

a global voice  
for women

Soroptimist



International

# Empowering Women in Crime Prevention: A Civil Society Approach

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PRESENTATION BY

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# The purpose of this presentation

To elaborate on the role of NGOs and civil society in improving access to criminal justice and in crime prevention.

This includes:

- Awareness raising
- Improved access to services
- Providing victim support and appropriate resources
- Conducting prevention strategies



# What problems can NGOs & CSOs seek to address?

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Women and girls who fall victim to gender violence, often fail to receive the psychosocial support that they need and are entitled to.

Communities may be unaware of the criminal justice and prevention services available to them.

There may be distrust between law enforcement organisations and services, and the communities with which they work.

Programmes and services may be under resourced, and unable to access those most in need.

# What are NGOs and CSOs able to contribute?

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**Improved Access to Services:** NGOs and CSOs are able to engage with communities and contribute to the development of effective and accessible services

**Victim Support and Providing Resources:** Psychosocial support can be provided in a neutral, safe environment, where victims are able to access services, including peer-to-peer support.

**Awareness Raising and Prevention Programmes:** NGOs and CSOs can take critical information to vulnerable groups who need it the most. This can also help foster trust within communities to improve the functioning of the justice system.



# Improving Access to Services

## facilitating access to the criminal justice system

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BEST PRACTICE:  
THE USA, ITALY, AND INDIA

Approaching multiple risk factors and at-risk groups

Result of an NGO/CSO collaborative partnership

Improving outreach and the connection between law enforcement and communities

Providing an integrated approach

# New Star Family Justice Center, partnered with Soroptimist International Country: USA

New Star Family Justice Center provides the abilities of a multi-disciplinary team who work, under one roof, to provide comprehensive, coordinated services to victims of domestic violence, elder and child abuse.



NGOs and CSO provide funding, and promote the work of the New Star Family Justice Center.

The work of the Center allows for victims of domestic violence to access all necessary services, including childcare, counselling, legal support, and protective services to families. By providing these services in one place, NGOs and CSOs are promoting the ability of victims to access the criminal justice system and peer-to-peer support structures.



# The Pink Room

Soroptimist International, partnered with, Hospitals in Valtellina and Valchiavenna, and local Police Forces

Country: Italy

## Facilities: Providing a Safe Space

SI, on the basis of its community-based knowledge, worked with the General Manager of the local Hospital network to create a specialised room where abused women and minors could receive assistance. This room was called 'The Pink Room', and is located close to the First Aid inside the local Hospital.

- Improved access to services
- Improved protection of vulnerable groups
- Community-based and led approach

## Outreach: Mobile App

The Soroptimist developed app, SHAW (Soroptimist Help Application for Women) supports the outreach of justice services. It is a mobile phone application that allows victims to contact help rapidly and securely, when in need.

- Innovative community-based approach
- Integrated approach
- Improve connection between services and vulnerable groups.

# Wake Up!

Soroptimist International, partnered with Kodaikanal Police Station

Country: India

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Although there was a Women's Police Station in Kodaikanal, it was not appropriately staffed and the community did not know it existed.

A community-led campaign ensured that officers were appointed to the Women's Police Station to properly extend justice services to vulnerable and abused women and their families.

Through SI's outreach, and presence in the community, law enforcement was able to improve interaction in the community and spread awareness of what services are available at the Women's Police Station.

SI provided support to women who are afraid to report crimes to male officers, to self-help groups and have provided community-based education programmes to spread knowledge about justice system procedures.





# Victim Support and Resource Provision

promoting the functionality of  
the criminal justice system

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BEST PRACTICE

BARBADOS AND AUSTRALIA

# “Resources for victims is a huge issue”

FBI Special Agent Marty Parker

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“Often local police departments don’t have the funds to help care for victims after they have recovered. There is a detective that I work with has done a major push with NGOs to seek their help. When we get a girl who has been trafficked from somewhere like Texas, we need help to get her home. Or, to help her get something to eat or more appropriate clothes, or a bed to sleep in.”

