

# LEARNING ALLIANCE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



## Key Lessons from the Study Tour to Mexico: Enhancing responses to address domestic violence

October 31<sup>st</sup> to November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016



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**Cover Photo: Study Tour participants and Fundar staff**

## INTRODUCTION

This report reviews the objectives, activities and key lessons learned from the Evidence and Lessons from Latin America (ELLA) Learning Alliance Study Tour on Domestic Violence.

The Study Tour on Domestic Violence in Mexico was held from October 31<sup>st</sup> to November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016. It focused on best practices and strategies adopted in Mexico, at the federal and local level, to address domestic violence as a way to fulfil women's needs of seeking protection and transforming the situations of gender violence that they experience. Study Tour participants had a chance to interact with a range of actors: academics, members of civil society organisations (CSOs), policy makers, etc. These interactions gave them a comprehensive picture of how domestic violence is understood and addressed by each of these actors.

The topics covered during the Study Tour were:

- Academic debates in Latin America and Mexico for the advancement on gender issues;
- CSOs strategies to advocate on women's rights;
- A comprehensive approach<sup>1</sup> of protection services
- State's responses to address domestic violence

This report systematizes the strategies and practical examples adopted by decision-makers, academics, and civil society organisations in Mexico to address violence against women with a special focus on domestic violence. Discussions on the transferability of these practices in the Latin American or African regions, as well as the identification of the contextual factors required to operationalize these into concrete actions, could provide useful lessons to practitioners, CSOs, decision-makers and other communities of practice who are facing similar challenges to guarantee women's rights, and transform the conditions that reproduce different forms of violence against women.

### About the ELLA Learning Alliance Study Tour on Domestic Violence

The Study Tour is part of the online learning-exchange<sup>2</sup> process of the ELLA Learning Alliance (LEA) on Domestic Violence, which offers an opportunity to identify and discuss

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<sup>1</sup> According to the Mexican legislation, a comprehensive approach refers to a set of specialized services provided for the treatment of women who survived from extreme forms of violence and their children aiming to address the multifactorial impacts of domestic violence. This includes the satisfaction of basic needs such as housing and safety; the provision of psychological, educational, medical, legal and social work services by specialized personnel with the main objective to prepare women for the future.

strategies to address domestic violence and in particular to enhance protection services for women who survived domestic violence in the global south. The contents of both the Learning Alliance and the Study Tour were structured around collaborative research<sup>3</sup> produced by Fundar and CEGENSA. This ensured that participants could learn and discuss based on evidence and research which guided the reflection towards the identification of best practices from state and non-state actors to address domestic violence using a comprehensive approach and meet the right of women to live free from violence.

The 10 Study tour participants mainly came from the ELLA online learning alliance. They were selected in a competitive process. Participants were selected based on their participation in the online Learning Alliance (prioritising quality contributions vs. quantity) along with other qualifications like with their capacity to promote changes in their own contexts. A small group did not participate in the ELLA online learning alliance, but rather in offline workshops and events organised by CEGENSA in Ghana to disseminate and discuss their research findings

The Study Tour offered participants the opportunity to experience first-hand the responses adopted in Mexico to address domestic violence; interact with their peers from Africa and Latin America; and reflect on which practices and lessons participants could implement in their own countries upon their return to generate impacts in the ways domestic violence is being tackled.

It is worth noting that, before coming to the Study Tour, participants submitted action plans on the activities they will implement in their countries or communities after the Tour. These actions plans were revisited throughout the Study Tour in reflection sessions, in which participants had a chance to deconstruct the experiences seen in the tour and integrate them in their action plans. In the last part of this report, the participants' action plans are summarised.

The experiences and field visits during the Study Tour were located mostly in Mexico City, but also included visits to Pachuca (Hidalgo) and Puebla. This responded to the scope of the research developed by Fundar during the last two years which included an assessment of the comprehensive approach adopted by the Mexican State, at the federal level, to address domestic violence. This research was key to establish collaborative alliances with CSOs working on gender issues that provide protection services, as well as with decision-makers and with key stakeholders. All this enabled Fundar to articulate a rich and comprehensive agenda for the Study Tour.

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<sup>2</sup> Participants mainly came from Latin America and Africa, but other regions were also represented in the online exchange

<sup>3</sup> CEGENSA. 2015. [Beyond Domestic Violence Laws: Women's Experiences and Perceptions of Protection Services in Ghana](#); Fundar. 2015. [Beyond Domestic Violence Laws in Latin America: Challenges for Protection Services for Survivors](#)



## Learning Objectives

The Study Tour set out three main objectives:

1. Learn and reflect on the responses adopted in Mexico to address domestic violence and practical examples of their implementation.
2. Know first-hand examples of best practices to provide protection services for women who have survived domestic violence.
3. Discuss and exchange with key actors (decision-makers, CSOs, academics) on the effectiveness of the strategies adopted to tackle violence against women.



**Photo: Study Tour participants visiting the Independence Monument**

## Study Tour Participants

The group had 10 participants: 8 came from African countries (Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Sudan and South Africa); and 2 from Latin America (Argentina and Ecuador). The 10 participants are directly involved with women and gender violence prevention in different sectors; at the health sector, shelters, civil society organisations, or in the government

**Alice Mocheche Maranga** (Kenya) works at the Centre for Citizen's Empowerment Programme (CEEP) which has the objective to promote citizens' collective power and sustainable development with a human rights approach (and with a gender perspective). Her principal interests in the Study Tour were the conduction of scientific research on the impact of domestic violence in Kenya and work on awareness creation at the community level to prevent gender-based violence.

**Ana Palazzesi** (Argentina) works at the Citizen Participation Forum for Justice and Human Rights, a Civil Society Organisation that works in the promotion and defence of human rights, with a special focus on the empowerment of migrant women and the eradication of gender violence. Ana's specific objectives in the Study Tour focused on learning from strategies that enable the coordination of institutions that provide protection services and contribute to build women's capacities to advocate for their rights.

**Adolf Awuku Bekoe** (Ghana) works as Coordinator for the National Coalition on Domestic Violence Legislation in Ghana (DV Coalition) which aims to work towards the full and effective implementation of the Domestic Violence Act, the coalition is a partnership of several, and relevant, stakeholders in Ghana. His principal interests in the Study Tour focused on building and sustaining coalitions on gender violence and mobilising community support for a quick and effective domestic violence response.

