

Prevent

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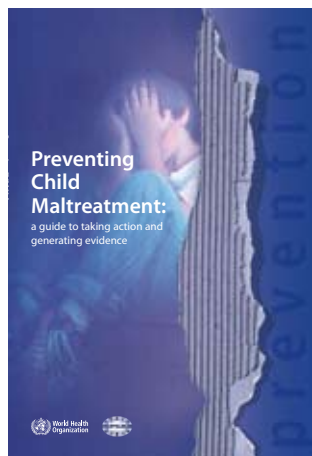
NEWSLETTER FOR THE GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION



WHO gears up to support child maltreatment prevention

Two important publications dealing with violence against children are to be released in Fall 2006. The first is the United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence Against Children which aims to gather knowledge to help understand, reduce and prevent violence against children. The Study was initiated in 2001 at the request of the United Nations General Assembly and is expected to be released on 11 October 2006. WHO has been working with the Independent Expert, Professor Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro; the Study Secretariat; the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and nongovernmental representatives on the report.

The second publication, *Preventing child maltreatment: a guide to taking action and generating evidence*, is the result of a joint collaboration



between WHO and the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect. To be released shortly after the United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence Against Children, the guide will promote measures to ensure that future efforts to study and prevent child maltreatment are designed, implemented and documented with the explicit objective of expanding the scientific evidence base on the magnitude, consequences and preventability of the problem.

For more information about the United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence Against Children Study, please contact Ms Alison Phinney Harvey at phinneya@who.int or visit www.violencestudy.org.

To order a copy of *Preventing child maltreatment: a guide to taking action and generating evidence*, please contact Ms Claire Scheurer at scheurer@who.int.

Scottish Executive establishes a national violence reduction unit

Scotland's largest police force, Strathclyde, established a Violence Reduction Unit in January 2005 to target violent behaviour – particularly knife crime among young men. This was, in part, due to concern that levels of interpersonal violence had remained relatively constant for the past four decades despite repeated efforts to tackle the issue.

The Unit has two clear aims: to reduce violent crime and behaviour by working with health, education and many other agencies to achieve long term societal and attitudinal change; and, by focusing on



Includes: The 8th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion 2 The International Society for Violence and Injury Prevention formally launched 3 Ministry of Health focal persons for injury and violence prevention commit to increased action 3 Geneva summit on armed violence and development: more than disarmament 4 ISPCAN admitted as NGO in official relation with WHO 4 Violence Prevention Alliance strategy meeting 6

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GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION
CAMPAGNE MONDIALE POUR LA PREVENTION DE LA VIOLENCE
VIOLENCE PREVENTION ALLIANCE / ALLIANCE POUR LA PREVENTION DE LA VIOLENCE



8th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion's special guests at the opening ceremony. From left to right: His Majesty King Goodwill Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu of KwaZulu; Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah of Jordan; the Minister of Health of South Africa, the Honourable Dr M E Tshabalala-Msimang and the Director of the WHO Regional Office for Africa, Dr Luis Sambo

enforcement, to contain and manage individuals who mar the lives of others by engaging in violent behaviour.

In March 2006, the Violence Reduction Unit widened its focus to encompass all of Scotland at the request of the Scottish Executive. Funded by the Scottish Executive, the Unit has become a focus of best practice and policy development. A high level Violence Working Group was set up within the Scottish Executive, which reports to Cabinet Ministers and will advise and develop good practice on violence reduction at a national level. A year long anti-violence campaign is in progress throughout Scotland which will focus on enforcement and education and which will include two conferences in the second half of 2006 (see page 7 for more information).

The Violence Reduction Unit of Scotland is a participant in the Violence Prevention Alliance. To learn more about the Unit and its violence prevention work, please visit: www.actiononviolence.com

Experts gather at the 8th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion

More than 1200 researchers, practitioners, policy makers, and advocates from over 100 countries attended the 8th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion held in Durban, South Africa from 2 - 5 April 2006. The conference marked the first time a major international meeting on the prevention of violence and injury was held in Africa.