Quote from an interview, 10 March 2015

# Domestic Violence Refuge for Aboriginal Women

Soroptimist International, partnered with VACCA and Orana Gunyah Domestic Violence Shelter

Country: Australia

The Victorian Aboriginal Care Agency received funding from the Victorian Government to build a domestic violence shelter for aboriginal women who are in crisis. The funding does not cover personal items such as sheets, towel, toiletries, children's toys etc.

This ongoing project has enlisted the support of local businesses, the community and others to provide resources. Without this support the shelter would not have been able to open.

These resources significantly improve the services that the Domestic Violence Shelter is able to give to those women and families who need it.

- Collaborative partnership(s)
- Improved outreach to marginalised, vulnerable groups
- Improve connection between law enforcement and communities
- Resource provisioning



**VACCA**  
Connected by culture



# New Horizons Project: Overcoming country: Barbados partner: Business and Professional Women



- Victim Support
- Community-based rehabilitation
- Peer-to-peer support
- Provision of a safe space

Through this project, real stories of trauma, sexual abuse and domestic violence against women and youth were used and shared to promote rehabilitation.

The workshop focused on the ability of women and girls to overcome such experiences and it looked at real survivors who turned their trials into triumphs and are now advocates for the cause today or who work with others.

The workshop addressed the needs of survivors, provided a secure environment to share their experiences, and access to those who can continue to help victims rehabilitate and reintegrate into the community.

# Awareness Raising and Prevention Programmes

improving the connection  
between law enforcement and  
communities

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BEST PRACTICE

GRENADA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM

# Raising Awareness of Gender-Based Violence amongst Youth

country: Grenada

**GNOW**

means

Grenada National Organization of Women



SI collaborated with GNOW who are the co-implementing partners with the Ministry of social Development in Grenada to roll out a project entitled “State Response to End Violence Against Women: Legislative and Policy Reform Implementation Programme,” funded by the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women.

VictimSpeak Out exhibition highlighted the atrocities of GBV in Grenada of both adults and children in pictorial graphic displays from the perspectives of the victims. SI Grenada ensured that outreach was extended to include community members from rural areas and vulnerable groups.

The exhibition had educational sessions which used age appropriate informational materials to impart knowledge about GBV.

GBV was addressed from a youth perspective, and a bottom-up approach towards changing behaviour and attitudes was used. It equipped vulnerable population(s) with knowledge of how to recognized GBV, to break the silence, and to be aware of the appropriate services that are available.



- **Outreach to vulnerable groups**
- **Collaborative partnerships**
- **Public contribution and engagement**
- **Contributions by social marketing**
- **Role of victims**

# Purple Teardrop Campaign

Soroptimist International, Crimestoppers, various local police authorities and other NGOs and CSOs

Country: United Kingdom



Purple teardrop is a wide-reaching, UK wide campaign that raises awareness about human trafficking in all its forms. It aims to enable communities to take action, and to improve public participation and increase contributions to the criminal justice system.

- **providing stickers for taxi drivers advertising helpline numbers**
- **teachers educational packs**
- **funding and resources for shelters for victims of human trafficking**
- **lobby government**
- **community-based awareness raising events**
- **different communications materials targeted at different groups**



KEEPING SILENT DOESN'T MAKE IT STOP



**SPEAK UP  
AND OUT!**

PUT AN END TO  
VIOLENCE AGAINST  
WOMEN & CHILDREN

Worldwide National Organization for Women  
International Association of Women  
National Women's Political Caucus



When it comes  
to sex,  
some women  
just can't say no.



Every year 1000s of illegally trafficked women  
are forced into prostitution against their will

It is against the law to have sex with anyone who has been duped, coerced or forced against  
their will. If you have doubts and a conscience call: **Crimestoppers 0800 555 111**

Your call will be confidential and anonymous, and you can help stamp out sex trafficking.  
Learn more and find out how you can help at [www.purpleteardrop.org.uk](http://www.purpleteardrop.org.uk)



Purple Teardrop Campaign Ltd Company Registration No. 07496934 Registered Charity No. 1141965



**EDUCATE**

**EMPOWER**

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