

REPORT

2nd Dialogue Forum

**Evidence-based programmes to prevent
VAW and VAC**

7 & 8 APRIL 2016

Pretoria, Gauteng

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Introduction to the Forum

Over the past few years there has been tremendous investment into finding out what kinds of programmes and interventions work to prevent violence. Many of these programmes and interventions are informed by the public health approach to violence prevention and seek to address the factors that create the risk for violence.

As a result of this investment in knowledge (nationally and globally) we are in a better position than ever before to begin to turn our attention to how to make evidence-based programmes available in communities where they are most needed. In addition, within the next few years we anticipate that there will be an increase in the number of programmes that have been rigorously evaluated. However, in order to realise their potential, strong partnerships between government departments, non-governmental organisations, international organisations and academics are necessary. **This forum seeks to strengthen relationships between the sectors built on a shared vision and on empathetic and informed understandings of the different contexts in which each sector works.**

The dialogue forum has met twice. Once in November 2015 and again in April 2016. The first dialogue identified the following objectives for the forum:

- to influence and inform national action by making the latest evidence accessible through dialogue and discussion
- to share and disseminate information about programmes to prevent violence that have been developed and are being tested in South Africa
- to arrive at a common understanding and agreed definition of what we mean by 'evidence' of a programme's effect
- to arrive at a common understanding of what we mean by 'prevention' and the spectrum of programmes required to address the factors that perpetuate cycles of violence
- to provide a space within which strong, healthy relationships can be built across sectors with the purpose of enabling the scale-up of evidence-based programmes
- to identify what is needed to enable such scale-up and to work towards creating the conditions within which this is possible
- to provide a clear, accessible central repository for information about evidence-based programmes that meets the needs of NGOs and government departments that will implement them; and
- to provide and/or facilitate an integrated approach to address VAW and VAC. In this case 'integrated' refers to an approach that brings coherence and alignment to the services provided at community-level by government and NGOs.

These objectives set the agenda for the second meeting. In this meeting we sought to:

- understand and explore what we mean when we speak of violence prevention
- share information about programmes that are currently being tested, and those that have been tested and are being implemented
- develop the relationships between sectors and understand the factors that motivate, drive and inhibit our work in the different sectors; and
- clarify the role and place for the forum and ensure collaboration that adds new value and does not duplicate existing structures

Drawing on recommendations in the 1st Dialogue Forum, additional participants were invited to the second meeting including representatives from National Treasury, the Department of Women, the Department of Planning Monitoring and Evaluation, RAPCAN and KPMG.

An experienced facilitator with a strong background in violence prevention programmes, Judy Connors from Phaphama Initiatives, facilitated the sessions over the two days. Each of the processes for the sessions was carefully designed to ensure interactive engagement, open discussion and knowledge sharing.

A broad summary of the discussions and outcomes of the forum are contained in this report. The key strategic objectives for the forum are summarised as follows:

- to develop an advocacy strategy and plan to support government and ensure that violence prevention is addressed holistically and is informed by academics and NGOs
- to ensure that the Forum is represented by credible spokespeople; and
- to develop a plan to make evidence-based programming sustainable; and understand what evidence is required to leverage support from government

It was agreed that the secretariat for the forum would be created and it would include the following individuals:

- *Dr Chandre Gould (ISS)*
- *Sinah Moruane (UNICEF)*
- *Nwabisa Shai (MRC - representing research institutions and academia)*
- *Pumeza Mafani (Department of Women, representing the government sector)*

Key Discussion 1: How does this process fit into the broader political context and other violence prevention initiatives driven by the state and civil society?

(Discussion facilitated by Dr Shanaaz Mathews, Children's Institute)

The objectives of this session were to:

- identify the current government or donor driven policies, structures and committees to address violence and to assess whether these have influenced the direction of programmatic areas of work addressing violence
- identify initiatives driven by government or civil society; and
- determine how these structures / processes duplicate or dovetail with the Forum

Participants identified national and international laws and structures relevant to the work of this Forum (please see a detailed outline in **Appendix A**).

Participants felt that it was important for the forum to be connected in one way or another (possibly through joint membership) with relevant government structures given the critical influence and impact of these structures. This is important if the information and understanding arising from the forum are to meaningfully inform practice and policy development, and avoid duplication. It was agreed that a co-ordinated approach to tackling violence prevention is essential.

Several challenges to co-ordination were identified, one of which was the difficulty government departments face in consulting with NGOs and academics in the absence of any co-ordinating or representative structures for these sectors. While this is not something that can easily be resolved, the forum was identified as offering an opportunity for more in-depth consultation across sectors than currently exists.