**Doris A. Boateng** (Ghana) works with the Centre for Gender Studies and Advocacy (CEGENSA), aiming to institutionalize gender at the University of Ghana, and generate linkages with key stakeholders in the government, NGOs, civil society and the donor community. Doris' interests in the Study Tour included the promotion of the education of women about gender based violence and discovering the resources available in the country for victims and survivors of domestic violence.

**Kehinde Macaulay** (Nigeria) a nurse by training, works in Light-up Africa Development Initiative (LADI) as the Gender focal person of the organisation, coordinating programmes related to gender, and facilitating programmes and activities to curtail domestic violence in the society. Her interests in the Study Tour included the sharing of knowledge of best practice and approach in programming around Gender-Based Violence; review existing policy and laws with the view of making them stronger in her

own country to protect victims and survivors of GBV; and also form alliances with key actors.

**Lele Alleta Van Eck** (South Africa) works as a Research Nurse at the Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute in South Africa, an institution that leads the way in the field of HIV, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Related Conditions. She works to enhance methods of prevention of gender violence and options for women experiencing or at risk of domestic violence. Lele's interests in the Study Tour focused on learning effective ways to link victims to care services, build alliances among service providers, and community involvement on prevention of domestic violence.

**Leonardo García** (Ecuador) works in a Civil Society Organisation called *Articulación Masculinidades* (Articulating Masculinities in Ecuador) which focuses on the achievement of gender equality from a critic approach of the dominant male culture, and how masculinity is currently understood in society. Leonardo was interested in learning about experiences and methodological approaches to include men as allies to address gender based violence.

**Omayma Amin Elmardi** (Sudan) works at an NGO called National Sudanese Women Association (NSWA) based in Sudan which focuses on the achievement of gender equality and justice in Sudan. Her interests on the Study Tour included learning on effective tools for advocacy to enhance women and girl's rights, capacity building for community members to create gender awareness, and learning about conducting research to highlight gender gaps on policies and laws.

**Sarah Odorkor Akornor** (Ghana) works as social worker/counsellor at the Ark Foundation in Ghana a space that strives to create empowering spaces for individuals to rise above gender inequality, violence and oppression. The Ark foundation also managed the first (and only for a long time) shelter for victims of domestic violence. Her interests for the Study Tour were to develop strategies in addressing the protection services for victims and financial availability for victims and developing innovative ways to raise support for service delivery.

**Victoria Natsu** (Ghana) works as Social Worker and Acting Head of the Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking Secretariat of the Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection in Ghana. Her interests for the Study Tour focused on changing the mind-set of potential perpetrators of domestic, sexual and gender based violence, and learning practical ideas and concepts that have worked effectively in Mexico to address gender based violence.



## OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY TOUR ACTIVITIES



**Photo: Study Tour participants enjoying Mexican Festival Honouring Death**

The Study Tour took place between October 31<sup>st</sup> and November 7<sup>th</sup> 2016. The activities offered a good balance of different experiences, which included: direct experiences - field visits-, practical activities, spaces to reflect and internalize the knowledge with cultural activities as an important aspect of the learning and exchange process.

During the ten days of work, participants had the opportunity to discuss and interact with academics, key actors of the government, parliamentarians, and CSOs working with women who survived different forms of domestic violence. Field visits were organized at a shelter, a Centre of Justice for Women (CEJUM) and the Senate, for participants to experience how different strategies from government and civil society are implemented to provide protection services for women who experienced gender and domestic violence.



The Study Tour activities were structured as followed: 1) Debates for the discussion and advancement on gender issues; 2) Immersion in Academic debates for the advancement of gender issues; 3) Learning CSOs' advocacy strategies for the advancement of women's rights; 4) Understanding specialized protection services at the Shelter; 5) Assessing State responses to address violence against women; 6) The role of feminist parliamentarians in decision-making spaces , 7)) Getting to know the experience to address domestic violence at the local level through CSOs. The presentations, discussions, and key lessons from these meetings are summarised here.

## Study Tour Activities

### *Session 1: Debates for the discussion and advancement on gender issues*

#### Setting a common ground among participants

The learning goal of this activity was to set a common understanding of violence against women among the group, identify the different expressions and the current debates and discussions of this phenomenon from the feminist theories.

For this purpose, Fundar researchers shared a presentation around key concepts on gender based violence and how it is framed in the feminist discussions in Latin America. Practical exercises, which included audio-visual material, helped participants identify how violence is experienced by women and by society, and the arguments that justify the normalisation of discrimination due to society's expectation of the role of women. Participants shared different examples on how women are subject to different mandates based on their gender -such as getting married, wearing certain clothes, having children, committing to care duties in the private space- and how this generates gender gaps between men and women that could result into psychological, economic and physical violence. There was a general agreement that this issue should be addressed from a human rights approach which ensures protection of women who have survived this violence.

After this exercise, participants reflected on the contributions of the feminist movement in raising the awareness of violence against women in the public agenda as a policy issue, and its' inclusion as a matter of human rights. In this context, Latin American States adopted different responses including the adoption of a comprehensive approach to address domestic violence and women's needs for protection. Participants from **Ghana** pointed out the importance of adopting prevention measures to stop women from being killed; meanwhile participants from **Nigeria** and **Sudan** considered that prevention measures should take into consideration the community by working with children at schools, and train women to empower them. An innovative element was brought by a

participant from **Ecuador** who introduced the idea to address violence by targeting men and enhance prevention measures.



**Photo: Sarah Akornor reflecting over the lessons of session 1**

### ***Lessons Learned***

- Feminist contributions on the debates of gender based violence help identify unequal power relations at different levels that affect the fulfilment of women's rights.
- Violence against women is a serious human rights problem affecting everybody in the domestic and public sphere.
- A comprehensive approach that includes prevention, protection and punishment could be tested as an effective way to tackle this multifactorial phenomenon.

### ***Session 2: Academic debates for the advancement of gender issues***

#### ***The session***

In the second day of the Study Tour participants met and discussed with feminist academics-activists on their contributions to the current debates on gender-based violence in Mexico. The panel was formed by four academics: Lucía Melgar Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México), Lourdes Enríquez (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), Lucía Núñez (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), and Irma Saucedo (Independent) who exposed different aspects of the situation of violence

against women. The meeting was held at the Women's Museum which belongs to the UNAM and was inaugurated on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011, in the context of the Women's International Day. The museum has a permanent exhibition of women's artists from over the world.

