



# VOICE, ACTION-NOW!

Leading the way to end violence against women.

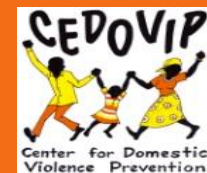
16 Days of Activism Campaign 2015

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Building Momentum · Fostering Activism

## **Violence Against Women (VAW/G)**

Is any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life

## Magnitude of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in Uganda.

- In Uganda 60% of ever married women aged 15-49 have experienced some form of violence inflicted by spouse or intimate partner (UDHS 2011)
- 56% of women aged 15 – 49 experience physical violence while 28% experience sexual violence annually (UDHS 2011)
- 2013 police crime report 3426 DV cases, (360 women killed), 9598 cases of defilement and 35411 for child neglect
- 2015 UPF Bi- annual report (Jan-June) indicates that 198 people died as result of domestic violence.

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## VAWG is a result of power Imbalance

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- VAW/G is mainly as a result of power imbalance between men and women.
  - It is systematic with societies shaped by negative norms that give men more power than women.
  - The negative norms allow men to control the actions and bodies of women which results into violence.
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## **VAWG is a result of power Imbalance**

- Society has placed more value on men than women.
- The power that men have and are given comes from attitudes, behaviours and expectations that all women and men learn as members of the community.
- A community's social acceptability of VAW/G and silence about power that men have over women allows the cycle of VAWG to continue.

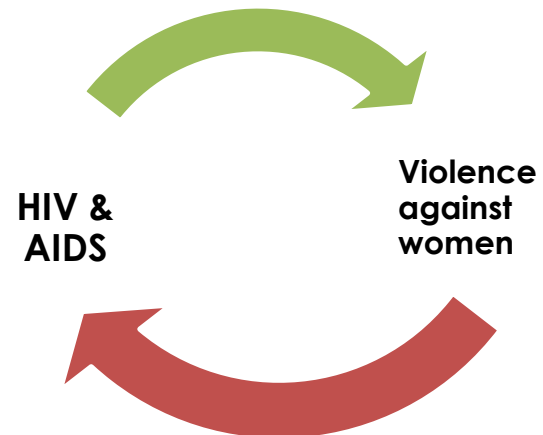
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## Connections between VAWG and HIV

### Why women are more socially vulnerable to HIV

- When girls and women lack power in their relationships, families and communities they are more vulnerable to violence and more vulnerable to HIV and AIDS. For many women, the violence they experience leads to HIV infection.
- For others, their HIV positive status brings violence, which can speed the onset of AIDS. Violence against women and HIV and AIDS are closely connected.
- Violence against women is both a cause and consequence of HIV and AIDS.



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## Why Address VAWG

- To save costs at individual, family, community and national level; An annual estimate of economic burden of domestic violence in Uganda is **UGX 77.5 billion**.
  - ❑ Individuals spend **21.9 billion shillings** as out of pocket expenditure to seek services from duty bearers and in terms of lost time at work after experiencing violence.
  - ❑ Service providers (police, health centers, courts, shelters) spend an estimated **UGX 56 Billions** annually dealing with DV cases.
  - ❑ Health care providers spend UGX 18.3 billion annually
  - ❑ Police costs are UGX 19.5 billion
  - ❑ Local councils amount to UGX 12.7 billion.
- Prevent HIV/AIDS and other related health consequences.
- Keep every man, woman and child in Uganda safe at home.



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## Why Address VAWG

- Fulfill regional and global commitments made to uphold the dignity and rights of every citizen; fulfillment of government's obligation on the sustainable development Goal number 5 aiming to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls by;
  - ending all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
  - eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
  - eliminating all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilations among others.

## Health Sector:

## CEDOVIP's appeal

- Public and government should **take VAW and HIV seriously as urgent health and social challenges** that need to be addressed.
- **Ensure that health care workers are trained** in handling DV survivors.
- **Budget and resources allocations** are available for DV case handling.
- **Ensure directives, procedures and protocols** are in place and monitored periodically to ensure effective delivery of services for the survivors of violence.

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## CEDOVIP's appeal

### Ministry of Internal Affairs; (Police & Prisons)

- **Institutional Training and Capacity building:** Include capacity-building on violence against women and DVA in the institution's curricula for in-service and incoming officers.
- **Resource Allocations** for implementation of DVA; resource allocation should include; monetary, human resource and logistics (structures, systems, equipment). Without adequate funding, legislation cannot be implemented effectively.
- **Creation of Specialized police Departments/directorate;** specialized units are more responsive and effective in dealing with violence against women. Experience has shown that the establishment of such unit may facilitate the development of expertise in this area and may result in an increase in the number of cases investigated and a better quality and more efficient process for the survivor.
- **Protocols, guidelines, standards and regulations;** It requires police leadership to develop regulations, protocols, guidelines, instructions, directives and standards, including standardized forms, for the effective and timely implementation of the DV Act to ensure change in institutional practices that support prevention and response of DV.

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## CEDOVIP's appeal

### Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs; (Prosecutions & Judiciary)

- **Allocate budget for the implementation of the DV Act** by: requesting the allocation of funding for a specific activity, for example, the creation of a specialized prosecutor's office or specialized court.
- **Establishment of specialized integrated courts or court sessions** to; guarantee timely and efficient handling of cases of violence against women; and ensure that court officers assigned receive specialized training and minimizes stress and fatigue of such officers.
- **Development of Protocols, guidelines, standards and regulations** for the implementation of the DV Act by court officials and prosecutors.
- **Monitoring of courts on change in practice**, length a case takes through court system, analysis of judgments issued, how the law is used to protect the victims and holding perpetrators accountable.
- **Ensure collaboration with other institutions** to enable them closely work together. Although the district coordination committees (DCC) were established to strengthen communication, collaboration and coordination among these institutions, the gap is now to strengthen this space to be more effective and open.

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**Ministry of Local Government (LCs, Probation and welfare officers, CDOs)**

## CEDOVIP's appeal

- **Allocate budgets for GBV prevention and response;** Local councils need to ensure resources are available to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls in their communities. Support interventions that work in communities to change social norms that perpetuate violence against women and girls.
- **Revise LC courts Act** to align with the institutional changes in the DV Act ie public hearings, confidentiality.
- Training of LC courts on DV Act.

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## Public/Community:

## CEDOVIP's appeal

- Women, men, religious leaders **speak out and publically condemn** violence against women and girls
- **Call upon the government** to allocate funding towards implementation of the Domestic Violence Act 2010.
- **Learn about the benefits of using the Domestic Violence Act;** reach out to girls and women experiencing violence, and teach girls and boys that women and girls have a right to live free from violence.
- Have **responsibility to report to LCs, Police, Court, Probation and welfare officers** and provide evidence in court.
- **Demand protection** in case they are witnesses from police.
- **Teach friends** and peers on the Domestic violence law.

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**Take Action! –  
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end VAWG**

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