

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION NEWSLETTER N° 2 — APRIL 2003

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This second issue of the newsletter of the Global Campaign for Violence Prevention summarizes the main activities that have taken place between January and April, following the launch in October 2002 of the *World report on violence and health*. Highlights include the discussion at the WHO Executive Board meeting, further national launches of the Report, and the development of new technical documents to help implement the Report's recommendations.

WHO would like to thank readers for their valuable feedback and interesting comments on the first issue of the newsletter, which can be found at http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention. Readers are encouraged to continue sending in their comments, as well as news of activities related to violence prevention.

WHO EXECUTIVE BOARD ENDORSES RESOLUTION ON VIOLENCE AND HEALTH

In January 2003, WHO's Executive Board discussed the *World report on violence and health* and endorsed a resolution on implementing its recommendations. The

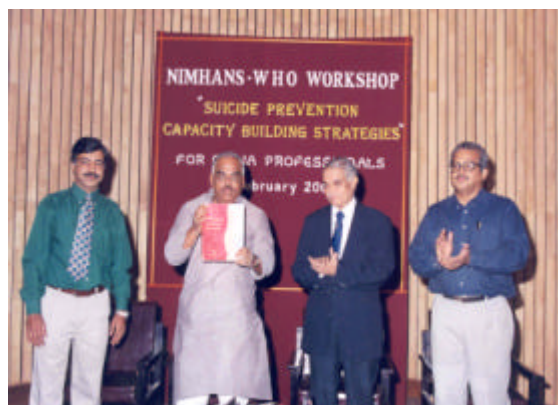


proposed resolution – to be presented to the Fifty-sixth World Health Assembly in May – calls on Member States to recognize that the prevention of violence is a prerequisite for human security, and that urgent action by governments is needed to prevent all forms of violence and reduce their consequences for health and socioeconomic development. Specifically, the resolution

takes note of the Report's nine recommendations, encourages Member States to consider adopting them, and urges Member States to take a number of appropriate steps. These include: holding national launches or discussions on the Report; appointing focal points within health ministries for the prevention of violence; and preparing within a year a report on violence and violence prevention in the country.



National launch of the *World report on violence and health* in Jordan attended by Her Royal Highness Queen Rania of Jordan, pictured here with Dr Ala Alwan, WHO Representative for Jordan.



Release of the *World report on violence and health* at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore, India.



Dr Marc Danzon (right), Regional Director of the WHO European Office handing over the *World report on violence and health* to Dr Andro Vlahušić, Croatian Minister of Health, Zagreb, Croatia.

**EVENTS RELATED TO THE GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION
JANUARY - APRIL 2003***

DATE	COUNTRY	EVENT AND FOLLOW -UP ACTIVITIES
21.01.2003	Bangkok, Thailand	National round-table seminar on violence and health. Participants included representatives from various government ministries, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), the police, and the head of the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand. Discussions focused on data collection, policy support, cooperation between governmental organizations and NGOs, and community participation in violence prevention.
23.01.2003	Davos, Switzerland	Presentation of the <i>World report on violence and health</i> at the World Economic Forum's annual meeting (see page 3).
30.01.2003	United Nations, New York	Presentation of the Report at a meeting organized by the UN's Department of Public Information for the community of NGOs, with some 700 NGOs attending. The theme of the event, "Preventing violence, promoting health: shared strategies", served as a launch for the 2003 Ghandi-King Season for Non-Violence.
01.02.2003	Bangalore, India	Release of the Report at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences.
05.02.2003	Amman, Jordan	National launch of the Arabic version of the <i>World report on violence and health</i> attended by Her Royal Highness Queen Rania of Jordan, followed by a one-day workshop on implementing the Report's recommendations in Jordan. Participants – including government representatives, NGOs and UN agencies – agreed to develop a multisectoral plan of action to prevent family violence and a national report modelled on the <i>World report on violence and health</i> .
17.03.2003	Tegucigalpa, Honduras	National launch of the <i>World report on violence and health</i> hosted by the Vice-Minister of Security. Those present included the Honduran Vice-President, and representatives from universities, human rights groups, the police and the attorney-general's office.
18.03.2003	Safe Communities Conference – Hong Kong	The <i>World report on violence and health</i> was presented and discussed during the opening ceremony of the 12th Conference on Safe Communities in presence of representatives from a number of mainly Asian countries.
24.03.2003	Zagreb, Croatia	Launch of the <i>World report on violence and health</i> for the countries of the 'Stability Pact', hosted by the Croatian Ministry of Health and the Andrija Stampar School of Public Health in Zagreb. Participants included the health ministers or their representatives from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, FYR Macedonia, Romania, and Serbia and Montenegro. Also present were representatives from other Croatian government ministries, the national parliament, NGOs and UN organizations. The participating countries discussed the need to nominate focal points for violence prevention within their health ministries, establish intersectoral task forces to coordinate national activities, and increase research and advocacy related to violence prevention.
03.04.2003	Bamako, Mali	National launch of the <i>World report on violence and health</i> by the Prime Minister of Mali, Mr Mohamed Ag Hamani accompanied by the Ministers of Health, Education, Social Development, and four other cabinet ministers. Participants included NGO leaders, health professionals, and academics. A panel discussion on the Report was lead by the President of the National League of Women's groups, the Chairman of the Council for the Elderly, and an adolescent girl, President of the Malian Children's Parliament. The Prime Minister urged participants to disseminate the information contained in the <i>World report on violence and health</i> , and government leaders to work together and sensitize their constituencies on the reality of violence.
22.04.2003	Human Rights Commission, Geneva	The Commission on Human Rights passed a resolution expressing concern about the magnitude of the findings of the <i>World report on violence and health</i> ; noting that violence can be an obstacle to the full realization of the right to the highest attainable standard of health as well as to the enjoyment of other human rights; recommending to the General Assembly that it declare the year 2007 the UN Year for violence prevention; and inviting UN bodies to organize an international expert meeting on violence prevention and human rights.

