



## **Parliamentary Inquiry into Gender Based Violence**

The Special Parliamentary Committee on Gender Base Violence GBV Secretariat,  
PNG National Parliament,  
P.O.Box Parliament House, Waigani  
Papua New Guinea  
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### **SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATION BY SSSA INC ORGANISATION, MENDI, SHP**

#### **SSDA Goals, Objectives, Purpose and Vision**

Southstar Sports Development Association (SSDA) is a non –profitable organization registered under IPA based in Mendi, Southern Highlands Province that aims to inspire young adolescents at the grassroots level gained adequate skills and knowledge through consolidated health advocate programs building partnership around common goals. Southstar Sports Development Association (SSDA) commitment in delivering partnership program’s expectations, targets, focusing on its goals, objectives and mission proven through reaching of over 6,000 youths graduated.SSDA mobilizes through youth sports enhancements training, Adolescent Skillz and Sports skills enhancement program incorporated with Health Advocates pathway connecting Youth to adhere Government Health Services for a healthy transformed communities impacting Papua New Guinea in general.

### **PROPOSE IDEA: COMMUNITY COUNSELLING CENTRE ESTABLISHMENTS**

The vision to establish the Community Counselling Centres is to provide an avenue for GBV victims to get help and counselling services, how to overcome this immoral action that is destroying peace in our communities. The setup of CCC is to empower youth through Skills learning programs, Male conventions, Girls/Women’s meetings, Counselling conventions with stakeholders strengthening stakeholder’s partnership. Providing counselling services and open forums to helps educate perpetrators, GBV victims and individuals evaluate and get feedback information about how to control anger management problems in situations to help provide short and long lasting resolutions to Gender Base Violence (GBV) issues in Papua New Guinea.

The Community Counselling Center (CCC)to be used as a GBV Safe House for GBV traumatized victims can get help and support.SSDA to incorporate our partnership programs ‘ Grassroots Soccer (GRS) program with youth base skills learning programs helping youth – young adult prevent GBV at early age through school holiday programs and youth camps .Partners carrying out Grassroots Soccer (GRS) school advocacy program in Papua New Guinea are Southstar Sports Development Association (SSDA)Mendi,SHP ,YWCA,PSMM,NYDA Port Moresby,NCD .Our vision is to train and empower young people through curriculum based learning programs helping young adolescents become future role models, Game changers, peer educators and counsellors for their communities .Providing skills training programs for counsellors including guidance, skills and counselling for GBV victims recover through mind conditioning exercises to prevent and reduce GBV in the highlands region of Papua New Guinea.

#### **1. SKILLZ PNG CURRICULLUM – RELATIONSHIP (Gender Base Violence & Gender Equity)**

Since the initiation of our Grassroots Soccer (GRS) partnership SKILLZ PNG program we so far graduated over 6,000 students in numbers from 2018 -2020 in primary – secondary schools around Southern Highlands Province, educating young adolescents about gender equity, gender base violence, and malaria and Relationship skills. Grassroots Soccer Skills Program is a great tool to be used to help mobilise both genders in participation learning skills of how to respect and communicate helping reducing Gender Base Violence situations.

The Skills Relationship Curriculum was design by Grassroots Soccer (GRS) organisation in South Africa in a unique way to help students understands sensitive topics such as Rape, Sex, Sexual Reproductive, GBV and Gender Equity and learn skills how to prevent such in real live situation.



The Skills Relationship Curriculum is set with the quality time of 1 hour interval per class session carry out various activities such as Gender Sex Groups/norms discussions getting the students in group discussions and activities using soccer as a model. During the sessions students are given opportunity to give their views and thoughts about Gender Base Violence (GBV) this provides basic information for our skills coaches getting collective recommendations in helping providing resolutions for our data base.

GBV starts in home and is something that needs more advocacy targeting younger generation know more about maintaining moral family values, love, and respect as set by our fore fathers of our nation. In general GBV paints a negative portrait for our beautiful country Papua New Guinea as a sovereign nation. Together as citizens we can fight Gender Base Violence (GBV) through incorporating and supporting community base organisation community programs efforts in helping educating our people about Gender Base Violence at grassroots level in Papua New Guinea.

**Our findings are as follows in regards to term of Reference mentioned in the newspaper advertisement.**

**1. (A) Root Causes of Gender equity and women economic empowerment, women's political participation, inputs on early family planning, cultural, rational, and religious beliefs and broader social norms.**

**1.1 Findings**

Based on our schools program Skills Relationship outcomes we have discovered some feedback information about some roots causes of Gender Equity participation break down is the strong cultural traditions barriers and gender expectation depressing young girls and women potentials in taking up Men's leadership roles in the male dominated society. The traditional Gender expectations does not allow women to carry out men's tasks and duties even to speak up against traditional taboos laws disallowing women rights to participate in creating gender equality environment . Women are seen only as spectators in the male dominated society in the highlands region where culture and traditions disallow women to speak up for moral laws changes regarding community resolutions and new laws. The trust people have for women's leadership compared to men is low for political leadership roles and weakens social norms.

