

# CHAPTER TEN

## ORGAN ON POLITICS, DEFENCE AND SECURITY COOPERATION (ORGAN)



The work of the Organ is regulated through the 2001 Protocol on Politics, Defence, and Security Cooperation. Overall the objective of the Organ is to promote peace and security in the region. The Organ's work is based on 12 specific objectives, some of which include protection and safeguarding the region against instability (intra state conflict, interstate conflict and aggression), and resolve conflict by peaceful means. Importantly it also seeks to promote the development of democratic institutions and practices within the territories of State Parties and encourage the observance of universal human rights as provided for in the Charters and Conventions of the Organisation of African Unity and United Nations respectively.

The Organ seeks to facilitate the development of close co-operation between the police and state security services of State Parties in order to address cross border crime and promote a community based approach to domestic security. Further, it coordinates the enhancement of regional capacity in respect of disaster management and co-ordination of international humanitarian assistance.

Importantly, all the areas of the work of the organ have a gender dimension which is explicitly acknowledged in some areas of work and not others. For example, all Sectors of the Organ focus on HIV and AIDS based on their mandate. As highlighted earlier in this Resource Kit, there are number of areas of intervention required to address gender equality and women's empowerment issues in the HIV and AIDS response, including male involvement, awareness raising and women's rights. The Organ can thus take its cue from this, and mainstream in the various Sector approaches to peace and security.

There are structures and institutions in place aimed at supporting close cooperation between Member States to foster and sustain peace and security in the region. Some examples are the Southern African Regional Police Chief Cooperation Organisation (SARPCO), the Inter State Defence and Security Committee (ISDSC), and the Regional Peace Keeping Centre. An analysis of the gender composition of these institutions and structures is necessary in order to see the extent of their alignment with the SADC gender parity policy. Further, it is necessary that gender is mainstreamed in all training activities and programmes implemented by the Regional Peace Keeping Centre, and the Organ itself.

The Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation (SIPO) was adopted in 2004, and aims to operationalise the objectives outlined above. It is focuses on 4 main sectors, the Political Sector, Defence Sector, State Security Sector, and Public Security Sector. The following are some of the specific activities, as outlined in the SIPO, that have a gender dimension and are the basis for gender mainstreaming in the Organ:

- Disaster management
- Conflict prevention and peace keeping
- Human rights promotion and protection
- Exchange and training programmes
- Transnational organised crime, including human trafficking
- Cross border smuggling
- Immigration, including illegal immigrants
- Drug trafficking
- Combating and preventing rape, abuse and violence against women and children



**Case study 6: Putting a stop to trafficking**

You are an officer in the Public Security Sector of the Organ, and you have been tasked with the responsibility of facilitating Member States’ interventions to address human trafficking. You have been provided with information that the trafficking of women and girls has risen sharply in the past decade, with alarming figures in some countries in the region. This trend appears to be on the increase as the region prepares for Soccer 2010. Given that one of the mandates of the Public Security Sector is combating and preventing rape, abuse and violence against women and children, you are asked to devise a strategy for putting a stop to trafficking.

**Questions:**

1. What policy, legislative and other actions would you consider necessary for Member States’ response to this issue?

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2. How much of this is in place and what further steps still need to be taken?

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3. What does this exercise reveal about the gender dimensions of peace and security in the region?

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**Exercise 29: Finding gender in the Organ**

Go through the Organ business plan in light of the key gender issues in education, health, employment, HIV and AIDS identified earlier, and answer the following questions:

1. Is there explicit reference to the key gender equality issues outlined in the key sectors?

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2. If yes, where, is this adequate in line with requirement for gender mainstreaming?

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3. Would you describe Organ plans as gender blind, gender neutral or gender aware?

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4. What steps can be taken to ensure that the business plan is gender aware?

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**Exercise 30: Finding the OPDSC in gender instruments**

Go through the instruments listed below and any others that you may regard as relevant. What provisions are made that are relevant to your sector?

Instrument	Relevant provisions for gender mainstreaming
Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals – Goal 1 and 3 (2000)	
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979)	
Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (adopted 2003)	
UN Resolution 1325	
2001 Protocol on Politics, Defence, and Security Cooperation.	