*Events that took place before January 2003 were described in Newsletter N° 1, which can be found on the VIP website.

This Report is a milestone for those of us in forensic medicine – in Jordan and abroad – who have called for two decades for such a report describing violence as a major public health issue. We will use it as a platform for developing strategies for Jordan - **Dr Mu'men Hadidi, Head of Forensic Speciality, Ministry of Health at the launch of the *World report on violence and health* in Amman, Jordan**

The present Report, and the recommendations contained therein, represents a practical contribution of WHO to combating violence. We would like to request that WHO continues to provide detailed guidelines in accordance with each recommendation of the *World report on violence and health*, indicating how Member States could implement the measures - **Statement by Professor Furgal, representative of the Russian Federation, at the WHO Executive Board Meeting in Geneva, Switzerland**

Handbook for the documentation of promising and proven practices in violence prevention. The *World report on violence and health* describes a number of programmes related to the prevention of violence, while also noting that in many countries, there is a great lack of information on the programmes themselves and their effectiveness. To correct this significant shortcoming, WHO and its partners are developing a *Handbook for the documentation of promising and proven practices in violence prevention*. The handbook will serve as a tool for the collection of descriptions of violence prevention programmes. It will identify core features upon which such programmes could be described, define quantitative and qualitative indicators for those, and will provide a structured questionnaire to systematically document violence prevention programmes. Following a consultative review in February 2003, WHO will be contracting organizations to collect standardized descriptions of violence prevention programmes at country level.

UN Study on Violence Against Children. In February 2003, following a request from the UN General Assembly, Professor Paulo Sergio Pinheiro was appointed Independent Expert for the *UN Study on Violence Against Children*. Along with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), WHO is a partner in the working group providing technical support for this major global study, expected to be completed in 2005. Mr Pinheiro has indicated that the study will build heavily on evidence provided in the *World report on violence and health*, to develop a clear picture of the prevalence, nature and causes of violence against children in the family and the community. The study will also provide detailed recommendations for addressing the phenomenon.

Guidelines for medico-legal care of victims of sexual violence. Following on from Recommendation 5 of the *World report on violence and health*, WHO will be finalizing the *Guidelines for medico-legal care of victims of sexual violence* over the coming months. The guidelines provide health care professionals with the range of knowledge and skills necessary to offer quality health services for victims of sexual violence, conduct accurate and ethical documentation of their cases, and collect forensic evidence. The document is designed to

be adaptable in settings with severe constraints on the capacity to provide comprehensive health services. The final draft has been peer-reviewed and is currently being prepared for publication. Pilot-testing of the guidelines will begin in June.

The injury chartbook: a graphical overview of the global burden of injuries. In March 2003, WHO's Department of Injuries and Violence Prevention published *The injury chartbook*, which uses easy-to-grasp tables and charts to convey a global overview of mortality and morbidity resulting from injury. The document reveals some striking facts. An estimated five million people worldwide died from injuries in 2000. In that year, injuries accounted for 9% of the world's deaths and 12% of the burden of disease – while young people between the ages of 15 and 44 years accounted for almost 50% of the world's injury-related deaths. It is hoped that this visual representation of the burden of disease due to injury will raise awareness of the importance of injuries for public health and help promote strong and effective prevention policies and programmes.

