December under the theme "Speak up – Stop Discrimination". Events organized by people from all walks of life – from the President, Parliament, the Provedora for Human Rights and Justice to civil society – lined up the celebration of International Human Rights Day throughout the country. Timor-Leste has made much progress in human rights. The Timor-Leste Constitution guarantees all rights and freedoms, and the majority of the international human rights treaties have been signed. In 2010, important laws came into force like the long-awaited Domestic Violence Law. The Provedora expanded its work to the regions, and the newly opened Anti-Corruption Commission has pledged to ensure that the State budget

will indeed filter down and reach the people. Challenges remain for example universal access to primary education, basic health care, adequate food, water, housing and sanitation. More efforts are needed to bring those involved in crimes and human rights violations to account, including members of the FRETIL and F-FDTL.

Human rights defenders who work to end discrimination are being placed in the spotlight worldwide in the year to come. In particular the many unsung heroes who work at the grassroots level. One of them is Jacinto dos Santos of the Disabled People's Organization "Manus Nadont Timor Oar". Film footage of his work in Timor-Leste to advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities was shown in Geneva and around the world on 10 December.

In Timor-Leste, the President praised the work of its individuals and organizations by decorating them with the third Segio Vieira de Sa Human Rights Award. The UN extends congratulations to the recipients: Mr. Simoes Barrios de Azeite of Casa Vida, a shelter for victims of domestic and sexual violence, the NGO HAKM-HAKM, Hope Family Community, the Primary School and Kindergarten "Maria Auxiliadora", the Orphanage Santa Bakitia and Mr. Soary Vilela Nepomuceno.

www.unmit.unmissions.org

Figure 17 UNMIT Newsletters (2009 and 2010) informing about the 16 Days' Campaign on Elimination of Violence Against Women

Posters

The local NGO *Ba Futuru* has published the next posters series advocating for violence against children to be stopped, as part of its peace building and child protection work. This local NGO develop and implement peacebuilding, gender equality and child protection related programming.



Figure 18 Posters published by the local NGO Ba Futuru advocating for ending violence against children and women

Booklets

For the socialization of the Law Against Domestic Violence, SEPI, with the support of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) project from Spanish Cooperation, published a booklet with entire law. The version bellow is in Portuguese, but there is also in Tetum.

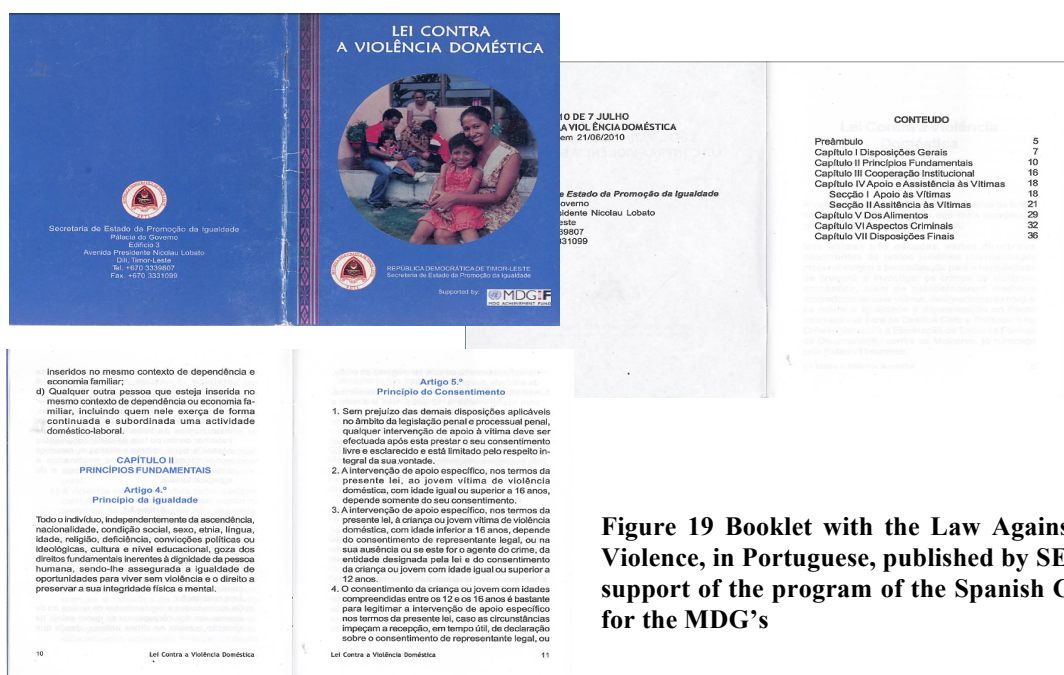


Figure 19 Booklet with the Law Against Domestic Violence, in Portuguese, published by SEPI with the support of the program of the Spanish Cooperation for the MDG's

The next booklet is an example of a compilation of address of institutions where the victims can seek for help, such medical, temporary shelter and legal support, and explains new concepts for Timorese people, especially in remote areas, as Human trafficking and sexual and gender-based violence. This example is in English but there are also in both official languages.