In the WHO African Region, rates of violence and injury are among the world's highest. Based on the most recent estimates from 2002, six of the top 15 causes of death for Africans aged 15-44 years result from injuries: homicides, road traffic injuries, war-related injuries, drownings, suicides and poisonings. Studies show that for South Africans, homicide and road traffic injuries are, respectively, the third and seventh leading causes

of death. Across Africa, poverty, income and gender inequality, and a lack of prevention measures at home, work and on the street are key factors that contribute to these high rates.

There were a number of special guests at the conference, including WHO Patron for Violence Prevention in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region, Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah of Jordan; the Minister of Health of South Africa, the Honourable Dr M E Tshabalala-Msimang and the Director of the WHO Regional Office for Africa, Dr Luis Sambo.

For more information on the conference, please visit: www.safety2006.info/

The 9th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion will take place in Merida, Mexico in 2008. For more information on this conference, please visit: www.safety2008mx.info/

"...Our challenge, then, at this 8th World Conference, is to elevate humanity's instinct – so we do not simply safeguard the families we love... but the societies in which we live. We need to find ways to extend our impulse to provide peace and safety at home – so it reaches to the street... the school... the workplace... the community... the country... and around the world."

Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdulla of Jordan in her opening address to the 8th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion.

The International Society for Violence and Injury Prevention is formally launched

The International Society for Violence and Injury Prevention (ISVIP) was launched at the 8th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion on 3 April 2006 in Durban, South Africa. Its mission is to establish global commitment to violence and injury prevention through advocacy and public policy action, and consequently by enhanced research, education and prevention efforts. ISVIP will serve as an umbrella society that will complement the work of existing injury and violence prevention societies and networks.

ISVIP activities will include sharing information; collaborating on joint efforts with prevention practitioners, policy makers, advocates and researchers; advocating at national and international levels; organizing scientific conferences and meetings; and promoting capacity development for injury and violence prevention and research.

ISVIP is now accepting applications for membership. For more information, please visit: www.isvip.org.

Ministry of Health focal persons for injury and violence prevention commit to increased action

The First Global Meeting of Ministry of Health Focal Persons for Injury and Violence Prevention, held on 31 March – 1 April 2006, was well attended by 84 focal persons from 67 primarily low-income and middle-income countries, representatives of WHO Collaborating Centers and WHO staff. The meeting, which followed the first European regional meeting held in Amsterdam in November 2005, was opened by the South African Minister of Health, the Honourable Dr M E Tshabalala-

Msimang, and supported by the South African Department of Health, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and WHO. Its aims were to enhance country injury and violence prevention programmes through the sharing of information and experiences and the identification of ways to increase collaboration both among the focal persons and with WHO.

During the meeting, the focal persons exchanged best practices and decided to create a global network for continued collaboration to develop a document on the role of Ministries of Health in preventing injuries and violence. Members include officially appointed Ministry of Health focal persons for injury and violence prevention, staff from other agencies officially designated as the national focal person, and WHO staff working on injury and violence prevention.

The prevailing atmosphere during the global meeting was very positive, and the energy and enthusiasm of the focal persons was palpable throughout the pre-meeting and the 8th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion which followed.

For more information about the global network of Ministry of Health focal persons for injury and violence prevention, please contact Dr Etienne Krug at kruge@who.int.

A statement on injury prevention and safety promotion is issued by African health Ministers and representatives

In addition to the First Global Meeting of Ministry of Health Focal Persons for Injury and Violence Prevention, the 8th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion was preceded by a consultation of African health Ministers on injury and violence prevention on 1 April 2006, hosted

by the Department of Health of South Africa. Nearly 30 ministers or their delegates as well as the Director of the WHO Regional Office for Africa (AFRO), Dr Luis Sambo; the WHO AFRO Director of the Division of Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases, Dr Rufaro Chatora, and the WHO Director of the Department of Injuries and Violence Prevention, Dr Etienne Krug, attended the meeting.

The Ministers affirmed previous World Health Assembly, AFRO Regional Committee and African Union resolutions on violence prevention and they adopted a statement committing to increased efforts in advocacy, surveillance, and the prevention of violence and injuries, as well as around improving health care services for victims.

For a copy of the statement, please contact Ms Laura Sminkey at sminkeyl@who.int.

Securing development: reducing small arms availability and armed violence, the Wilton Park meeting

The Armed Violence Prevention Programme (AVPP) is a collaboration between WHO's Department of Injuries and Violence Prevention (VIP) and the Small Arms and Demobilization Unit of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Its objective is to contribute to an improved understanding of effective strategies to prevent gun violence.