The need to understand what is required to translate existing legislation and policies into effective programmes of action was identified. In addition, participants said that systems and ways of ensuring accountability for realising such programmes of action needed to be established.

Participants identified the need for common indicators across government departments, but acknowledged that this would take time and input from all sectors to achieve.

In addition, participants identified the following key actions for the forum:

- to develop an understanding of what it takes to translate legislation and policies into programme of actions and to ensure accountability
- to advocate for the inclusion of violence prevention as a strategic agenda item for government action
- to understand how VAW and VAC programmes are reflected in government's planning (medium term strategic framework) to ensure that the evidence- based programmes receive the required priority and allocated funding; and
- to understand the cost-benefit of preventing violence.

Key Discussion 2: How do we understand prevention and how do the risk factors between the different forms of violence overlap

(Discussion facilitated by Chandre Gould & Judy Connors)

The aim of this session was to explore the definition of 'violence prevention'. The process involved participants indicating the extent to which they agree or disagree with a statement about what is required to prevent violence by standing closer or further from the statement placed in the centre of the room. The closer they placed themselves to the circle containing the definition, indicated how strongly they agreed with the definition.



Figure 1: Diagrammatic view of prevention process

The exercise encouraged sharing of perspectives and experience. Participants were invited to explain their positions, challenge assumptions and gather evidence to confirm or alter their positions on the spectrum. The activity highlighted areas of common understanding, difference and misunderstanding. It strongly emphasised the need for academics and NGOs to share the evidence of what works more

effectively with colleagues in government, and indicated how important evidence is to informing our priorities.

The pie charts attached marked **Appendix B**, reflect the outcome of the discussions. **There was general consensus among the participants that a common understanding of what we should prioritise if we are to prevent violence is necessary and that priorities should be informed by the evidence.**

Key Discussion 3: Sharing of updates on evidence-based programmes to prevent violence against women and children

((Discussion facilitated by Chandre Gould)

During this session participants currently involved in evaluating programmes, or implementing evidence-based programmes, shared the status of their work.

The following participants shared the progress of their programmes with the team:

- Carol Bews, Johannesburg Child and Family Welfare, The Granny Programme
- Blanche Rezant, The Parent Centre, The Parent-Infant Home Visiting Programme
- Inge Wessels, University of Cape Town, Sinovuyo Caring Families for 2 – 9 year olds
- Sinah Moruane & Ytske van Winden: Sinovuyo Caring Families for Teens
- Dr Andrew Gibbs, University of KwaZulu Natal, Stepping Stones and Creating Futures
- Dr Nwabisa Shai, Medical Research Council, Skhokho
- Tanya Charles, Sonke Gender Justice, One Man Can

One-page overviews of these programmes is presented in **Annexure C**

The discussion yielded key considerations of how we take programmes to scale. Questions were raised about funding processes. It was said that we need to develop a better understanding of how the support for taking evidence-based programmes to scale, sustainably, and partnership with government can be achieved.

Key Discussion 4: Understanding the contexts in which we work

(Discussion facilitated by Judy Connors)

During this session a process known as ‘Lands Work’ was used. Participants grouped themselves by sector. Each sector described to the other two what it is like to work in their context. Participants then took turns to move into each other’s sectors and reflect on what it felt like to stand in each other’s shoes. This enabled each sector to reflect on their own context, and to hear how other sectors view them.

Below is a brief summary of what participants said about their own sectors.

Academia & Research Institutions

Participants from academia said it was exciting to conceptualise and test ideas. There is a vibrant world from which they are able to contribute to an assessment of programmes to find, 'what works'. Although they generate significant evidence they felt that as a sector, they didn't engage sufficiently with other government and practitioners to see how evidence can feed into practice.

NGOs

This sector indicated that they worry constantly about sustainability (support, finances and continuity) and about the impact of the trauma often witnessed and experienced by their staff working in communities. They said that they like seeing the results of their interventions in communities. They felt that other sectors didn't always clearly see and understand the work they were doing.

Government

Participants said their 'land' was both exciting and frustrating because although they have mandates and authority to provide services there are big expectations and limited resources and they often have to make difficult decisions. They also highlighted concerns with other competing priorities in their sector.

In the second phase of the process, sectors were invited to travel into different sector lands to share their perspectives. This enabled sectors to see how others viewed them.

Below is a summary of the **external sector** views.