Academics first offered an overview of the elements of violence in Mexico that have led to the normalization of violence against women:

- First, the existence of a general situation of violence since the government confronted drug-trafficking organizations in 2007. This has led to a bloody dispute, resulting in homicides and over 26,000 disappeared persons.
- In the public sphere, the increasing participation of women in labour markets is noticeable but there are still salary gaps due to discrimination and a classist and sexist society.
- Female political representation is increasing but there are still barriers to access to other public spaces.
- Femicides have been documented for the last 20 years, but nowadays Mexico is considered as the worst place for women to live.
- Femicides remain unsolved mostly due to the lack of confidence in authorities from the judiciary.

The panel had a vibrant discussion on the role of academia to understand violence against women, most specific on the contributions of feminist academics. They argued that the articulation between the feminist movement in Mexico with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in a moment where social movements were strengthening in Mexico (1986) provided an opportunity to include gender issues in the agenda and discuss it with the government. The networks that were built with Latin American human rights organizations were crucial to the collaborative work on the design of legal frameworks inspired on the human rights approach from the Vienna Convention (1993) and the human rights standards set by the Belém Do Pará Convention (1994). Another key contribution of feminist academics has to do with the production, dissemination and analysis of facts and causes of violence and different intervening issues. The articulation with CSOs helped disseminate this work and also helped these organisations to include and adopt evidence to their advocacy strategies. This collaboration was key to gain power and put pressure on the government and pass the *General Law on Women's Access to a Life Free from Violence* enacted in 2007.

After the presentations, there was a space for exchanging ideas and views on the elements shared by the panel. Similarities in the situation of violence against women between Mexico and African countries were identified. However, participants pointed out that building effective strategies involving the collaboration between CSOs and feminist academics in a complex context could be a useful experience that they could explore more. Participants from **Ghana**, which has a Domestic Violence Law enacted in 2007,



and **Nigeria** which does not have a Law shared the same interrogation about what else is needed to make effective domestic violence laws.



**Photo: Meeting with Mexican academics at the Woman's Museum**

From the academics' experience, a key contribution of their work to the advancement of gender issues can be seen in two dimensions. First, the research and evidence produced helped to make visible and identify the failures and the gaps that impeded the implementation of legal frameworks or public policies, and therefore to establish a working agenda with the State in order to analyse this. The other contribution has to do with rethinking the role of the State in Latin America to address gender-based violence and the importance of making visible this analysis through research. In many cases involving gender-based violence, CSOs have shown that the State has been the perpetrator whenever it reproduces violence against women by re-victimizing women or whenever a judge does not include gender perspective in the sentences or whenever protection services for women who survived violence are not available. Thus, it is crucial to systematize existing evidence on this. Due to these discussions, participants from **Ghana** showed interest on reactivating the Domestic Violence Coalition which was instrumental in carrying out many activities to support the drafting of the Law on Domestic Violence but after it was passed its' activism was low.



## ***Lessons Learned***

- The articulation between feminist academics with active civil society organisation could strengthen the influence to work with State institutions for the advancement of gender issues. This collaboration can be materialized through the elaboration of diagnosis that shed lights on the factors that interact to produce violence against women in a specific context and inspired strategies based on this information.
- A key contribution of feminist academic research has to do with questioning the role of the current model of State and the mechanisms implemented to address violence against women such as in the case of judiciary mechanisms that lack from gender perspective.
- Organizations can use information and the evidence generated by feminist academics to carry out their advocacy project and move forward to a strategy based on building and strengthening their own capacities.



**Photo: ELLA Study Tour at the Woman's Museum**

## ***Academic Experts presenting in the session***

**Lucia Melgar** thematic research includes gender violence and violence, particularly femicide in Mexico, women's rights, literature and politics, and the work of writers of the twentieth century, in particular Elena Garro. She is the author of numerous articles on violence, culture and literature. Among her most recent publications, she is co-author with Susana Lerner and Agnes Guillaume of the book "Realities and Fallacies around Abortion: Health and Human Rights" (Colmex, 2016).

**Lourdes Enriquez** has a bachelor's degree in Law and a master's degree in Philosophy of Law from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, UNAM). Since 2001, she works with the coordination of academic projects and research of the University Program of Gender Studies (Programa Universitario de Estudios de Género, PUEG) at UNAM. She has represented the PUEG before the legislative and judicial branches of government. She contributes to the Mexican Academy of Human Rights. She is the co-author of "Strategies of Resistance" (Estrategias de Resistencia) and "Femicide: Denunciations and Controversy" (Feminicidio: actas de denuncia y controversia) edited by PUEG. She has published several articles on women's human rights in specialized journals. She is a member of several organizations and networks working for women's rights

**Irma Saucedo** has a PhD in Sociology from the Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain. She has been a Research Professor in the Interdisciplinary Program on Women's Studies (PIEM) and in the Reproductive Health and Society Program (PSRS) of El Colegio de México since 1992. Since 1996 she has been a member of the Advisory Board for the Multicountry Study on Violence and Health of the World Health Organization (WHO); and coordinator of the Pilot Regional Program for Attention to Domestic Violence against Women-Mexico, financed by the Inter-American Development Bank. 1996-2001. She has done research and teaching on the subjects: body and female identity; Domestic violence, health and sexuality, since 1985 has published chapters of books and specialized magazines and outreach.

**Lucia Nuñez** has a Master in Criminology and Law Degree from UANM. In the teaching field, she has taught and participated as a speaker in various courses, congresses, colloquia and seminars, with topics related to gender and law, critical legal-penal theory, human rights, feminisms and critical criminology. Her subjects of interest and study are related to the regulation and (re) production of subjectivity, gender and sexuality, through the penal device. She has recently participated at the compilation "Labour and Violence. Gender Perspectives" published by the Center for the Study of Anthropology of Women.

### ***Session 3: CSOs' advocacy strategies for the advancement of women's rights***

Participants met with experts from civil society organizations: Ana Yeli from the National Observatory for Femicide; Mauro Vargas from the organization Gender and Development (GENDES), and Cécile Lachenal from Fundar. The objective of this session was to understand different strategies among Civil Society Organisations to advocate for the fulfilment of women's rights, focusing specially in strategies for advocating to the State.

CSOs had different experiences in dealing with violence against women. The National Observatory for Femicide works on documenting and monitoring the murders of women in Juarez, and also analyses the reasons for these murders and clarifies what femicide means in the criminal code. On the other hand, GENDES carries out direct interventions through alliances with communities to channel male aggressors and work on the issue of violence with them. For this end, they designed a model of intervention including methodologies to achieve this. and have also worked with the community and schools on prevention measures while Fundar focuses on the monitoring of public policies through applied research to assess the State's responses to address violence.



