

PROJECT PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY
HELP & SHELTER
TO
UNIFEM (CARIBBEAN OFFICE)
VAW TRUST FUND 2007

I. ORGANISATIONAL INFORMATION

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Email: hands@networksgy.com
- (b) Help & Shelter is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status.
- (c) Our mandate is to contribute to bringing about a society where attitudes to the use of violence (sexual, physical or psychological) have been transformed.
- (d) Our goal is to work to build respect for the rights of women, men, children and youths to live free of violence and the threat of violence and also for them to develop alternative ways of handling power and resolving conflicts.
- (e) Help & Shelter is the premier organisation leading the fight against violence in Guyana, particularly in the areas of domestic, sexual and child abuse. Other related areas of work are to educate victims and other persons on linkages between abuse and HIV/AIDS, and Trafficking in Persons.
- (f) The project will be managed by a coordinator who has over five years of project management experience and who has received training in project management under the auspices of USAID.
- (g) The total annual budget is twenty-one million Guyana dollars.
- (h) Our latest annual report, including our audited financial statements, has previously been submitted.

II. Project Title: Public Education & Advocacy to Reduce Gender-Based Violence

Duration: 24 months

Amount requested – US\$125,254

III. Focus of the project

The project will focus on reducing gender-based violence (domestic and sexual violence perpetrated against women, boys and girls) in the home and in the society at large, gender-based violence conflict and post conflict and harmful traditional practices, such as improper upbringing and socialization of males and females in the context of their perceived gender roles.

IV. Description of the project

- (a) Through the strategies described below the project will seek to achieve:

- (i) Amendment of and substantial improvements in the effective implementation of the Domestic Violence Act
 - (ii) The enactment and implementation of new sexual offences legislation
 - (iii) Enhanced capacity of Help & Shelter to provide services to survivors of gender-based violence
 - (iv) Enhance capacity of the police and frontline workers to implement the DVA and handle sexual offences and other cases of gender-based violence
- (b) The objectives of the project will be achieved through:
- (i) Lobbying and advocating for amendments to and improved implementation of the Domestic Violence Act and the enactment and effective implementation of new sexual offences legislation
 - (ii) A national public education and awareness campaign
 - (iii) Collaboration with governmental agencies and other NGOs
 - (iv) The services of a lawyer on a part time basis to provide advice and representation in DVA, sexual offences and other gender-based violence cases on occasions when the Georgetown Legal Aid Clinic is unable to assist
 - (v) Training of and awareness sessions with the police and frontline workers.
- (c) Integral to the project will be activities to mark International Women's Day and International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

V. Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of the project will be:

- (a) Survivors of gender-based violence, who will:
- (i) Be provided with information as to existence of and the relief available under the DVA and the assistance provided by Help & Shelter and other organisations and agencies, both governmental and non-governmental
 - (ii) Be better able to use the DVA as a result of amendments to and improvements in its implementation and legal assistance provided
 - (iii) Have improved prospects of obtaining justice as a result of the enactment and implementation of new sexual offences legislation and legal assistance provided
- (b) Police officers, youth and other target groups whose capacity to address gender-based violence has been improved
- (c) The Guyanese public at large, who will as a result of our national public education and awareness campaign be sensitised on the issue of gender-based violence and made aware of the assistance that is available for survivors
- (d) Frontline workers (teachers, nurses, police officers, social workers and community leaders) in Region 3 (West Coast Demerara), Region 4 (to be identified) and Region 5 (Mahaicony/West Coast Berbice).

Partners will be sister NGOs, the Georgetown Legal Aid Clinic (which provides legal assistance to survivors of gender-based violence) and the Ministry of Human Services & Social Security

Other stakeholders will be the police force and health workers.

VI. Strategies

1. Strengthening legal and policy framework through amendment of and substantial improvements in the effective implementation of the Domestic Violence Act by:
 - (i) Lobbying the government for adoption and implementation of a national Domestic Violence Policy

