



Gender Based Violence

This is the Annual Impact Report written for [Gender Based Violence] Program, written by [Ahmed Mohamed Saleh (IFMSA-Egypt)] on the 25th of June, submitted for the **67th IFMSA General Assembly August Meeting 2018**.

Summary of the report

In 2017/2018 term 14 activities have been enrolled under IFMSA Gender Based Violence program, only 11 have been reported. The activities targeted different types of GBV in different geographical areas according to their needs. This report is presenting only the impact of the reported activities, while in fact the impact IFMSA members do towards GBV issues is much more bigger. What is interesting is that the GBV activities are distributed among all the five IFMSA regions.

[Link to Gender Based Violence Program description.](#)



Photo from activity: Thursdays in black - Malawi

Message from the Program Coordinator

Hello everyone,

This is Ahmed Saleh, IFMSA Program coordinator on Gender Based Violence for the term 17/18. I have to say that I am very lucky to have to be a program coordinator this year among some of the most hard-working team I have ever seen. I started my term with a lot of plans towards the GBV program; the most important of them is spreading the knowledge and importance of tackling its issues all over IFMSA. I believe that I am satisfied with what has been done, and through this report I am presenting data and statistics about the enrolled and reported activities in addition to some recommendations that may be useful based on my year of experience in the programs team.

Lots of love and respect,

Ahmed Mohamed Saleh

IFMSA program Coordinator on Gender Based Violence



Introduction to the Program

According to UNFPA, Violence against women and girls is one of the most prevalent human rights violations in the world. It knows no social, economic or national boundaries. Worldwide, an estimated one in three women will experience physical or sexual abuse in her lifetime.

Gender-based violence undermines the health, dignity, security and autonomy of its victims, yet it remains shrouded in a culture of silence. Victims of violence can suffer sexual and reproductive health consequences, including forced and unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, traumatic fistula, sexually transmitted infections including HIV, and even death.

This is not to say that gender-based violence against men does not exist. For instance, men can become targets of physical or verbal attacks for transgressing predominant concepts of masculinity, for example because they have sex with men. Men can also become victims of violence in the family – by partners or children.

As future health care professionals, we will be at the forefront of recognizing violence, whether physical or emotional. However, we are not equipped in our medical school training on how to recognize gender based violence, or how to manage it. Although, as future physicians we are powerful and respected in our communities, we are unable to make a valid contribution to this important issue due to lack of proper training and knowledge. That is why this program is so important, as we are a key asset to bridging the gap between the general public and governments and services. By using this unique perspective will be able to make positive changes in our societies towards gender based violence and reduce the stigmatization of victims of gender based violence.

The aim of the program is to raise awareness and empower the society specially the youth and the health care workers about their crucial role to put an end to violence based on gender, while encouraging societal change in the society towards women's and men's rights.

Annual Working Plan of the Program

The program's annual working plan was mainly focusing on two main aspects; first one is Capacity Building and the second aspect was Activities enrollment and reporting. Through focusing on these two aspects we were aiming at reaching the programs goals. Following the details of each aspect:

- 1) Capacity Building:
 - a. **Support of activities coordinators:** it was done through communication with previously enrolled activities' coordinators and supporting current ACs in Rex Crossly award.
 - b. **Active participation in General Assemblies:** This was done by representing the program in MM18 Hurgada and participation in programs streams session. Our participation in the MM opened a wide door of increasing the program's publicity by face to face communication with IFMSA members. We also supported SCDs in GBV related sessions. We are currently preparing to attend the next AM in Canada.
 - c. **Publicity of the program:** We participated in all international events related to Gender Based Violence in addition to supporting other international campaigns. We also worked on the production of new infographics of the program in addition to the participation in every edition of the programs newsletter. We were always communicating with regional teams to enlighten us about GBV activities running in their regions so we could approach their coordinators and helping them if they needed help.
- 2) New activities enrollment and reporting of enrolled activities:
 - a. **Increasing the number of enrolled activities:** This was done by encouraging activities coordinators to enroll their activities and spreading the importance of enrollment among all IFMSA members.
 - b. **Ensure that all enrolled activities are reported:** By sending reminders to coordinators of enrolled activities and facilitating the reporting process.