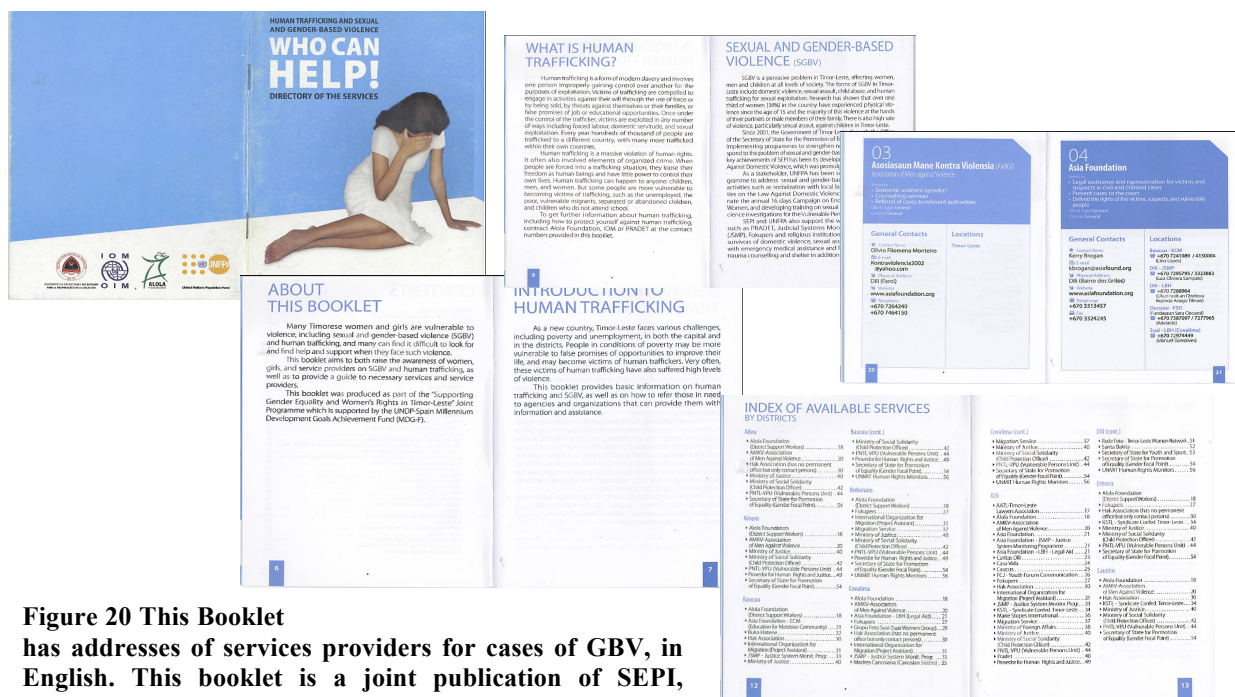


Figure 20 This Booklet has addresses of services providers for cases of GBV, in English. This booklet is a joint publication of SEPI, UNFPA and IOM

Manuals

In 2011, SEPI distributed manuals for advocacy and socialization for the implementation of the LADV. The manuals have two target groups: one manual for people with low level of education, as *Suco* Chiefs, women's representatives, youth, especially in the districts, and another for people with high level of education, like Government and Parliament members.

"For the first ones we did a basic introduction to domestic violence. We explain what is domestic violence, what it means be a public crime, how they should proceed in any case of DV. This is done with a lot of pictures", explains Filomena Balbo Martins. "The latter acknowledge the concept so we explain in detail article by article of the LADV".

Flyers

The flyer below, published by SEPI with the support of the Spanish Cooperation, aims to explain the concept of Domestic Violence and what are the denounce procedures. It was distributed at social mobilization activities organized in all districts for the socialization of the LADV. During the sessions, SEPI officers also used a banner with the same illustrations and simple messages in order to facilitate knowledge.

Saida mak Lei Kontra Violénsia Doméstika?

Lei Kontra Violénsia Doméstika (LKVD) hanesan lei foun ne'ebé armoniza husi Kodigu Penal foun Timor-Leste. Ita hatene katak violénsia doméstika sai hanesan problema ida ne'ebé tinan ba tinan sempre mosu, no mós sai hanesan problema sosial ida defisit liu iha tempu ida agora daudaun. Tanba nêe objektu husi Lei Kontra Violénsia Doméstika mak hametin liutan unidade familia no mós fó protesau komprensivu ba vitima violénsia bazela ba jêneru inklui kastigu ba autor sira bazela ba pena ka kastigu ne'ebé regula ona iha LKVD. LKVD maka, lei ne'ebé previne hela hahalok violénsia ka krime ruma ne'ebé mosu iha familia ida nia laran, ne'ebé afeta ba iha fizika, psikoljika, seksual no ekonomika. (Art. 2).

Violénsia Doméstika akontese iha ita nia sordin-sordin. Ita barak maka hatene no kark hare'e ema individual no familia ne'ebé involue aan iha forma bakan violénsia doméstika nian. Buat at id ida ne'ebé la halo maka no nonok di'et (sepedu) kona ba ida nêe silensiu ka nonok nêe husik problema nêe atu kontinua no halo ema barak iron tãndi, hi-ju feto no la'ian.

Hanesan sosesidade ne'ebé halo esforu tonak ba progresu no respetu dritu umanu, ita hata tenêe hela parte atu hapara violénsia doméstika. Mamburi ida-idak iha familia iha dritu atu hetan domin, no sente seguru iha uma laran. Violénsia nêe involue iha bele sinu no sãli. Koni d'ra hare'e ema ruma hetan aturu, furku ka psikoljika. Ita bôot bele ajuda ho refere sira ba:

- FOLUPRES
- Cesa Vida
- PRADET
- JSMIP
- Institutu Maun-Alin iha Koroa (ISMAK)
- Ka organizasaun feto naran ida
- Ka hatoto keisa ba PNTU/VPU.

Edisioe sãntes foun
REPÚBLICA DEMOCRÁTICA TIMOR-LESTE
SEKRETARIA ESTADU BA PRONANAN KUALIDADE
Ho apelo foun
PMDGIF

Saida Mak Violénsia Doméstika?

Violénsia doméstika katak kualker asau ka asau lubuk ida ne'ebé komete iha situasaun familia na laran, ne'ebé mak afeta ba fiziku, danga kualker asau seksual, mental ho iha fuan aat, hamoe, hahalok ema nia kapasidade, estraga, hadatu ema no sãli, limita liberdade umana iha familia ida nia laran. Tipu violénsia doméstika iha parte 4:

1. Violénsia fiziku: hanesan asau baku, tuku, cho, ka hahalok iha rak ne'ebé provoca moras ka kank boot, hahalok ne'ebé bele hahalok vida. Hahalok hirak nêe dala barak akontese iha familia no uma laran. Iha Timor-Leste ema feto no mane barak mak hanon katak ema bele baka feto kuaudu nia la hatoto nina papel doméstika (hanesan tein to mutuk, la haree labaris, sira didak). Hiru lãos razan ne'ebé iros ba halo asau fiziku ba mamburi familia ida, saida deit nia razan.