**1.2 Recommendation**

Strengthening of Girls empowerment pathways between the Government, partners, and stakeholders educating young girls at the early childhood –youth development learning stages helps encourages girls set focus as goals in life in taking future leadership roles. Our Skills Relationship program encourages girls to become Game Changers in standing up for what is right and equal in taking up leadership role models in the future. The importance of educating young adolescents both gender norms at early age is one of the significant approach that can help improve Girls to become women's leaders in the long run.

**Take Action:**

Strengthening of Annual GRS Skills PNG Relationship program with primary –secondary schools during school days and holiday Skills camps using Community Counselling Centres as a venue for Girls Empowerment programs in the highlands region would be a great government project in reducing GBV. Similar program can be centralise through the highlands region to mobilise Girls during school holiday to come together annually for Skills Camp program encouraging Women's Leadership Roles participation movement in PNG.



## **2. (B) Identification of Immediate and long term measures to prevent gender base violence with the focus in Behaviour change for future generation.**

### **2.1 Findings**

During our four (4) years of our Skills PNG implementation in schools sector in Southern Highlands Province, we have discovered some of the facts that most children aged 10- 19 experienced form of physical, emotion or sexual violence and needed more advocacy about preventions and counselling regarding referral services provided by government in getting rehabilitation and how to manage stigmas. Some of the factors causing the increase of gender base violence is the lack of security provided by the guardians, the need for money that causes youths to practice early sex practices money for sex leading to STI's, HIV/AIDS increasing, unwanted teens pregnancies, broken homes caused by polygamy, Alcohol related problems, Treats by perpetrators preventing victims to reach out to available government services such as Government hospital FSC and police FSV office for help because of community pressures in compensations resolutions are option forced by traditional cultures and communities ties as alternatives rather weakening the law.

### **2.2 Recommendation**

Educating young adolescents at early stage of development training child –youth skills at the early age (10-19 yrs about preventions and encouraging youth to be Game Changers standing up against all forms of violence with preventive skills gained through Skills program outcome. The government should focus in providing funding support for NGO/Community base organisation those involve in the grassroots level help change future generation mindsets in through personal skills empowerment programs which can help motivate youth in reducing Gender Base Violence in the future. The need to emphasis more on educating peer groups about sensitive topics will help reduce Gender Base Violence in PNG. Skills PNG program involves schools drop outs youths to participate as a game changers. Most cases Youth wondered the streets of PNG aimlessly with less hope in securing opportunities as a result of education failures and lack of financial support situations increasing in the law and order problems causing the increase of Gender base violence's statistics in homes , streets and communities. The Government should connect with NGOS working at the roots level help develop good Youth development policies strategies and programs support to achieve long term results.

### **2.3 Take Actions;**

Government to establish annual partnership with NGOS, CBOS at the roots level implementing policies and programs incorporate educating youth about ending GBV meeting government strategies development and policies implementations.

## **3.(C)Inquiring into the next level and input of coordination and accountability for services and policy responses across the government department (health, law Justice)the Royal PNG constabulary and related enforcement and protection services ,the courts, provincial and local governments, on government and community based organisations and private sectors.**

### **3.1 Findings**

Despite the existing laws enforcing agencies efforts in reducing Gender based violence, more GBV cases are increasing at an alarming rate as a result of Alcohol and Drug Abuses and other contributing factors seen in the highlands region as part of normal lifestyles. Most cases of Gender base violence are not exposed because of treats and intimidations from families, clans and communities. Some GBV cases are not reported to the available Government Services the Family Sexual Violence Unit – Family Support Centre (FSC) as a result of communities way of resolving problems, therefore setting up of Community Counselling Centres in communities would be a safe space to connect GBV victims to government available pathways FSC –FSV to handle and resolve physical, emotional and sexual violence in PNG communities.

Victims gone through huge emotional break down because of lack of counselling and mind conditioning assistance by stakeholders, communities including police department in arresting preparators. Once a victim approaches the Family support Centre for treatment and assistance, they are send to family Sexual Violence for the arrest of the preparatory which in many cases fails because of community traditional way of resolving

issues prevents GBV to be resolved through the law and justice. Most cases GBV preparatory are freed because of the community's compensation system weakening the law to act to the victims' relatives a common practices for substituting peace in PNG.

