

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE ACTIVISM AWARDS REPORT



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Submitted by: Men and Boys for Gender Equality

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1. INTRODUCTION

Gender Based Violence remains a challenge in Botswana; The Botswana National Relationship Study, launched in May 2019 which is a follow-up to the 2012 indicators study shows that slightly over a third of women in Botswana (37%) experience some form of GBV in their lifetime. Most of the reported violence is Intimate Partner Violence. The consequences of GBV are far-reaching, limiting women's and men's human rights and affecting their ability to claim their rights as citizens. A key component of GBV is economic in nature and has the effect of both perpetuating and reinforcing GBV in a relationship. Due to COVID-19 outbreak, commonly known as coronavirus, governments and authorities across the world have responded implementing travel restrictions, curfews, lockdowns, facility closures, social distancing, isolations and many more. The outbreak was identified in Wuhan, China, in December 2019, declared to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on 30 January 2020 and considered a pandemic by World Health Organization (WHO) on 11 March 2020. In the few weeks since the populations worldwide have been directed to 'stay home' to prevent the spread of the virus, cases of domestic violence globally have surged. This should come as no surprise. Women and children are confined to isolated homes with abusive men whose coercive and physical violent tendencies are enabled and further inflamed by economic stressors. Botswana is not an exception. A total of 56 cases of defilement and 27 cases of rape were recorded in Botswana between April 7 and May 20, 2020, and more cases continue to be reported including murder. This high prevalence of gender-based violence indicates the need to develop programs and strategies to support the active engagement of men and boys amid the time of COVID-19 outbreak. Meaningful engagement of men and boys can lead to positive changes in attitudes, perceptions and behaviours that benefit women and children, especially towards the creation of violence free communities.

The National GBV Strategy 2015-2020, adopts a multi-pronged and multi-sectoral approach in addressing GBV hence, the need for strong and coordinated prevention and response to GBV. Integration of GBV, HIV and COVID-19 response is therefore an essential component that needs to be included by all sectors. For effective response to GBV and HIV in the context of COVID-19 there is need to **Leave No One Behind** as this will ensure that the specific needs of women and men; girls and boys; people with disabilities and other marginalised groups are prioritized. The comprehensive approach will ensure the needs of all vulnerable and marginalised groups are considered in the provision of medical supplies, food, care, social protection measures and psychosocial services. Therefore, addressing all these social and health aspects requires an Action Plan that will cover all people in Botswana with special attention to those at risk during the State of Emergency.

2. ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

Men and Boys for Gender Equality is a registered Non- Governmental Organization, founded in October 2013 and duly registered with the Registrar of Societies. The organization focuses

on gender transformative interventions with both men and boys to take action to end violence against women and children; prevent HIV and reduce alcohol consumption through interactive participation in Sexual and Reproductive health issues. In doing this, MBGE works primarily with men and boys through support groups, recruiting expectant fathers to share and exchange lessons in the birthing and child rearing process, peer education, trainings and blue couch sessions. It is in realization that at one point, every man will be a father, brother etc. hence creating males that are able to show emotion will subsequently curb or reduce the gender based violence attributable to men and boys. Additionally, men are able to take on additional parenting chores and support their families. The primary objectives of MBGE include but are not limited to the following:

- i) To contribute to reduced/ ending Gender Based Violence perpetrated by alcohol/substance abusers.
- ii) To contribute towards building families by facilitating involvement of fathers in the care and parenting of their children through Support groups
- iii) To mobilise communities and students (both men/boys and women/girls) to come together and make constructive 'noise' around gender based violence and take action to change perceptions and behaviour.
- iv) To train local popular personalities in gender and gender equality and work with them as social commentators in advocating for male involvement.
- v) To partner with local health posts (clinics and hospitals) in the involvement of men in the care and parenting of children, engaging them during the pre and post-natal care of their spouses and partners.