<p><i>Academics and NGOs in the land of Government</i></p> <p>Although surrounded by brilliant passionate people there appears to be difficulty in communicating with other sectors. Access to resources for Government is a constraint as was capacity and implementation. Working in government you are not always in control of your time and it's difficult to know who you can consult with outside of your sector.</p>	<p><i>Government Response</i></p> <p>Government was in general agreement with the perspective.</p>
<p><i>Government and NGOs in land of Academia</i></p> <p>The world of academia and research was perceived as a powerful and exciting land. This sector is filled with intelligent people but the results are not always available to, nor utilised by practitioners. They did not understand programme implementation nor how to form networks outside their sector and struggled with access to resources. They had the freedom to choose the research they wanted to do without any restrictions.</p>	<p><i>Academics Response</i></p> <p>They indicated that felt misunderstood by other sectors. The land was not always comfortable because their work was often attacked and discredited. Although it was exciting to have continuous learning, the struggle was to communicate the relevance of their research in practice. The idea that they could simply choose what they wanted to research was misleading because their research was informed by challenges and was generally commissioned to influence policy and practise. It is not as powerful a position as it may seem because as you cannot actually improve service delivery.</p>

<i>Government and Academics in land of NGOs</i>	<i>NGO response</i>
<p>It was perceived that this sector constantly worries about funding and struggles to be sustainable but the work being done by NGOs is essential. NGOs are in touch with what is happening on the ground in communities and often felt rewarded because they make a difference in communities' lives. On the other hand NGOs sometimes feel 'used' because they are perceived as competitors rather than as partners. Donor funding means that they are sometimes perceived as counter-revolutionary.</p>	<p>They felt understood. The struggle for resources was ongoing.</p>

The key learnings outcomes expressed by the forum was that at a multi-sectoral level they need to:

- collaborate more
- share information and resources (where applicable)
- clarify objectives
- show appreciation for the value and roles of the other sectors
- be united in their diversity
- make equitable contributions.

It was agreed that the opportunity for a shared agenda among the sectors was evident.

Key Discussion 5: The Diagnostic Review: KPMG shares with the team the outcome of the Diagnostic Review

(Laura Brooks, KPMG)

The diagnostic review commissioned by the Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation was discussed and a high-level report of the findings of the review offered. It was noted that the review has not yet been approved by DMPE or Cabinet but that it was important to share the preliminary information to inform discussions in the forum.

The Diagnostic review focussed on prevention, early intervention, response and support and took into consideration the prevalence and attitudes of government related to administration and implementation. Programmes funded by government were considered and the extent to which they covered prevention, early intervention, response and support. The data review and collection process was extensive encompassing, literature, strategic plans, policies, reporting documents and planning documents at national and provincial levels.

KPMG identified six high-level recommendations from the review:

- revitalise, strengthen and re-launch the POA: VAWC;
- establish a body to provide oversight and coordination to the sector, ensure accountability, and monitor progress against government's goal to eliminate VAWC;

- strengthen prevalence and administrative data collection and management respectively, enabling a clear understanding of the magnitude, geographic spread and nature of VAWC in South Africa
- build a stronger evidence base of what works to address VAWC in South Africa through programme evaluations of both government and NPO implemented programmes
- DSD to lead in comprehensively defining psychosocial response services for victims of VAWC, establishing minimum core services and funding implications for their implementation

Key questions and issues raised in discussion included:

- What is the evidence telling us about where we need to be focussing?
- There are opportunities that we can prioritise – what are the timeframes – when do we need to be doing this and who should be collaborating to make it work?
- How do we begin to move towards defining strategic advocacy?
- How we ensure the sustainability of evidence-based programming to prevent violence?
- How do we create a national agenda to develop the violence prevention agenda?

Key Discussion 5: Way Forward for the Forum

(Discussion facilitated by Chandre Gould and Judy Connors)

In this session multi-sectoral groups were created to discuss the way forward for the forum, including how the forum should be constituted; how it can realise the existing opportunities to have a positive impact on the VAWC agenda currently in place; and how to make available the information we need to prioritise violence prevention interventions.

Group 1: How to realise existing opportunities

- It is necessary to see the MTSF and the POA as a potential levers for violence prevention. The MTSF informs strategic plans at both national and provincial levels. The process to inform the next MSTF is beginning now and it will be important to ensure that violence prevention is clearly articulated in the strategy. **We need to find out when the reviews are happening, and how we – as a collective – can make input into the process.**
- The Programme of Action to Prevent Gender-based Violence is currently peripheral as a policy document and should be an action document. There needs to be discussion about its content and nature and how it links to national, provincial and local levels plans and actions. It needs to be reviewed to ensure efficacy in implementation as an action plan.
- The forum should support and develop a long-term strategic advocacy campaign that links to existing campaigns. The advocacy program could be used to reframe the problem as systemic (assessing the cost benefit) and social (looking at the prevention mechanisms).
- Government has traditionally seen violence and violence prevention as the responsibility of the criminal justice cluster. There was need to advocate for a shift in focus so that other departments that have significant roles to play are identified and their mandates in relation to violence prevention clearly set out. Consideration should be given to positioning it as a systemic prevention issue to empower the task team going forward into the future.

