

Prevent

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NEWSLETTER FOR THE GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION



This issue of Prevent illustrates the scope of violence prevention around the world, featuring activities in Africa, the Americas, Europe, South East Asia and the Western Pacific. It also gives updates on new and ongoing international efforts, such as the Child Injury Meeting, the UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children and VPA. The Global Campaign for Violence Prevention is catching on... Enjoy!

2005: African Union Year of Prevention of Violence under way

In 2003, Member States of the African Union (AU) passed a resolution (EX/CL/Dec.63[III]) endorsing the recommendations of the *World report on violence and health* and recommending that Member States develop national plans of action for violence prevention and systems for data collection on violence. The AU resolution also requested that Member States declare 2005 the "African Year of Prevention of Violence" to catalyse scaling up and coordination of violence prevention

policies and activities. The year 2005 constitutes a unique opportunity to raise awareness about the problem of violence in Africa and to mobilize political will and resources for prevention. WHO is working with the AU to realize this vision. Objectives of the Year include a draft AU action plan for violence prevention and the development of an African violence prevention network.

Council of Europe continues commitment to preventing violence in everyday life

The Ad Hoc Conference of European Ministers responsible for the Prevention of Violence in Everyday Life, held in Oslo, Norway from 7–9 November 2004, closed the first three-year phase of the Council of Europe's (CoE) Integrated Project for the Prevention of Violence In Everyday Life and opened a second three-

year phase, the Programme of Action on Children and Violence. Presentations at the Conference promoted a multi-sectoral approach to violence prevention that emphasizes the importance of primary prevention. The conclusions of the Integrated Project, including 12 principles for violence prevention programmes in Europe, were also introduced and a resolution accepting these conclusions and establishing the second phase of the project was adopted. The second phase will attempt to apply the 12 principles to a wide range of issues related to violence against children, including child abuse by parents and caregivers, commercial sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

In addition, the Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE, independently of the Integrated Project, issued a recommendation to the Committee of Ministers to undertake a pan-European Campaign against domestic violence in 2006, which the Assembly believes will encourage CoE Member States to begin to address this growing problem. The recommendation text was adopted on 8 October 2004. For more information, please see Rec 1681 (2004) at assembly.coe.int/ and www.coe.int/t/e/Integrated_Projects/violence/

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GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION
CAMPAGNE MONDIALE POUR LA PREVENTION DE LA VIOLENCE
VIOLENCE PREVENTION ALLIANCE / ALLIANCE POUR LA PREVENTION DE LA VIOLENCE

The Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA) is a network of WHO Member State governments, nongovernmental and community-based organizations, and private, international and intergovernmental agencies working to prevent violence. VPA participants share a public health approach that targets the root causes and risk factors underlying the likelihood of an individual becoming involved in violence and recognizes the need for improved services to mitigate the harmful effects of violence when it does occur.

VPA activities aim to facilitate the development of policies, programmes and tools to implement the recommendations of the World report on violence and health in communities, countries, and regions around the world, and attempt to strengthen sustained, multisectoral cooperation around this shared vision for violence prevention.

France begins to develop national plan of action for violence and health

The Ministry of Health in France has begun the process of developing a national plan of action for violence and health. Six commissions, each focusing on a different violence-related theme, were established between September and December 2004. The themes of the six commissions are: gender and violence; mental health and violence; violence and work; elder persons and persons with disabilities; institutions, organizations and violence; and children, adolescents, youth and violence. Each commission is charged with preparing a descriptive report for the area of focus and providing recommendations for the national plan of action. The reports and recommendations of each commission will be compiled and a complete national plan of action is expected in the second half of 2005.

VIP reports back to WHO Executive Board

At their 115th Session, held in Geneva from 17 – 25 January 2005, the WHO Executive Board considered the first report on Resolution 56.24, *Implementing the recommendations of the World report on violence and health*. The Resolution urged Member States to promote the *World report on violence and health* (WRVH), appoint a focal point for violence prevention in their ministries of health and prepare national reports on violence and health. It also requested that the Director-General of WHO cooperate with Member States on the implementation of violence prevention measures.