MBGE believes that understanding men's own diverse experiences, within the context of deep-rooted patriarchal systems and structures that enable men to assert power and control over women, will help us target the underlying drivers of violence against women and girls to stop violence before it starts. In most cases of gender based violence and abuse of any form, substances like alcohol usually play a major role in the emotional agitation of perpetrators. However, lessons learned from implementation have shown that there is a need to simultaneously engage men and women and boys and girls in order to ensure equitable societal transformation. Therefore, organizational programs have been restructured to include both genders. It is in light of the above that MBGE exists.

Vision

To attain gender equality and be a nation free of Gender Based Violence by 2030

Mission

To engage men and boys in reducing gender inequalities, preventing HIV, ending gender-based violence and promoting the health and well-being of women, men and children.

3. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE ACTIVISM AWARDS

The inaugural **GBV Activism Awards**, was an initiative by Men and Boys for Gender Equality in partnership with UNDP Botswana to encourage members of the community particularly men and boys in educating their communities about ending Gender Based Violence and promoting healthy lifestyles for women, men and children. Men and Boys for Gender Equality uses a three phased core strategy that consists of direct engagement, media work and community mobilization in order to achieve its mandate. These awards were a form of mobilizing communities in actively engaging in ending Gender Based Violence and were the organization's contribution to observing the annual 16 Days of Activism against GBV campaign which starts from **November 25th to December 10th 2020**. The award ceremony was under different categories and will recognize individuals, groups, companies, Non-Governmental Organizations and donors.

The organization also implements a campaign called MONNA TIA where influential men have been selected to become ambassadors or champions and contribute to ending GBV

4. RATIONALE

These awards were conceptualized to appreciate the efforts that different entities make towards ending GBV which has become more prevalent in Botswana. Such recognition is anticipated to create extrinsic motivation for communities to strive to end GBV. We believe that as an organization we would not be able to conquer ending GBV alone and that communities have the capacity in ending GBV.

5. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

This initiative was made open to all members of the public, groups, companies, religious institutions, NGOs, government departments, donors. Forms were distributed across the country through Botswana National Youth Council Centres and through emails for those who requested for them through such platforms. Entrants carried out different activities within their communities and document them through photography or videos and shared their work with the organization. The competition ran throughout the 16 Days of Activism in 2020.

6. MEDIA BRIEFING

On November 17, 2020 Men and Boys for Gender Equality convened a media briefing at UNDP Botswana broad room to launch the inaugural GBV Activism Awards. The media briefing started off by an address from Ms. Ontlametse Raleru, Programs Coordinator at Men and Boys for Gender Equality who gave a brief background of the organization and its mandate. She also gave the rationale behind the conceptualization of GBV Activism Awards. Furthermore, she went on to announce the awards categories, the criteria and how to be

entries will be made. UNDP Botswana Deputy Representative gave the background on UNDP campaign and the encouragement to enter the awards. Minister of Health and Wellness, Honourable Dr. Edwin Dikoloti gave the key note address and thanked Men and Boys for Gender Equality and UNDP for such an interesting initiative. He emphasized that there is a need to always place prevention at the forefront when responding to gender-based violence as its aftermath costs the government of Botswana, especially the health sector. Other speakers on the day included Ms. Malebogo Molefhe, GBV activist, Mr. Chicco Nare, a football coach representing the sports fraternity, Reverend Mpho Moruakgomo and Men and Boys for Gender Equality Team Leader, Mr. Desmond Lunga who all encouraged individuals, organizations, government departments, corporate companies to enter the awards.

7. AWARDS CATEGORIES AND NOMINEES

Over 50 entrants submitted that work at Men and Boys for Gender Equality and a panel of judges shortlisted the entrants to a total of 43 nominees. The judges were Ms. Ontlametse Raleru, Programs Coordinator at Men and Boys for Gender Equality, Ms. Ruth Kedikilwe, a journalist and co-founder of Relay Media and Communication and Ms. Lydia Mafhoko-Ditsa, UN Women

BEST CORPORATE COMPANY

Kgalagadi Breweries Limited

KBL is a brewer of alcoholic beverages, through its Better World initiative the company continues to make efforts towards operating in a clean environment and nurturing thriving communities. KBL acknowledges that alcohol can be a contributing factor to incidences of GBV and is therefore committed to educating Botswana about responsible consumption, promoting good health and mental wellbeing of its consumers.