Nominated team leader: Pumeza Mafani supported by Zaheera Mohamed, Celia Hsiao, Laura Brooks and Angela Biden

Group 2: Developing a violence prevention framework

- Need a comprehensive set of risk factors that are common to all forms of violence and also incorporates the differences between risk factors for women and children. This needs (?) to be constructed as a living document.
- A lot of work has already been done on this but it needs to be made accessible and available to members of the Forum. The SDG indicators on prevention of violence and the CDC violence prevention framework were mentioned as important sources as was the WHO Country State Readiness Report and programmes for small children and teens (which however lacked life courses for different stages of children).
- There is a need to develop best practises for evaluation through case studies, RCT, pre- and post-evaluations and quasi-experimental reviews.
- Need to consider the prevention programmes designed with a theory of change.

Nominated team leader: Pumeza Mafani – supported by Mokhantso Makoae, Andy Gibbs, Inge Wessels.

Group 3: The role and nature of the Forum

- It was agreed that it wasn't yet necessary to formalise the forum but to rather let it gradually develop it into an entity.
- In order to realise its objectives – it needed to function as a think tank. In this regard the forum could be used to share information and promote a better understanding of what interventions are in place, whether those interventions work and why.
- It could be used to collaboratively contribute to reviewing plans and acting as a sounding board for the different departments and to develop shared plans. It is important to establish how this Forum aligns with what already exists to ensure that it does not duplicate existing structures.
- It was proposed that a secretariat be established to ensure that future meetings take place and that communication between meetings is sustained. This secretariat must represent the three sectors: government; civil society and academia.
- The long-term objective of the forum is to ensure the sustainable implementation of evidence-based violence prevention programmes at scale in South Africa. As such it must ensure that research and information becomes easily accessible.

