Women and Child Protection Unit
Namibia established the first WCPU in 1993 under the Ministry of Safety and Security, with the aim of providing medical support, counseling services and police assistance for abused women and children due to the escalation of incidents of rape and domestic violence in Namibia.

2. National Database on GBV (NDGBV)
The country has established and created a NDGBV with the aim to strengthen the efforts by the Ministry and its stakeholders in combating gender-based violence. This multi-sectoral initiative was envisaged to provide us with the necessary data for planning and to help us design focused interventions in the form of laws, policies, financial and human resources, etc.

3. 16 Days of Activism
Every year 16 days before Human Rights Day on 10th December the Ministry launches the 16 Days of Activism which highlights different forms of GBV.

4. Gender Based Violence Committee
The Ministry set up a GBV Committee to implement GBV projects. The GBV Committee comprises various stakeholders and is tasked to discuss and plan how to best combat GBV, and to make recommendations to stakeholders on steps to be taken.

5. Therapeutic Groupwork Programme
The goal of this programme with Male Perpetrators of domestic violence is to prevent further domestic violence. Amongst other this programme’s objectives is to provide the participants with practical information on how to change abusive behaviours by exploring non-controlling and non-violent ways of relating to women.

Legislation:
- Combating of Immoral Practices Amendment Act No. 7 of 2000
  Provides for penalties of either imprisonment or a heavy fine, for any person who commits or attempts to commit a sexual act with a child under the age of sixteen years and who is more than three years older than such a child.

- Combating of Rape Act No. 8 of 2000
  Gives a broader definition of rape as a sexual act which is gender neutral, and recognizes marital rape. It also gives greater protection to girls and boys under age fourteen.

- Combating of Domestic Violence Act No. 4 of 2003
  Introduces the concept of domestic violence into the Namibian legal system, and gives it a wide definition that includes physical abuse, sexual abuse, economic abuse, intimidation, harassment and serious emotional, verbal or psychological abuse; provides for the issuing of protection orders in domestic violence matters.

- Criminal Procedure Amendment Act 24 of 2003
  Provides for special arrangements in court to reduce the trauma of the proceedings for vulnerable witnesses, including victims of rape and domestic violence.

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19 - 22 June 2007
Windhoek, Namibia
Statistics on GBV

It has been estimated that about 2000 cases of domestic violence are reported to the Namibian Police each year, accounting for at least one-fifth of all violent crime. Research on rape indicates that about 1100 cases of rape and attempted rape are reported to the Namibian Police annually, with about one-third of these cases involving child victims (under age 18).

Experts believe that both rape and domestic violence are under-reported. In both cases, the victims are overwhelmingly female (about 86% for domestic violence and about 93% for rape) while the perpetrators are almost always male (93% for domestic violence, 99% for rape). Thus, both domestic violence and rape are gender-based forms of abuse.

Who Should Attend?

This conference is primarily for institutions and individuals who are directly involved in promoting gender issues and the eradication of GBV. Participants will include:

- Ministerial Staff from the Ministries of Safety and Security, Health, Education, Justice, and other relevant ministries
- Office of the Prime Minister, National Planning Commission, National Council and National Assembly
- Regional/Local Council GBV Networks
- Traditional Authorities
- NGOs, CBOs and FBOs with projects related to GBV
- National and international donors/partners agencies
- Research Institutions and Media
- Private Sector
- Tertiary institutions
- Social workers, medical personnel.
- Trade Unions

Conference Objectives

- To exchange views on causes and effects of GBV in our society
- To identify gaps and challenges in the implementation of GBV legislation
- To enhance and develop strategies on how to combat and prevent GBV
- To develop action-based recommendations and follow-up mechanisms.

Causes of GBV in Namibia

The causes of violence against women and children in Namibia stem from social, cultural and economic factors that place women at risk of violence within the home, factors such as alcohol abuse, relationship and family problems, victim intoxication, sex refusal, mentally illness, etc.

Theme: “Unifying Action to Eliminate GBV in our society”

This conference will consist of a combination of plenary and small working group sessions emphasizing a participatory approach.

Topics to be presented:

- Understanding the underlying issues of GBV
- Masculinity, femininity and GBV
- HIV/AIDS and GBV
- Interventions to fight GBV (including best practices and survivors’ points of view)
- Promoting and implementing programmes to combat and prevent GBV
- Roles of policy makers in combating and preventing GBV
- Communication constraints and opportunities
- Gaps and challenges in implementing GBV legislation.

For more information and queries contact:

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