In the context of the AVPP, WHO was invited to attend a Wilton Park Meeting on 9 – 12 April 2006. Wilton Park is an Executive Agency of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the UK and it is responsible for coordinating conferences on key international policy issues. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the best way to integrate armed violence prevention and small

contd. pg 4



Programme documentation project meeting from left to right: Dr Mohamed Seadat, South Africa; Dr Bassam Hijawi, Jordan; Dr Gopalakrishna Gururaj, India; Dr Eduardo Munhequete, Mozambique; and Dr Fimka Tozija, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

arms control into development frameworks and programmes, and to agree on a strategy for advancing this work through the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC). A core objective for WHO has been to strengthen small arms demand reduction approaches (e.g. through evidence-based violence prevention programmes) so as to complement the emphasis on reducing small arms supplies (e.g. through weapon collection programmes).

The meeting was attended by UNDP – AVPP coordinators, UNDP field officers and the World Bank. International governmental development agencies such as the Canadian International Development Agency, the Department for International Development (UK), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (Germany), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and United States Agency for International Development attended the meeting as did foreign affairs representatives from Canada,

France, Netherlands, Switzerland, and the UK. In addition, non-governmental organizations were represented by the Conflict Analysis Resource Center in Colombia, Gun Free South Africa, the Small Arms Survey, and Viva Rio in Brazil.

For more information about the AVPP, please contact Dr David Meddings at meddingsd@who.int.

Geneva summit on armed violence and development: more than disarmament

On 7 June 2006, the Government of Switzerland and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) hosted a one-day high-level Ministerial Summit on armed violence and development in Geneva, Switzerland. The summit was attended by ministers and representatives from 42 governments, including two Heads of State. The purpose of the meeting was to raise global awareness of the negative impact armed violence has on sustainable development. Speakers included the President of Costa Rica, Oscar Arias; the President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf; the Swiss Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Micheline Calmy-Rey; several ministers and dignitaries as well as WHO Director of the Department of Injuries and Violence Prevention, Dr Etienne Krug.

RECENT EVENTS

ISPCAN admitted as NGO in official relation with WHO

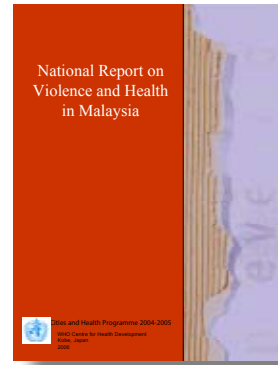
By decision of the WHO Executive Board 117 which met in January 2006, the International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) was admitted as a nongovernmental organization (NGO) in official relation with WHO.

ISPCAN is an international network that brings together committed professionals from multiple fields to work globally towards the prevention and treatment of child maltreatment. Its mission is “to prevent cruelty to children in every nation, in every form:

physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, street children, child fatalities, child prostitution, children of war, emotional abuse and child labor”. ISPCAN increases public awareness of all forms of violence against children, develops activities to prevent such violence, and promotes the rights of children in all regions of the world.

In late 2006, WHO and ISPCAN will launch the joint document: *Preventing child maltreatment: a guide to taking action and generating evidence*.

For more information on ISPCAN, please visit: www.ispcan.org.



Outcomes of the summit included the formal adoption by acclamation of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development by the attendees. The declaration promotes a development-based approach to armed violence prevention and includes a commitment to achieve measurable reductions in armed violence by 2015.

To view the declaration, please go to: http://content.undp.org/go/cms-service/stream/asset/?asset_id=508002

Malaysia releases National Report on Violence and Health

As a result of WHA56.24 which encouraged Member States to appoint violence prevention focal points in ministries of health, the Ministry of Health of Malaysia established a focal point and created a Violence and Injury Prevention (VIP) Unit. The *National Report on Violence and Health in Malaysia* has been a work in progress since 2004 and the VIP Unit has collaborated with the WHO

Centre for Health Development, Kobe, as well as relevant agencies in Malaysia such as the Royal Malaysia Police, the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, the Statistics Department, the Ministry of Education to develop and complete the report.