Lucara Mine

Lucara Mine is one of the largest producers of diamonds in the world. They have a CSI charter that guides CSI initiatives. GBV campaigns are some of the projects the mine is doing in response to the escalating GBV cases in Boteti where they operate. Their work includes GBV Talks in Kgotsas, formation and training of GBV Committees in the Districts.

Debswana Diamond Company

Debswana is a diamond mining company. Debswana is a major contributor to the national economy of Botswana – contributing significantly to the gross domestic product, foreign exchange earnings and government revenue. Through the Health Services Department, they implemented activities such as Peer Education Program, Awareness sessions and Pitso ya Lekgotla all geared towards eliminating GBV which research has shown is prevalent in mining towns.

Leapfrog

Leapfrog is a community based Public Relations Agency which has implemented public education campaigns on issues such as HIV and AIDS, Breast Cancer, male circumcision and Gender Based Violence. The company has developed the Nthuse App which to assist GBV survivors.

Footprints Digital and Feel Good TV

Footprints Digital and Feel Good TV is a media outfit that develops engaging content on issues that affect the society. They use television, social and digital media to create conversations which promote behavioural change especially in men in Botswana.

BEST RELIGIOUS INSTITUTION

Keleneilwe Kgerethwa-UCCSA

He believes that the in presenting the mission of God there can be a difference in communities. He has participated in community outreaches, awareness walks and donation drives of toiletries and food to GBV survivors.

Reverend Thabo Mampane – Luthern Church

He is a priest in the Lutheran Church in Gaborone and also regards himself as an activist in GBV related issues. He believes that as a religious leader he is the voice of the voiceless and has the responsibility to promote peace and harmony in communities

His Church

A church that is dedicated to promote the spiritual wellness of people and has also embarked on several campaigns which contribute to ending GBV.

BEST INDIVIDUAL EFFORT

Ntebogang Maatla

She describes herself as passionate about community work and helping people. She has organized and participated in different initiatives in her community which promote participation and awareness on ending GBV.

Tumisang Mothei

He describes himself as passionate with a vision to effect real tangible change in the society through meaningful dialogue on issues of national concern. He believes that men are ready to lead by example in the fight against GBV.

Yvonne Mooka

She describes herself as a champion for social justice and in her work as a journalist she has reported on GBV issues for different media outlets.

BEST SETTLEMENT INITIATIVE

Keatametse Gokgana

He is involved in advocating for men's involvement and mobilisation of the male population to contribute towards reduction of GBV and HIV. His work includes conducting door to door campaigns on GBV in settlements around Ghanzi.

BEST POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

Honourable Amogelang Phologolo

She is the ward councillor for Phase 4 Marulamantsi ward and is also the Gender Commissioner in the Gaborone City Council. She often intervenes in GBV related cases in her ward and offers counselling in some of the cases. She has participated in different GBV related issues such panel discussions and GCC full council response to the mayor's speech.

Honourable Stanley Solly

He is the ward councillor for Boikhutso Ward. He has conducted door to door campaigns and has established a community GBV Committee.

BEST LOCAL AUTHORITY LEADERSHIP

His Worship the Mayor of Gaborone City Father Maphongo

His Worship the Mayor is a Specially Elected Councillor in Gaborone District. He was elected as the Mayor of Gaborone on 8th December 2019 to date. As a political leader, the Mayor of the City of Gaborone, he took the responsibility to fight Gender Based Violence (GBV)'s prevalence which has especially proven to be rampant among men as perpetrators and women and children as Victims. He wants to see an end to Gender based Violence and therefore upon my resumption of the Political seat as the Mayor of the City of Gaborone, he took it upon himself to run campaigns that speak to the stoppage of GBV.