2. Violénsia Seksual: hanesan relasaun intimu ka seksual ne'ebé kontra ema seluk nia vontade seksual, obligatoriu ka ho iha fuan amessa, hatauk, no uza forza hasoru. Hahalok nêe bele akontese mos ba ema ne'ebé moris hanesan fen-laen kaben hanesan unidade de facto, ka baraklêda. Violénsia akontese tanba la iha komunikasaun di'ak, tanba sente kolen, baruk, moras no preokupa ho servisu uma laran inklui hare'e oan sira.

Estadistika hatudu katak ema mane ida husi ema mane nian 6 hanon katak ema bele halo violensa seksual ba nina fen bainhira nina fen rekuza halo relasaun seksual. Kiaru katak ida nêe violénsia seksual ne'ebé la bele kontinua. Importante mos hatene katak LAHA EMA IDA bele hetan violensa seksual; saida deit sira nia hahalok ka hatais.

*Timor-Leste Demographic and Health Survey 2009-10

3. Violénsia Psikoljika: hanesan iha fuan mal trata hanesan beik-ten, baruk-ten, kbit laek, gosa destroi familia, gosa hukler ema, hamoe, hirus bebek, la konsidera ideias ka hanon ruma iha uma laran, hatauk, la iha dritu foti desizaun. Hahalok hirak sempre akontese entre ema ne'ebé hamutuk iha familia.

4. Violénsia Ekonomika: hanesan hahalok ne'ebé mak gosa estraga, hadatu, hahalok ema hanesan riku soin ruma osan, surut ka dokumentu importante no ladun fo importancia ba ema ne'ebé asu kensu iha uma laran (servisu laboral ka pembantu rumah tangga) sira nia nesesidade, alimentasaun, edukasaun no mós saude.

Timor-Leste mak nêsan demokrasi no ida habasa aan atu hapat dritu, liberdade, no dignidade sidadeun ida-idak nian. La iha ema ida mak bele hetan aluku. Artigu 4 LKVD hatene:

"Tene hatoto feto, la hare'e ba ovidente man, nasionalidade, kondisaun sosial, etnia, etnia, di'ien, iron, relijion, aligadu, feto politika ka aligadu, kultura no nivel edukasaun nian, iha dritu fundamental ba dignidade sira nian, no mós iha dritu maka pantele, querdade oportundade sira, atu mós la iha violénsia no mós atu, la lakon nia saude feto no mental."

Maks ita nia nêsan halo progresu barak ona, violénsia sei makas. Akomunidade ara ida nêe la os deit hahalok, ita nia familia maibe hahalok mós ida nia nêsan iha kato barak liu, feto no labarik sira mak hetan terus.

Se maka sai vitima husi violénsia doméstika?

Vitima husi violénsia doméstika la'o feto deit maibe vitima violénsia doméstika bele fen, bele laen, oan prima, prima-tun, fan, sobrinu, sobrinu, avo sira, ema nêe bele iha uma ida nia os nêe iha dependensia ba malu, iha influensia inklui sofer ho empregadu. (Art. 3)

Violénsia iha uma laran hamosu konsekuensia sira ba kondisaun mental no fiziku, liu-liu ba feto sira, nêe inklui sira nia saude reprodutivu no seksual.

Se maka hetan protesau husi Lei Kontra Violénsia Doméstika?

Tur Artigu (3) se maka hetan protesau husi Lei Kontra VD maka hanesan tur mai nêe:

Fen-laen & Eis fen-laen

Avidente maka hanesan: inan, aman, avo feto, avo mane, iha, ba prima, prima

Dependente maka hanesan: oan mane, oan feto, beisan sira, sobrinu, sobrinu

Ema nêe iha dependensia ba familia nêe, inklui sofer no empregadu pembantu rumah tangga.

Iha lae violénsia doméstika iha Timor-Leste?

Estadistika hatudu katak 38% feto sira nêe bele iha area urbana no rurala hetan esperiensa violénsia fiziku. Tur mai mak nia kora ba presentasaun feto sira nêe hetan violénsia seksual hui sira nia laen ba kada Distritu. Numeu iha area urbana as lae area rural. Kora barak avideante tanba nia hemu lano. Importante atu nota katak insidensia violénsia doméstika barak maka konsidera hanesan "normal" no ema la halo kora. Ita nêe halo moras ne'ebé suber iha sosesidade nia laran.

Timor-Leste 38%
DE 40%
Provinsiun feto lubuk man ho itan 15-49 nêe bele iha esperiensa violénsia feto ho violénsia seksual hui sira nia laran ho pantele.

*Timor-Leste Demographic and Health Survey 2009-10

Saida mak dritu vitima husi violénsia doméstika?

Iha artigu 7 Lei Kontra Violénsia Doméstika ko alta kona ba Prosesu Informasaun. Iha artigu nêe iha portu maka dehan vitima violénsia doméstika iha dritu atu hatene informasaun kona ba sira nia prosesu kazu no mós juze ne'ebé juga no advogadu ne'ebé akompia.

Artigu 17 kona-ba Dritu no Dever

Dritu (alinia 1)

Vitima ne'ebé fuma iha Uma Mahon hamutuk ho oan kirk sira, sei hetan liu dritu sira nêe tur mai:

1. Akomodasaun no hahan ho kondisaun di'ak ho dignidade
2. Bele sira ekspoz privadesade no autonomia tur sira nia tinan ka situasaun
3. Fatin ne'ebé seguru no saudavel iha Uma Mahon na laran
4. Asesu ba eskola ne'ebé beik temporaneamente wainhira prosesu kazu vitima nian

Dever (alinia 2)

Sei hanesan dever espesial ba ema ne'ebé uza Uma Mahon ho nia oan sira atu tur registra funsiunamentu Uma Mahon nian.