**Photo: Lele Van Eck during the Study Tour**

These organizations have developed different advocacy strategies to monitor that the State fulfil its obligations to eradicate violence against women. Experts mentioned the use of strategic litigation as a useful tool for placing in the public agenda a specific case with the support of media, social networks, etc. In some cases, as the Case of Irene (obstetric violence) defended by Fundar, this has contributed to establish a communication channel with the State and collaborate in ways to obtain reparation measures and transform the health public institutions.

Monitoring law mechanisms was showcased as another strategy for advocacy. The Observatory has been monitoring the implementation of the Gender-based Violence Alert, established in the General Law for Women's to Access Life Free from Violence, which includes recommendations to transform public polices, institutions, and improve security. The Observatory follows-up the fulfilment of these recommendations and collaborates with the National Commission to Prevent and Eradicate Violence against Women (CONAVIM) with the provision of technical advice. Another successful experience shared by GENDES has to do with working with allies at the political level such as political parties who share their main concerns on the advancement of human rights and include these demands in their political platforms. This allows for future collaborations with these allies once they reach decision making roles.

Some of the challenges that CSOs in Mexico are facing have to do with a general context of social violence that cannot be transformed immediately. The role of CSOs should focus on monitoring the State's actions and strengthen the communities and the social networks so they could really look after the most vulnerable sectors of the society. In some cases, the State is still reluctant to make public information regarding statistics on violence against women, the role of institutions, the implementation of public policies and the allocation of public resources accessible, transparent and available for everyone. This opacity makes it difficult to assess the effectiveness of the State responses and identify possible leakages or obstacles on the implementation. The bureaucratic machinery is another obstacle for CSOs to monitoring government actions. In many cases, the public officers/servants do not register information on victims, especially on women (women in jail due to abortion, disappeared women, femicides, etc) which difficult CSOs advocacy strategies to defend them. This contributes to produce a context of women's rights abuses, the lack of evaluations on public policies and a reticence to produce changes.

### ***Lessons Learned***

- Building successful advocacy strategies should take into account the political and social context where organizations are working and the objectives that are expected. This include to reflect the kind of transformations that wanted to be achieved, the CSOs capacities and the articulation with the government as a possible ally to undertake changes.
- Strategic litigation, monitoring institutions, mechanisms and making alliances with political parties are successful advocacy tools for the advancement of the fulfillment of women's rights which can be replicated to other contexts. In this sense, collaboration and exchange between organizations from the global south is crucial to strengthen their capacities to achieve this.
- The cases of the three CSOs show that technical capacities, action based on evidence and a deep knowledge on the mechanisms implemented to address



domestic violence are key to be acknowledged as a valid interlocutor that provides recommendations to improve the implementation of public policies to address violence against women.

### **Experts**

**Ana Yeli Pérez Garrido (National Feminist Observatory)** is a feminist lawyer, graduated from the Faculty of Law of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) in 2006. She was a lawyer and investigator of the Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights, responsible for litigation on violence against women. Women and femicide - four of them before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights - and was part of the legal team that made the application in the Rosendo Radilla Pacheco vs. Mexico case before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights for its forced disappearance at the hands of the Army, during the dirty war in 1974. She served as Director for the Americas of the Women's Initiative at Disability Rights International. She has collaborated as an advisor at the Women's Institute of the Mexico D.F. since 2008, as well as with the National Feminist Observatory, where she participated in the definition of the criminal causes of femicide that the Law contemplates, and the elaboration of the Protocol regarding femicide.. She has also collaborated with the assessment of the mechanism of Alert of Gender Violence For the State of Mexico. She has participated in different forums and workshops as a specialist in gender issues, violence against women and human rights. She is a member and founder of the organization Justicia Pro Persona, A.C.

**Mauro Vargas (GENDES)** is a teacher of Sociology in the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences of the UNAM and the Master in Studies on the University of Las Américas / Puebla. He was trained as a facilitator for re-education groups for male aggressors at CECEVIM (San Francisco, California) and as a Psychotherapist at the Humanist Institute of Gestalt Psychotherapy in Mexico City. His areas of interest are: migration and relations Mexico - USA; Community development; Institutional strengthening for civil society organizations; Childhood and youth in situations of risk; Male involvement in the crime of trafficking in persons; Human development and emotional re-education; and the analysis of masculinities and promotion of work with men from a gender perspective. He currently serves as General Director of GENDES, A. C. (Gender and Development, Civil Association), an institution oriented to the development of respectful, equitable and egalitarian gender relations from the construction of non-violent masculinities and from working with men

### ***Session 4: Understanding specialized protection services at the Shelter***

In the third day of the Study Tour, participants made a field visit to a Shelter for women who survived extreme forms of violence. The learning goal was to: Identify that protection services in Mexico are part of a larger Model of Protection included in the General Law for Women's Access to a Free Life from Violence, enacted in 2007; And to understand how a comprehensive and human rights approach on the provision of protection services could effectively address women's needs for protection and the eradication of violence.



**Photo: Meeting to get to know Fortaleza's work**

The Shelter selected for the visit was the Shelter ran by Fortaleza, a civil society organisation based in Mexico City in 2003. The specialized services provided at 4 different levels to address violence against women in Fortaleza are considered a good practice by the National Network Shelters (NNS)<sup>4</sup>. Fortaleza has adopted the Model for Shelters developed by the National Women's Institute (INMUJERES) which establishes that protection services provided to women who survived violence should meet minimum quality standards. This means that impacts of violence should be addressed with a comprehensive approach in which services will address basic needs and provide specialized support at different levels. This is a human rights approach since it will be centred on the respect of women's needs and fulfilment of their rights, and from a gender approach to empower women so they can transform their lives.

<sup>4</sup> The National Network of Shelters is a civil society organisation established in 2004 and formed by 44 shelters aiming to share best practices among them. They also refer domestic violence victims to each other whenever it would benefit women.

Lourdes Enriquez, academic from the UNAM and member of the Shelters' board, exposed the Model of Protection included in the General Law as a result of the harmonization of the domestic violence framework with international and regional treaties on human and women rights such as CEDAW, or the Belem Do Para Convention. In this context, the State is responsible for the provision of protection services for women who survived violence, the services include treatment, recovery and the capacity to exercise their rights. Furthermore, Lourdes highlighted again the contributions of the feminist movement in making made alliances with civil society organisations and with decision makers to put pressure in the State commitment to fulfil its' international obligation to prevent, protect and eradicate violence against women.