Honourable Khumoyame Lekoko

She is the Sub Council Chairperson for Palapye Administrative Authority. She is in the forefront of raising awareness on GBV against women; she has participated in events such the GBV awareness walk and the 16 Days Couples High Tea.

BEST TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP

Kgosi Mosadi Seboko

Kgosi Mosadi Seboko is the Paramount Chief of Balete, she is also the Chairperson of the National Gender Commission.

Kgosi Wynard Morris

Kgosi Wynard Morris is the Chief of D'Kar village, his responsibility is to oversee domestic matters in his community and offer guidance and advice. His role as an overseer in GBV cases has inspired him to conduct dialogues in his Kgotla on GBV issues.

Kgosi Arnold Somolekae

Kgosi Arnold Somolekae has served in various courts in Jwaneng, Lobatse, Gaborone and is currently based at Gaborone West Customary Court. He is dedicated to contributing to the elimination of GBV through changing negative cultural norms.

Dira Galeragwe

Kgosi Dira Galeragwe is a Kgosi in Letlhakane. He believes that as a leader of the community he has the responsibility to ensure that all are protected. He also believes that as a mining area it is important to maintain social harmony in order to attract investors which would improve the community.

BEST SOCIAL CLUB

Dzi Duzo Ngai

Their aim is to use entertainment to engage young people in social issues such as ending GBV, drug abuse and contributing to the general development of the community.

Fondo Fire Social Club

The social club uses different activities such as entertainment and sports to promote community engagement on different issues including GBV

BEST COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

Stepping Stones International

Stepping Stones International is a non-profit organization that benefits orphaned and vulnerable children and youth aged 12-25 years old in Botswana through the following services: Child & Youth Empowerment, Nurturing Families, Advocacy for Child Protection, and Strengthening Service Providers.

Step Up Education Botswana

Step Up addresses a significant educational opportunity gap – the lack of access to social emotional learning (SEL) and 21st Century Skills programming that empower children and youth with the life skills to lead healthy and productive lives.

South East South Sub District Gender Committee

The South East South Sub District Gender Committee The mandate of the South East South Sub District Gender Committee is to coordinate and monitor the multi sectoral and decentralised implementation of the policy at District and community levels. It provides technical guidance to the District Development Committee (DDC) on Gender issues.

BEST GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT

Broadhurst Police

The Broadhurst Police has implemented different activities such as education dissemination (through distribution of flyers), school and community talks to address GBV issues.

Lethakane Police

The Lethakane Police Station works with different government departments and NGO's in promoting ending GBV.

BEST MEDIA HOUSE

Footprint Digital and Feel Good TV

Footprints Digital and Feel Good TV is a media outfit that develops engaging content on issues that affect the society. They use television, social and digital media to create conversations which promote behavioural change especially in men in Botswana.

Duma FM

The radio station aims to provide radio stations with a platform to advance issues; they pride themselves in mainstreaming issues of gender parity.

ENCOUNTER TV

This is an online TV which covers stories and events which deal with social based activities. They have reported on GBV cases and defilements cases.

8. VOTING DETAILS

Men and Boys for Gender Equality engaged VIB Mobile to generate the voting codes and entrants were allocated these codes which the public used in order to vote for them through the organization's SMS Line which is **16639**. Due to technical clichés the SMS line was later changed to **17172**. SMS's cost **P2.00**. The voting process was officially closed on May 31, 2021.