Prosesu Hato'o Kazu

Prosesu halo denunsta (hato'o keka) la os vitima deit, maibe kualker ema ida ne'ebé mak hatene, rona, hare'e, hanesan inan, aman, oan, sobrinu, avo, mane, alin, fan, feto, ema ne'ebé servisu laboral (pembantu rumah tangga), no mós sobrinu. Tanba natura hui krime violénsia doméstika mak krime publiku, wainhira inform ba polisia, polisia sei regista no investiga kazu no foti evidensia liu hui examinasaun forensia iha Ospital Nasional Guido Valadares. Hêtu hui polisia sei halo observasaun no hatoto relatu ba Prokuradoria iha loran 5 nia laran dehis de hetan faktu sira. Hui faktu hirak nêe relatu ba Prokuradoria no sei bele vitima sira atu preta sira nia deklarasaun. Hui Prokuradoria sei hanuka kazu nêe ba Tribunal Distrital no Tribunal Distrital sei halo audensia iha tempu no fatin diferente ba autor no vitima atu hanes hui intimidasaun ka violénsia psikoljika ba vitima hui nefor.

Tur mai sentensia sei foti hui juze ne'ebé juga kazu nêe. tur kazu nia kman ka todan. Ba kazu kman hui tinan ida mai kark juze bele troka deit ho pena de multa sei autor bele pantele kensa atu selu tur desizaun ne'ebé juze foti, prontu submete vitima ba fatamentu sei kark rezulta estragu ruma, no vitima iha segurada.

Antes atu feto, vitima tenêe hetan akomplimentu. Sei autor la pantele kensa, hahalok ka lakori nia tenêe simu pena de prizau. Se kazu grave tur desizaun juze man, ka sentensia ne'ebé fo liu tinan ida ka leten, autor tenêe hetan pena de prizau.

Figure 21 Flyer published by SEPI explaining the concept of domestic violence, in tétum. It uses draws and pictures illustrating the variations of domestic violence and the legal procedures

VI. Timor-Leste strives to overcome culture of domestic violence

The Guardian, 24 August 2012, by Kate Hodal

Despite the introduction of a law criminalising violence against women, the problem remains endemic in Timorese culture

Mauricia is shaking. She is in bed at the hospital where she has come to escape her husband. Her hair is pulled back tightly into a neat bun and her nails are painted pink. Her dress is splattered with blood from the punch that broke her nose.

"I was feeding baby when he came home, drunk again," the 22-year-old says of her husband, an unemployed labourer. "He was angry and smashes me."

It is not the first time it has happened and is unlikely to be the last, but Mauricio – fearful of repercussions – does not want to involve the police. "Baby needs me, I cannot leave," she says simply.

It has been two years since Timor-Leste passed a law criminalising domestic violence, yet it remains the country's number one crime. Continued obstacles such as lack of rule of law, a feeble judicial system, economic dependence, and a culture of silence mean nearly one-third of all women have experienced some form of violence or assault since the age of 15, according to the government's 2009-10 demographic and health survey. In the capital, Dili, that figure rises to one in two.

"Despite the law against domestic violence, communities haven't changed their behaviour," says Marcelina Amaral, of Timor-Leste's victim support services (VSS), a legal aid unit that helps people who have experienced domestic violence seek help and justice.

"Our own culture makes it really hard for women to come forward in the justice system. Because of cultural reasons and economic dependency, most women have very low education levels, so they don't feel empowered to make decisions about their cases."

Still considered a private matter among families, three in four domestic violence cases go unreported to police who, under the 2010 law, are required to investigate the crime within five days of it being lodged. Police stations, however, lack scientific testing and are often located far from the crime scene, particularly in rural areas. This frequently leaves people seeking

justice through traditional courts, which prioritise community harmony over individual justice.

"Many people who live in rural areas don't have any information about the [official] legal system, so they decide to resolve [cases] in a traditional way," explains Luís de Oliveira Sampaio of Timor-Leste's Judicial System Monitoring Program (JSMP), which oversees the VSS. "In [a rape] case they would decide to get married, because they don't understand how the legal system should work."

But the official system has its flaws too. Without scientific evidence, cases frequently depend on testimony from the victim, who can be pressured to withdraw her case. According to JSMP's 2011 annual report, Timorese courts are often underequipped, lacking basics like running water, generators and judges. And the country's severely limited number of public defenders can result in both the victim and defendant sharing the same lawyer.

Lisa Mortimer, a VSS lawyer, identifies a further problem: "The trial process is so long that the victim has usually resolved the issue with her husband and community in the meantime. The victim often says: 'If you send him to jail now, I have no one to take care of me or the family'. When we do get sentences, they're usually suspended."

Violence is nothing new to Timor-Leste, which was colonised by the Portuguese for nearly 500 years before being annexed by neighbouring Indonesia in 1975. According to the UN, widespread rape and sexual assault of both women and children went grossly unpunished during the military occupation, which lasted 24 years.

Today, 71% of men say physical violence against their wife is acceptable if they've neglected the children, while 72% of women say wife-beating is justified if a woman goes out without telling her husband, according to the government's demographic survey.

Domestic violence is one of many problems facing Timor-Leste, which is ranked 147 out of 187 countries in the UN 2011 human development index. Running water and electricity are considered luxuries, and 40% of the population lives on less than \$1.25 a day.

Nevertheless, officials point to progress on gender equality – notably the passing of a national plan of action on gender-based violence, and mandatory school education on the subject – as proof Timor-Leste is tackling the problem. "We expect in the future that our president should be female," says the country's human rights and justice ombudsman, Sebastião Dias Ximenes. "But we are just now trying to develop our human rights. We have to change our mentality

[towards gender equality] because the previous mentality was influenced by either colonial thought or economics."