Participants also met Estela del Toro, President of Fortaleza' Board, and Leticia Hernandez the Director of Fortaleza who made a presentation on the background and model of protection followed by Fortaleza which includes four levels to address gender-based violence and provide protection services. The first level is the Centre for External Protection (CAER for its acronym in Spanish) which is the public and visible aspect of the Model and provides prevention services by working with the community (workshops with schools to enhance prevention among children) and provide psychological, medical and juridical support; as well as educational services for women and men.

The second level is the Specialized Office to Address Violence which provides legal and psychological support for women who are living a violent situation and offers a place for short-stay for women who had to leave their homes but still have family and social networks that can receive and support them.

The shelter is included at the third level for protection, and provides a safe, secure and confidential space for women who have, or at risk of experiencing extreme violence in which the level of violence could threaten their lives, and also lack adequate social networks . It offers a space for 12 familiar groups (of one woman and three children in average) where they receive basic needs (housing, clothing, food) specialized support (juridical, psychological, medical and educational support) and have access to workshops to prepare for their future.

Finally, the fourth level includes the Transition House for women that have left the shelter, after the three months' stay and require a space to organize their future, look for a job and a new place to live.

During 2015, Fortaleza has received 3, 727 persons including women, men and children and has a budget of U\$ 517.942,84 <sup>5</sup>. From this total, the public funding received from the Ministry of Health, which is the main entity that provides funding to shelters, represents almost 82%.

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<sup>5</sup> Rate Exchange from November 21st. 2016.

The staff shared with participants the protocols they use to make the initial interviews to women and their children in order to decide whether she will be accepted in the shelter or if she needs to be referred to another space so that she can be safe from the perpetrator. They also shared the databases in which they systematize the women's key information and details, which helps them follow-up the process they are following to recover, which includes medical, psychological and educational support. The information in the database and most importantly helps decide whether these women can go back to their real life with a different attitude towards violence. Their attitude to violence, not accepting it, and them knowing how to identify potential threats and what to do if a situation arises again is key as most of them (6/10) get back together with the perpetrator.

Participants from **South Africa, Kenya and Ghana** acknowledged that shelters have different models and frameworks of operation in their countries and most have the medical, judicial and educational component but lack the feminist and human rights approach. Also, public institutions are not involved with shelters or other organisations working with victims because the State tackles gender-based violence as an isolated aspect that could be treated with basic health care, and do not take into account the impacts on women's lives and integrity. The case of **Argentina** showed that the Ministry of Health is not even leading nor implementing this type of specialized services as in the case of Mexico. The case of **Ghana** showed that the provision of comprehensive services could be effectively offered with the support of public funding that gives stability to the staff and the operation of shelters. Participants concluded that a key aspect on the provision of these comprehensive services was the staff commitment with their work and the collaboration with different actors such as NGOs, private enterprises, academics and decision makers.

### ***Lessons learned***

- The influence of feminist thinking in the General Law contributed to understanding violence against women as a human rights issue that the State should tackle by implementing mechanisms to prevent, protect and punish violence.
- The comprehensive approach that shelters adhere to seeks to address violence at different levels: meeting women's basic needs, having a human rights approach that respects their autonomy and reinforces the fulfilment of human rights and a gender perspective that empowers them to transform the situation of violence.
- The State involvement to comply with its' obligation to fulfil protection services for women who survived domestic violence should include the allocation of public funding to ensure the stability of the provision of comprehensive and human rights based services as provided by shelters.
- The sensibility of the staff working at the shelter on the issue of violence shows their commitment to work with women and provide support to transform their lives and



understand the violence that they have suffered. Sometimes you can have a mechanism but without the ideal, and committed person, this mechanism does not work.

## ***Session 5: Assessing State responses to address violence against women***

### ***The Centre of Justice for Women established at the Executive***

Participants made a field visit to the Centre of Justice for Women (CEJUM) located in Pachuca Hidalgo. These centres are one of the State's responses to tackle violence against women. The National Commission to Prevent and Eradicate Violence against Women (CONAVIM) is the public institution responsible to coordinate the government programmes, and mechanisms to eradicate violence against women. It designed the CEJUMs as a mechanism that coordinates the provision of specialized protection services and ensure women's access to justice in one physical space. The CEJUM in Pachuca is considered, a good model, among the 30 CEJUM that are operation in Mexico, because: it meets international standards on human rights for the provision of services. This CEJUM provides a space for women that help guarantee their safety; and operates with public funding allocated directly allocated by the local Congress.



**Photo: The ELLA Study Tour group with staff of the CEJUM**

The General Coordinator of the CEJUM in Hidalgo, Margarita Cabrera Román offered an explanation on the background and main achievements of the CEJUM in addressing

domestic violence. The centre was created in 2012 as a response from the Mexican State to international recommendations made by the Second Hemispheric Report on the Implementation of the Belém Do Pará Convention regarding the States' obligation to comply with the provision of protection services for women who survived violence, ensure protection measures for women, and provide training to public servants. The objective of CEJUM is to contribute to women's access to justice, from the gender and human rights perspective, through specialized, interdisciplinary and comprehensive care services, within the framework of institutional collaboration and coordination. Furthermore, these spaces seek to promote women's full incorporation into productive, social, cultural and political life in society.



**Photo: Meeting at the CEJUM**

CEJUM concentrates in one physical space, different institutions in order to support and facilitate all the different processes that a woman should follow when they have suffered a violent situation. For example the Prosecution Office deals and processes criminal and familiar offenses that are related to violence produced in the domestic and public sphere, which include women and children. Another service provided is the protection services for victims. To this extent, the CEJUM has developed Protocols and Manuals for the treatment of women living on a violent situation or that were victims of sexual abuse, they have done this with the support of the Association for the Comprehensive

Development for Sexual Abused Persons (ADIVAC), a CSO that leads on this subject. The protocols and manuals help to organize and identify the steps required to support women from the moment they arrive to the CEJUM. In each stage of the treatment pathway, specialized and comprehensive services are provided including medical support, psychological support, juridical support (criminal and familiar), social work and training workshops to empower them and strengthen their autonomy. The CEJUM also has short-stay spaces (72 hours) for women and their children to stay in situation in which they are at risk, and also if the situation requires it, they can send women and their children to shelters that are part of the National Network of Shelters.

Besides, the CEJUM has established formal collaboration with 13 state institutions from the federal, state and municipal level so they can articulate actions with key institutions, thus creating a network that assists women who have suffered violence in the public or private space. CEJUM also has established strategic alliances with public institutions such as the Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Economy, and the Ministry of Education in order to ensure that women at CEJUM have the right to education, training to get a job, etc. Finally, CEJUM also provides training to their own staff and other public institutions on gender issues, human rights, techniques for litigation gender-based crimes, etc.