- (ii) Collaborating and networking with governmental and non-governmental agencies to address DVA implementation issues
 - (iii) Conducting a national public education and awareness campaign using the print and electronic media, leaflets, posters, PSAs etc.
 - (iv) Training of police officers
 - (v) Capacity building with police officers, students, teachers, health centres, youth, women's & religious groups etc
 - (vi) Provision of the services of a lawyer on a part time basis to provide advice and representation in DVA, sexual offences and other gender-based violence cases on occasions when the Georgetown Legal Aid Clinic is unable to assist
2. Advocacy for the enactment and implementation of new sexual offences legislation by:
- (i) Taking part in consultations on the Sexual Offences White Paper and Bill.
 - (ii) Lobbying and advocacy for the speedy enactment and implementation of new sexual offences legislation
 - (iii) Collaborating and networking with governmental and non-governmental agencies in relation to the enactment and implementation of new sexual offences legislation
 - (iv) Training of police officers
 - (v) Capacity building with police officers, students, teachers, health centres, youth, women's & religious groups etc
 - (vi) Provision of the services of a lawyer on a part time basis to provide advice and representation in DVA, sexual offences and other gender-based violence cases on occasions when the Georgetown Legal Aid Clinic is unable to assist
 - (vii) Training of frontline workers in Regions 3, 4, and 5.
 - (viii) Meeting one-on-one with magistrates and judges to promote effective implementation of new legislation

VII. Situation Analysis

Gender-based violence is widespread in Guyana at all socio-economic levels and among all ethnic groups. There is overwhelming evidence that women and girls are more affected than men and boys across the board. Violence against women and girls is still regarded by many as a way of life.

There is overwhelming evidence that there is a high level of domestic and sexual violence perpetrated against women and girls in Guyana. According to Help & Shelter statistical data for the period November 1995 to July 2007, 2942 women seeking our help were physically abused and out of a total of 7224 clients less than 15% were men. During the same period, we saw 432 girls who had been raped and 283 who had been otherwise sexually abused. Sexual abuse obviously renders victims at high risk of contracting HIV. A UNFPA study published in 2004 indicated that women that are beaten or dominated by their partners are more likely to become infected with HIV than women who are in non-violent relationships.

The Domestic Violence Act was passed in December 1996 but effective implementation has been slow. For example, even though the DVA allows for police officers to prepare and file applications for protection and other orders this does not happen. Continuous and ongoing gazetting of social workers who are similarly authorised to prepare and file applications for protection orders is also not taking place. Some magistrates also insist - in contravention of the DVA - that victims of domestic violence be represented by lawyers, submit supporting affidavits together with protection orders prepared by lawyers. Lack of knowledge and awareness of the Act on the part of victims, the police and magistrates, and the unwillingness of police and magistrates to exercise their powers under the Act have been and continue to be constraints to the effective use of the Act. The result is fear among victims because they do not feel empowered to take action and do not have the necessary legal advice or safe place to go, or fear further victimization by the criminal justice system. In most cases, victims/survivors believe they have no option but to remain in an abusive environment.

Help & Shelter recently assisted the National Domestic Violence Task Force (on which we are represented) in preparing a National Domestic Violence Policy for submission to Cabinet.

The Guyana Human Rights Association, 2005 (GHRA) report: “Without conviction: Sexual Violence Cases in the Guyana Justice Process.” paints a stark picture of attrition in sexual violence cases. Figures have shown that even though reported rape cases had raised by one third during 2000-2004, 60% of these reports failed to be converted to cases where charges were laid by the police in 2004. Of the 3 of the 31 statutory rape cases tried in the High Court during 2000-2004, none ended in conviction. By the end of the Preliminary Inquiry stage in the Court process, 79% of all cases were out of the system and 97% of reported rapes failed to make it to trial during 2000-2004. These figures are an indication of some of the problems associated with our present laws and regulations governing sexual offences. We at Help & Shelter also see a large number of sexual offence cases and offer court support assistance for victims of sexual offences and domestic violence cases our own statistics indicate the unbearably long period that victims of sexual offences have to wait before their cases reach trial – the average is about 3 years.

Guyana’s current sexual offences law is both substantively and procedurally inadequate to the task of providing protection against and punishment for sexual abuse – it was received from Victorian England and is redolent of the values and practices of that era. As the GHRA report testifies, the vast majority of sexual offences go unreported and of those that are reported few result in prosecutions and even fewer in convictions.

Help & Shelter has consistently lobbied for a complete overhaul of Guyana’s sexual offences legislation and therefore welcomes the publication by the Ministry of Human Services & Social Security of a White Paper on sexual offences reform (“Stamp it Out”). Consultation on the document has begun and will continue until December of 2007. It is hoped that once consultations have concluded the new legislation will be expeditiously drafted, laid before parliament and enacted. Help & Shelter will collaborate with the Ministry in sensitising the Guyanese public to the new legislation through workshops with frontline workers in Regions 3, 4 and 5, and other general public education activities.

The problems faced by victims of gender-based violence are compounded for women living in rural areas, as they do not have access to the various forms of assistance available to victims/survivors in Georgetown.

There is an urgent need, therefore, for Help & Shelter to be able to carry out the work described above.

VIII. Goal

The goal of the project is to make a significant contribution to the reduction of gender-based violence in Guyana.

