

Help and Shelter 2007 Survey Report

Background

On the November 24 2007, Help and Shelter in commemoration of International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women had a booth next to Guyana Stores in Georgetown to provide information on the services that Help and Shelter offers, resources such as flyers, brochures and provide answer questions to the public on domestic violence, trafficking of persons and child abuse.

Help and Shelter staff and volunteers utilized this opportunity to administer 182 questionnaires to capture information on the following:

1. Knowledge of Help and Shelter services offer and location
2. Most popular methods to do public services advertisements (PSA)
3. Awareness of Domestic Violence Act
4. Acceptance of corporal punishment
5. Support from other organizations to prevent domestic violence and child abuse
6. Reform of the Rape and Sexual Offence Act

Persons were asked to volunteer their time to complete the questionnaire. Some comparisons are made to the 2005 survey done during this same time period.

Analyses of Data

Total questionnaire administered: 182

Total males interviewed: 45

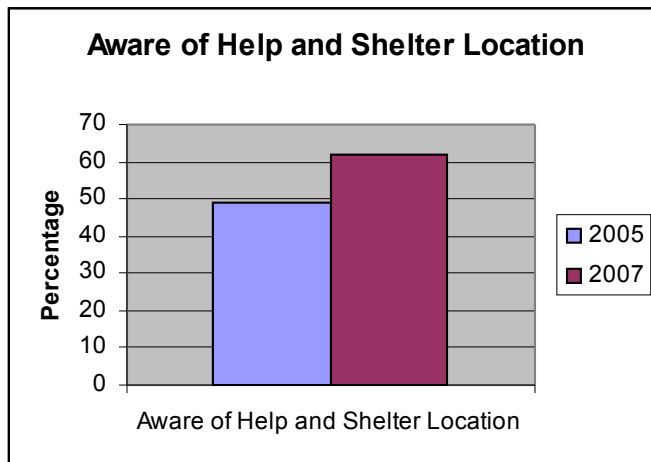
Total female interviewed: 130

Sex not stated: 7

Help and Shelter Location

The percentage of persons aware of Help and Shelter location has increased by 13% in 2007. In 2005, 49% of persons were aware of Help and Shelter location while 62 % in 2007. All PSAs, leaflets and brochures designed by Help and Shelter and distributed have the address, even though over 80 percent of persons have heard or seen our PSA, only 62 % is aware of our location. We have to be more innovative in helping persons to remember the address or direction to Help and Shelter.

Bar chart 1: Awareness of Help and Shelter location



Public Awareness

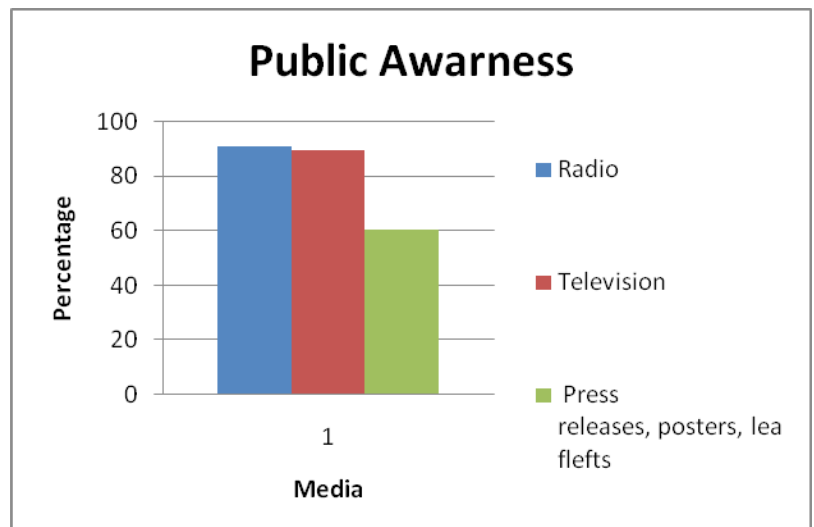
Bar chart 2: Public awareness of Help and Shelter

At least 90% of the persons interviewed indicated that they heard Help and Shelter public services advertisement on radio and/or seen it on TV. Both media seem to be very effective in advertisement for Help and Shelter.