On average, the CEJUM daily receives 115 women from which 13 arrive for the first time and 102 to follow-up a process. They have identified that there has been an increase in the reported number of gender-based violence in the family environment, and that the most common aggressions are sexual abuse and rape. The CEJUM has provided protection services to 54616 persons, and the services with higher demand are judicial support (15623); social work (12791) and group therapy.



**Photo: Study Tour participants visiting the CEJUM's specialized court**



## Lessons Learned

- CEJUM is considered an innovative State practice to address violence against women in which key services with a human rights and gender approach are provided to support women's pathway to access for justice, recover from the impacts of violence and transform their situation. The local state commitment has been shown through the allocation of public funds that ensure the sustainability of this project over the time.
- Feminist leadership occupying decision-making spaces in key institutions designed to tackle violence against women are key to activate and take advantage of the mandates, resources and windows of opportunity for the effective implementation of these mechanisms. An important part of the Coordinator's work can be accomplished through the alliances built with federal, state and local institutions.
- Building capacities of public servants on issues related to the phenomenon of violence including human rights, gender perspective, health issues, access to justice, working with the police is key to sensitize the multifactorial aspect of gender-based violence and the necessary involvement of every one.

### *Session 6: The role of feminist parliamentarians in decision-making spaces*

During the fifth day of the Study Tour, the group visited the Senate and met with female parliamentarians. The learning goal of this experience was to learn about the role of feminist women in decision-making spaces such as the Parliament, for the advancement and defence of gender issues.

The meeting was held with senator Angélica de la Peña from the Revolutionary Democratic Party (PRD); Senator Cristina Herrera from the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) and Senator Martha Tagle who is an independent senator and has a large trajectory in civil society organisations. These senators have participated in the process of the enactment of the General Law on Women's Access to a Life Free from Violence and the approval of a gender-based budget when they were at the House of Representatives in 2006.

**Senator Angélica de la Peña** explained that currently, women's political representation has increased 44% in the Parliament and contributed with the advancement of women's rights. Feminist parliamentarians have passed a law reform to make mandatory gender parity in representative spaces, now political parties should ensure 50% women, at the federal, local and municipal level. Another key advancement has to do with the



enactment of the General Law (2007) which includes international standards on human rights and the recognition of the multifactorial dimension of violence in the public and private spheres that is translated into the definition of different categories of violence such as: domestic violence, economic violence, institutional and communitarian violence and femicide. In this case, a decisive contribution from feminist has to do with the definition of femicide as a criminal offense produced by gender reasons that can be demonstrated through criteria such as the existence of a relationship; sexual violence signs; mistreatment of the women's body; existence of threatening, etc. All these criteria aim to show the existence of unequal relations of power that justifies and normalize gender-based violence.



**Photo: Meeting at the Senate**

**Senator Cristina Diaz** argued that it is necessary that women occupy political and governmental spaces and that the State should ensure the effective fulfilment of this right. The increasing access of women to decision-making spaces has been translated into the rise of violence, aggressions, offenses to female candidates during their political campaigns, and in some cases they have been killed. In this context, the real commitment of the State to address gender-based violence should be translated into a comprehensive strategy that guarantees women's political participation.

She mentioned that the Mexican State has the obligation to promote, protect and fulfil women's rights, including the right to participate in political matters. Following this, key amendments to the Mexican Constitution were promoted to ensure women's representation at the federal and local level by mandating political parties to ensure 50% of female representatives to the Congress. However, concrete actions are required to address political violence such as making visible this new form of violence as part of the different forms of gender-based violence included in the General Law of Violence Against Women, ensuring women's safety in the public sphere and guaranteeing the access to justice.

It is also crucial that women access to training programs or spaces within the political parties so they can move from the traditional legislative commissions that are given to women, such as the Gender Commission or Child Commission, and get access to Commissions of the Interior or Finance Issues, etc. The main goal is to increase women's political participation -not because for gender reasons but as recognition of their capacities- to other decision-making spaces in public institutions and also within private actors. In this case, the State has to guarantee women's exercise of political rights by addressing violence against women, as the case of political violence.

**Senator Martha Tagle** argued that a strong and vibrant movement of feminist and women rights defenders working as an alliance within the Parliament and beyond political parties has been key for the advancement of women's rights. The pact between women's parliamentarians has been crucial for the enactment of different law initiatives involving gender issues such as the Law for Equality Between Men and Women (2006) and the General Law for Women's Access to a Life Free from Violence (2007). A key achievement of the Gender Equality Commission was the creation of gender-based budgets in a specific annex in order to ensure the allocation of public funds for promoting gender equality and non-violence, and the other for mainstreaming gender into institutions and public policies. In spite of these advances, 2017 is a key moment since the General Law of Violence Against Women was approved ten years ago and it is necessary to evaluate its' implementation as well as the mechanisms included in it, such as Gender-based violence Alert and the gender-based budget, since every day 7 women are killed for gender reasons in Mexico.

According to Senator Tagle, the advancement of gender issues is a shared goal among female parliamentarians and has contributed for the implementation of the General Law of Violence Against Women. But she considers that it is important that women from feminist movements or working in organisation defending human rights get access to decision-making political spaces so that they can strengthen the demands of CSOs in the Parliament.



**Photo: Press Conference at the Senate to announce the visit of the ELLA Delegation**

## Lessons Learned

- Political reforms ensuring parity has contributed to increase women's representation with a feminist agenda in political decision-making spaces such as the Parliament. This enables the establishment of pacts between women that allows the passing of law initiatives involving the strengthening of women's rights such as the right to live free from violence.
- Building leadership among feminist working in decision-making spaces is a necessary aspect to expand women's representation in different spaces such as in the executive branch or other commissions in the Parliament. This is key for women to activate legal frameworks and institutions for the advancement of gender issues whenever they have taken responsibility over it.
- Ensuring the dialogue and collaboration between feminist parliamentarians and women's working in the field of human rights might create windows of opportunity to build a shared working agenda on gender issues in key moments, for instance the assessment of the 10 years of the implementation of the General Law for Women to Access a Life Free from Violence. Evidence-based research produces by CSOs could represent a valuable feedback for decision makers.

## ***Session 7: Addressing violence at the local level: the experience of CSOs in Puebla***

In The last session of the Tour participants visited Puebla, a province nearby Mexico City. The goal of the session was to get a better understanding of the challenges faced CSOs at the local level and learn about the advocacy and awareness strategies implemented by them. Puebla was chosen because violence there has risen during the last years and also because it has a vibrant and articulated civil society movement.