Impact of the Program

• Enrollment form:

- Number of filled form: 17
- Number of reported activities: 11
- Number of Transferred activities: 2
- Number of rejected activities: 1
- Number of activities that were not reported: 3 (either because of unresponsiveness of their activities coordinators or due to enrolling after the reporting deadline.

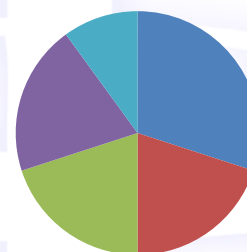
• Regional distribution:

- Out of 11 reported activities, 3 activities were from the African region, 2 from Asia Pacific, 2 from the Americas, 3 from the Eastern Mediterranean region and one from Europe.

• Types of activities:

- 7 out of 11 activities were campaigns, 3 were Capacity building activities and one activity was in form of educational activity.
- Campaigns are Combination of education and advocacy. Campaigns create awareness in society about a certain topic (education aspect) and try to funnel this awareness into pressure on the decision makers to adapt policies accordingly (advocacy aspect).

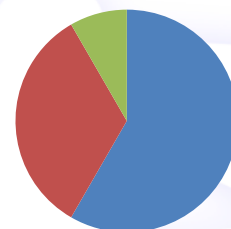
■ Africa ■ Asia Pacific ■ Americas ■ EMR ■ Europe



Regional distribution of reported activities

- Capacity Building (Training or Workshop). Teaching and develop knowledge, skills and techniques in a particular field. While training can have any form, workshops are more formal and also include exchange of information between participants.
- Educational activities are on health issues for specific societal groups, either in the form of projects (set of tasks for a certain group over a fixed period of time), events (something notable that happens) or conferences (form meeting about ideas related to a particular topic, usually over several days).

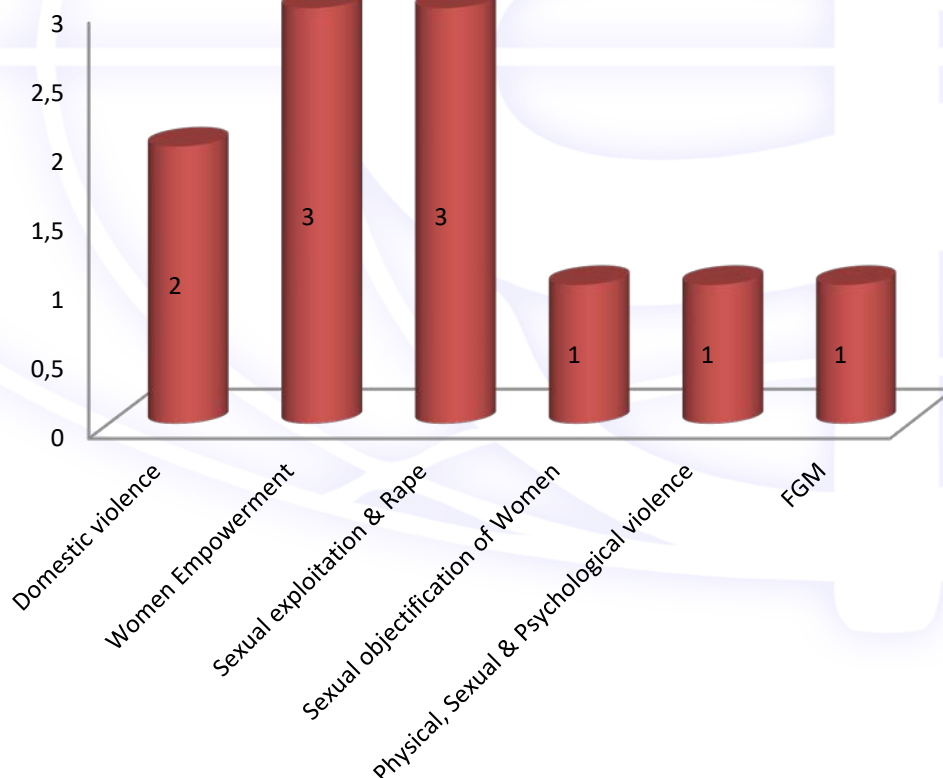
■ Campaigns ■ Capacity Building ■ Education



