

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Recommendations for Members of the Male Standing Committee

Members of the Asia-Pacific Standing Committee of Male Parliamentarians on Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls are strategically placed to promote, support and lead policy and legislative actions to prevent violence against women and girls across the region.

The following recommendations for action are based on findings from research on parliamentarians' roles in gender-based violence prevention, conducted by Partners for Prevention and AFPPD. Twenty-two parliamentarians from across Asia and the Pacific were interviewed.

KEY FINDINGS OF THE RESEARCH

Respondents said that...

- 1) They recognize violence against women (VAW) as a serious social development problem but tend to associate it with single-factor causes (e.g. alcohol, socio-economic status).
- 2) They understand intervention and response approaches to VAW but have difficulty picturing what prevention looks like in practice.
- 3) When working on VAW, they face challenges around competing agendas and political priorities.
- 4) VAW is frequently seen as a 'women's issue' which makes it difficult for them to champion VAW among their peers.
- 5) As public figures, they identify their primary duty as the development and passage of legislation.

What you can do...

- 1) Understand that VAW has multiple contributing factors, from social norms to relationship patterns to individual experiences, attitudes and behaviours. There are thus multiple solutions.
- 2) Prevention is stopping violence before it starts, and includes promoting peaceful and more equal social norms, relationships and attitudes.
- 3) Make prevention a priority by promoting the long-term gains.
- 4) Be clear that VAW can be prevented only with partnerships between men and women, and among many parts of the government.
- 5) Promote reviews of current legislation on VAW and ensure prevention is a part of the national policy.

POLICY

- Promote research on prevalence and root causes of violence to build evidence on causes and costs of VAW
- Fund prevention campaigns in combination with community based projects
- Promote gender equality through policies that support women’s empowerment, healthy relationships and more diverse and supportive roles for men
- Implement policies to reduce corporal punishment of children, to end intergenerational violence

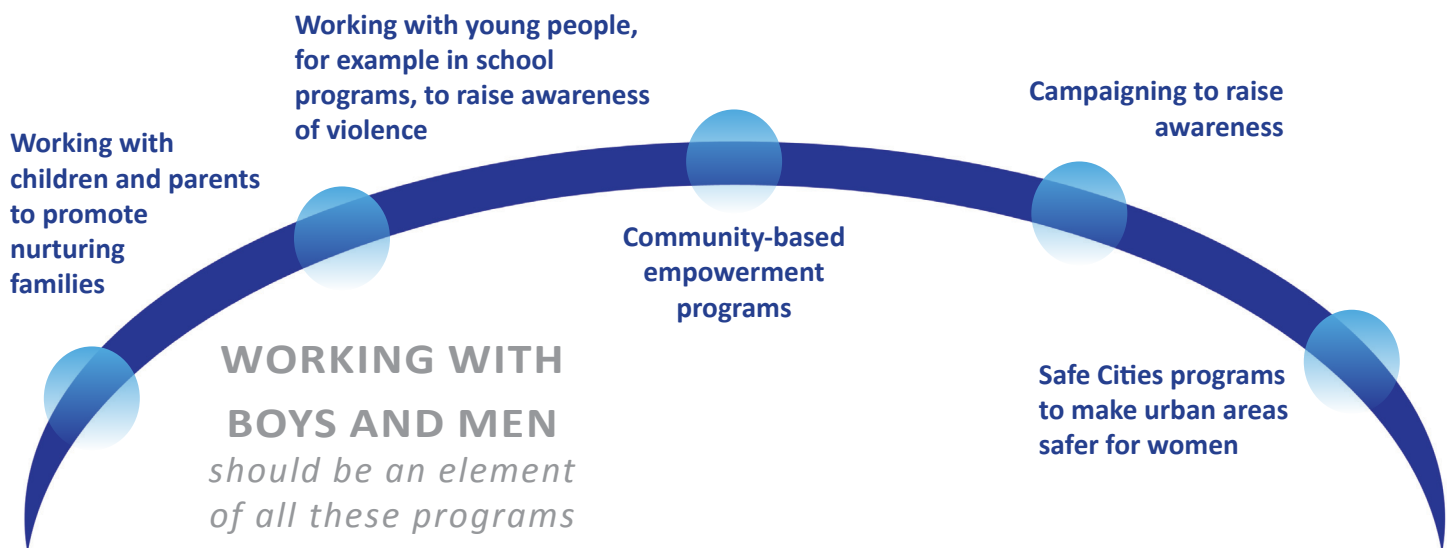
ADVOCACY

- Advocate jointly with female parliamentarians to develop a policy environment that promotes men and women’s mutual involvement in decision making
- “Politics is a boy’s club. If men speak up more, this will have a major impact.”
- Advocate for violence prevention among constituents by promoting effective local interventions
 - Be role models and speak out in public and to peers through awareness campaigns

PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKING

- Foster bi-partisan partnerships to support violence prevention advocacy
- Engage with young MPs to develop the next generation of champions of VAW prevention
- Encourage male peers to join the Standing Committee of Male Parliamentarians
- Use regional forums to share experiences and lessons learned on championing VAW prevention across countries

THE SPECTRUM OF PREVENTION OPPORTUNITIES



Resources for the Male Standing Committee

- Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls: www.endvawnow.org
 Toolkit for Working with Men and Boys: www.toolkit.endabuse.org
 Partners for Prevention: www.partners4prevention.org
 Engagingmen.net: www.engagingmen.net
 AFPPD: www.afppd.org