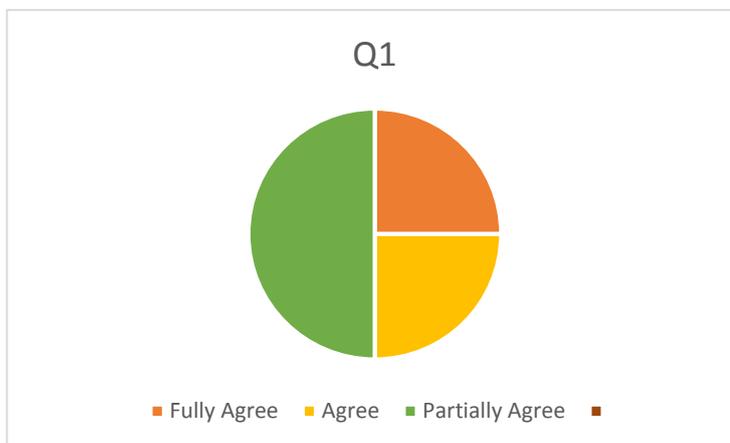
HIGH-LEVEL OVERVIEW OF CURRENT VAW & VAC STRUCTURES, POLICIES, PROGRAMMES

International Structures / Policies / Donors	SA Policies / Programmes / Legislation / Policies	SA Structures	SA Committees
	National Development Plan MTSF (5yr plans to support implementation)	SANAC DOH (evidence based parenting programme for national scale up to influence HIV prevention)	PHL (Parenting for Life long Health)
CEDAW	DSD Plan of Action against VAW & VAC (interdepartmental 2013-2018)	Social Justice Initiative	Hate Crimes Working Group
UNCRC	16 Days of Violence (concern: lacks evidence however there is an opportunity to use this more effectively)	GBV Council (inter-departmental management team)	
SDGs	Social Impact Bond	Provincial VEP	Domestic Violence Committee (NPA)
GLOBAL Fund	PEI (Strategy by DSD re Children's Act)	Child Protection Forum	Sexual Offences Committee (NPA)
World Health Violence Prevention Alliance	National School Safety Framework	Crime Prevention Forum	National Co-Ord Forum on UNFPA (E Cape / KZN)
EU: interest on violence (call for GBV Projects to fund)	VEP Framework	SHUKUMISA	Safer South Africa
DG Murray Trust (donor on VAC)	Policy of Ukuthwala	Dream Fund: Stepping Stones	Child Protection Forum
WHO	National Drug Masterplan	IMC (chaired by DSD)	Presidency / SANAC (National Campaign on VAW and VAC – Deputy Presidency)
	Integrated Social Crime Prevention Strategy	National Research Group	Violence Prevention Alliance
	Safety and Violence Initiative (Broader than VANAC)	FPD /SAMRC/SONKE/SOUL CITY *increasing access to justice	Hate Crimes Working Group
	White Paper on Safety and Security Bill	Bertha Centre	Crime Prevention Committee
	Torture Bill	Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy by DSD	
	The Victim Charter	National Research Fund	
	HIV Prevention Strategy	Sexual Offences Court	
	Laws: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOA; • DVA;CJA • Trafficking Act • Child Act • The Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse Act 	Sinovuyo	
	Policy on Families (White Paper)	Domestic Violence Committee	
	What Works (MRC & DFID)	Sexual Offences Committee	
	Diagnostic Reviews	National Co-ordination Forum on UNFPA	
	Social Determinants	Safer South Africa	
		Parenting Institute	
		Thutuzele	
	UBS Optimus Study National Research Fund	Human Trafficking	
		GIZ Safer Spaces Initiatives	

A COMMON DEFINITION FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION CHARTS

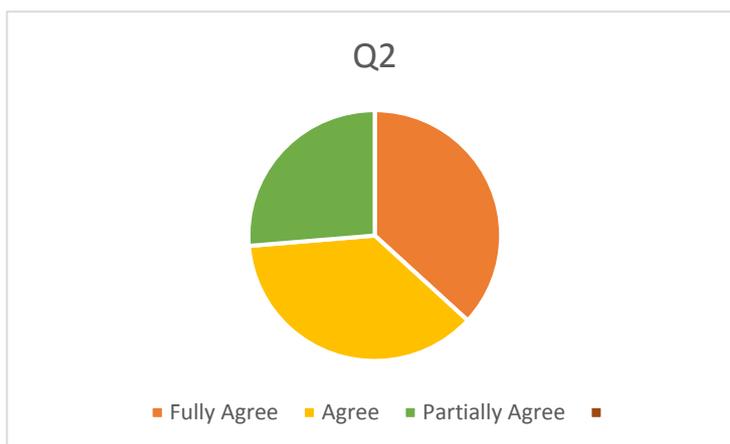
If we want to prevent violence we need to provide care and services for all victims of violence: men, women and children

- Care breaks cycles
- Care is part of prevention
- Have to address perpetrators and victims
- Can't prevent at the expense of treatment



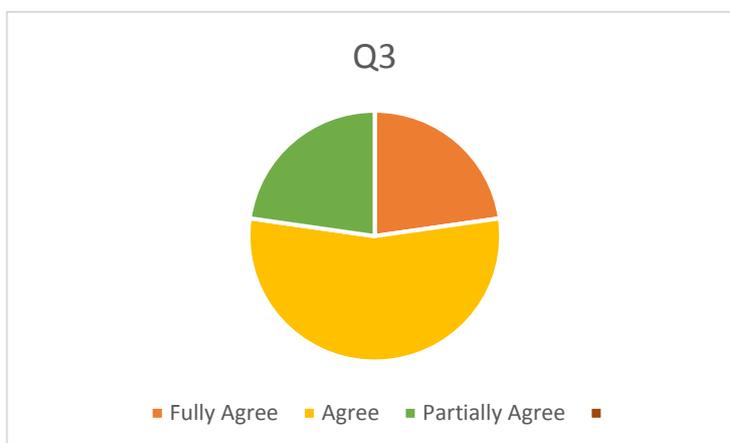
If we want to prevent violence we need to make sure that children are safe at school

- What happens to children out of / after school
- Why schools what about homes
- Not an institutional priority



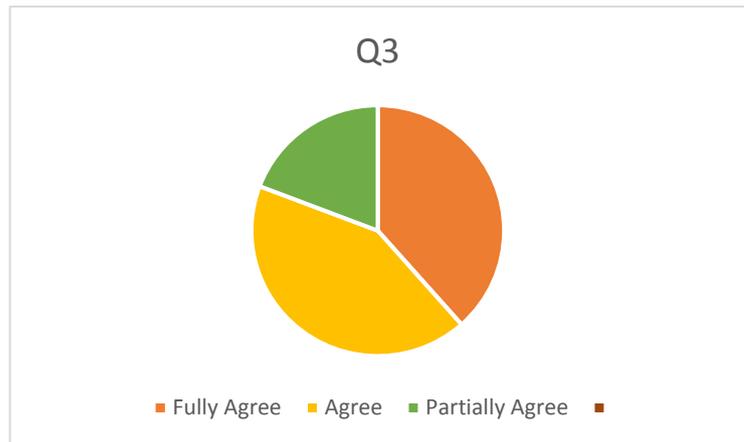
If we want to prevent violence we need to ensure that children are warmly cared from birth