### 3.2 Recommendations

Strengthens community based organisation programs targeting youth base programs about the available government pathways through Family Sexual Violence – Family Support Centre (FSC) services. Our Skills PNG program trained volunteers known as Skills Coaches and Youth Reproductive Health Assistants (YRHA) to educate and provide assistance to youth/victim who experienced GBV to go to general hospital for rehabilitation and treatments other procedures such as medical check-ups, VCT Tests and further Police FSV office for action. Our Skills Team helps provides assistance freely through Community counselling Centres (CCC) as a safe house for counselling and referrals for GBV to Family Support Centre (FSC) and to Family Sexual Violence office (FSV) for police persecution. However GBV victims will need to under taken mental conditioning rehabilitation program to help manage stigma in the Community connects with our volunteers through mobile phone calls or establishment of Hotline emergency mobile numbers in terms of counselling, comfort and referrals.

### 3.3 Actions to Take

Special Parliamentary Committee on GBV to provide annual program support funding through partnership our Grassroots Soccer Skills PNG program expansions to all highlands schools targeting youth skills development and training of youth skills coaches /peer educators/YHRAs to help us carry out annual schools programs roll out in the highlands region.

**4.(D) Inquire into the adequacy of the evidence and prevalence data of gender base violence and how to overcome limitation in the collection of nationally consistent and timely data including but not limited to court ,police and hospitals.**

### 4.1 Findings

The data reports from the Hospitals family support centres (FSC) and Police sexual violence's (FSV) only covers people who seeks for treatment and help from both FSC and FSV. TO capture more GBV unreported cases the establishment of Community Counselling Centre is a way forward to further connect provides venue for a safe space for GBV victims counselling, referrals, and counselling and rehabilitation process. The Community Counselling Centres can provide GBV victims safe house network partnership with FSC and FSV. Data Records can be send through FSV for government records data base. Community Counselling Centres to provide proper counselling and education services for the GBV victims get all the help needed.

### 4.2 Recommendations

The recommendation for the establishment Community Counselling Centre (CCC) is to provide a venue for Gender Based violence (GBV) victims to get proper counselling and mind conditioning exercises to help give victims recovers fully. For most people facing issues with GBV sometimes feels unsecure to go for treatment because of stigma and shame. The establishment of community Counselling Centre (CCC) can be a pathway to connect to Hospital family support centre – Police (family sexual violence) for treatment and law actions. CCC can provide free internet excess available through Whats Up, Facebook connectivity to reach online for GBV victims counselling service.



**(E) Identify the perpetrator intervention programs and support services to help them change their behaviour.**

**5.1 Findings**

One of the best approach to encourage perpetrator intervention program is to strengthen the Men –Men annual gatherings like the forum, convention, retreats in the Community Counselling Centre (CCC) to allow men to share freely and openly ways to help reduce GBV in the communities. NGOS to facilitate such gatherings to encourage perpetrator invention getting proper counselling support for managing behaviour change management. Women – Women conventions are also one of the ways to get though and views about how preparatory can be deal with or ways to avoid GBV through proper dialogue with Men.

**5.2 Recommendations**

We are highly recommending government institutions to support the idea of establishing Community Counselling Centre (CCC) in all provinces with the support from stakeholder’s partnership in working together in the fight against Gender Base Violence. The CCC can be used as a venue to help counsel and educate perpetrators overcome abnormal behaviours causes increase in the rate of GBV...Preparators counselling is one of the best approach to address men’s mental problem contributing to the increase in the GBV in PNG. Proper counselling can be used to help men control their emotional management system in dealing with women one of the contributing factors to GBV as well.

**6. Action.**

(F)Collaborating the causes and solutions of how to tackle GBV together as Gender is one of the very effective ways to help reduce GBV.Alots of problems arises because of lack of values and respect between both genders. Mobilising men through conventions and gathering helps highlights issues faced by men or perpetrators respect women rights and freedom.

**6.1 Findings**

Despite lots of efforts by Government and Non-Government organisations in the fights against Gender Based Violence the rate has increased because of contributing factors caused by both genders (Male & Female) in the areas of pride price system allowing men to have dominion over the women’s rights, Effects by Alcohol and Drug abuses, the need for money as support, Polygamy marriages contributes to family values break down t etc.. Men are becoming more violent in dealing with GBV situation with the opposite sex women. Proper marriage and genders counselling is required through educational community programs activities... Some of our findings discovered that women are also abusing the rights to live peacefully with men ,since the establishment of women’s protection laws women tends to contribute 20 percent of the problem through problems caused through men and women relationship break downs caused women cheating husbands in need for money and social media exposures contributing to increase of women deaths through GBV.One of the mayor contributing factor is Sorcery practices in the highlands now resulting in more women been killed or suffered GBV at our door steps where advocacy about Sorcery leading to tribal warfare’s are some of the contributing factors affecting communities, The need to established Community Counselling centre(CCC) in the heart of communities existed..