Many marriages are still arranged around traditional dowries, but the fact that one-third of all parliamentary seats are reserved for women has helped Timor-Leste understand that "women are an integrated and important part of society", says prime minister Xanana Gusmão. "It forces us politicians and society [to question] male chauvinism in our culture."

Activists worry, however, about funding for many of the programs addressing gender-based crime. Donor funding for both VSS and Pradet, a charity offering psychosexual recovery and forensic testing for those affected, is due to expire at the end of this year, with unknown consequences.

"If the donors were to put their hands up empty, our services would be finished," says Pradet's Manuel dos Santos. "Even the police depend on us for forensic testing or placing the victim in a safe house."

ANNEXES

I. Sample messages and Slogans for Combating Violence against Women

WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS

Issues / Messages	Gender Inequality causes violence against women Women's rights are human rights Violence against women should be recognized within a rights-based framework Violence against women affects everyone and impedes development		
Target	General	Men	Women
Slogans	No women's rights, no development No excuse for abuse	Men of quality are not afraid of equality Violence against women: A disaster we men CAN prevent	Women, stand up for your rights A life free of violence: it's our Right!

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Issues/ Messages	Wife battery is a crime Psychological violence is as hurtful as physical violence Family negligence and desertion are forms of domestic violence		
Target	General	Men	Women
Slogans	Domestic violence is everyone's concern. Report it. He threatened her. He beat her. He raped her. But first he married her.	Real men don't hit women Running away from home = running away from responsibility Raise a family not a fist Fathers love their daughters. Some do it almost every night	He said he'd never hit you again...but that's what he said last time You can hide the bruises on your body, but what about that damage to your soul?

SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT

Issues/Messages	• Rape	• Sexual assault	• Sexual harassment
Target	General	Men	Women
Slogans	There's no excuse for rape Rape is a crime against humanity Work "yes"; Sex "no"	You're only half man if you rape a woman	Break the silence. Talk about rape You have the right to say no to sex
Survivors	Police	Health workers	Judiciary
Speak out: we are together. Fight violence against women	Rape is a serious crime. Enforce the law, don't judge the victim	Health workers! Survivors of rape need your sympathy not your scorn!	Stiffer penalties for rape!

VIOLENCE RELATED TO CUSTOM AND TRADITION

Issues/Messages	• Widow inheritance	Property grabbing	Incest Femicide
Target	General	Men	Women
Slogans	Break the silence! Confront the hidden crimes! No to sexual cleansing!	Stop property grabbing! We earned it. We own it.	You treasure your life. I treasure mine. No to femicide.

HIV/AIDS AND GENDER

Issues/Messages	Woman's control over her body		• Right to negotiate safe sex
Target	General	Men	Women
Slogans	If it's not on, it's off. Insist on safe sex Without a condom, without me	My strength is not for hurting. So when she said STOP, I stopped	Don't wait until morning to see if he respects you. Use a latex condom consistently and correctly for protection against HIV/AIDS

Adapted from a paper prepared by Collen Lowe-Morna, Harare Strategic Communication Workshop, March 2001 (UNIFEM, 2003)

II. Advantages and Disadvantages of Different Media

PRINT MEDIA	Advantages	Disadvantages
DISPLAY <i>Posters, calendars and wall charts</i>	- Popular - Visual - Longevity - Public relations potential	- Contains limited space for information - Language and literacy (audience must be able to read and understand the language)
PRINT MEDIA	Advantages	Disadvantages
FOR READING <i>Newsletters, pamphlets, brochures, booklets and comic books</i>	- Control of message - Can communicate a more detailed/complicated story	- Language and literacy - Require a lot of effort to produce - Become outdated quickly - Might be viewed as propaganda
PRINT MEDIA	Advantages	Disadvantages
FOR USE WITH GROUPS <i>Flip charts and flash cards</i>	- Educational - Potential to communicate across languages and classes	- Limited reach - Labour-intensive to use
MASS MEDIA	Advantages	Disadvantages
NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES <i>Feature or news stories, ads or columns</i>	- Reach large audience - Powerful - Permanent - Can explain issues in depth	- Language and literacy - Should reach only a limited number of people who have access (urban audience) - Price (should be expensive to produce)
MASS MEDIA	Advantages	Disadvantages
RADIO <i>Spots, announcement and</i>	- Reach large audience - Accessible (especially at grassroots level)	- Require production skills - Message should be transient

<i>shows</i>	Can be participatory and elicit immediate response (i.e., call in programs)	- Should not be sure of audience number - Can send mixed messages; i.e., station should promote different messages - Price
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MASS MEDIA

Advantages

Disadvantages

TELEVISION <i>Spots, announcement and shows</i>	- Potential to reach large audiences - Dramatic and emotive - Can be participatory and elicit immediate response (i.e., call in programs)	- Require production skills - Message should be transient - Should not be sure of audience number - Can send mixed messages; i.e., station should promote different messages
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FOLK MEDIA

Advantages

Disadvantages

DRAMA AND POETRY <i>Theatre, puppet shows, role plays and story telling</i>	- Emotive (feels good) - Engaging/powerful - Potentially interactive	- Need skills - Time bound - Limited audience - Effort intensive
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FOLK MEDIA

Advantages

Disadvantages

SONG AND DANCE <i>Stories, testimonials, eyewitness accounts</i>	- Entertaining - Emotive - Participatory - Transmission across languages - Potential to reach across classes - Repetition in lyrics/movements can concretize messages	- Need skills - Messages tend to be more abstract (messages should get most without follow-up actions)
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FOLK MEDIA

Advantages

Disadvantages

ORAL TESTIMONIES <i>Theatre, puppet shows, role plays and story telling</i>	- Engaging/powerful - Bring a human face to the issue - Can be used in many arenas including mock tribunals, video and radio documentaries, theatrical productions	Danger of putting the woman telling the story at risk
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FOLK MEDIA