Posters, press release and leaflets contributed to a 60%, which is understandable since this is done mostly in public education sessions.

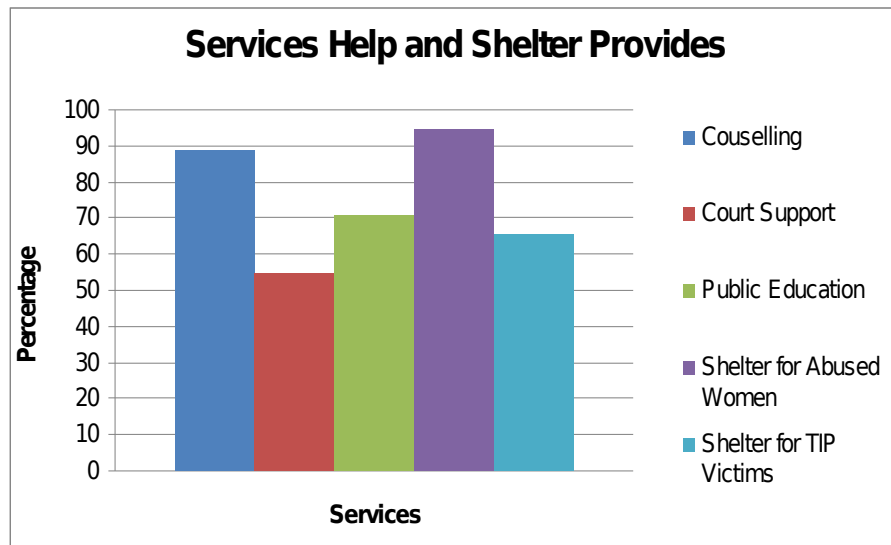
Awareness of Help and Shelter services provided:

Help and Shelter is popular for the shelter it provides for abused women and counseling services (over 90% of interviewees) while public education and shelter for TIPS victims falls within 65-60 range of interviewees. Below 55% of



participants are aware of court support provided. The results are indicative that Help and Shelter services are fairly known based on 182 persons interviewed; little more focus could be on court support.

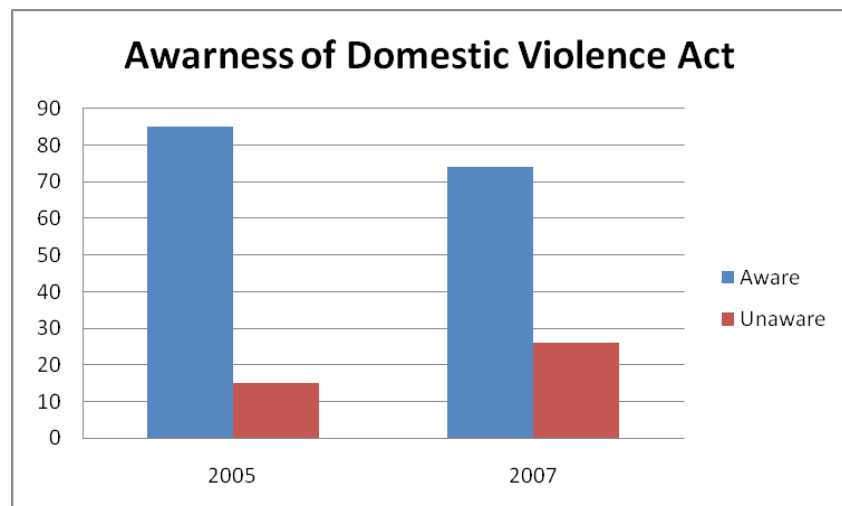
Bar chart 3: Services Help and Shelter provides



Domestic Violence Act

Bar Chart 4: Domestic Violence Act Awareness in 2005 vs. 2007

In the 2007 survey 74% of the interviewees were aware of the domestic violence act as compared to 85% in 2005. There is a 9 % decrease over the two years based on the responses.