It is worth noting that an active member of the Learning Alliance, Elsa Herrera Bautista who works at “Juntos con las Niñas y los Niños” (JUCONI), helped Fundar staff to prepare this session and invited local organisations to share with participants. This is a practical example of the benefits of this learning-exchange initiative that builds long-lasting and valuable connections among regions facing similar challenges to enhance the ways that domestic violence is being addressed and enhance participants’ abilities to become agents of change.

The session was also attended by the following CSOs: Rebuilding Ourselves as Women, Building Equity’s Group, Sexual and Reproductive Rights’ Observatory, and the Group for Free, Living and Present Women.

During the session, the CSOs shared how social violence and particularly gender violence has increased during the last years in the province. For example, so far in 2016 there have been over 69 cases of women killed for gender reasons. Social pressure and advocacy from CSOs has yielded some important results. For example, the penal code was reformed to increase punishment or sentences for crimes against women. Also, a specialized office to investigate cases of femicide and murders of women was formed but has been “activated” by organisations in Puebla that make visible the magnitude of this phenomenon. Even though the progress in terms of the legislation and judicial institutions, access to justice for women victims of violence is still challenging, as public officials tend to reproduce gender stereotypes and gender based cases are not usually investigated. Preventive and awareness measures are not very advanced or implemented by public institutions in Puebla. Also, there are no reliable diagnoses made by public authorities on the situation of violence against women.

In this complex scenario, local CSOs are working in different fronts. For example, **JUCONI** shared how they are working against family violence, particularly focusing on children. Also, they shared how they are trying to create awareness in society against all forms of violence, as it is widespread. The **Sexual and Reproductive Rights’ Observatory** shared how they are accompanying some cases of gender violence and bringing them before courts to monitor the effectiveness of the judicial institutions. The Observatory is also assessing the work, budget and institutional strength of the newly created specialised office for femicides and murders of women. Through their work, the



Observatory is generating evidence and a diagnosis of the situation of access to justice and violence against women in Puebla.

The **Rebuilding Ourselves as Women Group** told the group about the work they are doing with women survivors of gender violence. They provide group support to these women and empower them to leave the cycle of violence. They even train them in personal defence strategies. The **Building Equity's Group** work with men to raise awareness among them on gender stereotypes and equality. Through this sensitization work, it aims to tackle gender and domestic violence. Finally, the **Group for Free, Living, and Present Women** shared the community level work they are doing regarding femicide. Their work consists on monitoring femicides rates in the province and demonstrating pacifically outside the Municipal Hall. They also raise awareness on gender violence and femicides in public plazas. All of the local CSOs in Puebla mentioned how important it has been to work as a coalition and in an articulated way. Also, they all highlighted how important it has been to raise awareness at the community level, as a way to sensitize and empower citizens on gender violence.

Study Tour participants found the interaction with local CSOs in Puebla very fruitful for enhancing their advocacy and awareness work. For example, Omayma Elmardi from Sudan shared how in their country there are other forms of violence against women, such as female genital mutilation or early marriage, which are as severe as femicide. Alice Maranga highlighted how powerful the concept of “femicide” was for understanding and advocating against extreme forms of violence against women. She shared how useful this concept could be in the case of Kenya, in which murders of women persist and are not always categorized and understood as femicide. Leonardo García from Ecuador praised the work with men that the Building Equity's Group is doing, as a form to prevent gender violence and transforming gender stereotypes.

### ***Lessons Learned***

- Articulation and coordination among CSOs at the local level can bring about relevant institutional reforms. For example, thanks to their coordinated advocacy work, the penal code in Puebla was reformed and a specialised office for femicide was created.
- Through their work, CSOs can generate powerful data and diagnosis on the situation of gender violence at the local level. In the case of Puebla, thanks to CSOs monitoring work it is possible to have reliable information on the number of femicides happening in that province.
- Since prevention policies are not designed or implemented effectively by public authorities, but are critical for tackling gender violence, awareness and sensitization campaigns coming from CSOs are relevant.

## CONCLUSIONS

### Key lessons learned and conclusions reached

During the Study Tour, participants from African and Latin America had the opportunity to learn and exchange on the responses adopted by the Mexican State to address domestic violence. They could discuss on the influence of the feminist movement and the human rights approach adopted in the Latin American region to tackle violence against women which resulted in the enactment of the Belém Do Pará Convention. This regional instrument recognizes the multifactorial aspects of gender-based violence and adopts a comprehensive approach in which the State has the obligation to prevent, protect and punish violence against women and the adoption of strategies at different levels to tackle this.

One of the responses adopted in Mexico was the enactment of the General Law for Women to Access a Life Free from Violence enacted in Mexico in 2007. This legal framework showed the State's commitment to fulfil its' regional obligations to protect and guarantee women's rights, and also to respond to the activism and pressure put by feminist and human rights organisations as well as victims groups to the Mexican government to address the situation of violence against women, such as the case of femicides in Juarez. The General Law for Women to Access a Life Free from Violence adopted human rights standards as established in the Belém Do Pará Convention, a gender perspective to recognize the multifactorial aspects of the violence and a comprehensive approach at the basis of the strategies that should be adopted. This comprehensive approach was operationalized in the Law through the creation of a Model for Protection that foresees the coordination among public institutions with shelters which will be responsible for the provision of specialized protection services that satisfy women's basic needs, provides different services such as medical, legal, psychological and social work so women can recover from the impacts of violence and build a life project free from violence.

Meeting with academics helped them to understand the importance of establishing alliances and networks to deal with the multifactorial dimension of violence with a comprehensive approach. These meetings also helped them understand the design of specific strategies to deal with the impacts of violence at different levels, and it also helped recognize the importance to work closer with academia in producing diagnosis and evidence on the situation of violence in their own contexts to identify the best approach of intervention.

The exchange with CSOs contributed to understanding how the strategic use of different tools such as strategic litigation, requests of public information, monitoring public programmes and institutions contribute to assess the role of the State and brings

evidence to evaluate the effectiveness of public responses. On the other hand, the experience with CSOs also showed the importance of building networks with other organisations to strengthen the successful of their initiatives before the government and maintain the importance of making visible the issue of violence against women in the public agenda. It is crucial to map potential allies among the community, the government, the Parliament, other CSOs to build a common agenda on gender issue.

