

WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION FORUM



Meeting reports and resources available at: www.violence-prevention.org

THE WESTERN CAPE VIOLENCE PREVENTION FORUM



Western Cape consultation on the ESTABLISHMENT of a provincial VIOLENCE PREVENTION FORUM (VPF)

-  To enable stronger partnerships between the government, NGOs and researchers.
-  To scale up evidence-based programmes and interventions to prevent violence.

DISCUSSIONS AND OTHER ISSUES

-  Don't be hasty in deciding to establish a new provincial structure.
-  Expanded group is necessary to map existing structures and programmes – address issues of safety and crime and violence prevention gaps.
-  The feasibility of undertaking a multisectoral project to prevent violence in a particular locality.
-  Include representation from NGOs and government who are not in the metro area.
-  A group of volunteers would work with the ISS to plan the way forward.

THE PROCESS

16 participants representing government departments, NGOs and academic institutions came together. We agreed to

-  **Share and be honest**
-  **Be open to conversation**
-  **Accept dissenting voices**
-  **Be present** – do not be preoccupied by WhatsApps, emails or phones
-  **Manage differences between one another**
-  **Be aware of power** – which often gets in the way of honest conversations
-  **Be humble**
-  **Respect the process**

Meeting reports and resources available at: www.violence-prevention.org

THE WESTERN CAPE VIOLENCE PREVENTION FORUM



Consultation on **VIOLENCE PREVENTION** developments and **MAPPING** of multisectoral **STRUCTURES**



Government departments, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the donor community and research institutes came together online.



We mapped multisectoral structures that address violence and its prevention in the Western Cape.



The need to identify and enable opportunities for collaboration was an overarching theme.



None of the existing structures addresses violence prevention holistically.

THE MEETING HAD FOUR COMPONENTS



Inputs (formal and informal) on developments in the province relating to the prevention of violence.



Considered opportunities for collaboration



Mapping of multisectoral structures that exist to address aspects of violence and safety.



Planned the way forward

UPHELD THE FOLLOWING AGREEMENTS



Share and be **honest**



Be **open** to conversation



Accept dissenting voices



Be **present** – do not be preoccupied by WhatsApps, emails or phones



Manage **differences** between one another



Be aware of **power** – which often gets in the way of honest conversations



Be **humble**



Respect the process

Meeting reports and resources available at: www.violence-prevention.org



Exploring **COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS** and the value of **EVIDENCE-LED** approaches

WE AGREED THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO CREATE SPACES TO EXPLORE

How power and gender inform programme design and implementation

The impact of intergenerational trauma and its manifestation

How the generation of evidence can be enabled and supported



Identified the use and generation of evidence, and what counts as evidence, as burning issues



The importance of connecting the actions and activities undertaken by all sectors to prevent violence



Strong emphasis on early childhood development (ECD) and gender-based violence (GBV) and agreement that evidence-led solutions are desirable



Need for practical, diverse approaches to assessing the effectiveness of interventions that are inexpensive and accessible



WE DISCUSSED

How can evidence practically inform government practices?

How can we find a common language?

How can evidence help us stop doing what does not work?

How do we create a space to reflect on what works and what does not?

What are cost-effective ways to generate evidence of the effectiveness of interventions to prevent violence?

What are the skills and capacities required to implement and scale-up evidencebased interventions (including the need for interventions to be culturally relevant)?

Meeting reports and resources available at: www.violence-prevention.org



CREATING and IDENTIFYING opportunities for COLLABORATION



Multisectoral steering committee stressed the need for relationship building and information sharing



To be at the centre of all engagements in order to support participants



Enabled two NGOs, Mikhulu Trust and Lima Rural Development, to initiate a collaboration to deliver a parenting programme in Worcester

IN SCOPING THE CONDITIONS PARTICIPANTS AGREED



FUNDING



LACK OF COLLABORATION

between both NGOs and government are a hindrance to the impact of violence prevention efforts

A MIXED GROUP OF IMPLEMENTERS AND RESEARCHERS

noted the unclear distinction between

RESPONDING TO

and

PREVENTING VIOLENCE

The two should rather be seen as

MUTUALLY REINFORCING COMPONENTS OF A HOLISTIC PREVENTION-ORIENTED

approach to addressing violence

EVEN WIDER AND MORE DIVERSE REPRESENTATION

was identified as a necessity for the WC VPF

TO INCREASE THE VARIETY OF SHARING AND LEARNING.

Meeting reports and resources available at: www.violence-prevention.org

THE WESTERN CAPE VIOLENCE PREVENTION FORUM



How do we **RESPECTIVELY** and **COLLECTIVELY** **RESPOND** to episodes of **VIOLENCE**



We discussed why violence prevention is critical in our country.



We talked about national efforts to prevent violence, like the National Violence Prevention Communications Campaign.



While continuing to build trusting and meaningful relationships between ourselves as violence prevention practitioners to enable collaboration.

WHY WE MUST ACT NOW

87% females and males, of the birth-to-30 study were exposed to four or more forms of violence by the time they turned 18 years old.

- It impacted the likelihood of completing schooling, finding employment and having healthy relationships.

DISCUSSED CHALLENGES FACED IN THE TAXI INDUSTRY, UNIVERSITY AND BY NGOS.



Together we learned that:

We need spaces like the WC VPF to pause, reflect, heal and recharge.



Violence impacts our ability to meet our national development goals, as it undermines our efforts to reduce unemployment and inequality.



The time to act is now. We need a national violence prevention communications campaign to show that it is possible to prevent violence, and that we all have a role to play.



We need to be cautious of quick fixes, given the scale and complexity of the problems we are trying to solve. Our efforts must be long-term focused, like planting acorns.



Allies are essential in our individual and collective efforts to reduce violence.



We sang and danced in celebration of our second anniversary.

DISCUSSED SHIFTING THE NARRATIVE ABOUT VIOLENCE THROUGH THE NATIONAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION COMMUNICATIONS CAMPAIGN.

the campaign aims to:

- Share evidence-based knowledge with South Africans to deepen their understanding of violence prevention and offer practical solutions.
- Drive a new public narrative by telling stories of what is possible to break cycles of violence and bring a message of hope.

Meeting reports and resources available at: www.violence-prevention.org

IMPACT IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS



RELATIONSHIPS built through the WC VPF

- ✓ A parenting programme in Worcester was successfully delivered by the Do More Foundation (represented by Lima Rural Development) and Thembalethu Development in partnership with Mikhulu Trust. The team is exploring ways to involve fathers.
- ✓ FAMSA Karoo is engaging with SAPS (Eden Cluster), Hanns Seidel Foundation (a donor), Department of Health, Institute for Security Studies and the Seven Passes Initiative (an NGO in George, WC).
- ✓ SAPS (Eden cluster) is engaging with the Seven Passes Initiative and the Local Community Dialogue (which is based in Touwsrante, George, Western Cape).
- ✓ Department of Social Development is engaging with Department of Health.
- ✓ The Parent Centre is engaging with The Department of The Premier.
- ✓ The South African Parenting Programme Implementers Network is engaging with a Western Cape department on the scaling of parenting programmes.

THE FORUM IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT IS A SPACE



For networking and connecting with others working in violence prevention



For sharing



To hear what other sectors are doing



To identify relevant stakeholders



To link our work



To learn



To strengthen collaboration



To build relationships

Meeting reports and resources available at: www.violence-prevention.org