Instrument	Relevant provisions for gender mainstreaming
SADC Regional Gender Policy	
SADC Declaration on Gender and Development (1997)	
Draft SADC Protocol on Gender and Development	
Other legal or policy instruments relevant to the sector	

### Action planning



**Exercise 31:** Think through all the different programme areas in the Organ, and identify key gender issues and actions to be taken.

PROGRAMME	GENDER ISSUES	ACTIONS
Political Sector		
Defence Sector		
State Security Sector		
Public Security Sector		

## Fact sheets and checklists

The fact sheets and checklists that follow will assist in developing your gender action plan.

### Political security



#### Fact Sheet 17: Gender, governance and elections

SADC has embraced good governance in its agenda for achieving regional integration. The RISDP points out that 'good political and economic governance, entrenched in a culture of democracy, transparency and respect for the rule of law, represent the bedrock' upon which it is premised. Governance describes the process of decision-making and how decisions are implemented (or not implemented). Thus public institutions conduct public affairs, manage public resources, and guarantee the realisation of human rights. Good governance accomplishes this in a manner essentially free of abuse and corruption, and with due regard for the rule of law<sup>73</sup>.

The potential of men and women must be harnessed in leadership positions and all key structures in order to effectively drive the good governance agenda. In particular the region has committed, in 2005 to achieve 50% of women participation in leadership and decision making structures at all levels; the previous target was a minimum of 30% by 2005, which few countries (Tanzania, Mozambique, and South Africa) met.

Gender and governance have been prominent on the SADC agenda, and some solid progress has been made. For example, women Parliamentarians in SADC average 20%, which is above the world average of 17.2% and second to Nordic countries (41.8%), followed by the Americas at 19.2%. At Ministerial Level SADC stands at an average of 21% women representation. However, formal or 'paper' commitment has yet to turn into concrete action for most Member States. Countries that have recently held elections recently or reshuffled their cabinets have not yielded any significant progress in ensuring that women are well positioned to make and influence decisions in key governance structures. For example in Zimbabwe's March 2008 elections only 13% women were elected into the House of Assembly, falling far short of the SADC target. South Africa still takes the lead with 43% of women in cabinet, whilst Lesotho has 58% women representation in local government, largely achieved through a legislated quota.

In terms of the scope of mainstreaming gender in governance structures, this ranges from political parties to the judiciary, executive, local government and other structures and committees, as well as the private sector. There are a range of strategies for ensuring and achieving women's equitable participation in decision making, including affirmative action; the reform of electoral systems; ensuring that women are represented in political party structures; criteria for selection and recruitment in the case of women appointed as opposed to elected to office and awareness raising<sup>74</sup>. The key lies in ensuring women have access to decision making positions, participate, and play a strategic role in their transformation, since most remain male dominated.

<sup>73</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Good\\_governance](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Good_governance) (accessed 24.04.2008).

<sup>74</sup> Gender Links (2005) Missing the Mark? Audit of the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development – Women in Decision Making. [www.genderlinks.org.za](http://www.genderlinks.org.za)

The electoral process represents one of the most important ways of ensuring that women occupy decision making positions, particularly in the Executive, the Legislature and Local Government level. Research has shown that where there is a legislated quota, such as Lesotho and Tanzania, as well as political will such as South Africa, elections provide an opportunity for increasing gender balance in decision making. Further, the nature of the electoral system also has an impact on women's access to power through the ballot, for example the proportional representation system (PR) as opposed to the first past the post (FPTP) system has tended to provide greater leverage for women's participation.

Women's participation in elections is also fostered by free and fair elections, characterised by a peaceful and secure environment. Thus election violence, intimidation, abuse of electoral systems and flawed election processes diminish both men and women's participation in elections as voters and candidates. Election observation missions must review and address these issues impinging on peace and security during elections, including the role of Electoral Commission, NGOs, the private sector and community based organisations.



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## Checklist — Gender in free and fair elections

### ***Political rights***

- ✓ Political rights should only be subject to limitations which are reasonable and justifiable in a democratic society.
- ✓ Limitations on candidature, the creation and activities of political parties and campaign rights should not be applied so as to violate the principle of non discrimination on, inter alia, grounds of sex, gender, race, colour, language, religion, political opinion, social origin, property, birth or other status.
- ✓ the right for women to join, or together with others to establish a political party for the purposes of competing in an election
- ✓ the right of women party members and candidates to move freely within the country in order to campaign for an election

### ***Citizenship***

- ✓ A definition and understanding of citizenship containing a commitment to substantive equality with regard to gender.