In his Foreword to the *National Report on Violence and Health in Malaysia*, the Director General of Health, Malaysia, Datuk Dr Hj. Mohd. Ismail Merican stated: "This report is the first of its kind published in this country and it is hoped that the information contained in the report will contribute towards assisting relevant parties in strengthening the organizational structure, system and violence prevention mechanisms as well as enhancing the quality of services afforded to victims and those affected by interpersonal violence."

To learn more about the Violence and Injury Prevention Unit at the Ministry of Health of Malaysia, please visit: mvip.gov.my/

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Datuk Dr Hj. Mohd. Ismail Merican, the Director General of Health, Malaysia, in his Foreword to the *National Report on Violence and Health in Malaysia*

Violence prevention experts review results of project documenting prevention programmes

From 9 – 10 May 2006, WHO hosted an expert consultation on documenting interpersonal violence prevention programmes. Experts from eight countries reviewed the results of a pilot project which aims to increase knowledge of ongoing violence prevention initiatives by systematically documenting prevention activities, especially in developing and transition countries. Since the January 2004 publication of the WHO *Handbook for the documentation of interpersonal*

violence prevention programmes, the project has been piloted in provincial and municipal settings in Brazil, India, Jamaica, Jordan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Mozambique and South Africa. Participants reviewed project experiences, findings and the draft project report; discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the Handbook; and detailed recommendations for future work.

As a whole, the collated findings showed more similarities than differences across countries, with all countries having a predominance of programmes that addressed the poor or very poor, worked more with

child maltreatment and intimate partner violence than with other types of violence, delivered mainly individually oriented victim services, life skills training and community level awareness campaigns, and, apart from reports for donors, made few efforts to formally evaluate outcomes or otherwise document their activities. Thus, one of the next steps is to strengthen the focus on documenting programmes that have formal outcome evaluations or that are in the process of conducting them.

For more information about this project, please contact Dr Alex Butchart at butcharta@who.int.

Jamaica moves ahead on violence prevention

The Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA) Jamaica brings together a group of stakeholders with broad perspectives. The VPA Jamaica not only implements and monitors programmes, but also facilitates activities which engage children and adults from the grassroots to the boardrooms of Jamaica. Areas such as parenting, violence against children and youth violence are a priority.

The VPA Jamaica recently launched “Safe Violence Free Communities” which proposes that the private sector and the government adopt a scale of incentives that would be proportionately linked to the efforts of the communities, as a way of encouraging them to strive to achieve and maintain a peaceful coexistence. In other words, the external assistance is calibrated to serve as an incentive for rejecting violence and grasping peace, which translates into development. Six areas of development have been identified, each with its own criteria which are (1) absence of violence, (2) dispute resolution mechanisms, (3) governance, (4) health & education, (5) police relations and (6) community development. Four violent-prone communities are working towards the safe community status.

Guided by a comprehensive strategic framework, a youth policy paper has been drafted which eventually will be tabled in parliament to advocate for policy change. Other VPA Jamaica activities include monthly meetings, the establishment of an active website, developing of educational materials, and establishing the legal and organisational structure for the VPA.

For more information on VPA Jamaica, please visit www.moh.gov.jm/VPA/index.htm or, in Jamaica, call our toll-free line 1-876-888-One-Love.

Violence Prevention Alliance strategy meeting

At the invitation of WHO's Department of Injuries and Violence Prevention and the Belgian Ministry of Health's Department of Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment, 30 violence prevention experts from 14 countries met on 19-20 June in Brussels, Belgium to discuss the future strategic direction of the Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA). Agreement was made on establishing a high-level working group to ensure that the issue of violence is included on the global development agenda. In addition, a number of working groups were established on issues such as data collection in emergency rooms, youth violence in entertainment venues and partnerships for violence prevention. Established in January 2004, the VPA is a network of WHO Member State governments, nongovernmental and community-based organizations, and private, international and intergovernmental agencies which share a public health approach to violence prevention.

For more information on the Violence Prevention Alliance, please visit: www.who.int/violenceprevention

“Violence is a problem for which there is no panacea, but through a multi-sectoral, comprehensive approach, which transcends politics, socio-economic class, ethnicity and religion, the issue of violence may be tackled. This approach is not simply important; it is imperative for all of us citizens.”

