



SUBMISSION BRIEF:

Date: **15/06/2023**

TO: **Members of the Parliamentary Committee on Gender Equality & Women Empowerment**

FROM: **NCD Women's for PNG Women for Change & PNG Women & Children's Rights**

1. PURPOSE OF THIS BRIEF:

We are putting together this brief which forms part of detailed submission on **HARNESSING USAGE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNICATION (ICT) PLATFORMS TO CURB GENDER BASED AND SORCERY RELATED VIOLENCE.**

2. INTRODUCTION:

Communal societies in PNG have for thousands of years considered women as a lesser gender and all bad phenomenons to be connected to a sorcerer. These two aspects plus several other cultural norms and beliefs which remain impediments to PNG's progress need proper addressing and awareness either to preserve or eradicate completely. The fact that most beliefs and norms have been cultured for thousands of years and also given that PNG's communities are mostly isolated, it is a daunting challenge for one to eradicate such mindset imprints over a short span of time.

As PNG becomes a connected global village with exposures giving prominence to female gender and with the access to science and technological proofs on phenomenons proper policies have to be put in place to contain opposing cultural mindsets. Awareness on these changes and the subsequent government policies and legislation have to reach citizens in the entire span of the country through use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

Given the above situations we hereby present this submission brief giving points on how best ICT can be used to address gender and sorcery related violence.

3. USING ICT TO CURB GBV & SARV

Here are pointers to where ICT can immensely come into to play in the quest to address the highlighted issues of sorcery and gender based violence.

3.1. ICT Usage Through Awareness:

Platforms such as Social Media, Websites, Mobile Apps and mobile network SMS blasts can be used to leverage AWARENESS about Gender Based Violence and Sorcery Related stigma and Violence. Educational content, statistics, survivor stories and information on available support services can be made available to vulnerable citizens through usage of ICT platforms.

3.2. Incident Reporting Mechanisms:

User-friendly mobile applications (apps) and online portals for anonymous incident reporting can be developed to report and alert GBV and SARV cases. Confidentiality and personal information on reporter shall remain confidential. These reporting mechanisms can be connected to local police and GBV and SARV authorities timely for intervention.

3.3. Helpline and Support Services:

Call centers or Helpline (hotline) phone numbers, whatsapp links and online chat services where victims or survivors can seek immediate help, counseling, and support can be established. Promote these services or channels again through ICT so that they are accessible, responsive and staffed by trained professionals.

3.4. Dissemination Of Information On Policies And Laws:

Again Policies and Legislation Information on GBV and SARV can be disseminated using SMS blasts, Social Media, and Websites. Information on legal rights, protection orders. available shelters, counseling services and medical supports can be disseminated through these ICT platforms.

3.5. Mobile Apps For Safety

Mobile applications can be developed made available to used for personal Safety. These applications can be enriched with features such as GPS tracking, Emergency Contact Notifications, and Distress Signal Codes. These applications can be tailored to be user-friendly and accessible to persons with low digital literacy.

3.6. Data Collection & Analysis

ICT tools such as online databases can be used to collect and analyze data on GBV and SARV incidents, patterns, and trends. This can help identify hotspots, target interventions, and evaluate the effectiveness of prevention programs. Such data can immensely help in policy change and resource allocations.

3.7. Engaging Men & Boys

ICT platforms can be used to engage men and boys in conversations about gender equality, respectful relationships and prevention of GBV. Promote positive masculinity and involve them as allies and advocates in curbing violence against women and girls.

3.8. Training & Capacity Building

Provide training programs on GBV prevention, response, and support for local community leaders, health workers, teachers, law enforcement personnel, and ICT professionals. Empower them with the knowledge and skills to address GBV effectively and sensitively.

3.9. Partnerships and Collaborations:

The fight against GBV and SARV should see concerted efforts fostered between, government departments, civil society organizations, technology companies, and telecommunication companies. These partnerships should collectively address GBV and SARV using ICT Solutions, pool resources and expertise and networks to amplify the impact of curbing GBV and SARV.

3.10. Continuous Evaluation And Improvement:

Regular scheduled assessments on the impact of ICT initiatives on curbing GBV and SARV can be made. Feedback from users, survivors, and stakeholders can be sought to identify areas of improvement and make necessary adjustments to ensure the effectiveness and relevance of the interventions.

This brings us to the end of our brief. A more detailed submission will be availed once this brief is vetted and given prominence with a response.

Thank you sincerely.



Mrs. Quina Ongugo

Director - NCD Women's Office.

WhatsApp/Phone: +675 7143 7311 | Email: quinadiiongugo@gmail.com



Mr. Noel Kaiye

ICT - NCD Women's Office

WhatsApp /Phone: +675 70588301 Email: noel.kaiye@outlook.com