Group/Organization Support to Stop Domestic Violence and Child Abuse

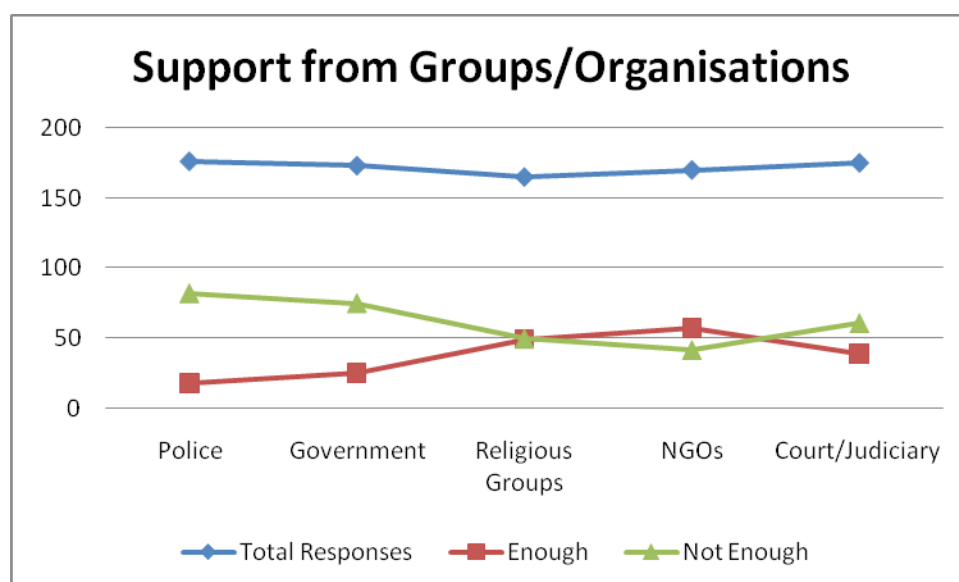
The table below displays actual figures of how respondents feel about the support coming from the following organizations/groups to prevent domestic violence and child abuse while the chart reflects the same information in percentage. The information shows a high percentage of people believe that the government (82%), Police (75%), court and judiciary (61%) are not doing enough to prevent domestic violence, while the religious group (50%) and NGOs (42%).

It seems that the NGOs as playing a more active role in the prevention of domestic violence and child abuse based on the 58% positive responses.

Table: 1 Response from survey indicator how persons thought different organization is doing prevent domestic violence and Child Abuse

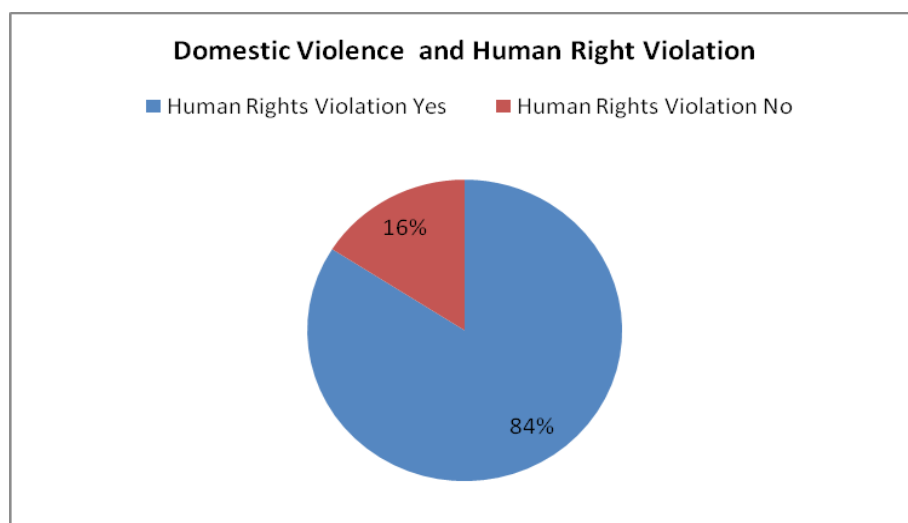
Group/Organization Support to Stop Domestic Violence and Child Abuse					
	Police	Government	Religious Groups	NGOs	Court/Judiciary
Total Responses	176	173	165	170	175
Enough	32	44	82	98	69
Not Enough	144	129	83	72	106