VPA Jamaica Chairman, Prof. Barry Chevannes



VPA strategy meeting:

Top, from left to right: **Dr Alex Butchart (WHO VIP)**, **Dr Peter Donnelly (Scottish Executive)**, **Detective Chief Superintendent John Carnochan (The Violence Reduction Unit of Scotland)**, and **Dr Jonathan Shepherd (Violent Crime Task Group, Cardiff Community Safety Partnership, Wales)**

Bottom, left to right: **Dr Ime John (International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW))** and **Dr Elizabeth Ward (Ministry of Health, Jamaica)**.



Looking ahead

September 2006

XVth ISPCAN International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect

The 16th ISPCAN International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect will be held in York, United Kingdom from 3 – 6 September 2006. The conference theme 'Children in a Changing World: Getting it Right' highlights the need to make research, knowledge, policies, services and practice skills address the challenges of those working to prevent child maltreatment. For information about the conference, please visit www.ispcan.org/congress2006/

Club Health 2006: The 4th International Conference on Nightlife, Substance Use and Related Health Issues

Club Health 2006 will take place on 20 – 22 September 2006 in Piran, Slovenia. The meeting will bring experts from around the world to exchange information on the latest research, policy and evidence on protecting and promoting health in nightlife settings.

For more information about this meeting, please visit: www.clubhealth.org.uk/conference/

September & November 2006: The Violence Reduction Unit of Scotland hosts two meetings on violence prevention

On 21 September 2006, the Violence Reduction Unit of Scotland will host a meeting on violence prevention and the roles that education, early years enrichment and parenting can play in prevention. The meeting will take place in Barony Hall, Glasgow.

The second meeting will take place on 27 November 2006 at the Royal Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh. This meeting will look at the role the Health Sector can play in violence prevention and will highlight the scale of the problem around Scotland. Recently, surveillance for violent assaults was conducted over a six week period in every hospital in Scotland and the results were staggering. High levels of assaults were found, even in areas where violence was traditionally expected to be low.

Meeting attendees are primarily high-level representatives from Scotland who have resources to put towards violence reduction. All 32 local authorities in Scotland will be represented at this meeting. External violence prevention professionals who are interested in Scotland's current violence prevention work are welcome to attend.

For more information about these meetings, please visit: www.actiononviolence.com

11 October 2006: Release of the UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence Against Children

The United Nations Secretary General's Study on Violence Against Children is a joint initiative, directly supported by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) and WHO.

The final report is expected to be published on 11 October 2006 and its results will be presented to the United Nations General Assembly in New York. It is expected that this report will be followed by a UN resolution calling on countries to take more action against child maltreatment.

Violence Prevention Alliance updates

The Violence Prevention Alliance welcomes eight new participants:

- The Child Protection Unit, Philippines
- Garance, Belgium
- The Institute of Legal Medicine, University Hospital Hamburg-Eppendorf, Germany
- Men's Resources International, USA
- The Onkaparinga Collaborative Approach to the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Indigenous Family Violence, Australia
- The State Agency for the Prevention of Alcohol Related Problems, Poland
- White Ribbon Campaign UK
- Women-to-Women International, Switzerland

“Violence Prevention Alliance activities aim to facilitate the development of policies, programmes and tools to implement the recommendations of the World report on violence and health in communities, countries, and regions around the world, and attempt to strengthen sustained, multisectoral cooperation around this shared vision for violence prevention.”

Publications

Facts on interpersonal violence and alcohol (2006)

The series contains five documents including an overall policy briefing, and specific fact sheets on alcohol and child maltreatment, youth violence, intimate partner violence and elder abuse. These documents review the magnitude of the problem, consequences, risk factors and prevention strategies.

To download the full-text version of these documents, please visit: www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/world_report/factsheets/en/index.html

Injuries, violence and disabilities: biennial report 2004 – 2005 (2006)

The report describes the most salient activities conducted during the 2004 – 2005 biennium by WHO headquarters and regional and country offices and partners in this area of work. The report shows considerable progress in all regions of the world in raising awareness about injuries and violence and implementing activities. Governmental and nongovernmental agencies are strengthening data collection systems, improving services for victims and survivors and increasing prevention efforts. The many activities described in the report reflect the collaborative nature of WHO's efforts in this field.

To download the report, please visit: whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2006/9241594152_eng.pdf

