

# GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION

## NEWSLETTER N° 3 — SEPTEMBER 2003

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### MEMBER STATES AT THE 56<sup>TH</sup> WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY ADOPT RESOLUTION ON VIOLENCE AND HEALTH



Since the second issue of the newsletter appeared in April 2003, WHO's new Director-General has been appointed and some important advances have been made in the Global Campaign for Violence Prevention. In May, the 56th World Health Assembly (WHA) endorsed the recommendations of the *World report on violence and health*. Various gatherings around the world have adopted major policy documents on the subject. A further 12 national or regional launches of the Report have taken place and new publications have been issued. During the WHA, the Organization officially launched its poster campaign on violence prevention.

During the 56th WHA, 192 Member States adopted Resolution WHA56.24 on "Implementing the Recommendations of the *World report on violence and health*". This Resolution recognizes that urgent action by governments is needed to prevent all forms of violence. It encourages Member States to appoint focal points for violence prevention in Ministries of Health and to prepare national reports on violence prevention. Specifically, it requests the Director-General of WHO to help Member States to: set up policies and programmes for violence prevention; encourage research; develop guidelines on violence prevention; strengthen services for victims of violence; and continue advocacy efforts. The Resolution specifies that a report be given at the 58th WHA in 2005, on the progress in implementing the recommendations of the *World report on violence and health*.

#### DR JONG-WOOK LEE, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF WHO



On 21 July 2003, having led WHO's fight against tuberculosis and vaccine-preventable diseases for 19 years, Dr Jong-wook Lee began his five-year

term as Director-General of WHO. In his first official address as Director-General, Dr Lee said: "Noncommunicable diseases and injuries account for a growing share – now about 60% – of the burden of disease worldwide. We will develop and implement a comprehensive plan for fighting noncommunicable diseases and we will sustain and intensify our work in violence and injuries." Dr Lee has appointed Dr Catherine Le Galès-Camus, most recently scientific adviser to the Director-General of Health in France, as Assistant Director-General to lead WHO's work on non-communicable diseases, mental health, nutrition, injuries and violence.

**"We will sustain and intensify our work in violence and injuries"**

The discussion on the *World report on violence and health* also provided an opportunity to inform the media about WHO's activities on preventing violence (see picture above) and to launch WHO's posters on violence prevention (pictured on right).



This WHA Resolution was the third on the subject of violence and the first since 1997. It gives WHO a strong and clear mandate to intensify its work in the field of violence prevention. The Department of Injuries and Violence Prevention (VIP) is keen to urge all its partners in the field to collaborate with it in implementing the Resolution. The Department, and WHO as a whole, will give Member States every support in this vital endeavour and in taking forward the Global Campaign for Violence Prevention. The text of the Resolution can be found on the Internet at the Department's website listed at the end of this newsletter.