Since the Resolution was passed by the World Health Assembly in 2003, over 27,000 copies of the WRVH have been disseminated and it has in whole or in part been translated into 13 languages. A guide detailing action steps for carrying out the recommendations

made in the WRVH and other violence prevention, training, research and surveillance tools have been actively disseminated as part of WHO's ongoing Global Campaign for Violence Prevention. Over 40 countries have launched the WRVH and nominated health ministry focal points; four countries have prepared national reports on violence and health and 13 additional countries are planning to produce reports in 2005-2006. The report will also be considered by the World Health Assembly at its meeting in May.

Announcements

Latvia launches National Violence Prevention Campaign

In response to high levels of interpersonal and self-inflicted violence, an interagency team of representatives from WHO, UNICEF, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Latvia has organized a National Violence

A poster used in the Latvian National Violence Prevention Campaign, based on WHO's Violence in Red poster series (see Issue #5), advertises a new hotline number for victims of violence.



Prevention Campaign. The Campaign is also supported by the Ministries of Health, Justice, Interior, Education, Children and Family Affairs and Welfare, as well as the State Mental Health Agency, non-governmental organizations and private companies. In addition to the framework of WHO's Global Campaign for Violence Prevention, the UN Millennium Declaration (specifically, goals 4, to

reduce child mortality, and 5, to improve maternal health) and the Mental Health Declaration and Action Plan for Europe provide foundations for the work of the Campaign.

On 14 March 2005, the Campaign was launched in Riga and other large cities, and consists of an outdoor violence prevention poster display, a press conference, ongoing public

information through different types of media and the launch of a hotline telephone number for victims of violence. Over the course of 2005, the interagency team also plans to hold training for teachers on how to recognize and respond to violence against children; training of prosecutors on dealing with victims; and training of journalists on presenting violence issues in the mass

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Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA)

Violent Britain – People, Prevention and Public Health

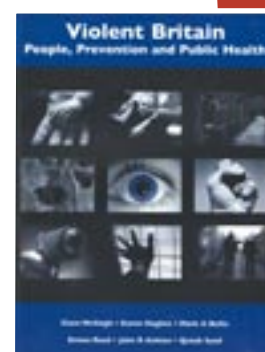
Supported by the World Health Organization, the Centre for Public Health at Liverpool John Moores University, the Health Protection Agency, Health Development Agency and the Department of Health hosted on 10-11 March 2005 a national conference on preventing violence and launching *Violent Britain: People, Prevention and Public Health*; a report on the staggering costs and consequences of violence.

The report brings together UK information on youth violence, intimate partner violence, child maltreatment, elder abuse and sexual violence. Key statistics from the report's executive summary include:

- There are 2.7 million incidents of violence every year in England and Wales.
- Assault is the second leading cause of hospital admissions in England for young males aged 15-24;
- Overall costs of intimate partner violence estimated to be £23 billion per year;
- Almost half of 10-14 year olds have suffered bullying at school;
- A quarter of women and 5% of men have experienced some form of sexual assault in their lifetime.

Both the conference and report aim to promote a public health approach to violence by focusing the attention of health, education, judicial and other public sector agencies on violence prevention. To raise awareness about violence and its causes, the conference included presentations on international examples of violence prevention and local examples of violence prevention research, prevention strategies and interventions for victims.

For more information see: www.cph.org.uk/cph_pubs/media/045violencenational2.pdf



Jamaica launches national chapter of the Violence Prevention Alliance

The first meeting of the Jamaican Chapter of the Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA) was held on 7 October 2004. The Ministers of Health and National Security were present along with several representatives from key organizations. The Minister of Health endorsed the actions of VPA and reiterated the importance of a multi-sectoral approach to stem the epidemic of violence in Jamaica.