Advantages

Disadvantages

PRINTED MESSAGES <i>T-shirts, caps, etc.</i>	▸ Allows an individual to show support of the cause ▸ Long lasting	▸ Limited reach ▸ Limited space
VISUAL ELECTRONIC MEDIA	Advantages	Disadvantages
INTERNET	▸ Global ▸ Efficient ▸ Interactive ▸ Outreach ▸ Cost effective	▸ Expensive ▸ Language ▸ No rules or bottom lines
VISUAL ELECTRONIC MEDIA	Advantages	Disadvantages
VIDEO, FILM AND SLIDE SHOWS	▸ Participatory ▸ Entertaining ▸ Convey reality	▸ Need skills ▸ Need equipment ▸ Expensive

(UNIFEM, 2003: 10 – 11)

III. Millennium Development Goals (MDG's)

Goals	Targets
1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day
	Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education	Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling
3. Promote gender equality and empower women	Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015
4. Reduce child mortality	Reduce by two thirds the mortality rates for infants and children under five
5. Improve maternal health	Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS
	Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases
7. Environmental sustainability	Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs reverse the loss of environmental resources
	Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water
	Achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020
8. Develop a global partnership for development	Open trading system, special needs of least developed countries (LDCs), debt, employment, access to medicines, ICTs

(UNICEF, 2005: 79)

IV. The Rome Consensus

Communication for Development - A Major Pillar for Development and Change

Communication is essential to human, social, and economic development. At the heart of Communication for Development is participation and ownership by communities and individuals most affected by poverty and other development issues. There is a large and growing body of evidence demonstrating the value of Communication for Development.

Below are a few examples of that body of evidence presented at the WCCD:

- In 1959 a study of 145 rural radio fora in India found that forum members learned much more about the topics under discussion than non-forum members. In the words of the researcher, “Radio farm forum as an agent for transmission of knowledge has proved to be a success beyond expectation. Increase in knowledge in the forum villages between pre- and post-broadcasts was spectacular, whereas in the non-forum villages it was negligible. What little gain there was in nonforum villages, occurred mostly in those with radio” [Data presented by Dr. Bella Mody from Neurath, P. (1959), “Part Two: Evaluation and Results,” in J. C. Mathur and P. Neurath (Eds.), *An Indian Experiment in Farm Radio Forums* (pp. 59–121), Paris: UNESCO].
- The participatory communication approach adopted in Senegal led to significant reductions in the practice of female genital cutting (FGC). Since 1997, 1,748 communities in Senegal have abandoned FGC. These represent 33 percent of the 5,000 communities that practiced FGC at that time [Tostan data, presented at the WCCD, 2006—<http://www.tostan.org>].
- In Uganda a national and local communication process related to the corruption of centrally allocated public funds for education at the local level in schools resulted in a very significant decrease in the level of funds that did not reach that local level—from 80 percent “lost” to only 20 per cent lost [Reinikka, R., and J. Svensson, “The Power of Information,” Policy Research Working Paper # 3239, 2004].
- Communication programs are linked to significant reductions in Acute Respiratory Infection—ARI—in Cambodia. Since the communication campaign started in 2004, awareness of ARI grew from 20 percent to 80 percent and the reported incidence of ARI

halved [BBC World Service Trust, Film on Health Communication, presented at the WCCD, 2006 -

http://www.bbc.co.uk/mediaselector/check/worldservice/meta/dps/2006/10/061027_health_wst?size=16x9&bgc=003399&lang=en-ws&nbram=1&nbwm=1].

- Use of mobile phones and other communication techniques for farmers to obtain information on market prices in Tanzania resulted in farmers increasing the price they receive per ton of rice from US\$100 to US\$600. A \$200,000 investment resulted in \$1.8 million of gross income [The First Mile Project, presented at the WCCD, 2006 - http://www.ifad.org/rural/firstmile/FM_2.pdf].

Development Challenges

As of 2006, it is estimated that 1.3 billion people worldwide still live in absolute poverty. Even though many countries have experienced considerable economic development, far too many remain worse off in economic and social terms.

Nelson Mandela reminds us that “Poverty is not natural - it is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings.”

People’s rights to equality and to communicate are protected and advanced in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

Related to poverty and rights there are other very considerable and related challenges. These are delineated in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which are often the benchmark for decision making in civil society, national governments, and the international development community.

Achieving improved progress on these issues requires addressing some very sensitive and difficult challenges: respect for cultural diversity, self-determination of people, economic pressures, environment, gender relations, and political dynamics—among others.

It also highlights the need to harmonize communication strategies and approaches, as indicated by the 9th UN Roundtable on Communication for Development and in other international fora.

These factors often complicate and threaten the success of overall development efforts in the local, national, and international arenas. It is the people-related issues that are the focus of Communication for Development.

Communication for Development

Communication for Development is a social process based on dialogue using a broad range of tools and methods. It is also about seeking change at different levels including listening, building trust, sharing knowledge and skills, building policies, debating and learning for sustained and meaningful change. It is not public relations or corporate communication.

Strategic Requirements

Development organizations must assign a much higher priority to the essential elements of Communication for Development process, as shown by research and practice:

- The right and opportunity people have to participate in the decision-making processes that affect their lives
- Creating opportunities for sharing knowledge and skills
- Ensuring that people have access to communication tools so that they can themselves communicate within their communities and with the people making the decisions that affect them – for example community radio and other community media
- The process of dialogue, debate, and engagement that builds public policies that are relevant, helpful and which have committed constituencies willing to implement them - for example on responding to preserving the environment
- Recognizing and harnessing the communication trends that are taking place at local, national, and international levels for improved development action—from new media regulations and ICT trends to popular and traditional music
- Adopting an approach that is contextualized within cultures
- Related to all of the above, assigning priority to supporting the people most affected by the development issues in their communities and countries to have their say, to voice their perspectives, and to contribute and act on their ideas for improving their situation—for example indigenous peoples and people living with HIV/AIDS

In order to be more effective in fighting poverty and meeting the other MDGs, the Communication for Development processes just outlined are required in greater scale and at more depth, making sure that the value-added of such initiatives is always properly monitored and evaluated.