- Prevention begins at conception (even this is too late)
- If there is violence exposure at home – then all the love we have won't help



If we want to prevent violence we need to provide care for women who are raped or are victims of intimate partner violence

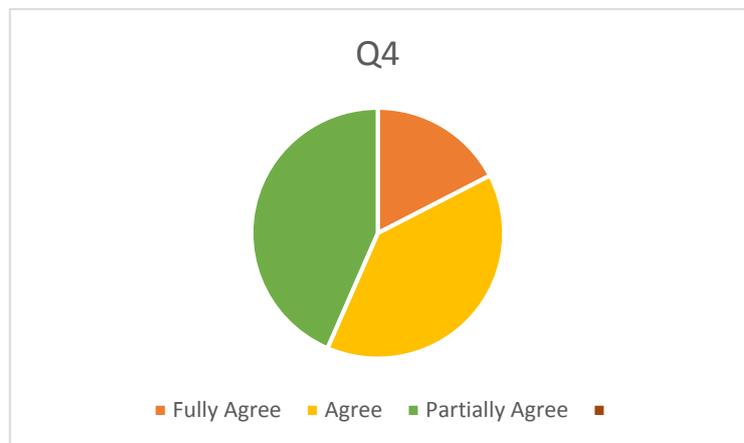
- Psycho – social impact is high
- It's a risk to be a woman in SA
- Need a more caring CJS – better witnesses; court figures etc.
- Need GBV education for young people



If we want to prevent violence we need to provide communities with equipment for children and young people to play sport safely

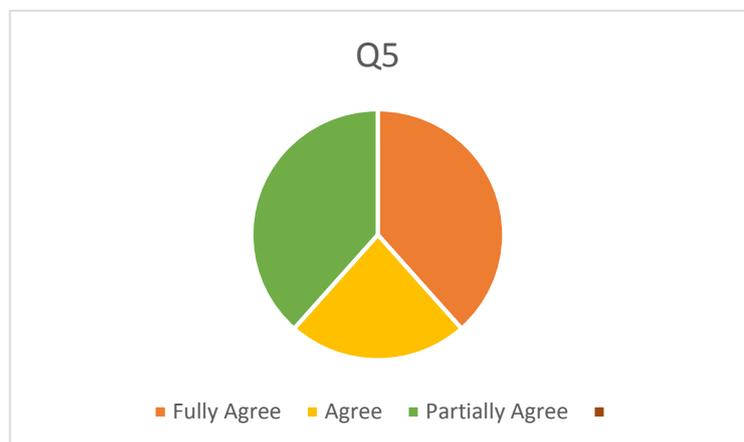
Comments:

- Cultural activities can be harmful and violent – sports activities can reinforce harmful masculinities
- Sport reinforces gender stereotypes (?)
- Safety is a critical component



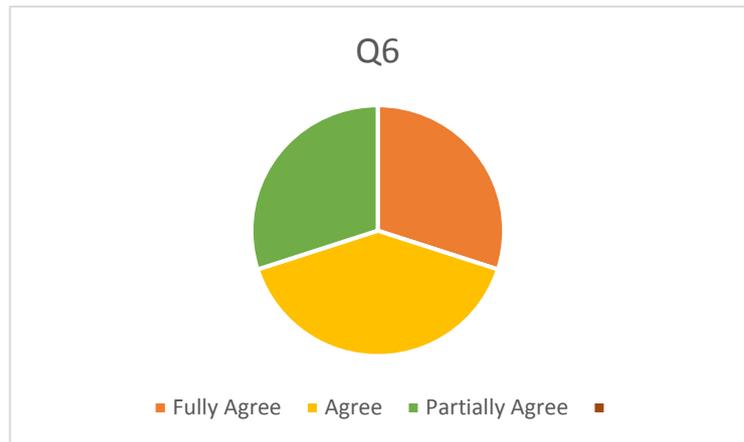
If we want to prevent violence we need to create employment

- Poverty is a risk factor among other risk factors
- Is there evidence that employment reduces violence?
- Women or children can be dependent on violent men
- Employment can be oppressive / exploitative



