

**Violence Against Women
Civil Forum Outcome Report
Mary Adams**

Workshop Design:

The Violence Against Women (VAW) team used the Message House method as an advocacy tool to summarize our recommendations and research for the audience. The Message House visual acted as a guide for ideas about how to communicate our recommendations as an advocacy tool using consolidated messages for civil, private and public sectors.

Workshop Goal:

Enable participants to provide input to the advocacy tool from their own experiences, knowledge, and lived experiences. This could include opportunities, barriers, best practices, and insights.

Workshop Implementation:

- Introduction to the workshop and process
- Overview of 4 VAW recommendations and invitation to participants to join a session on a recommendation of interest
- Parallel sessions (30 minutes) of facilitated discussions to gather participants' feedback per recommendation
- "Report outs" on the key advocacy tips per recommendation
- 30-minute moderated Open Forum for general discussion on recommendations and additional advocacy tips to end VAW

Workshop Summary:

Although the Message House method is an effective communication tool, none of the participants were familiar with it. Feedback from participants was 95% in general comments and not in advocacy tips or shared experiences.

As the Convenor/Moderator, I did receive positive feedback from multiple participants about the VAW workshop. However, as a Moderator, I cannot state that this workshop was helpful to participants in using the information provided as an advocacy guide or for my VAW workgroup to incorporate feedback to enhance our Message House.

Workshop Data:

Promote research, collect pertinent data and compile statistics (measures and instruments) concerning violence against women and girls. Encourage research into causes, nature, seriousness, consequences and effective measures to implement and redress all types of violence. Develop data standards, metadata, and security protocols for information sharing that enables global research data access and analysis and reporting.

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| Roof | Standardizing data on victims of violence in the public sector is essential for improving the effectiveness of responses, enhancing coordination between agencies, and developing informed policies | | |
| Subroof | Promoting research and data collection on victims of violence is crucial for understanding the scope of the issue, developing effective interventions, and influencing policy changes. | | |
| Walls | Encourage research into causes, nature, seriousness, and consequences of violence. | Encourage research into effective measures to implement and redress all types of violence. | Develop data standards, metadata, and security protocols for information sharing that enables global research data access and analysis and reporting. |
| Foundation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish research priorities Involve victims in the research process Enhance data collection methods Build research capacity & data collection training Engage with the technology sector to use digital tools and analytics Influence policy changes with evidence-based advocacy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify root causes Evaluate existing interventions Analyze case studies and best practices Develop innovative solutions Support funding initiatives, promote interdisciplinary collaboration, and prioritizing evidence-based approaches | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop research frameworks with uniform definitions, classification systems, and ethical guidelines. Data governance policies Data stewardship Interoperability and integration Ensure data confidentiality & privacy |
| Basement | Data standardization in the government sector is essential for improving data quality, interoperability, and efficiency. By developing clear standards, implementing robust data governance frameworks, promoting interoperability, and leveraging technology, government agencies can enhance their data management practices and deliver better services to the public. | | |

Top three points:

1. Develop an institutional mechanism strategy with government and private sectors with a step-by-step plan to standardize data for a sustainable data plan for collection, monitoring and evaluation.
2. Develop a classification system that incorporates root causes, intersectionality, academic research – furthermore create a space where women to feel secure to share their lived experiences and narratives
3. Develop a data collection implementation plan for historic data, academic research, narratives, case studies, SVRI (Sexual Violence Data Institute), monitoring reports, and new data as a trusted source.

Feedback:

- Safeguarding for participants
- Use best data practices from the private sector
- Reach out to key funders (Melissa Gates) and United Nations if they are interested in statistics on VAW
- Consider AI potential in development plan and also as an analysis tool
- Data can be used as evidence to influence policy-making
- Effective use of qualitative and quantitative data

Invest and partner with the civil and private sectors to design and develop gender-sensitive national support systems that provide well-funded shelters and relief that incorporate long-term social integration for girls and women subjected to violence, as well as medical, psychological and other counseling services, enable inclusive education, and free or low-cost legal aid to enhance self-advocacy, empowerment, and dignity.

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| Roof | Invest and partner with the civil and private sectors to design and develop gender-sensitive national support systems. | | | |
| Subroof | Design and develop national support systems that provide well-funded shelters and relief and incorporate long-term social integration for girls and women subjected to violence. | | | |
| Walls | The healthcare sector plays a critical role in supporting victims of violence, including domestic abuse, sexual assault, human trafficking, and other forms of interpersonal violence. | The civil sector's flexibility, community connections, and specialized focus allow it to address the diverse and complex needs of victims of violence in ways that are often more personalized and accessible. | Inclusive education for victims of violence creates an environment where individuals can heal, grow, and thrive despite their past experiences. | By providing training and employment opportunities, private companies can help victims rebuild their lives, achieve financial independence, and contribute to society. |
| Foundation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trauma-informed care Long-term health management Mental health services Integrated care and referral systems Clear protocols and guidelines for healthcare workers Access to care services Culturally competent care | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crisis intervention & emergency services (hotlines, helplines, shelters, safe houses, financial assistance) Advocacy and legal support Support groups Public awareness campaigns Culturally Sensitive Services Community mobilization Youth programs addressing root causes of violence | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe & supportive environment Flexible learning approaches Social inclusion Rights education Cultural sensitivity and inclusivity Private Partnerships with Educational Organizations (scholarships & grants) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employment and skill development Economic empowerment training (financial literacy) Workplace inclusivity programs Corporate responsibility initiatives |
| Basement | Adopt institutional mechanisms and assign core resources to perform due diligence in independent oversight, regular reviews and monitoring of all violence against women to implement legal, policy, and education reforms that promote social transformation. | | | |