### ***The right to campaign***

- ✓ the right of women to conditions for competition in elections and on an equitable basis taking substantive equality into account
- ✓ the right of women party members, candidates and voters to campaign on an equal basis with their male counterparts
- ✓ the right of women party members to campaign around issues that re of particular concern to women, for example, domestic violence
- ✓ the right of women party members, candidates and voters to security with respect to their lives and property during campaigns (and throughout the electoral process)
- ✓ the content of campaign messages must be directed at men and women so that stereotypes are not entrenched
- ✓ campaign messages must be formulated so that they express a commitment to substantive equality with regard to gender issues
- ✓ the right of women party members and candidates to have access to the media in order to put forward political views on an equal basis with their male counterparts

### ***State responsibilities***

- ✓ to provide or the holding of legislative elections at regular intervals
- ✓ to establish a neutral, impartial mechanisms for the management of legislative elections
- ✓ to establish an effective, impartial and non discriminatory procedure for the registration of voters
- ✓ to stipulate clear criteria for the registration of voters, inter alia, age and citizenship
- ✓ the right polling stations that are accessible so that women citizens can exercise their right to vote
- ✓ the right of women citizens to vote without fear of any form of violence or intimidation

### ***The right to stand for public office***

- ✓ the right of women citizens to present themselves as candidates for election
- ✓ an express commitment to gender equality on the part of political parties
- ✓ the inclusion of women in the structures that formulate party lists and choose election candidates
- ✓ the inclusion of women in decision making which relates to the composition of party lists and choice of election candidates



- ✓ an electoral system which facilitates the electoral success of women on party lists as candidates
- ✓ a mechanism inherent in the electoral system which facilitates the electoral success of women, e.g internal party committee quotas, voluntary party list quotas

### ***Voter education***

- ✓ the state must ensure that through national programmes of civic and voter education, the electorate becomes familiar with gender equality as central to electoral issues and procedures
- ✓ civil and voter education must entrench gender equality as a central feature of democratic citizenship
- ✓ voter education programmes must develop an understanding of substantive equality with regard to gender
- ✓ voter education programmes must be aimed specifically at women
- ✓ voter education programmes must explain complex electoral processes in a manner which be understood by illiterate voters
- ✓ voter education workshops must take place at times suitable to accommodate the domestic and economic roles performed by women
- ✓ voter education workshops must take place in venues accessible to women
- ✓ voter education workshops must take place in an environment in which women feel confident and they can express themselves without fear of disruption or ridicule

### ***The right to express political opinions***

- ✓ the right of women citizens to express political opinions without interference otherwise than as reasonably permitted by law
- ✓ the right to access to information
- ✓ the right of women citizens to seek, receive and impart information and to mak an informed electoral choice
- ✓ the rights to freedom of association, assembly and movement
- ✓ the right to seek, receive and impart information and to make an informed choice
- ✓ the right to move freely within the country in order to campaign for election
- ✓ the right to campaign on an equal basis with other political parties, including the party representing the existing government
- ✓ the right to have access to the media, in order to put forward political views
- ✓ the right to protection of the law and to a remedy for violation of political rights, including those pertinent to participating in an election as a voter or candidate

### ***Conducting elections***

- ✓ The structure which manages elections must be committed to this conception of gender equality.
- ✓ In accordance with its won commitment, the structure which manages elections must employ women at all levels of its operations.
- ✓ All policy formulated and legislation promulgated which is relevant to conducting elections must give effect to substantive equality with regard to gender.
- ✓ All policy and legislation must be implemented to give effect to substantive equality.
- ✓ The criteria for demarcation of voting districts or costituencies (where applicable) must not affect women adversely e.g a particular voting district must not be established so that it compromises areas in which women are particularly susceptible to violence or harm. In rural areas voting districts must be established so that access to the voting station does not constitute any (further) impediment to rural women's right to vote.

***The right to vote***

- ✓ The right of women citizens to vote on a non discriminatory basis in regular elections of legislative bodies.
- ✓ The right to vote for a political party which has a record of addressing issues which affect women
- ✓ The right to vote for a political party which women in leadership positions.
- ✓ The right to every citizen to be eligible as a voter, subject only to disqualification in accordance with criteria established by law that are objectively verifiable and not subject to arbitrary decision based on sex and gender.