## EVENTS RELATED TO THE GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION (APRIL - SEPTEMBER 2003)

DATE	COUNTRY	EVENT AND FOLLOW -UP ACTIVITIES
28.04.2003	<b>Safety in Numbers Conference – United States</b>	Presentation of the <i>World report on violence and health</i> at a conference hosted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in Atlanta, in the United States of America.
05.05.2003	<b>Rio de Janeiro, Brazil</b>	Launch of the <i>World report on violence and health</i> in Rio de Janeiro, hosted by the Health Department of Rio de Janeiro State, the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro and the Instituto NOOS, an NGO dealing with violence prevention. The 100-odd participants – representing governmental organizations, NGOs and universities, and covering the sectors of health, education, human rights, security and the judiciary – agreed to establish the State Forum on Violence Prevention, based on the Recommendation 7 of the Report.
08.05.2003	<b>Gaborone, Botswana</b>	National launch of the Report jointly organized by the Ministry of Health, the Botswana police, UNICEF, the Botswana Red Cross, a coalition of women's NGOs, and the WHO Country office. The Minister of Health, Joy Phumaphi, opened the event and urged all sectors to decide on the most useful roles they could play in the prevention of violence. The Commissioner of Police paid tribute to WHO for its informative Report and promised to implement its recommendations.
12.05.2003	<b>Vancouver, BC, Canada</b>	National launch of the <i>World report on violence and health</i> during the third Child and Youth Conference. Ethel Blondin-Andrews, Secretary of State for Children and Youth, saw the Report as a blueprint for violence prevention and stated that Canada fully endorsed its nine recommendations.
14.05.2003	<b>Los Angeles, United States</b>	Presentation of the Report organized by the California Wellness Foundation, with the participation of the <i>Los Angeles Times</i> , the Los Angeles municipality, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and local community leaders.
14.05.2003	<b>Kathmandu, Nepal</b>	The <i>World report on violence and health</i> was presented by Prof. Dr. Upendra Devkota, Minister for Health, Science and Technology. Papers were presented and a roundtable discussion was held with representatives from the ministry of health, international agencies, violence prevention related agencies, civil society agencies, researchers, and the media.
23.05.2003	<b>Bogotá, Colombia</b>	Presentation of the Report at the International Seminar on Crime and Violence Prevention Policies in Urban Settings, hosted by the office of the Bogotá city mayor and the University of the Andes. Experts reported on violence prevention experiences from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and the United States.
12.06.2003	<b>Washington, DC, United States</b>	Regional presentation of the <i>World report on violence and health</i> hosted by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and opened by Dr Brandling-Bennett, the Deputy Director. There were discussions on the Report as well as on the newly-released document, <i>Violence against women</i> . Speakers included representatives from the Inter-American Coalition for Violence Prevention.
23.06.2003	<b>Berlin, Germany</b>	National launch of the <i>World report on violence and health</i> hosted by the Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ). Participants included Mr Beier, Director of Planning and Development, and Dr Danzon, WHO Regional Director for Europe. Violence prevention activities in Germany and abroad were discussed and speakers emphasized the need for Germany to work towards implementing the Report's recommendations.
07.07.2003	<b>Moscow, Russian Federation</b>	The national launch of the <i>World report on violence and health</i> consisted of a half-day workshop and press conference. Present at the event were Dr Ruslan Albertovich Khalfin, Russian Deputy Minister of Health, and Dr Danzon, WHO Regional Director for Europe, as well as representatives from government ministries, research institutes and NGOs. A draft resolution stressing the need for a public health response to violence was reviewed. Additional items were put forward for inclusion in the final resolution that sets out a plan of action for violence prevention activities in Russia.
10.07.2003	<b>Mexico City, Mexico</b>	National launch of the Report attended by Secretaries of Health and Education and some 250 participants representing government agencies, NGOs, academia and the media. Dr Julio Frenk, Secretary of Health, welcomed the Report as a strong scientific document, announced that Mexico would use the Report to prepare a national report on violence to appear in 2004, and said that a network of Mexican experts working in the field of violence prevention would be set up.
17.07.2003	<b>Papua New Guinea</b>	Following the national launch of the Report, a two-day seminar on violence and health was hosted by the Department of Health in collaboration with WHO. In addition, there was a nationwide radio talk show on the subject of violence and violence prevention, and a six-part television programme.
15.08.2003	<b>Malaysia</b>	Responding to Resolution WHA 56.24, the Ministry of Health appointed a focal point for violence prevention in Malaysia and announced that it would cooperate with other ministries in setting up a national strategy and a national campaign for violence prevention.
25.08.2003	<b>Quito, Ecuador</b>	National launch of the Report hosted by FLACSO (Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales) and PAHO. Participants included Paco Moncayo, mayor of Quito, Dr Mirta Roses, WHO Regional Director for the Americas, and Fernando Carrión, director of FLACSO Ecuador. Mr Moncayo committed the city to producing a report on violence and insecurity, and to developing a plan of action.

In April 2003, the **Commission on Human Rights** adopted a resolution on the right of all people to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. The statement expressed concern about the scale of the findings on violence as described in the *World report on violence and health*. It invited the UN General Assembly to declare 2007 the UN Year on Violence Prevention, and requested WHO, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and other UN agencies to organize a consultation on violence and human rights. In July, the **Economic and Social Council** adopted the draft resolution and forwarded the relevant recommendations to the UN General Assembly, which will make the final decision with regard to the UN Year on Violence Prevention.

Also in April, the **American Medical Association** endorsed the *World report on violence and health*. The Association recognized the value of the Report's global perspective on all forms of violence, promised to disseminating the findings in the report, and expressed support for investment in primary prevention activities related to violence. In May, the **World Medical Association's** Council adopted a draft policy document – sponsored by the South African Medical Association – encouraging medical practitioners to involve themselves in violence prevention through data collection, medical training, and the coordination of victim assistance.

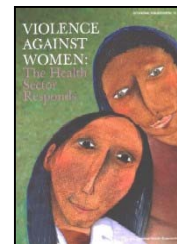
In July, **52 African Heads of State** adopted a resolution urging governments to respond to violence in all its forms as a priority for public health. Their statement endorsed the Report's nine recommendations and called on African countries to implement multisectoral national plans of action and to promote primary prevention. The Heads of State also declared the year 2005 the "Africa Year of Prevention of Violence."

#### IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMENDATIONS OF THE *WORLD REPORT ON VIOLENCE AND HEALTH*

*Intervening with perpetrators of intimate partner violence: a global perspective.* Globally, significant resources are being devoted to intervention programmes for perpetrators of intimate partner violence. In 2002, WHO surveyed 56 batterer intervention programmes worldwide with a view to describing their characteristics, operational philosophies, methods employed, efforts at evaluation, and other features. *Intervening with perpetrators of intimate partner violence* presents the results of this study for the benefit of practitioners, administrators, policymakers and researchers. Its aim is to strengthen scientific interventions across a range of social, cultural and economic settings. The report can be obtained by contacting VIP.