Long-Term Foundation

These processes are not just about increasing the effectiveness of overall development efforts. They are also about creating sustainable social and economic processes. In particular:

- Strengthening Citizenship and Good Governance
- Deepening the communication links and processes within communities and societies

Those are essential pillars for any development issue.

Recommendations

Based on the arguments above, in order to make much more significant progress on the very difficult development challenges that we all face, we recommend that policy makers and funders do the following:

1. Overall national development policies should include specific Communication for Development components.
2. Development organizations should include Communication for Development as a central element at the inception of programs.
3. Strengthen the Communication for Development capacity within countries and organizations at all levels. This includes people in their communities, Communication for Development specialists, and other staff, including through the further development of training courses and academic programs.
4. Expand the level of financial investment to ensure adequate, coordinated financing of the core elements of Communication for Development as outlined under Strategic Requirements above. This includes budget line[s] for development communication.
5. Adopt and implement policies and legislation that provide an enabling environment for Communication for Development - including free and pluralistic media and the right to information and to communicate.

6. Development communication programs should be required to identify and include appropriate monitoring and evaluation indicators and methodologies throughout the process.
7. Strengthen partnerships and networks at international, national, and local levels to advance Communication for Development and improve development outcomes.
8. Move toward a rights-based approach to Communication for Development.

Conclusion

As Nelson Mandela highlighted, it is people that make the difference. Communication is about people. Communication for Development is essential to making the difference happen.

The Participants

World Congress on Communication for Development

Rome, Italy

October 27, 2006

V. Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women

Article 1

For the purposes of this Declaration, the term "violence against women" means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.

Article 2

Violence against women shall be understood to encompass, but not be limited to, the following:

Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation;

Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution;

Physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the State, wherever it occurs.

Article 3

Women are entitled to the equal enjoyment and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field. These rights include, *inter alia*:

The right to life;

The right to equality;

The right to liberty and security of person;

The right to equal protection under the law;

The right to be free from all forms of discrimination;

The right to the highest standard attainable of physical and mental health;

The right to just and favourable conditions of work;

The right not to be subjected to torture, or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 4

States should condemn violence against women and should not invoke any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to its elimination. States should pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating violence against women and, to this end, should:

Consider, where they have not yet done so, ratifying or acceding to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women or withdrawing reservations to that Convention;

Refrain from engaging in violence against women;

Exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and, in accordance with national legislation, punish acts of violence against women, whether those acts are perpetrated by the State or by private persons;

Develop penal, civil, labour and administrative sanctions in domestic legislation to punish and redress the wrongs caused to women who are subjected to violence; women who are subjected to violence should be provided with access to the mechanisms of justice and, as provided for by national legislation, to just and effective remedies for the harm that they have suffered; States should also inform women of their rights in seeking redress through such mechanisms;

Consider the possibility of developing national plans of action to promote the protection of women against any form of violence, or to include provisions for that purpose in plans already existing, taking into account, as appropriate, such cooperation as can be provided by non-governmental organizations, particularly those concerned with the issue of violence against women;

Develop, in a comprehensive way, preventive approaches and all those measures of a legal, political, administrative and cultural nature that promote the protection of women against any form of violence, and ensure that the re-victimization of women does not occur because of laws insensitive to gender considerations, enforcement practices or other interventions;

Work to ensure, to the maximum extent feasible in the light of their available resources and, where needed, within the framework of international cooperation, that women subjected to

violence and, where appropriate, their children have specialized assistance, such as rehabilitation, assistance in child care and maintenance, treatment, counselling, and health and social services, facilities and programs, as well as support structures, and should take all other appropriate measures to promote their safety and physical and psychological rehabilitation;

Include in government budgets adequate resources for their activities related to the elimination of violence against women;

Take measures to ensure that law enforcement officers and public officials responsible for implementing policies to prevent, investigate and punish violence against women receive training to sensitize them to the needs of women;

Adopt all appropriate measures, especially in the field of education, to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women and to eliminate prejudices, customary practices and all other practices based on the idea of the inferiority or superiority of either of the sexes and on stereotyped roles for men and women;

Promote research, collect data and compile statistics, especially concerning domestic violence, relating to the prevalence of different forms of violence against women and encourage research on the causes, nature, seriousness and consequences of violence against women and on the effectiveness of measures implemented to prevent and redress violence against women; those statistics and findings of the research will be made public;

Adopt measures directed towards the elimination of violence against women who are especially vulnerable to violence;

Include, in submitting reports as required under relevant human rights instruments of the United Nations, information pertaining to violence against women and measures taken to implement the present Declaration;

Encourage the development of appropriate guidelines to assist in the implementation of the principles set forth in the present Declaration;

Recognize the important role of the women's movement and non-governmental organizations worldwide in raising awareness and alleviating the problem of violence against women;

Facilitate and enhance the work of the women's movement and non-governmental organizations and cooperate with them at local, national and regional levels;

Encourage intergovernmental regional organizations of which they are members to include the elimination of violence against women in their programs, as appropriate.

Article 5

The organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system should, within their respective fields of competence, contribute to the recognition and realization of the rights and the principles set forth in the present Declaration and, to this end, should, inter alia:

Foster international and regional cooperation with a view to defining regional strategies for combating violence, exchanging experiences and financing programs relating to the elimination of violence against women;

Promote meetings and seminars with the aim of creating and raising awareness among all persons of the issue of the elimination of violence against women;

Foster coordination and exchange within the United Nations system between human rights treaty bodies to address the issue of violence against women effectively;

Include in analyses prepared by organizations and bodies of the United Nations system of social trends and problems, such as the periodic reports on the world social situation, examination of trends in violence against women;

Encourage coordination between organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to incorporate the issue of violence against women into ongoing programs, especially with reference to groups of women particularly vulnerable to violence;

Promote the formulation of guidelines or manuals relating to violence against women, taking into account the measures referred to in the present Declaration;

Consider the issue of the elimination of violence against women, as appropriate, in fulfilling their mandates with respect to the implementation of human rights instruments;

Cooperate with non-governmental organizations in addressing the issue of violence against women.