9. GBV ACTIVISM AWARDS ACTIVATION

As the build up to the awards ceremony, Men and Boys for Gender Equality organized an activation on May 31, 2021 at MBGE office from 9am to 11am. This activation aimed at creating an opportunity for networking between different stakeholders taking part in the GBV Activism Awards. Such stakeholders included members of the media fraternity, the awards nominees, the general public and other stakeholders contributing towards gender-based violence response in Botswana. During the activation, Men and Boys for Gender Equality Team Leader, Mr. Desmond Lunga gave the overview of the GBV Activism Awards and alluded that This initiative was conceptualized to encourage members of the community particularly men and boys in educating their communities about ending Gender Based Violence and promoting healthy lifestyles for women, men and children. Also to appreciate the efforts that different entities make towards ending GBV which has become more prevalent in Botswana. Ms Ontlametse Raleru, Programs Coordinator announced the awards categories and the nominees. Mr. Wiseman Lopang, also known as Mr Wise, shared his experiences as a nominee and the work that he does contributing the greater mandate of eliminating gender-based violence in Botswana. Questions and answers session followed where members of the media were given the chance to ask questions pertaining to the awards. The activation was closed off with a networking session where stakeholders had the opportunity to interact and know more about each other's work.

10. PRODUCTION OF GBV ACTIVISM AWARDS THEME SONG AND RADIO JINGLES

Men and Boys for Gender Equality in collaboration with Gouveia Mutasa (DJ Gouveia), music producer, disc jockey and radio presenter, Kabelo Tiro (Skavenja), performing artist, Thabo Bolokwe (T.H.A.B.O), performing artist and radio presenter, Ms Abbey, Candy and Apollo D, who are also performing artists, produced GBV Activism Awards theme song whose message is anchored around ending gender-based violence and working together towards creating violence free communities. Over and above the production of the theme song, radio jingles or adverts were produced which were aimed at promoting the awards and encouraging the general public to take part in the awards by casting their votes for the nominees they felt were outstanding. The adverts listed all the nominees and their voting codes.

11. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE ACTIVISM AWARDS CEREMONY

Gender-based violence activism awards ceremony was convened on June 11, 2021 in Gaborone at Brave Hearts Studios in Commerce Park and live streamed through Men and Boys for Gender Equality and The Argus Online Facebook pages. The ceremony started at 6PM and was officiated by Thabo Bolokwe and Tebogo Sekgoma, who are both radio presenters at Radio Botswana 2. The ceremony was opened with the performance of the GBV activism awards theme song by DJ Gouveia, Skavenja, T.H.A.B.O, Apollo D, Ms. Abbey and Candy.

Introduction of guest and welcome remarks were made by **UNDP Botswana Programme Specialist – Governance, Natasha Hirschfeld**. She alluded that the GBV activism awards were initiated to recognize individuals and organizations that have made concerted efforts towards ending gender-based violence in Botswana in order to promote healthy lifestyles for women, men and children in their respective communities and societies.

Ms. Margunn Indreboe Alshaikh, UNDP Botswana Deputy Resident Representative, gave the overview of the GBV activism awards. She went on to mention that ahead of the global 16 Days of Activism campaign in 2020 UNDP Botswana partnered with Men and Boys for Gender Equality because of their shared goal of achieving gender equality and being a nation free of violence by 2030. This partnership set a perfect platform to advance the quest to engage more men and boys in

the conversation around eliminating gender-based violence in Botswana. UNDP Botswana and Men and Boys for Gender Equality partnered in a joint project which was basically around two main activities. One was around bringing together ambassador or champions together in the campaign against gender-based violence and the other one was the GBV activism awards. The project was aimed at engaging the communities directly on issues of violence. She further said GBV activism awards are a means of encouraging members of the community, particularly men and boys to educate their communities about gender-based violence and promoting healthy lifestyles for all. This means communities coming together to co-create their solutions to the high prevalence of gender-based violence cases and taking charge. The awards were conceptualized to mobilize communities to be actively engaged in eliminating gender-based violence through a competition that ran throughout the 16 Days of Activism campaign. The take-home from this project is that gender-based violence is not one person's problem, but rather the entire community's problem, which is why we must all take responsibility.