Line graph 1: figures expressed in percentage



Human Rights Violation

Pie chart 1: Human Rights Violation



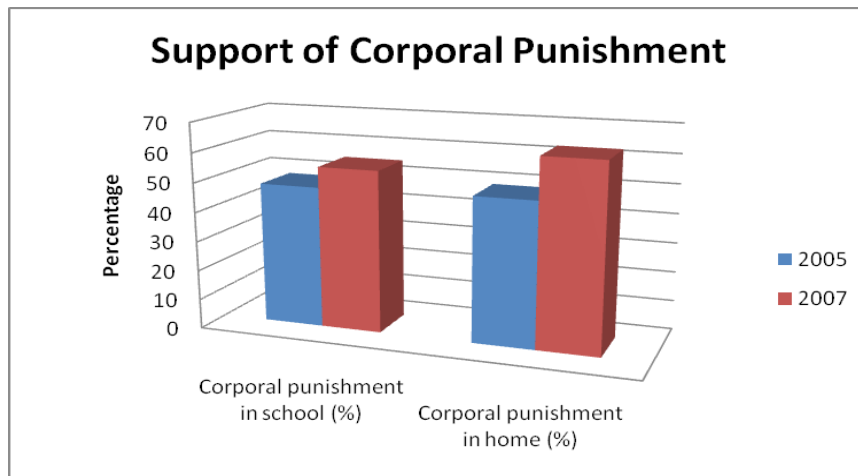
Out of 148 respondents, 84 % beliefs that domestic violence is a human right violation

Corporal Punishment

The number of respondents who believed in corporal punishment in school and at home have increased in 2007. These figures (Bar chart 5) indicate an increase by 14 percentages in school and 7 percentages at home in 2007. It must note a large 45 percentage do not agree with corporal punishment in schools and 47 % at home.

Sessions in school with students and with parents should include activities to highlight the effect of corporal punishment and alternative method to discipline children.

Bar chart 5: Corporal punishment in schools and home for 2005 and 2007



Reform of the Rape and sexual offences

Out of 177 of individual responded to this question 89% (158) beliefs that the Rape and Sexual Offence Law needs to be reform, while only 54%(97) percentage are aware of the reform. When further ask about the reform and show the major reform (appendix 11) 61 % (110) agreed with the reforms.