*Violence against women: the health sector responds.* Gender-Based Violence is a widespread public health problem around the world, affecting as many as one out of three women. *Violence against women*, released by the Pan American Health Organization, outlines a strategy for those attending to women who live with violence and for decision makers involved in gender-based violence. The report can be obtained at [www.paho.org](http://www.paho.org).



#### TRANSLATING THE *WORLD REPORT ON VIOLENCE AND HEALTH*

To enable the most comprehensive possible use of the *World report on violence and health*, the Report and its Summary were originally translated and printed in the six official languages used by WHO: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish as well as Portuguese. The Summary has been translated into German and Finland, Korea and Turkey are at this time translating the full Report into their national languages. Several other countries, including Italy and Macedonia, are exploring the possibility of translating the publication. WHO warmly thanks all those who have enabled these translations and hopes that further government bodies, NGOs and other experts in the field will translate the Report or its Summary into additional languages. For more information on translating the *World report on violence and health* please contact [pubrights@who.int](mailto:pubrights@who.int).

#### FIRST ANNIVERSARY MEETING ON THE *WORLD REPORT ON VIOLENCE AND HEALTH*



Since the launch of the *World report on violence and health* in October 2002, over 20 000 copies of the Report have been disseminated in eight languages. More than 30 governments have hosted regional or country releases. In many instances, these have led to commitments to develop national plans of action for violence prevention, the creation of national networks for violence prevention, and the production of national reports on violence and health. Several publications providing technical guidance and advocacy support on implementing the Report's recommendations are nearing completion.

To reflect on the achievements so far and to discuss how further to implement the Report's recommendations, WHO and the Canton of Geneva, Switzerland, are planning a one-day anniversary event on 12 January 2004. Taking part will be between 100 and 200 leaders in the field of violence prevention, including ministers of health, representatives from UN organizations and NGOs, and international experts from the field. Several of the health ministers will describe the initiatives being taken in their countries, providing a basis for debating how best to advance efforts in the field of violence prevention.

**DISSEMINATING POSTERS ON  
VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

At the WHA, the posters produced to support the Global Campaign for Violence Prevention were unveiled. These posters are in two series, each one containing eight images relating to various forms of violence. The *Violence in Red* series portrays striking close-ups of parts of the human body coloured in red, symbolizing the impact of violence on the body and on health in general. The second series, *Explaining Away Violence*, depicts victims of violence and the reasons they frequently give to explain away their injuries, reflecting the shame and taboos that surround violence.

**Violence in Red**



Violence 1.8      Young people and violence 2.8      Child abuse and neglect 3.8      Intimate partner violence 4.8



Elder abuse 5.8      Sexual violence 6.8      Self-directed violence 7.8      Collective violence 8.8

**Explaining Away Violence**



Violence 1.8      Young people and violence 2.8      Child abuse and neglect 3.8      Intimate partner violence 4.8



Elder abuse 5.8      Sexual violence 6.8      Self-directed violence 7.8      Collective violence 8.8

To date, both sets of posters have been distributed to WHO Regional and Country offices, and ministries of health, WHO collaborating centres and NGOs have been invited to request copies. The posters – free of charge and

available in English and French – are suitable for many settings, including clinics, schools and libraries, and may also be reproduced to effect in newsletters, magazines or newspapers. Reaching local communities, particularly those in rural settings, is often very difficult. The World Health Organization encourages all its partners to distribute the posters through their own networks and to use the images for national or local violence prevention campaigns. Electronic files are available at the Department of Injuries and Violence Prevention for preparing and printing larger quantities or translated versions of the posters.

The most recent issue of *Health and human Rights: an international journal* explores topics including violence against women, the right of people to safety, and violence prevention from a health and human rights perspective. The issue can be ordered at: [fxbcenter@igc.apc.org](mailto:fxbcenter@igc.apc.org)

**LOOKING AHEAD**

WHO expresses its gratitude to all those who have begun working to implement Resolution WHA 56.24. In the months to come, a range of events will take place, furthering global efforts on violence prevention.

- 15 September 2003. At a joint event with the Global Health Council, WHO will present the *World report on violence and health* on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, USA. Speakers will include the Director of the Pan American Health Organization, the US Surgeon-General, the Director of the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC/CDC), and the President of the Global Health Council.
- 17 September. The United Kingdom’s Department of Health will launch the *World report on violence and health*.
- 8 October. The *World report on violence and health* will be launched in Jamaica during the first International Caribbean Conference on Violence Prevention.
- Launches are also being planned in the coming months in Italy, France and Sweden.
- 12 January 2004. WHO and the Canton of Geneva, Switzerland will host a First Anniversary meeting (see page 3).
- 27–28 January. A follow-up consultation will take place entitled “The UN Collaboration for the Prevention of Interpersonal Violence”. Its goal will be to work out an inter-agency approach to create heightened public awareness and a greater commitment by governments to provide more human and financial resources for violence prevention.

For more information on the Campaign, visit [http://www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/](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](mailto:vantuylls@who.int)