Honourable Anna Mokgethi, Minister of Nationality, Immigration and Gender Affairs, when making her address on the state of gender-based violence in Botswana, expressed her gratitude that civil society organization, specifically Men and Boys for Gender Equality, have heeded government's call to participate in the gender-based violence mitigation. She also expressed her delight that Men and Boys for Gender Equality has adopted contemporary and interesting ways that could easily communicate to communities across the country. She went further to give gender-based violence statistics in Botswana as derived from the Botswana National Relationship Study which was undertaken by her ministry and launched in 2019 and Botswana Police Service report. Furthermore, she mentioned that the outbreak of COVID 19 pandemic have increased the number of gender-based violence cases in Botswana. She assured that the government of Botswana prioritises and continues to seek better ways in which it can be better addressed. She called on civil society organization to support her ministry in building the capacity of communities.

Keynote address was made by **Honourable Kabo Morwaeng, Minister for Presidential Affairs, Governance and Public Administration** and he mentioned that the goal of the GBV activism awards which is to eliminate gender-based violence in Botswana is a shared one between the government of Botswana and Men and Boys for Gender Equality. He emphasized that the government is committed to fight gender-based violence and to mobilize communities to join in the response against gender-based violence. The Government of Botswana through the Inter Ministerial Committee we will be able to strengthen capacities for implementation of the national response under the National Strategy Toward Ending GBV. He further alluded that very soon the government will put in place offenders register which will bear names of offenders for the safety of women and children. The Botswana Police Service has introduced a toll free number and urged Botswana to take full advantage of it and utilize it to report gender-based violence cases. The GBV activism awards should serve as an encouragement and a reminder to the nation that we all have a role to play in the response against gender-based violence.

Awarding of trophies to 14 category winners

Best Individual Effort – Ntebogang Maatla Dintwe

Best Social Club – Dzo Duza Ngai

Best Community Initiative – Step Up Education Botswana

Best Settlement Initiative – Keatametse Gokgana

Best Feminist Organization/Movement – Molao Matters

Best Religious Organization – Reverend Thabo Mampane

Best Government Department – Letlhakane Police

Best Administrative Authority – Palapye Administrative Authority

Best Media House – Footprint and Feel Good TV

Best in Arts – Mr Lopang Wiseman Gorewang

Best Political Leadership – Honourable Councillor Stanley Solly

Best Traditional Leadership (Dikgosi) – Kgosi Dira Galeragwe

Best Administrative Authority Leadership – His Worship The Mayor of Gaborone Father Maphongo

Best Corporate Company – Lucara Mine

Honourable Dr. Edwin Dikoloti, Minister for Ministry of Health and Wellness gave the closing remarks and in his speech he said he believes that the inaugural GBV activism awards will inspire other people to also make efforts to eliminate gender-based violence in their respective communities. He congratulated all winners of GBV activism awards and hopes to continue their efforts in the response against gender-based violence. He further said he is hoping to see growth in community participation in combating gender-based violence. We need everyone's effort to create safe space for all in our country. The government is faced with exorbitant medical costs for the care and rehabilitation of survivors of gender-based violence. He urged Batswana to continue adhering to COVID 19 protocols to prevent the spread of the deadly.

Vote of thanks were made by **Mr. Desmond Lunga, Team Leader-Men and Boys for Gender Equality** and encouraged all the entrants to continue their work in fighting gender-based violence. He also thanked the partners and alluded that these awards could have not been possible without their contribution.

12. OTHER PARTNERS

Other than UNDP Botswana as the main partner, to put together these awards Men and Boys for Gender Equality also established partnerships with the following organizations;

Radio Botswana 2

Social Light

VIB Mobile

The Voice Newspaper

Empire Premium Custom Suits

13. RECOMMENDATIONS

For sustainability of GBV Activism Awards there is need for a transformative education and showcasing this program. This might be in form of a radio or television program that showcases different entrants from the previous awards/campaign on what they are doing and how people can learn from them. Depending on the budget it can be aired weekly as a 15-minute radio program or 25-minute television program showcasing the efforts towards ending gender-based violence and

encouraging communities to do the same. Over and above that, there is need for civil society organizations to active in hard to reach areas such as the Central Kalahari Game Reserve, D'kar Ramaphoi Jwaneng Mine and many more as it is where we know a lot of our programs do not reach.