Bar chart 6: Response for reforms of the Rape and Sexual Offence Law responses

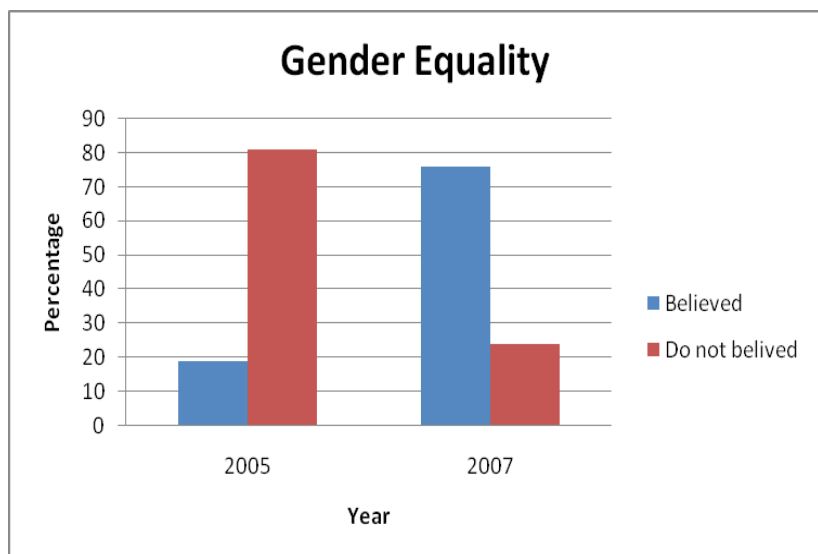


Gender Equality

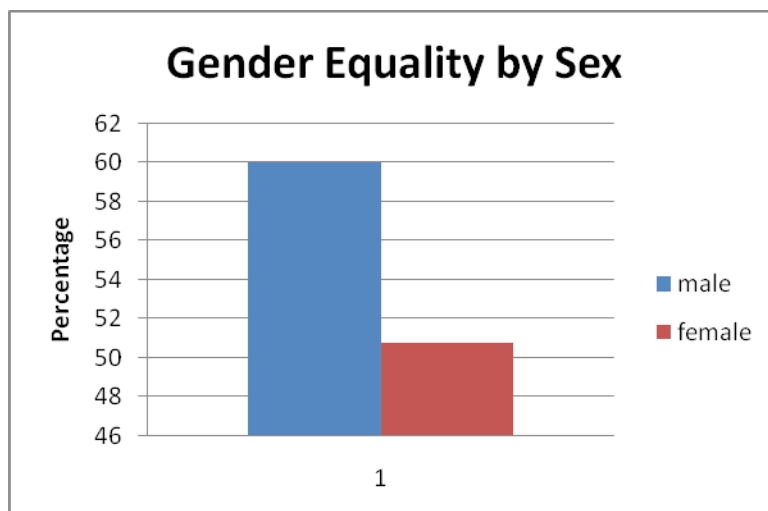
Bar chart 7: Showing percentage of persons believe in gender equality

The definition used for gender equality for this survey is: *“Women should be given the same opportunity and respect as a man in other words it means that one's rights or opportunities do not depend on being female or male.”*

The data collected in this survey for this exact question in 2005 reflects a 57% increase in the percentage of respondents who believed in gender equality. In 2005 only 19 percentage of persons believe in gender equality while 73 percentage in 2007 survey (bar chart # 7)



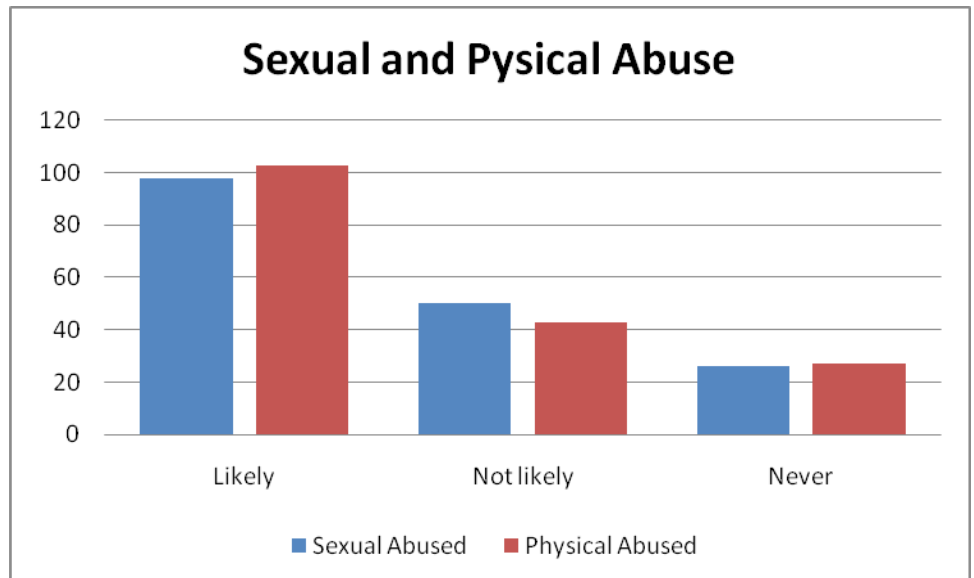
Bar chart 8: Gender Equality by sex



Based on the responses in the 2007 survey, out of 45 males and 130 females interviewed 27 males (60%) and 66 female (51%) indicated that they believed in gender equality. There is a higher percentage of males compared to females as seen in the table below who believed in gender equality.