Types of activities

• Focus area of the activities:

- There are many focus areas in the Gender Based Violence program and despite being so diverse, we were very lucky to have most of the focus areas represented in the 11 reported activities as shown in the bar chart.





Outcome 1: International educational activities for medical students on gender based violence and women rights that is culturally sensitive

- Indicator: Number of activities. Number empowered participants.
- Target group: Medical students

Outcome 2: National education activities for medical students on country specific gender based violence issue

- Indicator: Number of trainings. Number of NMOs organizing trainings. Number of empowered participants.
- Target Group: Medical students

Outcome 3: Local, national and international activities working with people affected by gender based violence

- Indicator: Number of activities. Number of NMOs taking part. Number of beneficiaries (people affected by gender based violence)
- Target group: People affected by gender based violence

Outcome 4: Creation of effective policies in local, national and international level influenced by medical students

- Indicator: Number of NMOs who influenced related policy in local, national and international level. Number of policies influenced by medical students. Number of active and effective participation in relevant meetings
- Target group: Local, national and international organizations, universities and governments.

Information from reported activities:

- **Together for peace - Nigeria:** It is a campaign mostly online for the eradication of Domestic violence and the brokering of total peace in the lives of Nigerian women, to be done by 30 medical students in the area by photo and video campaigns.
- **Women's month - Morocco:** Sale of flowers is considered as a gesture of support and valorization of the woman on this sacred day. Conference and round tables with the purpose of raising the awareness of youth, in this case medical students, to the problems of our country in order to act in the near future or far away, to the extent that we are destined to be true social actors in within our country. Self-defense classes and the last project of the month, and the most important was the Lady Gala. This event had as main activity a fashion show, in order to value the value of women within the society.
- **International Women's Day - Hungary:** They want to bust the myth that abuse is the woman's fault during an International Women's Day campaign. With our lecturers, talks and rape/assault survivors' clothes exhibition we hope that we can change public opinion, which we will evaluate through forms.
- **More than that – Venezuela, Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras, Panama:** Social media: All women around the Americas, with only one message: We are more than that. The participant will be recording a video or just taking a picture with the logo of the campaign. Social experiment: where we invite women of different ages, professions, skin complexion, body type. A famous place is established spot in the cities where local scientific societies develop. Women will be dressed in different ways with posters with the name of the visual identity of the campaign and messages against Interpersonal sexual objectification of Women, thus measuring the reaction of those who are around.
- **Video for IWD - Malawi:** This was done by interviewing medical students with preset questions. We also interviewed a professional in the medical field and got her views of the topic with preset questions as well. After the interviews were done, we edited the video and published on the 8th of March.



