



"Violence against women: a statistical overview, challenges and gaps in data collection and methodology and approaches for overcoming them"

Expert Group Meeting

Organized by: UN Division for the Advancement of Women
in collaboration with:
Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and World Health Organization (WHO)
11 – 14 April, 2005
Geneva Switzerland

Programme of Work

Monday 11 April 2005

8:30 AM **Pick up UN Pass at Security Office (See information note)
Registration at Palais des Nations Salle XII**

10:00 – 10:45 AM **Welcome and introductions by UN Division for the Advancement
of Women, Economic Commission for Europe and World Health
Organization**

Plenary Session 1

Objective: To review existing initiatives to collect data and statistics on violence against women, covering 3 broad areas: international measurement survey initiatives, nationally initiated surveys, and routine data collection.

Key questions: On what forms of violence against women are data collected? What does this data indicate about the prevalence of certain forms of violence against women? What methodologies are used and who collects the data? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the different approaches? What challenges remain in getting accurate and complete data on the prevalence of such violence? On what forms of violence against women are data and statistics not collected or available? In which areas and regions are statistics available and in which are they not?

Note to presenters: It is anticipated that all papers to be presented in plenary session will be circulated to participants approximately one week before the meeting. Please note that presentations in plenary should be strictly limited to **fifteen (15) minutes** and should focus on the constraints and remaining gaps and challenges in data and methodology. The papers may be used to present findings of surveys or reports.

10:45 – 12:30 PM **Morning session**

Panel 1: Data collection on violence against women

Assessing the strengths and weaknesses of different sources of the data on violence against women collected and available through existing systems such as health, crime, death, social service, shelter and other statistics as well as surveys. What methodologies are used for collecting data? How reliable is the data? What are the challenges in setting up a surveillance system for violence against women? What kind of data could national statistical offices collect and analyze to serve as indicators for violence against women? What are the lessons learned from countries trying different approaches? What are the remaining gaps and challenges.

- Patricia Tjaden
- Sylvia Walby

(Presentations will be followed by brief questions for clarification)

Panel 2: International efforts at collecting data on various forms of violence against women through surveys

What methodologies are used for collecting, documenting and analyzing data on the prevalence of violence against women? How good are the methodologies and how reliable is the data that is collected? What do these initiatives indicate about the prevalence of certain types of violence against women? On what forms of violence against women are data collected? What are the strengths and limitations of the different methodologies used? What are some of the gaps that remain in data, methodology and regional coverage?

- WHO (Claudia Garcia Moreno)
- IVAWS-HEUNI (Sami Nevala)
- Macro/ DHS (Sunita Kishor)
- MICS (Claudia Cappa - UNICEF)

(Presentations will be followed by brief questions for clarification)

12:30 – 2:00 PM **Lunch**

2:00 – 6:00 PM

Afternoon session

Panel 3: National level efforts at assessing the prevalence of violence against women

On what forms of violence against women are data collected at the national level? Where and how is data collected? Is it systematically done? What have these efforts indicated about the prevalence of violence against women in certain countries and what gaps remain? What is the best combination of methods for systematic collection of comparable national level data? How can the experience of international level efforts be integrated into systematic, national level collection of statistics?

- Holly Johnson (Canada)
- Elizabeth Ardayfio-Shandorf (Ghana)
- Dominique Fougeyrollas-Schwebel (France)
- Ruth Ojiambo Ochieng (Uganda)

(Presentations will be followed by brief questions for clarification)

Presentations on:

- Work of the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women (Lucinda O’Hanlon)
- Secretary General’s Study on Violence Against Children (Amaya Gillespie)

(Coffee break)

Synthesis

Discussants will synthesize the strengths, weaknesses, limitations and lessons learned from the presentations, as well as identify gaps in terms of methodologies, types of violence against women covered, populations covered, etc.

- Mary Ellsberg
- Sylvia Walby

Discussion

Tuesday 12 April 2005

10:00 – 11:00 AM Discussion continued

Plenary Session 2

Objective: To clarify the data and information needs of users, policy makers and practitioners and identify remaining gaps in the collection of data.

11:00 – 12:30 PM Panel 4: Forms of violence against women for which data is not systematically collected

Presentations by experts addressing forms of violence against women for which systematic data collection does not exist and is critically needed. How have these forms of violence against women (for example, dowry deaths, acid attacks, early, forced and levirate marriage, sexual violence in times of armed conflict, honour crimes, female genital mutilation/cutting and other forms of violence against women) been documented to date? What are the weaknesses of this type of collection, and how could data collection on these types of violence be systematized, or included in other methodologies of data collection?

- Sharmeen Farouk (Bangladesh – dowry deaths, acid attacks, honour crimes)
- Dalia Farouki (Jordan –honour crimes, other undocumented crimes)
- Jeanne Ward (Kenya – violence in armed conflict)

(Presentations will be followed by brief questions for clarification)

12:30 – 2:00 PM Lunch

2:00 – 3:15 PM Panel 5: Needs of users of data on violence against women

Presentations by advocates/ practitioners/ service providers highlighting the needs of users of data on violence against women and perspectives from different regions.

- Asmita Basu (India)
- Ivy Josiah (Malaysia)
- Ana Flávia d'Oliveira (Brazil)

(Presentations will be followed by brief questions for clarification)

3:15 – 6:00 PM Discussion
(Coffee break)

Introduction and formation of working groups
Explanation of objectives and expected outputs

Wednesday 13 April 2005

10:00 – 6:00 PM Working Groups

- a. Use of surveys to assess the prevalence of violence against women: what has worked with surveys that have been used to date and what are the problems? Suggestions for improving survey methodology.

Expected output: *Agreement on definitions and types of violence against women that can be included in surveys; development of a short violence against women module and identifying the minimum conditions under which this module could be implemented; elaboration of recommendations for national statistical offices to include questions regarding violence against women in specialized or on-going surveys.*

- b. Assessing the prevalence of forms of violence for which data and statistics are not available: what methodologies can be used to document and estimate incidence when it is difficult to identify, reach and/ or survey victims of such violence.

Expected output: *Recommendations on how to collect data, document and assess or estimate the prevalence on certain manifestations of violence against women when victims are not easily identified. How can effective policies and strategies for advocacy and intervention be developed to address these forms of violence?*

- c. Analysis of available crime, health, shelter, death and other demographic data to assess the prevalence of violence against women: What needs to be considered in order for meaningful data on violence against women to be extrapolated? How should this data ideally be collected and analyzed? How should it be disaggregated?

Expected output: *Recommendations on how to improve routine data collection on violence against women and on how to include such data in administrative records*

- d. Development of indicators on violence against women. What indicators can be used for monitoring at the global level? What kinds of indicators are already being used and how relevant and complete are they in helping to assess trends in violence against women? Should global indicators be developed? What factors need to be addressed when developing global indicators?

Expected output: *Agreement on 3-5 indicators for use in global monitoring of violence against women.*

Thursday 14 April 2005

Plenary Session 3

- 10:00 – 12:30 PM** Continuation of working groups if needed
- Presentations of recommendations and conclusions from working groups.
- Questions and discussion
- Presentation of draft report
- 12:30 – 2:00 PM** Lunch
- 2:00 – 5:00 PM** Finalization and adoption of the report and recommendations for assessing the extent of the problem of violence against women, and on developing methodologies for collecting accurate and thorough data on the prevalence of violence against women globally.