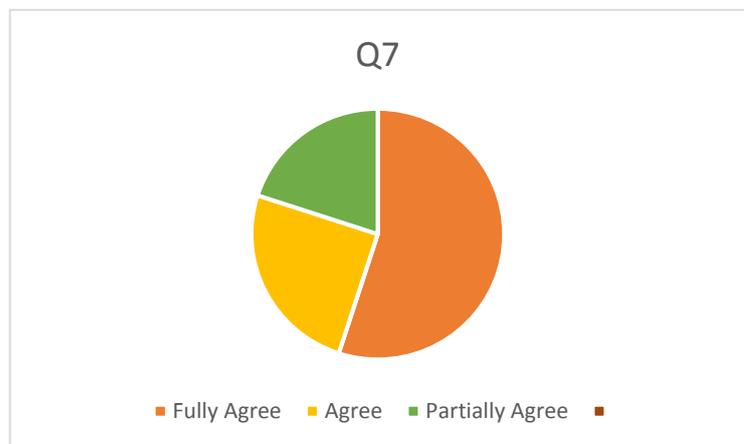
If we want to prevent violence we need to ban guns

- This is a symptom
- Prevents killings by shooting but not violence against women and children
- People who don't have guns will use other tools for violence



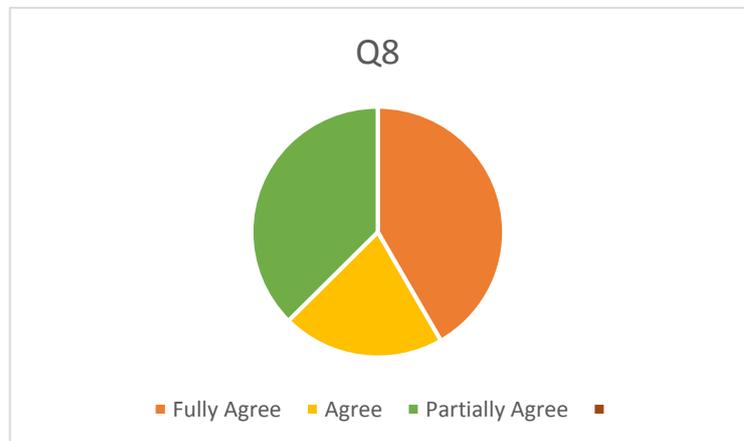
If we want to prevent violence we need to rehabilitate offenders

- Intense long programme
- Prevents reoffending
- Need to measure effect
- Only a small number of perpetrators are incarcerated



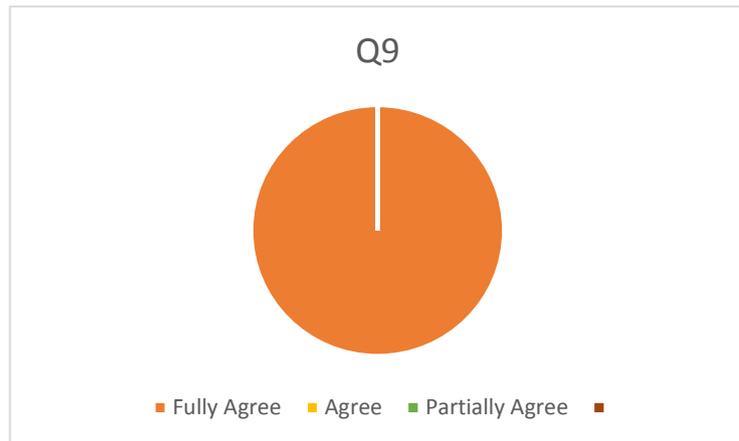
•
If we want to prevent violence we need to make sure the criminal justice system works

- Threat of incarceration doesn't deter crime
- Some offenders see social workers only when they come for parole
- Acts as a deterrent but for someone who has already committed a crime



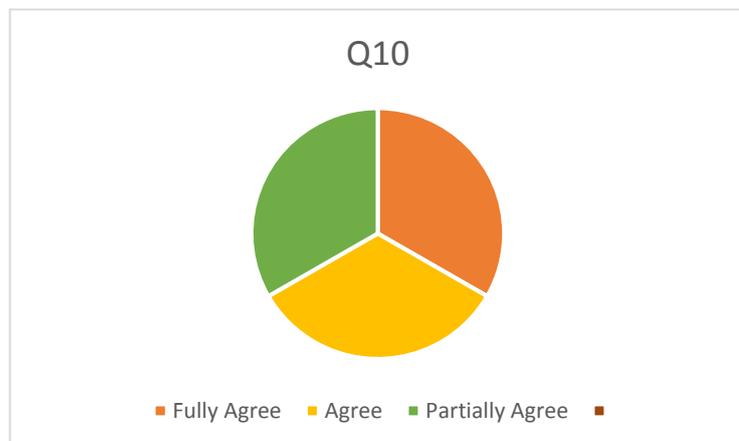
If we want to prevent violence we need to change gender norms