Article 6

Nothing in the present Declaration shall affect any provision that is more conducive to the elimination of violence against women that should be contained in the legislation of a State or in any international convention, treaty or other instrument in force in a State.

VI. Timeline of the progress against Gender Violence

DATE	INTERNATIONAL & REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS
1948	Signature of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The foundation for the universality of human rights that legally bind Member States to respect and uphold the inalienable rights of all peoples and all nations.
1966	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Entered into force on 23 March 1976.
1966	International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. Entered into force on 3 January 1976.
1975	The First UN World Conference on Women in Mexico City
1980	The Second UN World Conference on Women in Copenhagen
1981	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) entered into force. The Convention reaffirms the principles of the UDHR and emphasizes the eradication of all forms of discrimination against women.
1985	The Third UN World Conference on Women in Nairobi
1990	The Commission of Women (CIM) publishes the "Conclusion and Recommendations of the Inter-American Consultation on Women and Violence".
1992	The UN Committee to End Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) adopts "Recommendation No. 19 on Violence Against Women." This Recommendation declares that violence against women is a form of discrimination against women, reflecting and perpetuating their subordination, and requires that States eliminate violence in every sphere. All Countries that have ratified the CEDAW are required to prepare reports to the UN Committee every four years and to include information about the law and incidence of gender violence as well as the measures undertaken to redress and eliminate it. Latin America and the Caribbean is the first and only region in the world in which all countries have ratified (CEDAW). However, many countries have not yet translated CEDAW and the General Recommendations into legislation nor have they implemented policies, adopted positive actions to eliminate de facto discrimination or met their obligation.
1993	The World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna) historically recognizes that violence against women and girls constitutes a severe violation of rights; that women's rights <u>are</u> human rights, whether perpetrated in the public or private sphere, calls for gender integration as well as the development of gender-focused mechanisms on international, regional and national levels to eliminate violence and discrimination against women.

1993 The UN General Assembly approves the "Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women".

1994 The UN Commission on Human Rights adopts a resolution calling for gender integration at all levels of human rights and programmatic activity on the international, regional and national levels.

1994 The UN Commission on Human Rights appoints the first UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women to a three-year term with a mandate that permits her to receive complaints and initiate investigations on violence against women in all countries, which are members of the UN. Her first report provides an overview of gender violence, while her second focuses on domestic violence and sexual slavery.

1994 At the regional level, on 9 June 1994, the Organization of American States (OAS) adopted the *Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women (also called Convention of Belem do Para)*, a new international instrument that recognizes all gender-based violence as an abuse of human rights. This constitutes the central piece of legislation on gender violence in Latin America and the Caribbean. This Convention provides an individual right of petition and a right for non-governmental organizations to lodge complaints with the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights. The Convention has been ratified by 29 countries (ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, ARGENTINA, BAHAMAS, BARBADOS, BELIZE, BOLIVIA, BRASIL, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, CHILE, DOMINICA, ECUADOR, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, GUYANA, HAITI, HONDURAS, MEXICO, NICARAGUA, PANAMA, PARAGUAY, PERU, REPUBLICA DOMINICANA, ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, ST LUCIA, ST.VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, URUGUAY, VENEZUELA). Furthermore, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women adopted by all States represented in the UN General Assembly stipulates in Article 4 that "States should exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and, in accordance with national legislation, punish acts of violence against women, whether those acts are perpetrated by the State or by private persons." Under the Convention, CIM has the responsibility to take positive measures to advance implementation of Belem do Para while the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (IACHR) has the power to hear complaints against States who ratify it.

1994 The International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo recognized that reproductive rights are human rights and that gender violence is an obstacle to women's reproductive and sexual health and rights, education and participation in development and calls upon States to implement the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

1994 Approval of the Regional Program of Action for Latin America and Caribbean Women, 1995-2001 during the Preparatory Conference (Mar del Plata, September 25-29, 1994). In Area V, Human Rights, Peace and Violence, three objectives are determined: 1) To consolidate the full respect of human rights for all women of the region, giving priority to the elimination of violence and discrimination based on sex, and to the rights of women who are the poorest and to women refugees, taking racial and ethnic

considerations into account; 2) To promote actions that reveal all types and forms of violence against women, as well as actions that lead to the elimination of violence; 3) To educate the media about the impact of broadcasting a culture of violence, in order to change prevalent negative images of women

1995 The IV World Conference on Women in Beijing devotes an entire section in the Beijing Platform for Action. Chapter IV. Strategic Objectives and Actions, D. Para 112 states that "violence against women is an obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace. Violence against women both violates and nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. The long-standing failure to protect and promote those rights and freedoms in the case of violence against women is a matter of concern to all States and should be addressed." The emergence of State responsibility for violence in society delineated in the Beijing Platform for Action obligates States to condemn and adopt policies that eliminate violence against women.

However, the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action has not been adequately addressed in terms of violence against women in many countries in the Latin American and the Caribbean region.

1996 The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) considers the proposal to create an optional protocol (OP) to the Women's Convention. The OP –an amendment to the Convention requiring ratification by States – is needed to create an individual complaints procedure allowing women to challenge discriminatory state policies and practices.

1998 UN Commission on the Status of Women (March) will review four key human rights sections of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: Human Rights of Women; Violence against Women; Women and Armed Conflict; and the Girl Child.

1998 UN Commission on Human Rights (June) will review the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action. Also, marking the five-year anniversary of the World Conference on Human Rights.

1998 Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. (10 December 1998)
