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Submission to the Special Parliamentary Committee on Gender based Violence Secretariat

PNG National Parliament

Waigani

### **The Spotlight Initiative PNG**

### CIVIL SOCIETY REFERENCE GROUP

### **Members:**

1. ***Jacquiline Joseph***
2. ***Mary Kini***
3. ***Anne Sapat***
4. ***Maggie Tine***
5. ***Veronica Simogan***
6. ***Gabrielle Shirley Kaupa***
7. ***Agnes Kupul Mek***
8. ***Jean Jano***
9. ***Sabeth Yengis***
10. ***Rebecca Joseph***
11. ***Jonathan Wala***
12. ***Inquire into the connections between GBV and broader issues and root causes regarding gender equality and women’s economic empowerment, women’s political participation, the impact of early family planning, cultural, traditional and religious beliefs and broader social norms.***

**Recommendations:**

1. Government to review policies on the effectiveness of implementation of laws that address social norms that allow for GBV SARV etc.
2. More advocacy activities that address misconceptions in society that allow for GBV, SARV etc.
3. Develop curriculum on social norms and teach them at school at all levels.
4. Develop information to address the myths that encourage and promote harmful social norms.
5. Bride price as practice needs to be reviewed and considered as possible harmful social norm.
6. Serious crimes such as aggravated violence and sorcery violence need to be prosecuted and compensation needs to be not allowed.
7. Social norms in patrilineal societies need to be reviewed across various sectors – education, employment, finance, land and resources.
8. Amend laws to stop polygamy.
9. Create more awareness that leadership is not a male given or birth right. Call for more participation at a community level.
10. ***Identify the immediate and long-term measures to prevent gender-based violence, with the focus on behavioural change for future generations.***

**Recommendations:**

1. More interventions engaging men and boys at a community level through community conversations. Successful examples are evident in Bougainville and Generation Foundation, Men’s Hub. These should be funded and scaled up.
2. Existing “community Law Toolkit” and male advocacy training should be rolled out and scaled up.
3. East Sepik has successful community healing and rehabilitation program, which needs to be funded and scaled up.
4. Establish a fund for CSOs to apply under the Department for Community Development linked under the Deputy Provincial Administrator Social Services to access grants to roll out community level programs
5. To prevent child abuse needs more and continuous prevention messages on child abuse, create child protection ward watchdog, girl guides, boys scouts, early childhood learnings from home learning, trainings on gender and human rights across all years of school.
6. Address misconceptions and false beliefs system that allow sorcery accusation related violence, GBV, child abuses through training key influencers in communities.
7. Support and implement men’s sensitisation program. Family is the first institution established that leaves it imprint to a child who grows in a man/woman. Fathers as role models.
8. Juvenile justice unit. Put more funding to church running centres, establish juvenile centres in each province.
9. Strengthen community policing and peace and good order committees.
10. ***Inquire into the level and impact of coordination and accountability for services and policy responses across the government departments, the Royal PNG Constabulary and related enforcement and prosecution services, the Courts, provincial and local governments, non-government and community-based organisations and private sector.***

**Recommendations:**

1. Train and sensitise ward counsellors on GBV, including who are designated village court officials.
2. Ward development committees need to be fully established, resourced and managed and sensitized.
3. Provide therapy and financial support to women and children to recover.
4. At the national level public service needs an overhaul. Manage people out who do not perform. Recruitment and performance management of public servants need to be strengthened.
5. Develop curriculum for public servants to be GBV sensitised and GBV accountable and to make GBV informed decisions.
6. Establish Human Rights Commission.
7. Create inter-government agreement between department of Education and Office of Child and Family Services to handle child protection cases.
8. Each district needs to have at least one gazetted Child Protection Officer.
9. Create CSO programmes hub to avoid duplication.
10. Audits on how things are done by actors (public, private) that are currently on the ground.
11. Village court officials need to be paid.
12. The government should step up mechanisms and structures for a welfare funds for GBVs to access funds to restart their lives.
13. Government need to work with the NGOs, CSOs, FBOs who are already in the provinces over the years.
14. Assessment to be conducted in key government departments on gaps in policy implementation of GBV related responsibilities.
15. Develop strategies at provincial level on how actors should work together.
16. Directory and factsheet of focal points and access points at all levels for service providers to connect.
17. ***Inquire into the adequacy of the evidence and prevalence data of gende- based violence and how to overcome limitations in the collection of nationally consistent and timely data including, but not limited, to court, police and hospitals.***