***Registration of voters***

- ✓ The right of women citizens to an effective, impartial and non discriminatory procedure for registration of voters.
- ✓ The stipulation of clear criteria for the registration of voters: inter alia, age, identification and citizenship. Citizenship as a criterion must guarantee the right to vote in the same way to men and women.
- ✓ The right to registration stations that are easily accessible.

***State responsibilities***

- ✓ Ensure the integrity of the voting process through appropriate measure to prevent electoral fraud or other electoral offences.
- ✓ Ensure the integrity of the entire electoral process and the counting of votes.
- ✓ Announce the election results and facilitate any transfer of authority.
- ✓ Ensure the complaints and challenges in electoral matters be determined by an independent and impartial authority, such as the electoral commission or courts.
- ✓ Ensure that decisions are reached promptly, within the time frame of the election, and that procedures are open and known to the electorate and political parties.
- ✓ Political rights should only be subject to limitations which are reasonable and justifiable in a democratic society.
- ✓ Limitations on.

*Source: Fick, G (2000) Gender Checklist for Free and Fair Elections. Electoral Commission of Southern Africa (EISA)*



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## State security and defence



### Fact sheet 18: Key gender issues in peace and conflict prevention

SADC considers peace, security and political stability as “the linchpins for socio-economic development”<sup>75</sup>. Women's participation in peace processes has been an important focus of international attention and is clearly addressed in the Beijing Platform for Action. The Platform, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, defined the need to “increase the participation of women in conflict resolution at decision-making levels” under Strategic Objective E.1, and urged Governments, as well as international and regional international institutions, to integrate gender perspectives in the resolution of armed or other conflicts and foreign occupation.

The outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century, ”reaffirmed this objective and called on Governments “to ensure and support the full participation of women at all levels of decision-making and implementation in development activities and peace processes, including conflict prevention and resolution, post-conflict reconstruction, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace-building”.

Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, adopted in October 2000<sup>76</sup>, calls on all actors to adopt a gender perspective when negotiating and implementing peace agreements and to address the special needs of women and girls during repatriation, resettlement, rehabilitation, reintegration and post-conflict reconstruction. The resolution also calls for measures to ensure the protection of and respect for women's human rights, particularly as they relate to the constitution, the electoral system, the police and the judiciary, and encouraged all those involved in the planning for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration to consider the different needs of female and male ex-combatants. In addition, the report of the Secretary-General on Women, Peace and Security, presented to the Security Council in 2002, recommended stronger measures to integrate women in all steps of peacekeeping, peacemaking and peace-building and urged that all peace agreements fully and explicitly integrate gender perspectives.

The issue has also been addressed by various United Nations entities as well as the Inter-agency Task Force on Women, Peace and Security chaired by the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women. To facilitate the implementation of these recommendations, various initiatives of the United Nations and civil society have focused on supporting and increasing the representation of women in peace negotiations and in peacekeeping operations. There is, however, increasing awareness that the presence of women at the peace table is insufficient to ensure attention to gender issues or the participation of women in post-conflict reconstruction, and that concrete and practical tools are needed to strengthen gender perspectives in peace agreements and in the subsequent institutional development.

<sup>75</sup> [www.sadc.int](http://www.sadc.int)

<sup>76</sup> See chapter 2 of the Toolkit for a longer discussion on this. The full document is on CD ROM

<sup>77</sup> Information provided by the Defence Sector June 2008

In June 2005 the Ministerial Council gave a directive to the Personnel Working Group (which has the responsibility of gender mainstreaming) to support Member States, who were tasked with the responsibility to work towards a gender balance in the armed forces. In July 2006 in Windhoek Namibia, almost every country reported on the status of female representation in the armed forces in their respective countries. Below is the data as at 2006<sup>77</sup>.

