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To : Jackie Selebe ,
ANC We! fare Desk & pqx '. '90:ng ' (O
From : Hlengiwe Mkhize'qf. W 1'79
Project Co-ordinazorwqr
Date : August 03. 1993
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I hereby enclose a document on the activities of the project
which is gaining tremendouh attention from service providers in
the area of violence intervention.
We have realizCd that in this region the training programme lg
dominated by people who are not actively involved in the area of
violence intervention outside their working hoursn 1 11 phone you
within a week to ascertain whether you'll be avamlnblc tor a jaw
minutesa discussion regarding a possible direction to be taken
by the project.

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Although South Africa has a long history of child neglect, and abuse, in recent years there has been an increase in the incidence of violent aggression against children, especially in oppressed communities. The number of children who have been caught in the arms of political violence is almost impossible to capture statistically. Research shows that 85% of South African children have lost a friend. One in a hundred children have been involved in one of violence or another significant number of children and adolescents have been detained and exposed to different forms of torture.

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Open oppression and, over the years, government is to different forms of family violence like physical beatings, emotional and sexual abuse. There is sufficient clinical evidence to show that violent physical violence can ease off many South African children who live in violent oppression. I

I I

There is growing awareness among mental health workers, that the majority of children who have experienced violence related trauma are likely to have episodes of stress related disorders. Clinical work in this area indicates that children in violence experience multiple levels of stress and that they live under continuous stress. Although there is a consensus that violence has a negative effect on children's emotional and cognitive development, psychological services remain inaccessible to victims and survivors.

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 -. Po cduate communities ab
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 on childrcn and the youth possxble eIfECTb 01
 D. " ..H . .
 iseligfhfel awnIenebs and to help service providers to
 tmu tll trauma of counselling violence survivors.
 h. Po identify the \$urvivor3oof different forms of violence
 and t0 mobilivc them with t ' ' '
) an aim of udotttnv a t' . t
 posrtjon. . h I 5 n ddVObaLy
 P. To use the media for purposed of community education so as
 to reach out to as many people as possible.
 To undertake rigorous research and to systematically
 document relevant information which could be of U36 to
 policy makers in improving the quality of life for all
 children in South Africa.
 C
 mu Losomw
 A. We believe in using the term "survivors" rather than
 victims and see it to be having a therapeutic value.
 Children in uppressed communities are exposed to nmlti-
 forms of violence and emphasis on survival acknowledges
 their resilience.
 B. We believe that it is the basic right of each child in
 violence to understand that the symptoms he/she experiences
 are normal reactions to abnormal social arrangements,
 specifically organised violence aimed at controlling, and
 at discmpowcring the majority of the South African
 population : children and the youth.
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 selling skills,
 violent
 . child winders m
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 teachers, personnel of chil&rent9
 violence

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We believe in a nation disaster conceptual framework. In our inventions we lay emphasis upon the importance of an interdisciplinary approach. The ecological systems framework in particular situates survivors' experiences within a broader context. The intention is to make the psychological service a component of other development activities like leadership skills training, mobilising communities.

We firmly believe that our services should have a potential to empower and to liberate the oppressed. The strategy is 14) facilitate the oppressed's struggles for self-determination by training them to manage their dependency on others.

Although focus is on children and the youth acquired skills will benefit all survivors of violence.

Finally, We believe that this service should be accessible to all people in violent situations irrespective of political affiliation.

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(10110w;ng has been achieved durin 199
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TIM? focum 01' .. -
'k' - the luit' 1
develo)n 'la Workshops has I y: .
Sipnifggggip :pdk there has been attemgggj ta norTaI child
:,, ,rm "' Cy Virt ac ' V01 '. L re ate '
mummy mm MEANING in mg hke TRUM, commnmcn, the
working with violence survivors 1
p I m ,. . .
Wx dll fOUf (4) WorK h0DS has been conducted
. Natal - all four (4) workshdps have been conduCted
. Boarder _ two (2) workshops conducted
; - ' H h '; and
. South African Catholic Bishop s Conference " two (9) E
workshops conducted.' w:n 1-.Hm u - k '
Thi\$ means that two workshops are still to be held for the 1
Boarder region and the South African Catholic Bishop's
Conference. On completion of workshops planned for 1993, there ll
be u 1)lcnary workshop whereby people who have been in our
training programme will come together in one central point to
plan activities for 1994.
QREATLNS.AWARENESS 3
Much has been done on this issue among youth groups. prowschool
teachers, NGO'S, Women's groups, religious groups, media 3
practitioners, and the mass media by z 1
writing regularly on popular newspapers.
. giving TV and radio talks.
gave a radio and a TV talk on the International Children'S
Day. on xhe same day the Administrative Secratury made a
presentation in Soweto where -200 children attended.

-2-

. ran a workshop for 100 psychologists, social workers and volunteers for the organisation called HOME AND FAMILY 1,11 d.

. ran a workshop on July 6, 1993 for Tswelopele Community Organisation in Soweto.

ran a workshop on July 21, 1993 for

Health and Population
Ciskei Department of
on Development

. through the national programme and also of the regional representatives we with the assistance
National Executive Working Committee
managed to form the
has been formed.

. Children are being referred to the project for therapy.

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121303quin am: In , _v i 01.9.1.1 cs:
(dealing with trauma of trauma counselling).

Besides the training component of

participating organisation 1r specific needs, for example, 45% of trainees are manifesting signs of the trauma of trauma counselling. They have requested trainers to take them

the - programme,

a have identified the

for personal counselling. All

participating organisations refer children for assessment therapy and general guidance.

AlMg

The programme aims at cre

ating awareness and a

line professionals in

the area of child mental health care like

school teachers, pre-school teachers,

social workers, medical

doctors and nurses and also other service providers like trade

unions and churches. They would particularly be trained on

effective intervention in working with children who

are surviving violence.

empowering front

Prevalent forms of violence against

children from oppressed

Communities are the following :

. Sexual abuse - in the context of overcrowding and child neglect

3.

. Physical abuse - parents who are survivors of parental
nbu3c tend to continue the cycle by acting out the stressed
and traumas of living in violent situations by severely
regularly beating them up.

. Torture M hw detention cells and prisons children get
traumalized and show signs of traumatic reactions.

. Children in political violence - The majority of South
African children are growing under the culture of political
violence and some of them today are becoming the
perpetrators of different forms of violence like. gang
rapes. and criminal activities. ' -

. Displaced children
refugees

illegal immigrants

unaccompanied minors returning from political exile

children in informal Settlements

street children

. children in violence marriages

child labour..

' The ultimate goal would be to assist people who have been trained
to set up treatment teams for violence survivors with special
focus on children. It is hopefully through nation wide awareness
and adoption of advocacy positions that violence against children
can be prevented.

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On the basis of information which has been generated from the
workshops in different regions during the course of this year
(1993) it is evident that future activities should focus on the
following areas

education on political tolerance.

. leadership Skills,

. skills training for service providers,

intervening in the lives of children survivors of violence

(unit activities),

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vigorouu research with an aim of compiling a book on the incidence of children in violence, prevalent forms of violencm in the lives of children, factors which tend to promote a certain degree of resilience in the lives of Hurvivnrs, adopting an advocacy position for the protection of all children of South Africa.