NB As there are as yet no comprehensive and accurate domestic and sexual data collection and analysis systems in Guyana, it is not possible to give a percentage reduction that it is anticipated will be achieved by the end of the project. Help & Shelter data would not constitute a reliable indicator as at the same time as a reduction in the incidence of gender-based violence as a result of project activities is anticipated, it is also anticipated that as a result of the public education component of the project, more victims will access our counselling, court support and shelter services, either directly or indirectly through referrals.

IX. Objectives

The objectives of the project are:

1. Amendment of and substantial improvements in the effective implementation of the Domestic Violence Act
2. The enactment and implementation of new sexual offences legislation.
3. Raising awareness and knowledge about DVA and new sexual offences legislation among the Guyanese population, especially those most at risk of gender-based violence
4. Trained and sensitised police officers who are better equipped to implement the DVA and sexual offences legislation and assist their communities in the prevention of gender-based violence
5. To increase awareness of frontline and community workers to gender-based and domestic violence.
6. Enhanced services at Help & Shelter for survivors of gender-based violence.

X. RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Activity	Results /Outcomes	Success Indicators	How you would measure
Lobbying & advocacy of the Domestic Violence Act and the new sexual offences legislation etc	Amendment to the act Increase awareness of DVA regulations and new sexual offences legislation.	More people would be aware of the Domestic Violence Act and the new sexual offences legislation. Increased number of victims seeking assistance.	Evaluating responses from the target groups Police reports and court records.
Training of 150 police officers on the DVA, handling sexual offences, new sexual offences legislation (when passed) and related gender-based issues	An increased number of police officers who are educated and better informed about gender-based violence and how the legislation should be effectively implemented. As a result police officers will be better equipped to provide improved services in the area of gender based-violence	More people able to secure effective implementation of legislation; increased awareness about gender-based violence leading to better use of the laws to obtain relief & prosecute offenders and alternatives to violence are disseminated and adapted	Assessment of workshops conducted Questionnaires distributed before and after the workshops among participants Assessment of sessions conducted – evaluation forms
Public education sessions with 100 police officers (new recruits and at police stations).	Consultations / discussions with police officers at police stations to identify best practices and support mechanism in dealing with domestic violence	Greater knowledge of the skills and attitudes needed to intervene successfully in domestic violence	Assessment of consultations

<p>Gather information from reports Made to police stations in the various divisions</p> <p>To conduct survey for the purpose of verification of activities as a means of improving the lives of women</p>	<p>Police at the identified stations is willing to submit reported cases of domestic violence to Help & Shelter since this is a commitment made by the Guyana Police Force</p> <p>One to one interview with women in communities living near to police stations to track police response at police stations.</p> <p>Group interviews and feedback from workshops conducted in the identified Regions</p>	<p>Pertinent information accessed for the purpose of data base analysis of domestic violence</p> <p>More women would be encouraged to make reports and to use the services of the police</p>	<p>The Guyana Police Force has a special book to record all domestic violence cases at all police stations</p> <p>Assessment of the survey and Data collected from the questionnaires</p>
<p>Awareness sessions- [1 to 2 hours] with schools (teachers, students, PTAs), health centres, women groups, youth groups, religious groups to sensitize them to issues of gender-based violence and remedies to such acts including the use of the DVA and new sexual offences legislation</p>	<p>Increased awareness about how to protect oneself and obtain relief from gender- based violence</p>	<p>A greater number of persons use the DVA and sexual offences legislation to obtain justice</p>	<p>Assessment of awareness sessions</p> <p>Monitoring of cases of gender-based violence being brought before the courts</p>
<p>To effect training and public education activities to sensitize 150 frontline workers, including teachers, social workers, police officers, nurses, community leaders and support service institutions</p>	<p>By the end of the project there will be an increased number of victims of domestic violence who will be educated/informed around the existence of the DVA; and how it can be implemented to protect them.</p>	<p>People begin to consider adapting a different and non-violent way of life and seek to discipline their children in a non-violent way.</p>	<p>- Assessment of workshops conducted</p> <p>- questionnaires distributed before and after the workshops among participants</p>
<p>Production and distribution of pamphlets, brochures, flyers, posters etc. & broadcast of PSAs that address the issue of domestic violence and gender-based violence</p>	<p>By the end of the project the Guyanese population will be more aware of the DVA, the new sexual offences legislation and how to use them. Awareness of the services offered by Help & Shelter, particularly as they relate to the DVA and the new sexual offences legislation will also be further increased.</p>	<p>Increased public awareness</p> <p>Increase in the number of protection & other orders applied for under the DVA</p> <p>Increase in the demand for Help & Shelter services</p>	<p>Amount of posters, leaflets etc. disseminated and PSAs broadcast</p> <p>Questionnaires & surveys</p> <p>Data on Help & Shelter statistics</p> <p>Court records</p>
<p>Enhanced services of Help &</p>	<p>Clients will access</p>	<p>Increased number of clients</p>	<p>Data on Help & Shelter</p>