Top three points

1. Allocate funding for survivor-centered services such as safehouses, therapy that include AI
2. Training for LE, healthcare providers and other CSOs such as hotel, public transport, interpreters.
3. Multidisciplinary collaboration for all agencies on data sharing while providing privacy and security to victims

Feedback:

- Training of professionals and volunteers
- Participation of victims for help
- Trust between victims and government
- Trust in peers
- Co-development of interventions with victims
- Fund community and peer-led organizations to create trust networks

Improve and standardize identification procedures for victims of violence to ensure that all victims are identified as such and can benefit from the assistance and protection measures. Develop capability building programs to educate law enforcement and healthcare professionals about signals and appropriate ethical responses.

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| Roof | Improve and standardize identification procedures for victims of human trafficking to ensure that all victims are identified as such and can benefit from the assistance and protection measures. | |
| Subroof | Develop capability building programs to educate law enforcement and healthcare professionals about trafficking signals and appropriate ethical responses. | |
| Walls | By equipping healthcare providers with the knowledge and skills to identify victims, offer trauma-informed care, and respect the diverse identities of victims, the healthcare sector can play a vital role in supporting recovery and improving outcomes for those affected by violence. | By equipping law enforcement with skills to recognize signs of victimization, communicate effectively with victims, and collaborate with other agencies can improve outcomes for victims and enhance the overall response to violence. This comprehensive approach helps ensure that victims are treated with the care and respect they deserve, and that justice is served in a manner that prioritizes their safety and well-being. |
| Foundation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand dynamics of violence & trauma (Trauma-Care Principles) • Screening & Assessment tools • Recognizing non-physical signs • Culturally competent care • Confidentiality & safe disclosure • Victim autonomy / informed consent • Psychological support and referral • Vulnerable Populations (children, elderly, LGBTQ+) • Self-care and profession support of healthcare employees • Training programs (workshops, simulations, online modules) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand subtleties of violence (types power and control dynamics) • Identify signs of victimization (physical, behavioral, environmental cues) • Communication skills for trauma-informed interviews • Cultural competence and sensitivity • Legal knowledge & reporting requirements • Collaboration with other agencies (social and support services) • Training (scenario-based, ongoing education, collaboration with experts) |
| Basement | Adopt institutional mechanisms and assign core resources to perform due diligence in independent oversight, regular reviews and monitoring of all violence against women to implement legal, policy, and education reforms that promote social transformation. | |

Top points:

1. Training for frontline workers
2. Technology-based tools (apps) allowing safe and anonymous reporting
3. Expanding onboarding and annual training for hotel staff and other industries

Feedback:

- Collaboration and data sharing between agencies
- Trauma-informed training for interpreters and define language and cultural clues for violence)
- Budget for training

Non-state torture (NST) refers to acts of torture perpetrated by individuals, groups, or organizations that are not affiliated with the state or government. Non-state torture is carried out by private actors such as family members, criminal organizations, traffickers, or terrorists. Despite its widespread occurrence, non-state torture is often under-recognized and inadequately addressed within legal frameworks and human rights discourses.

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| Roof | State Members and the United Nations should enact a Declaration on the Elimination of Torture Perpetrated by Non-State Actors | | | |
| Subroof | By broadening the understanding and response to torture beyond state-perpetrated acts, the global community can better address the full spectrum of violence that affects vulnerable individuals worldwide. | | | |
| Walls | A declaration can be proposed by a member state, a group of states, a UN body, or emerge from international conferences or meetings convened by the UN. | The draft declaration is revised to reflect the consensus (or the majority view) of the member states. | Present the declaration to the UN General Assembly for a vote of adoption. | The UN disseminates the declaration to member states, international organizations, and the public. |
| Foundation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International response • Awareness & Advocacy • Characteristics of NST (perpetrators, forms, contexts) • Legal recognition • Invisibility & stigma • Support & Protection for victims | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diplomatic work to balance differing national interests and perspectives. • Finalize acceptable version of the text and submit to a higher body of the UN. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee Approval • Adoption of the Declaration. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicizing the declaration • Encouraging implementation • Monitoring and follow-up |
| Basement | The enactment of a UN declaration is a multistage process that reflects the collective will of the international community. While the declarations themselves are not legally binding, they carry significant moral and political weight, often shaping international norms and influencing national laws and policies. | | | |

Top points:

1. Support the initiative for Declaration on NST
2. Include NST in an optional protocol to CEDAW

General Feedback:

- Survivor-leader council for trauma-informed prevention
- Consider institutionalized violence and abuse
- Create policies for violence in conflict
- Education for boys and girls
- She/He campaign
- Poland training for boys