- Complete consensus
- Whose responsibility (?)
- Collective



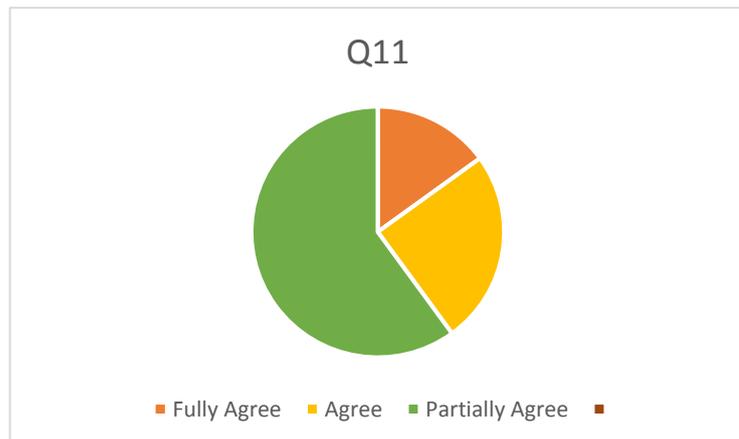
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If we want to prevent violence we need to reduce drug and alcohol abuse

- Intervention requires other interventions to work
- Enabler in committing violence
- Not as direct association as with guns
- Structural driver



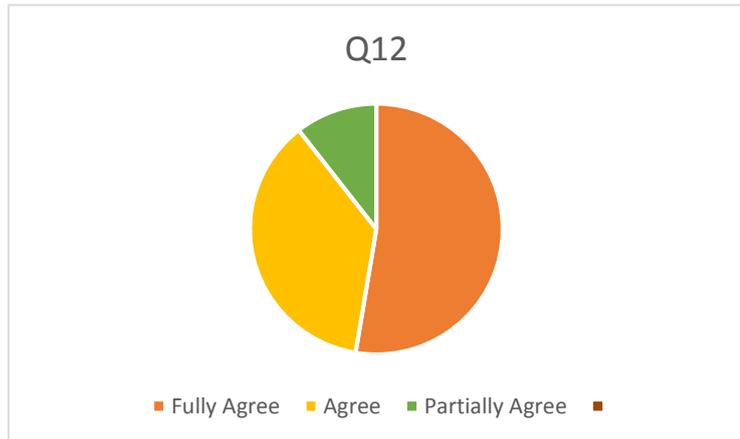
If we want to prevent violence we need to run awareness campaigns

- The general consensus was that there was no agreement on the effectiveness of this
- Need to understand the impact
- This can't be a stand-alone but should be combined with deeper structured interventions



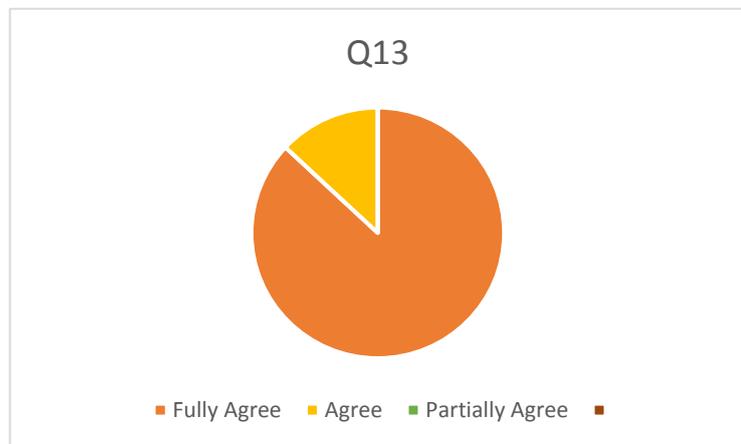
If we want to prevent violence we need common risk factors for violence against women and violence against children

- Evidence shows that victims of IPV experience victimisation and perpetration
- Early intervention can address both
- Do common risk factors lead to common interventions?



If we want to prevent violence we need to have a common definition of violence

- Don't have a common definition but we need a common definition



Note:

The positioning of participants changed significantly after hearing what research and evidence presented in relation to some of the categories.