**6.2 Recommendations**

Proper assessment of GBV and counselling is needed for both genders in helping resolve conflicts through community counselling centre (CCC) by frontline services, advocate groups and NGOS working to help genders understand ways to have a violence free lives. The highlands regions is well known in the increase of gender base violence rate because of polygamy,socery killings, tribal fights, Prostitution practices , homebrew consumptions, cultural barriers, gender expectations and other factors. Establishment of community counselling centres would help people to speak freely in a safe space opening receiving proper counselling in dealing with community base violence’s issues and finding resolutions in reducing Gender base violence in PNG.



## 7. Action:

**(F) Consider views and experiences of frontline service providers for behaviour change missions.**

### 7.1 Findings

Government to support the establishment of centralising Community Counselling Centres (CCC) in the heart of communities and online GBV services with community base organisations partnership roll out programs support. Providing an online data base program linking to FSC/FSV services in dealing with Gender base violence work to further control and evaluate the rate of GBV.

### 7.2 Recommendations

Government annual funding for specific community base organisation incorporating of programs with the Community Counselling Centres in referring GBV cases to FSC-FSV offices providing accurate data base online networking for partners and stakeholders information.

## 8. Action

**(G) Inquire into the Gendered impacts of Covid 19 with a particular focus on differential experiences of GBV on PNG women and men, identifying how the Government and stakeholders can ensure more effective responses in the context of ongoing threat of Covid 19**

### 8.1 Findings

The Covid 19 pandemic has caused more social break downs with cut downs of employment support for communities causing the increase of GBV in families regarding family support. The need for money caused increase in prostitution with men handling women with violence. Government funding support is required for community based programs to advocate further about gender base violence situation caused by Covid 19 pandemic situations. Covid 19 has greatly contributes to the break down in family support and increase Gender base violence at Home.

### 8.2 Recommendations

Establishments of Community Counselling Centres (CCC) can be a safe home to provide counselling support to families, youth peer groups and others who are going through the trauma of Covid 19 pandemic recover and Gender Based Violence in line with the Government regulations and set policies.

## 9. Action

**(H) Inquire into new 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.**

### 9.1 Findings

Women required safe space in sharing ideas and thoughts about taking on leadership roles in PNG compared to the stronghold men holds in the Melanesian culture in making issues affecting communities. The need to stand up and educate people about ways to help neutralised men's mentality of giving women fair chance in taking lead together in political leadership requires more empowerment. Community Counselling Centres (CCC) can provides a good venue for Girls and Women's empowerment programs in communities breaking down cultural barriers in ensuring men support women in fair participation in our national building compared to other developed countries political standards.



## 9.2 Recommendations

The Community Counselling Centres (CCC) can be a safe house schemes for girls and women leadership training for community roles participation strengthening gender equality. Women can take leading roles in helping reducing gender base violence statistics around provincial sectors. The Centre can be a venue for Girls and Women leadership training venue to share constructive ideas and visions how to improve on women's role in political leadership roles in politics in helping improve some of country's constitutions updated to paved way for women's participation in the nation building progress.

## 10. Final Remarks;

The Southstar Sports Development Association (SSDA) Grassroots Soccer (GRS) Skills Relations targeted young adolescents in important skills in respecting gender norms at the early age .Our advocacy program has impact more than 6,000 student in schools sector in SHP and empower Girls rights to take leadership roles as equal as men's roles .We are proposing the ides of building the first Community Counselling Centre in Southern Highlands as a pilot project before extending to other highlands centres. We have trained mental health professionals and trained staffs volunteers in providing an adequate counselling and referral services for GBV.

Establishment of Community Counselling Centres (CCC) is vital in the communities to help educate and advocate against GBV areas places with high cases of GBV. As a stakeholder and partner we intends to work and support the government policies in reducing Gender Base Violence in Papua New Guinea .The establishment of Community Counselling Centres (CCC) can be a pilot project to train community volunteers participate as game changers agents in carrying advocacy and counselling services for people in Southern Highlands, Hela and the highlands region reducing rate of Gender Base Violence (GBV) in PNG.

We are happy in participation with the Government Special Parliamentary Committee on Gender Base Violence GBV Secretariat, sharing facts, experiences contributing ideas about we all can help reduce GBV in PNG changing our people's attitude and mindset in living a violence free lifestyles adopting the world's most common value 'Respect for human rights ending Gender base Violence in our communities, societies and our beautiful country Papua New Guinea.

Please do include us in any Government funding programs in the future regarding government policies planning forums , sanctioned programs and events in the future by the Special Parliamentary Committee on GBV Secretariat National Parliament, Papua New Guinea.

Yours in Submitting,



**Timothy Mako – Director**

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