



a partnership
of churches
in mission

Council for World Mission

A 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GBV INITIATIVE

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES FOR TRANSFORMATIVE MASCULINITIES AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE



Suggested Activities for CWM Member Churches

Knowledge-Based Activities:

a. Theological Discussions and Workshops:

Objective: Help boys and men understand the theological foundation for gender equality.

Activity: Hold a series of workshops or Bible study sessions focused on key scriptures (Genesis 1:27, Proverbs 31:8-9) that emphasize the inherent dignity and equality of both genders. Engage participants in discussions about how these teachings can guide their attitudes and behaviours toward women and girls.

b. GBV Awareness Seminars:

Objective: Educate about the causes and consequences of GBV.

Activity: Organize seminars or presentations with experts (health professionals, social workers, or survivors) who can explain the physical, psychological, and social impacts of GBV on individuals and communities. Use real-life case studies and statistics to highlight the severity of the issue.

c. Gender Equality Education:

Objective: Explain how societal norms contribute to GBV and how boys and men can be part of the solution.

Activity: Facilitate group discussions and role-playing scenarios where participants explore the concept of toxic masculinity and how it leads to violence. Encourage critical thinking about how societal norms affect both genders and what it means to promote a culture of respect and equality.

2. Skills-Based Activities:

a. Bystander Intervention Training:

Objective: Equip boys and men with the skills to intervene in potential GBV situations.

Activity: Conduct interactive workshops where participants are taught how to recognize signs of GBV and how to safely intervene as bystanders. Role-playing exercises could simulate

real-life situations where they practice de-escalation techniques, offering support to victims, and calling for help when necessary.

b. Communication Skills for Challenging GBV:

Objective: Help boys and men develop skills to challenge harmful behaviours.

Activity: Organize peer group (boys and men) discussions and debates about stereotypes, sexism, and harmful gender norms. Teach participants how to communicate effectively with friends and peers to challenge these attitudes when they arise. Encourage respectful dialogue and modelling of healthy masculinity.

c. Safe Space Creation Workshops:

Objective: Teach boys and men how to create safe environments for women and girls.

Activity: Facilitate training on how to create safe spaces within their homes, schools, and communities where women and girls feel respected and protected. This could include teaching boys and men how to listen actively to women and girls, support their rights, and advocate for gender equality in every space they occupy.

3. Behavioural-Based Activities:

a. GBV Awareness Campaigns:

Objective: Engage boys and men in advocacy to challenge GBV in the community.

Activity: Organize a community-based awareness campaign where boys and men take the lead in raising awareness about the negative impacts of GBV. This could include creating posters, hosting community events, distributing educational materials, and using social media to amplify messages of respect, equality, and non-violence.

b. Peer Education and Mentoring:

Objective: Encourage boys and men to become advocates and role models for others.

Activity: Create a peer education program where boys and men act as mentors to younger boys, teaching them about healthy masculinity, respect for women, and the importance of preventing GBV. Mentors can lead discussions in schools, youth centers, or community groups, and provide guidance on navigating relationships without resorting to violence or aggression.

c. Involvement in Local Advocacy or Policy Work:

Objective: Empower boys and men to participate in wider efforts to end GBV.

Activity: Encourage boys and men to join local initiatives or advocacy groups that work toward GBV prevention. This could involve participating in policy discussions, attending public meetings, or volunteering at shelters and community centers. They could also be involved in creating and supporting laws and policies that protect women and girls.

d. Community Action Projects:

Objective: Promote practical, hands-on involvement in reducing GBV.

Activity: Have boys and men participate in or lead community action projects that aim to reduce GBV. Examples include building safe spaces for women and girls, creating a support network for survivors, or organizing workshops for men and boys in their community on how to prevent GBV and promote healthy relationships.

4. Supportive Activities:

a. Survivor Support Groups:

Objective: Provide a platform for men to hear directly from GBV survivors and learn how they can support them.

Activity: Organize listening to sessions or support groups where male participants can hear from survivors of GBV. This could help humanize the issue and encourage empathy and solidarity. Additionally, it will educate boys and men about the ongoing needs of survivors, such as emotional support, legal assistance, and healthcare. These sessions should include health care professionals, councillors or specially trained pastors who can provide support for any crisis.

b. Leadership and Advocacy Training for Men:

Objective: Equip boys and men with leadership skills to advocate for gender equality.

Activity: Offer training programs that focus on leadership, advocacy, and public speaking, enabling boys and men to take on roles as advocates against GBV. Participants can then go on to lead events or represent their communities at local, regional, or national levels, helping to shift cultural perceptions about masculinity and gender-based violence.

These activities are designed to actively engage boys and men in understanding, preventing, and taking action against gender-based violence. The goal is to provide them with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities to be agents of change in their communities, protecting women and girls and promoting a culture of respect and equality.