The field visits showed participants that the State's involvement to comply with its' obligation to fulfil protection services for women who survived from violence should include the allocation of public funding to ensure the stability of the provision of comprehensive and human rights based services as provided by shelters and the CEJUM. In both cases, participants learnt about the importance of women committed with gender issues occupying decision-making spaces in key institutions designed to tackle violence against. This is crucial to activate and take advantage of the mandates, resources and windows of opportunity for the effective implementation of these mechanisms. Building capacities of public servants on issues related to the phenomenon of violence including human rights, gender perspective, health issues, access to justice, working with the police is key to sensitize the staff and ensure their commitment that they are contributing to eradicate violence against women.



**Photo: Study Tour participants during a meeting**



Finally, building leadership among feminist working in decision-making spaces is a necessary aspect to expand women's representation in different spaces such as in the executive branch or other commissions in the Parliament. This is key for women to activate legal frameworks and institutions for the advancement of gender issues

## Summary of Action plans

As mentioned before, Study Tour participants came to Mexico with a draft action plan, which enlisted all the activities they intend to implement back in their countries. Throughout the Study Tour, and in light of the knowledge gained and lessons learned, participants had a chance to revisit and update their action plans. In general, and drawing on the Study Tour, participants are proposing a range of actions such as

- a) awareness campaigns directed at citizens;
- b) training and sensitization of community leaders, religious leaders or teachers;
- c) launching of advocacy campaigns to try to change legislation or public policies;
- d) enhancing the knowledge and training on the role of men in tackling gender violence; and
- e) improving the coordination between private and public agencies providing services for victims of violence.



**Photo: Participants reflecting on their action plan**



The following table summarizes participants' actions plans main actions:

Person	Country	Main actions
<b>Leonardo García</b>	Ecuador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Design and implement a Diploma or Academic specialization on Masculinities to increase the knowledge on this theme in the Latin American region. This will be done jointly with the Argentinean organization, FOCO, who was also represented in the Study Tour.</li> <li>• Work in the creation of a Masculinities Methodologic School for his organization to increase the number of people with knowledge and training on masculinities.</li> <li>• Work with groups and organizations in Quito and Riobamba working in masculinities.</li> </ul>
<b>Lele Van Eck</b>	South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• -Join a coalition forum in the area where the is a need of preventative ad intervention to victims and perpetrators of domestic violence</li> <li>• -Strengthen relationships between civil society, research, government entities and community leaders involved in GBV service provision.</li> <li>• -Continue research to gather evidence which can be used to inform policies or stimulate action from the government.</li> <li>• - Community engagement on domestic violence issues, raise awareness, interaction with the affected communities.</li> </ul>
<b>Omayma Elmardi</b>	Sudan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• -Conduct research to highlight area of weaknesses in women and community knowledge and perception towards VAW/DV, gaps on laws and public policies related to prevention and protection of women against VAW/DV and on what actions and interventions needed to bridge these gaps</li> <li>• -The research outcomes will be shared with various actors in CSOs and government institutions and be used to develop programs to strengthen women and community members capacity to stand against VAW/DV</li> <li>• -Empower women by knowledge and skills to effectively organize advocacy campaigns to ensure have laws, policies and justice system in place to end VAW/DV.</li> </ul>
<b>Alice Maranga</b>	Kenya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• -Prevention and awareness creation on domestic violence, feminized, sexual and gender based violence.</li> <li>• -Research, documentation, lobby and advocate for passing of policy and legislation on feminized. In particular, develop a national plan of action on feminized.</li> <li>• -Prosecution on gender based violence and feminized</li> <li>• -Coalition, networking and resource mobilization to address GBV</li> </ul>
<b>Victoria Natsu</b>	Ghana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• -At the individual level, submit a report and discuss my study tour learning experience with the Domestic Violence Management Board to see if we could push for the one stop shop in handling of domestic violence cases holistically as a national agenda.</li> <li>• - My organization will be advocating for at least one of such Shelters in each region. In the short term however we will need to improve the shelter we have in Accra with logistics</li> </ul>

		<p>and staff to come up to standard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• -The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection will improve our sensitization effort with the Security and other agencies that intervene in the fight against domestic and gender based violence.</li> <li>• -The Domestic Violence Secretariat will Intensify public education on the need to prevent violence against women in all its forms, through very educative messages to change attitudes and behaviours</li> <li>• -Work more with radio and television including local radio stations to disseminate information on issues of violence against women and girls and domestic violence.</li> </ul>
<b>Kehinde Macaulay</b>	Nigeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• - Conduct Step-Down training for my organization's staff</li> <li>• -Facilitate a meeting of about 15 Local and international organization working on GBV and gender interventions</li> <li>• -Conduct 'Train the trainers' for 50 Teachers in 25 selected Primary and Secondary Schools in FCT.</li> <li>• - Report writing and dissemination</li> </ul>
<b>Ana Palazzesi</b>	Argentina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• -Articulation with other CSOs working on masculinities to organize a discussion event.</li> <li>• -Elaboration of a Diploma Programme on Masculinities jointly with other CSOs, academics, and public officials.</li> <li>• -Training workshops to youth on gender and masculinities.</li> <li>• -Meetings with Health Ministry's public officials to assess the possibility of training agents in masculinities.</li> </ul>
<b>Adolf Bekoe</b>	Ghana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• -With the experience gained from the Study tour, I will seek opportunity to start conversation with boys and men directly to combat domestic violence</li> <li>• -Coordinate with the DV Coalition to explore the urgent need to rebuild the coalition.</li> <li>• - Being a member of the victims of domestic violence management board, I will leverage this platform to seriously advocate urgency in the domestic violence policy implementation. For example, the management board must be able to give meaning for the coordinated approach envisaged by the domestic violence Act by ensuring that sector ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) with responsibilities under the Act budget for such responsibilities.</li> </ul>
<b>Sarah Akornor</b>	Ghana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• -Continue educating victims/survivors on the factors that perpetrate violence.</li> <li>• Continue sensitization work in schools and churches to create awareness to increase change in behaviours.</li> </ul>
<b>Doris Boateng</b>	Ghana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• -Usenetworks to form a support group for victims and survivors of Domestic Violence. This support group will be made up of doctors, lawyers and other professionals who will provide free services to survivors to DV so that these survivors will not bear those costs.</li> <li>• -A sub group of this support system will be providing pick-up, drop-off and escort services to survivors of domestic violence to and from the courts. All these have been identified as</li> </ul>

factors that hinder many women from pursuing cases to their successful end. So in my own small way, I could be providing such a service to the women.

- - We are also in the process of filming a documentary on Domestic Violence, which we have titled “confronting DV in Ghana”. This documentary will be aired on all TV stations across the country. It will help revive the discussions on what needs to be done to provide comprehensive services to victims and survivors of DV but also put pressure on government to fast track the policies on DV.