**Recommendations:**

1. Utilise various data collection methods to collect stories of change and what successful interventions look like. This can inform what is needed more.
2. Develop roadmaps with signposts and information of the type of help a GBV Survivor needs that could enable them to make informed decision.
3. Ensure confidentiality of information collected and prosecute those who break that trust and breach the confidentiality.
4. Set up provincial, district, LLG and Wards database system with one standardised GBV referral form. This needs to have strong coordinated system with central database.
5. The national census needs to include information on GBV.
6. Fund research institutions to conduct nation-wide studies on GBV- using mulit-method approaches to include social, cultural, gender, economic, sexual to explore best practices that can address GBV. More participatory approaches be used in the communities to identify solutions by them and programs be developed in accordance to their needs.
7. Start success programs in specific communities and replicate successes based on evidence.
8. ***Identify the perpetrator intervention programs and support services to help them change their behaviour.***

**Recommendations:**

1. GBV cases need to be prioritised at all courts.
2. Rapid response teams in communities led by senior police officer in the district. Great examples exist in Simbu and Goroka.
3. Create specialists in GBV in all village courts, and all the way across the courts system.
4. All family court magistrates need to be resourced to be able to do their roles.
5. More women as village court officers. They should be trained on GBV referral systems and laws.
6. Holistic rehabilitation programmes established through the courts system for men perpetrators to undergo months long trade and life skill courses and trauma counselling.
7. The glass man/meri who provoke sorcery accusations in the communities, such need to be prosecuted by creating provisions in the law against sorcery accusers.
8. FODE education for prisoners and extended to communities
9. Awareness to CIS and technical education to perpetrators
10. Small grants for support
11. Strengthen witness protection system
12. Law enforcement needs to be significantly strengthened, specifically uncovering bribery in sensitive GBV cases.
13. Communities to be mobilised to protect human rights defenders supported by police.
14. Mobilise communities by providing advocacy and trainings around GBV.
15. Conduct trainings with men to become Male Advocates for Gender Equality (MAGEs).
16. Strengthen and resource male advocates program facilitated by the CIMC.
17. Ensure immediate law enforcement and severe penalties.
18. ***Inquire into the gendered impacts of Covid 19, with a particular focus on the differential experience of GBV on PNG women and men, identify how the Government and other stakeholders can ensure more effective responses in the context of the ongoing threat of Covid 19.***

**Recommendations:**

1. Significantly increase awareness and education to be rolled out into communities around COVID19 and address arising discrimination against those infected.
2. Neighbourhood programmes to be encouraged by supporting existing programs and interventions in the communities
3. Make available emergency funding for various implementing partners to access during emergency crisis, such as COVID19 when GBV cases surge, including accusations of sorcery.
4. Ensure the emergency funding is going to women’s rights organisations with experience delivering services to women and children.
5. Resource and equip schools to maintain regular scheduled during crisis by developing alternative strategies, such as Zoom schools.
6. Strengthening and improving on the HADR.
7. ***Inquire into how women’s leadership can be more proactively supported to ensure that women can lead the response to GBV, including by examining options for implementing temporary special measures for women in Parliament.***

**Recommendations:**

1. Support the women’s temporary special measures for reserved seats in the Parliament.
2. Review and fund to the Council of Women from national to district levels.
3. Women leadership to undergo performance review and to make changes so that right kind of leadership is brought into support women leadership
4. Women’s mobilisation/coalition building and given recognition the women political will already in place
5. Train women leaders to be accountable and do acquittals when funds are received
6. Increase number of women’s membership at all government levels in the provincial, district, LLG and wards, just as 5 reserved seats for the National Parliament
7. Law and justice sector must be empowered to provide and ensure protection to women who are contesting in the elections.
8. Put strategies in place prior the national election to support women on how to vote, what the selection criteria is etc.
9. More training and awareness on what to be done to women leaders, organise women’s forum
10. Establish strong data collection for identifying women groups, church groups with strong women leaders, strengthen and resource them.