Shelter-legal consultant	direct assistance from H&S for the purpose of court cases and other legal matters	Referred by the court system to access service	statistics
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XI. Work Plan/Activities

For years 2008 & 2009

- Advocacy, lobbying and networking with the Government, NGOs CBOs other groups and agencies for the implementation of the National Domestic Violence Policy
- Advocacy, networking and monitoring of the improved implementation of the DVA and the enactment of the new Sexual Offences Act with the Government, mainly with the Ministry of Human Services & Social Security other agencies, NGO's and CBO's
- Discussion with contact individuals and groups in the communities to inform them of the project and request their facilitation of interviews- **Person responsible: project coordinator.**
- Improving and expanding Help & Shelter's assistance to clients through the services of a lawyer on a part time basis to provide advice and representation in DVA, sexual offences and other gender-based violence cases on occasions when the Georgetown Legal Aid Clinic is unable to assist. The lawyer will also provide legal technical and advocacy input relevant to the project.
- Conduct workshops with police officers on DVA, new sexual offences legislation and related issues- **Persons responsible: project coordinator and facilitators.**
- Training workshops with police officers in DVA and its implementation (*twice per year*) – **Persons responsible: facilitators.**
- **To conduct survey; one to one and group interviews with women living near to police stations – Person responsible; project coordinator and volunteers.**
- Awareness sessions in schools (**1 to 2 hours per week**) - nursery, primary and secondary levels with students, teachers and parents) – **Persons responsible: facilitators.**
- Ongoing sessions with teachers at the nursery, primary, secondary and PTA levels – **Persons responsible: facilitators.**
- Conduct regional workshops with frontline workers in three (3) administrative Regions (1 set per year) – **Person responsible; project coordinator and facilitators.**
- **To conduct one-on-one meeting with Magistrates and Judges for the effective implementation of the DVA and other legal issues.**
- Ongoing sessions at the health centres with pre- and post-natal mothers and fathers and health workers (**1 to 2 hours per week**) – **Persons responsible: facilitators.**
- Ongoing awareness sessions on the DVA, new sexual offences legislation and related issues with police officers, community leaders, religious organisations, youth and women's groups- **Persons responsible: facilitators.**
- Monitoring the progress and challenges to the administration of the Domestic Violence Act and the new sexual offences legislation – **Persons responsible: project coordinator, M& E consultant & facilitators**
- Assessing the impact of each activity- **Persons responsible: project coordinator, M & E consultant and facilitators**
- Conduct mid-term and annual reviews of project activities – **Persons responsible: project coordinator M & E consultant and team.**
- Plan & implement activities for International Women's Day and International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women – **Persons responsible: project coordinator and team.**
- Press briefings and public communication messages on project activities to the media [**once per month, according to work plan**] – **Person responsible: project coordinator.**

- Sensitizing the population on DVA and the new Sexual offences Legislation and GBV using the TV and radio [**once per week**] – **Persons responsible: project coordinator and team.**
- Publishing of articles and press statements on DV, child abuse and gender-based violence [**once per month**] – **Persons responsible; H&S Public Relations Officers, project coordinator and team.**
- Fortnightly planning and evaluation meetings to monitor the progress of the project – **Persons responsible: project coordinator and team.**

Year 2009 (mid-year)

- Impact assessment and reporting of project activities will continue – **Persons responsible: project coordinator and M & E consultant.**
- Collaboration with the police and other stakeholders for the successful administration of the DVA will continue – **Persons responsible: project coordinator and team.**
- Lobbying and advocating for the amendment of policies and laws concerning women and children will continue – **Persons responsible: project coordinator and team.**
- Assessment and evaluation to determine the success of the project – **Persons responsible: project coordinator and team.**

XI MONITORING & EVALUATION

The execution of project activities will be done in accordance with a project implementation schedule defining the specific time frame for each activity. These activities will be monitored on a continual basis by the project coordinator and the M & E officer to ensure that the project is on track. In this way, the progress made towards achieving the results of the project would be effectively measured. In addition, evaluation or the measuring of the extent to which the results have been achieved will be carried out at the end of each activity. Relevant evaluation tools will be developed and applied for all project activities.