Despite decades of work to end gender-based violence, there is no indication that aggregate levels of violence have decreased in Asia and the Pacific. What are the root causes of gender-based violence? How can we stop violence before it starts?

The majority of research and interventions on gender-based violence focus on women’s rights and empowerment, legal reform, protection and service provision. While these interventions continue to be key priorities, understanding prevailing social norms, men’s attitudes and behaviours – and how they perpetuate violence – is vital because gender-based violence is rooted in power relations among women, men, girls and boys and linked to dominant notions of “what it means to be a man”.

The Change Project is an innovative, action-oriented research project being conducted by Partners for Prevention between 2010-2013. It is a multi-country study with more than 10,000 men and women across seven countries in the Asia Pacific that explores the connections between masculinities, gender and power in order to enhance violence prevention policies and programmes.

Conducted in Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam and Bougainville, PNG, this research provides cross-country comparable data on men’s perpetration of violence for the first time and is deepening our understanding of the drivers of violence. The regional findings will be launched in 2013 and this cutting-edge new knowledge is already shaping the discourse on GBV globally and being used to inform evidence-based primary prevention initiatives around the region.

Coordinated by Partners for Prevention: Violence is Preventable (P4P), a UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women and UNV regional programme for Asia and the Pacific, the project is a collaboration between the UN, civil society, government and researchers from around the region and globally.

The Change Project draws on the experiences and tools from the WHO Multi-country Study on Women’s Health and Domestic Violence against Women; the Medical Research Council Relationship Household Survey, South Africa; the Men and Gender Equality Policy Project, particularly IMAGES; and Putting women first: Ethical and safety recommendations for research on domestic violence against women.

Objectives

The Change Project aims to prevent gender-based violence in the region by:

- Deepen the understanding of the underlying drivers of gender-based violence (particularly related to masculinity)
- Deepen understanding of factors that contribute to more peaceful and equitable masculinities
- Provide a baseline or benchmark of boys and men’s attitudes and behaviours
- Use research to inform evidence-based violence prevention strategies
- Strengthen local research capacities
• Develop research tools for future use in the investigation of gender-based violence and masculinity.

Project overview

• The project methodology combines quantitative, qualitative, sociological and ethnographic methodologies at the national and regional level.
• Fieldwork is being conducted in 2011, with findings available in 2012.
• Based on the policy recommendations that stem from this research, a series of regional and country level initiatives will be launched to advocate for specific policy changes and the prioritisation of comprehensive gender-based violence prevention.
• The project aims to inspire future research on gender-based violence and masculinities, providing a comprehensive set of research tools for research on gender-based violence and masculinities and baseline data against which change can be measured.
• A pooled data set with a sample of more than 10,000 men and women will provide unprecedented power for analysis on masculinities and violence in the region and be made available to qualified researchers for ongoing analysis for many years to come.

Partners for Prevention gratefully acknowledges AusAID, DFID, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and SIDA for their generous support of this programme.

For more information please contact:

Partners4prevention@one.un.org

Partners for Prevention
3rd Floor, UN Service Building,
Rajdamnern Nok Avenue
10200 Bangkok, Thailand
+66 2 304 9100

www.partners4prevention.org