Member State	Female %
Angola	0.54
Botswana	0
Democratic Republic of the Congo	No submission
Lesotho	8.5
Madagascar	0.024
Malawi	3.5
Mauritius	No applicable
Mozambique	1.45
Namibia	14
South Africa	23
Swaziland	10
United Republic of Tanzania	24.1
Zambia	7
Zimbabwe	20




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## Checklist

- ✓ Have provisions of the UNSC Resolution 1325 and other international and regional commitments to achieve gender equality been addressed in the mission?
- ✓ Does the mission call for the incorporation of a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations and the establishment of a gender component within the staff of a mission?
- ✓ Does the mission call for an expanded role for women in UN field operations among military, police and civilian personnel?
- ✓ In recognizing the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building, does the mission(s) support the creation and strengthening of non-governmental organisations, including women's organisations, active in conflict prevention work?
- ✓ Does the mission/intervention call for or seek to establish mechanisms to investigate monitor and report on violations of women's human rights, including gender-based violence and sexual abuse?
- ✓ Does the mission/intervention call for mechanisms to bring to end impunity for such violations?
- ✓ Does the mission/intervention recognise the important role of civil society in post-conflict peace-building?
- ✓ Does the mission/intervention encourage regular consultation with civil society organizations, in particular local women's groups and peace initiatives, in the planning and implementation of its field operations?
- ✓ Does the intervention ensure that the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, reintegration and resettlement (DDRRR) programme upholds the human rights of women and girls - as ex-combatants as well as associates of ex-combatants - through consideration of their specific needs and circumstances?
- ✓ Does the intervention ensure that women and girls are consulted in the design and planning of DDRRR programmes that affect them?
- ✓ Does the intervention call for the equal and active participation of women in peace negotiations as well as in the drafting and implementation of peace agreements?
- ✓ Does the intervention call on all actors to integrate a gender perspective when negotiating a peace agreement?
- ✓ Does the intervention ensure the full and equal participation of women in the process of creating a constitution and developing a new judiciary?
- ✓ Does the intervention ensure that women's protection and participation is central to the design and reform of security sector institutions and policies, especially in police, military and rule of law components?
- ✓ Does the intervention call for the formation of a government which is fully representative of men and women, allows for the full and equal participation of women in its operations, and respects the human rights of women and girls?
- ✓ Does the intervention call for measures to ensure that women may participate without discrimination in all elections and that women are represented equally at all levels with men in all electoral processes?
- ✓ Do the reports on conflict situations integrate a gender perspective?
- ✓ In condemning acts of sexual abuse of women and girls by peace keeping personnel, do missions and interventions call for peacekeeping personnel of contribution countries to adhere to pertinent codes of conduct and disciplinary and accountability mechanisms in order to prevent such exploitation?
- ✓ Is there a measure to provide gender training to peacekeeping civilian personnel, including police, and other members of peace and field operations on the rights and protection of women and girls, including on issues related to HIV/AIDS?
- ✓ Do interventions ensure that there are specific measures to strengthen local rule of law and human rights institutions, drawing on existing civilian police, human rights, gender and judicial expertise?
- ✓ Does the intervention address the particular protection and assistance needs of refugee and internally displaced women and girls?
- ✓ Is there a deliberate process to ensure the participation of refugee and displaced women in the planning, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all programmes providing assistance to refugee and other displaced women, including the management of refugee camps and resources?
- ✓ Is there provision and coordination of humanitarian assistance, and access to humanitarian workers by the civilian population, with a focus on the particular protection needs of women and girls?

*Adapted from: Women's International League for Peace and Freedom <http://www.peacewomen.org/un/ingoadvocacy/1325Tools/checklist.html>*

## Public security - Gender based violence



## Fact sheet 19: SADC and Gender Based Violence

The 1993 UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, Article 1, provides that gender based violence is 'any act of gender based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life'<sup>78</sup>. Gender based violence (GBV) limits the potential of individuals, in particular women, from asserting their rights and indeed being participants and beneficiaries of development; it is thus a key agent of marginalisation. Its intersection with HIV and AIDS has also proved deadly as a cause and consequence of the pandemic.

In recognition of the impact of this pervasive problem and the need to upscale action in the region, a SADC Addendum on the Prevention and Eradication of Violence Against Women and Children (Addendum) was adopted in 1998<sup>79</sup>. It makes provision for a range of measures to be taken by Member States including passing laws, providing services for survivors of gender violence and mounting education and awareness campaigns. The Addendum is supposed to be reviewed by Member States every two years. The last review took place in Lesotho in November 2000.

Laws, services and resources to address this scourge are still patchy, and the link between gender violence and HIV and AIDS is not being adequately addressed. Attention to new threats like sex trafficking is growing, but is yet to be fully acknowledged in policies and laws. The findings, for example, pointed to limited progress in legislating against domestic violence. Currently only half of the SADC countries have domestic violence legislation (Botswana, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Malawi).