The Jamaican Chapter of VPA was launched at the 13th Annual Research Conference of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of the West Indies on 12 November 2004. Under the slogan *Joining hands to find solutions*, the Jamaican VPA will concentrate on six areas:

- 1 increasing collaboration for violence prevention;
- 2 supporting the implementation and monitoring of a proposed national action plan;
- 3 enhancing capacity for collection of violence data, focusing especially on using Geographic Information Systems;
- 4 supporting the primary prevention of violence;
- 5 strengthening responses for victims of violence;
- 6 supporting the integration of violence prevention into social and educational policies.

media, and to facilitate the review of existing legislation to improve intersectoral policies on violence prevention. To learn more about the Campaign, please visit www.pretvardarbibu.lv

Child Injury Prevention Planning Meeting Considers future action

WHO and UNICEF co-organized a meeting on childhood injury prevention, held on 31 March – 1 April 2005 in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting discussed the current global situation in relation to child injury, both intentional and unintentional, and looked towards assisting in the development of a long-term global strategy for action on childhood injury prevention. In addition, the scope and development of a world report on childhood injury was considered.

Call for abstracts posted: World Conference on the Prevention of Family Violence

The call for abstracts for the World Conference on the Prevention of Family Violence is ready! The Conference, with the theme of Knowledge to Practice to Impact, is designed to bring together a diverse group of experts in the field of family violence prevention, intervention and advocacy.

Through education, sharing best practices and evaluating existing models and current approaches, participants will network to identify solutions to advance effective responses to family violence.

Internationally acclaimed presenters will offer the latest in research, assessment, intervention and prevention strategies. The overall vision for the Conference is to bring together the experiences, ideas and recommendations necessary to stimulate leadership and motivation towards a new generation free from family violence. The Conference is planned for 23 – 27 October 2005 in Banff, Canada. To access the call for abstracts and for more information about the Conference, please visit www.wcpfv2005.ca/en_home.cfm

Recent Events

European Violence Prevention in Health Network Colloquium: Preventing and combating violence against children, young people and women

The Colloquium, held from 21 – 23 October 2004 in Bordeaux, France, brought together 150 European forensic physicians, lawyers and policy-makers interested in

violence. Several presentations highlighted the innovative work of forensic institutes endeavouring to provide comprehensive, high-quality care to victims of violence. These initiatives are engaged in the difficult work of connecting police, hospitals, universities, psychosocial services and medico-legal care for the benefit of victims. Several promising models were described, many of which place clinical forensic medicine in a coordinating role. Participants were encouraged to become more involved in preventing violence and improving support services, particularly through using forensic data and collaborating with other stakeholders. For more information, please visit www.sozialnetz.de/ca/j/yuv/

The documents *World report on violence and health* and *Guidelines for medico-legal care for victims of sexual violence*, published by WHO, were also presented and can be downloaded from www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/publications/en/

**From left to right:
this page:**

**Working on Nepal's national
report on violence and health**

next page:

**Members of the team
developing Malaysia's national
report on violence and health
look at some data.**

**Members of Mongolia's national
report on violence and health
team celebrate Mongolian lunar
new year with traditional dress.**



Six national reports on violence and health planned in South East Asia and the Western Pacific

In October 2004, Ministry of Health-appointed experts from six Asia-Pacific countries met at the WHO Centre for Health and Development in Kobe, Japan, to plan the development of national reports on violence and health. Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Papua New-Guinea, Sri Lanka and Thailand all expect to have national reports available by the end of 2006. Resources for the consultation and for each country to prepare its report are being provided by the Centre.