- **Open your eyes - Ecuador:** The project seeks to combat gender based violence and sexual abuse through an awareness campaign. 11 OLs will participate, with approximately 40 registered participants per city. The project consists of 3 phases. The first phase will last a week and consists of a media campaign through the social networks of AEMPPI-Ecuador, for which the LORA of each OL will make a poster about gender based violence that will be published a week before the symposium. The second phase will last 3 hours and consists of a symposium about gender based violence aimed at medical students in which 3 professionals will participate as speakers: psychologist, psychiatrist and forensic doctor; There will also be videos of testimonies of victims of gender based violence and a forum about the video. The third phase will last 4 hours and consists of a campaign directed to the community in public spaces attended in each city, in which participants with make-up with bruises will provide triptychs to passers-by in order to transmit the theoretical framework of our activity with statistical data of gender violence to create greater impact. There will also be a social experiment which will be filmed and subsequently published on social networks of AEMPPI. For the social experiment, a booth will be created in which videos of testimonies of gender based violence will be screened and subsequently people will be interviewed about their opinion regarding the testimonies and this topic.
- **Embrace your voice - Nepal:** The main idea of the program is to bring together the Health personnel, policymakers, lawyers, police, public health experts, forensic experts and discuss the issues of sexual assault and workplace violence through a Panel Discussion and help the medical students to get a general idea and know where to approach if they or their patients find themselves in similar situation. It is also to help medical students get in touch with their literary sides and spread the message in a creative manner through Poems and Stories.
- **On your own - Pakistan:** On your Own is an activity designed to take a stand against unwanted advances and abuses. It is designed to create an environment where women are trained with appropriate skills to deal with the harmful situations, the activity raises voice against domestic violence. Noticing and acknowledging the signs of an abusive relationship are the first step to ending it.
- **Anti-Sexual harassment - Egypt:** Anti- sexual harassment is a project helping women on their fight to have a safer everyday life by helping them cope and know how to deal with harassment and deal with its after effect to have a stronger women and community in Egypt
- **Anti-FGM - Egypt:** As Anti-FGM Spread all over Egypt we in IFMSA-Egypt as Medical Students Seeking to increase awareness through Our Medical Students As the Future Doctors, Through Physical Campaigns to them, increase awareness to public people through Physical campaigns at different places. Through TOT we increase Knowledge to Our trainers to conduct this for their LCs through online Campaigns to increase our outreach for Social media Users.
- **Thursdays in Black - Malawi:** Every Thursday during the month of April we encouraged our target populations to put on black in honor of those that have been victims of gender based violence. We also asked them to put up pictures on social media with encouraging and empowering messages. We as SCORA also shared information on GBV on social media but also via different media houses which we partnered with. Furthermore we partnered with 3 celebrities that are influential to participate and also reach out further to the population by posting pictures in black as well.

Discussion and recommendations

Activities enrollment and reporting: During my term as a program coordinator, I passed through a lot of Gender Based Violence related activities. These activities are well distributed among all IFMSA regions, however, their coordinators either lack any knowledge about the programs system & don't know how to enroll or they lack the motivation to enroll their activities under IFMSA Programs. We – the programs team – tried our best to increase the publicity of the newly adopted system in IFMSA. We also tried to spread the importance of enrolling the activities. These efforts were obvious if we consider the number of enrolled activities this term.

Recommendations: Search for GBV activities and approach the national officers and the activities coordinators personally. Make the best use of the General assemblies and regional meetings in establishing communications with potential activities coordinators.

Gender Based Violence Manuals: Gender Based Violence is one of the most important topics IFMSA tackles; this is done through tens of activities all over the world. Unfortunately, IFMSA lacks an original manual or training kit regarding any of their topics. Last year was an initiative of V2V training which was an amazing experience which unfortunately couldn't fit in this year's schedule. We also developed a kit about Human Trafficking which was used in the March Meeting.

Recommendations: Start to work on separate kit for different GBV topics such as: FGM and Domestic Violence.

Visibility of the program: During the whole term, we tried to ensure the visibility of the program through many ways. The Programs newsletter was definitely one of them, by ensuring the participation in every edition of the newsletter we tried to reach as many members as we could. Participation in the March Meeting and the awaited participation in the August Meeting is a key point one should never miss, during the meetings you can approach different potential coordinators and talk with national officers about their already established activities or even to suggest them new activities related to GBV.

Recommendations: I recommend planning a webinar about GBV and its topics and how activities coordinators can establish them into real activities.

Relationship with SCDs and RAs: Through my experience, Regional assistants are very important to the work of a program coordinator. They play the role of connecting PCs with ACs.

Recommendations: You should always establish good communication with SCDs and RAs, they will help a lot in reaching activities coordinators and you can always suggest them topics or activities to implement in their regions.