Child abuse and sexual abuse Bar chart# 9: Victim of Physical and Sexual Abuse

People were asked what are the chances that someone becoming an abuser if they were a victim of sexual and physical abuse. The bar chart # 9 is reflective of their responses. People treated physical and sexual violence at the same level, while they do believe that the victim is most likely to be a perpetrator, followed by estimated 40- 50 persons who indicated not likely and a small 20-25 indicated never.



Help and Shelter 2007

Date: _____

1. Sex ☐ Male ☐ Female
2. Have you heard of Help & Shelter? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, what do you know about Help and Shelter?

If YES

3. Are you aware that Help and Shelter provides the following services:

Counseling (domestic & sexual violence, child abuse)	Yes	No
	☐	☐
Court support (Assist clients at court)	Yes	No
	☐	☐
Public education (workshops, lectures)	Yes	No
	☐	☐
Shelter for abused women and children	Yes	No
	☐	☐
Shelter for victims of human trafficking	Yes	No
	☐	☐

☐ Other, please state _____

4. Do you know where Help and Shelter is located? Yes ☐ No ☐
5. Have you heard Help and Shelter advertisements on the radio? Yes ☐ No ☐
6. Have you seen Help and Shelter advertisements on the TV? Yes ☐ No ☐

7. Have you seen/read any of the Help and Shelter press releases, posters or leaflets?

Yes ☐ No ☐

8. Do you know that the 25th of November is **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women?** Yes ☐ No ☐

9. Are you aware of the Domestic Violence Act?

☐ Yes ☐ No

10. Do you agree with corporal punishment in schools?

☐ Yes ☐ No

11. Do you agree with corporal punishment at home?

☐ Yes ☐ No

12. Do you think the followings groups/organizations are doing enough to prevent/stop domestic violence?

The police

☐ Yes ☐ No

The Government

☐ Yes ☐ No

Religious Groups

☐ Yes ☐ No

Non- government Organizations (NGOs)

☐ Yes ☐ No

Courts/Judiciary

☐ Yes ☐ No

13. Do you think reform of the law relating to rape and other sexual offences is necessary? ☐ Yes

☐ No

14. Do you know that the government is proposing to reform the law relating to rape and other sexual offences? ☐ Yes ☐ No

15. Do you largely agree with the proposed reforms? ☐ Yes ☐ No

16. What do you think are the chances of a person who was sexually abused as a child, abusing their children?

☐ Likely

☐ Not likely

☐ Never

17. What do you think are the chances of a person who was physically abused as a child, abusing their children?

☐ Likely

☐ Not likely

☐ Never

18. Do you think domestic violence/child abuse is a violation of person's human rights?

☐ Yes

☐ No

19. Do you believe in gender equality (equality between the sexes)

☐ Yes

No

☐

SUMMARY

MAJOR PROPOSED REFORMS OF SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT

Report, Investigation & Charge	Procedures At Court	Evidence
• Marital rape exemption abolished • Coercive circumstances element in definition of rape • Gender neutral definition of rape • Age of consent at 16 years for males and females • Integrated services at Sexual Assault Referral Centre • Specialized training for police • Mandatory investigation of all allegations of sexual violence • Final decision to discontinue investigation rests with DPP • Support & discussion when victim wants to retract statement • Mandatory charge for child sex offences • New offence of preventing a child from giving statement or testifying	• Replace PI with paper-based committals • Create a sexual offences court • Hearings closed to the public • Take evidence by video-link or behind screens • Allow support persons in court • Training for judges on cross-examination of victims • Ban accused from cross-examining victim • Better information on trial for victims • Provide victims opportunity to give a statement in court • Ensure anonymity for the victim. • Abolish male-only juries	• New child sex offences • New rules of determining competence • Abolish corroboration for victim's and children's evidence • Ban on reference to sexual reputation of victim and any sexual history of victims below 16 years • Narrow discretion for judges to allow sexual history for adult victims in certain circumstances • No inference to be drawn from delay in reporting • New sentencing options