Dr Wilfred Kreisel, the Centre Director, opened the meeting by noting that since violence is a major contributor to deaths, non-fatal injuries and other adverse health consequences, it is an important public health issue around which action must be taken to strengthen research and develop policies and prevention programmes. During the meeting participants developed a shared outline for the national reports and agreed on a timeline for their preparation and production. Each report will identify country-specific opportunities

and challenges for data collection, risk factor research, prevention programming, intervention evaluation and policy development. For more information, please visit www.who.or.jp/ Please also see earlier report in Issue #5.

OHCHR, UNICEF and WHO sign memorandum of understanding on way forward for UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children

Deputy Directors from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Assistant Director-General for Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health at WHO signed a memorandum of understanding at a meeting to discuss the way forward for the UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children. At the February 2005 meeting in Geneva, the Independent Expert leading the Study, Professor Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, described progress to date and plans for 2005 – 2006. The group also considered the opportunity that the Study represents to develop a common framework for preventing violence

against children that combines the strengths of human rights, public health and child protection.

In addition, the Editorial Committee has developed chapter outlines for the Study report, identified potential authors and set a production schedule. Following a request by the Committee, UNICEF's Innocenti Centre in Florence, Italy hosted a consultation on 10-11 February 2005 to discuss the feasibility of deriving global estimates of the number of children affected by various types of violence. Experts from WHO, the International Labour Organization, UNICEF and non-governmental organizations participated. Several methods for estimating the number of children exposed to various types of child abuse in the home and family, schools, institutions and communities were considered and further exploration of possible methods is ongoing. For more information, please visit www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/6/crc/study.htm



Looking Ahead

British Broadcasting Corporation plans World Service Season on Violence Prevention

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) World Service is collaborating with WHO to prepare a two to three-week "Season" of broadcasting on interpersonal violence and its prevention. The Season, which is slated to begin 8 November 2005 and last two to three weeks, will include intensive radio programming and possibly television news coverage on various issues relating to violence. On 31 January 2005, VIP staff travelled to London to brief senior editors of the BBC World Service on the key findings and messages of the *World report on violence and health* to assist their programme planning.

Second Milestones of a Global Campaign for Violence Prevention

The Second Milestones of a Global Campaign for Violence Prevention meeting, to be held on 19-20 October 2005 in San Francisco, USA, marks the third anniversary of the global launch of the *World report on violence and health* (WRVH). Following the tradition set by the first Milestones meeting in January 2004, Milestones 2005 will highlight the successes and challenges in implementing the recommendations of the WRVH and the accompanying Global Campaign for Violence Prevention (GCVP), and will set forth the future directions of the GCVP for 2006 and beyond. Milestones 2005 will feature the Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA) as an important vehicle for GCVP activities and will provide participants an opportunity to discover VPA and provide input into its role in the GCVP. www.who.int/violenceprevention

Publications

Clinical management of rape survivors: Developing protocols for use with refugees and internally displaced persons (Revised Edition) is a resource for health care professionals developed by UNFPA, WHO, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The Revised Edition, updated from the 2001 original, includes the most recent technical information on the various aspects of care of the sexually abused. It also takes into account the feedback received from field-tests of the first edition. The guide describes best practices in the clinical management of people who have been raped in emergency situations. Intended to be used by health care professionals working in emergency or in other similar settings, it helps the users to develop specific protocols for medical care of rape survivors (as reported in Issue #5). The guide is currently available in English and French. For more information and to download the document, please visit www.who.int/reproductive-health/emergencies/index.en.html

Violence Prevention Alliance: Building global commitment for violence prevention

The first two VPA publications were published in early March 2005 under this theme. The 12-page brochure sets out the mission and basic premise of VPA, and includes answers to frequently asked questions about the development of this global network.

The Policy Paper goes more in-depth to explain the three models that form the underpinnings of VPA: the public health approach, the ecological framework, and the typology of violence, all first introduced in the *World report on violence and health* in 2002. In addition, it explains the history of VPA's development, its scope, goals and objectives, and what it will contribute to the violence prevention field. Both documents can be downloaded at www.who.int/violenceprevention

