

UNESCO WORKSHOP

PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN – LINKING RESEARCH AND POLICY

24 NOVEMBER 2011

Executive Summary

This is a summary of the workshop on Preventing Violence Against Women – Linking Research and Policy, held at UNESCO by the Division for Gender Equality, Office of the Director-General. The workshop was intended to bring together researchers and policy makers in order to explore the links between research and policy on preventing violence against women and to look at what needs to be done in these fields to achieve the aim of eliminating violence against women.

Six speakers presented their viewpoints: Professor Carol Hagemann-White, professor of gender studies and educational theory at the University of Osnabrück, Germany; Madame Christelle Hamel, sociologist in the demography field at the Institut national d'études démographiques (INED); Ms Mioko Saito, programme specialist in gender and education policy at the International Institute for Educational Planning, UNESCO (IIEP); Ms Guri van Gulik, women's rights researcher and advocate with Human Rights Watch; Ms Liri Kopaçi-Di Michele, head of the division in the Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs at the Council of Europe; and Ms Somali Cerise, Gender Project Coordinator at the OECD Development Centre.

The presentations covered a range of topics on both research and policy issues. Following is a summary of issues in the research and policy fields identified as important:

- There is need for **consistent and serious evaluations** of policy, based on reliable data.
- Research needs to be **focused** on how to make intervention and protection more effective. In addition, by examining what drives the commitment of governments, research can be focused on areas in which there is political will to take action.
- By **recognising that there are multiple patterns and differences in violence against women**, research can be focused on understanding the factors that are conducive to specific forms of violence and use their commonalities to develop a prevention framework.
- All statistical work carried out by public statistical bodies should include a **sexual and gender based violence perspective**, for example in health, education etc.
- **Detailed statistics** that include specifics of the type of violence, especially when data records violence against men and women are crucial. It is also important to collect data about violence in childhood in order to fully understand the causes and effects of violence across the life span.

- A call for the establishment of **interdisciplinary research centres** with a mission of public policy evaluation and information dissemination.
- The need to use **creative approaches** to research that focuses on the consequences of violence, which can then drive advocacy for policy and legal reform.
- The need for **strong legal frameworks** that provide comprehensive prevention strategies, including data collection and monitoring. An example given of this was the new Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.
- Education to **change gender roles and stereotypes** is vital.
- **Stronger networks between researchers and policy makers** should be established, as it was identified that the quality of networks between the two areas varies from country to country, and that there is in some places a lack of mutual respect and understanding of what is entailed in each others work.