Sexual offences legislation is critical in that it seeks to broaden the definition of rape and sexual assault to take into account the changing nature of GBV, as well as addressing gender inequality issues such as abolishing the cautionary rule as regards women survivors of rape and sexual assault. In spite of this few SADC countries (Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Namibia, and Lesotho) have sexual offences legislation in place. Linked to this is the criminalising and punishment of marital rape. As Gender and Media in Southern Africa (GEMSA) points out "abolishing marriage as a defence for sexual offences is an important barometer of the level of gender justice discourse in a country, and is a critical factor in the era of HIV and AIDS, where one of the largest categories of those newly infected is married women who are faithful in their relationships while their husbands are not"<sup>80</sup>. The picture does not improve in other areas such as sexual harassment and trafficking of persons, in particular of women and girls, where legislation remains scant.

<sup>78</sup> The definition encompasses a broad range of abuses physical, sexual, psychological in the private and public spheres, and includes traditional practices harmful to women, sexual violence related to exploitation, trafficking in women and forced prostitution. The expanded definition, resulting from the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action, includes systematic rape, sexual slavery and forced pregnancy; and recognises the vulnerabilities of women belonging to minorities such as the refugee and migrant women, indigenous women and others.

<sup>79</sup> Full document on CD ROM

<sup>80</sup> 2005 Audit of the SADC Declaration on Gender – Violence Against Women – The SADC Addendum on the Prevention and Eradication of Violence Against Women and Children [www.genderlinks.org.za](http://www.genderlinks.org.za)

Interventions must also embrace the social, cultural, political and economic measures, including eliminating negative cultural, traditional and cultural norms and practices that are exacerbating GBV, limiting an effective response, and grossly violating women's rights. At the same time it is necessary to ensure equal status and rights of men and women, particularly in the areas family and personal law, where women suffer discrimination.

This requires legislative and policy interventions, yet they remain scanty in the region, with a few such as Namibia, South Africa and Lesotho making inroads in this area. The Addendum lays emphasis on services (law enforcement, for example), education and awareness raising as well as monitoring and evaluation. There are some positive developments, such as Victim Support Units (Thutuzela Centres in South Africa) and Family Courts in Zimbabwe, Zambia and South Africa, however, their sensitivity and effectiveness remain under scrutiny, whilst the role of the media in awareness raising is improving but requires up scaling.

A combination of interventions outlined above, coupled with clear indicators, benchmarks and targets, form the basis for reducing and eventually eradicating GBV. This challenge must be taken up at every level of the gender mainstreaming process in the Secretariat and at Member State levels.

*Source: Gender Links*



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## Checklist

- ✓ Promote the enactment, strengthening and implementation of laws against gender based violence, particularly domestic violence, sexual offences, femicide and human trafficking, enforcing stiff penalties for perpetrators;
- ✓ Establish codes of conduct in all institutions at national level to define and prohibit sexual harassment in all spheres and design deterrent sanctions;
- ✓ Conduct gender sensitisation and public awareness campaigns directed towards both women and men to enable greater awareness of legal, human and women's rights, and the legal and social-economic consequences of abusive behavior, as well as the impact on future generations;
- ✓ Design programmes for reaching out to vulnerable groups especially those with disabilities and special needs to protect them against gender based violence;
- ✓ Enhance the capacity of law enforcement institutions to implement gender responsive policies and programmes that address gender based violence;
- ✓ Encourage sharing of best practices within and among member states on mitigation programmes including the establishment and operations of victim support units, survivor shelters, as well as the monitoring of such interventions; and
- ✓ Establish and disseminate regional and national data based on gender based violence and devise appropriate mechanisms for measuring reduction of cases at different levels.



## Additional Resources

Search for Common Ground – *Resource Guide on Gender and Peace Building*

<http://www.sfcg.org/programmes/ilr/gender1.doc>

Pankhurst, D (2000) *Mainstreaming Gender in Peace-building: a Framework for Action: From the Village Council to the Negotiating Table*. International Alert (London)

<http://cities-localgovernments.org/uclg/upload/docs/mainstreaminggengerinpeacebuilding-aframeworkforaction.pdf>

UNIFEM (2003) *Gender-aware Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR): A Checklist*.

<http://womenwarpeace.org/issues/ddr/ddrenglish.pdf>