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

Each year, the World Economic Forum brings together hundreds of decision-makers, corporate leaders and experts to discuss key global issues. Professor James Gilligan – well known for his work in the United States on understanding and preventing violence, and a collaborator on WHO's Global Campaign for Violence Prevention – was invited this year to make a presentation on violence prevention.

Gilligan commented that while war was certainly uppermost in the minds of most participants, issues of interpersonal violence such as murder, sexual violence, youth violence and child abuse were not being marginalized.

“Business and political leaders see that there is a feedback loop between violence on the one hand, and economic and political practices and policies on the other. In countries such as Colombia, the Russian Federation and South Africa, where interpersonal violence consumes lives and business initiatives, economic development is being stunted and the gap between the rich and the poor made wider. Relative poverty and inequality in these countries stimulate more violence – a truly vicious cycle.” Asked if he considered this newly-emerging awareness sufficiently strong for political and business leaders to invest in prevention, Gilligan pointed to the recent history of private sector involvement in infectious disease prevention. “People are starting to realize that individuals are just as dead or disabled by malaria as by murder.” Gilligan concluded by noting that delegates at the World Economic Forum were eager to hear about WHO's violence prevention initiative.



Since the launch of the *World report on violence and health* in October 2002, the report has been translated from the original English into six other languages: Arabic, Chinese, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. To date, some 20,000 copies of the report have been distributed. In addition, during recent weeks, the scientific press, including the *American Journal of Public Health*, *Health and Human Rights*, and *Medical Education Resource Africa* have dedicated articles and editorials to the *World report on violence and health*.

POSTERS ON VIOLENCE PREVENTION

To illustrate some of the messages of the *World report on violence and health* and to respond to the great demand for visual material following the launch of the Global Campaign for Violence Prevention, WHO is producing a series of posters. These posters, suitable for campaigns on billboards, in the printed media, on public transport, or in schools, colleges and libraries, will be widely disseminated and made available to ministries of health, as well as NGOs and other organizations who would like to set up violence prevention campaigns.



Examples from two proposed series of posters. Each series of posters - available in English, French and Spanish - will depict the seven types of violence covered in the report. The posters will be launched officially in May 2003 at the World Health Assembly and will be downloadable from the VIP web site.

WHO's Department of Injuries and Violence Prevention has released its first *Annual Report* - with detailed information on the Department's work in the field of violence prevention, as well as its activities in preventing unintentional injuries. The *Annual Report* can be obtained on the VIP website.

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Professor Gerry Bennett - Secretary of the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and co-author of the chapter on elder abuse of the *World report on violence and health* - following an illness of several months. Those who had the privilege of working with Gerry, will remember his strong leadership, commitment, professionalism and enthusiasm.

LOOKING AHEAD

A range of events related to the Global Campaign for Violence Prevention will take place over the coming months.

- National launches of the *World report on violence and health* are planned in the following countries:
 - On 12 May, the Canadian Minister of Health will launch the Report in Vancouver.
 - Three events are forthcoming in the United States of America. On 25 May, the California Wellness Foundation will launch the Report in Los Angeles. In June/July, two launches will take place in Washington, DC - the first will take place on Capitol Hill and the second, with a more regional focus, will be hosted by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).
 - On 23 June the Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) will host a national launch of the Report in Berlin, Germany.
 - On 30 June, the Dutch Ministry of Health will launch the Report in The Hague.
 - In addition, there will be launches in the next few months in Botswana, China, France, Jamaica, Mexico, Nepal, and the Russian Federation.
- During the last week of April, ministers of health of the African Union will discuss the *World report on violence and health* at their 7th Conference in Tripoli, Libya www.africa-union.org
- On 28-29 April, the *World report on violence and health* will be presented and discussed at a conference entitled "Safety in numbers", hosted by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/conference>
- On 18 May, just before the World Health Assembly, ministers of health from the Commonwealth countries will discuss the *World report on violence and health* at their annual conference <http://www.thecommonwealth.org>
- In the third and fourth weeks of May, the Fifty-sixth World Health Assembly will consider the proposed resolution mentioned above, which calls upon Member States to take a number of actions related to the prevention of violence.
- From 21-26 June, the World Congress on Family Violence, co-hosted by WHO, will take place in Prague, Czech Republic <http://www.wcfv.org>

For more information on the Campaign, visit http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/ or contact Sabine van Tuyl, Communications Officer, Injuries and Violence Prevention, WHO, CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland; tel: +41 22 791 3342; e-mail: vantuylls@who.int