



SOCIAL CHANGE INITIATIVE (SCI) IMPLEMENTATION REPORT ON

**Leveraging Youth anti-SGBV Advocacy as a Tool for promoting Positive Peace in
Kawangware and Kangemi, Nairobi - Kenya**

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

CBO	Community Based Organization
CoK	Constitution of Kenya
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
GoK	Government of Kenya
HRDs	Human Rights Defenders
IEP	Institute for Economics and Peace
ICT	Information, Communication and Technology
IGA	Income Generating Activities
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
SCI	Social Change Initiative
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SOPA	Seeds of Peace Africa
PROCMURA	Programme for Christian Muslim Relations in Africa
YSO	Youth Serving Organizations

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Abstract

This SCI aimed at contributing towards a society free from Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) violations; through building the capacity of twenty (20) young people, aged 18-26 years, living in Kangemi and Kawangware informal settlements so as to enable them participate in community advocacy interventions aimed at ending SGBV and promoting positive peace; and by doing so contribute towards social transformation. This was necessitated by the fact that in Kenya, 39-45% of women experience physical and/or sexual violence at-least once in their lifetime, and studies from Kenyan informal settlements demonstrate that violence against women was more widespread compared to the general population in Kenya. The implementation of this SCI was grounded on Johan Galtung's Negative and Positive Peace Theory. Activities implemented included: mobilization and partnerships building, community stakeholders forum, capacity building training workshop for 20 youths, distribution of posters and flyers to community members and an online dialogue forum on SGBV in Kawangware and Kangemi. Main findings of the SCI indicate that the youth in the areas where the SCI was implemented are affected by the numerous challenges that pose for them the risks of their enslavement to numerous social vices – such as conflict and SGBV violations. Hence, the SCI addressed the roots causes of the problem and the broader question of the role of youths in the transformation agenda of their societies. The participants agreed that promoting the pillars of positive peace can greatly contribute towards eradicating SGBV in the society. The SCI concluded by making a call that more still needs to be done in Kawangware and Kangemi to advocate against SGBV; especially after incidences of violence and SGBV were reported during the 25th June 2025 anti-government demonstrations. On the basis of that, and as a sustainability plan for the gains made, the trained youths agreed to engage further and by December 2025 formally register a youth dialogue platform that will continue to champion against SGBV and promote positive peace in Kawangware and Kangemi.

Keywords: sexual and gender-based violence, youth, violations, conflict resolution, peace building, positive peace.

CHAPTER ONE

1.1 Introduction and Background

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), in its widest sense, encompasses several types of violent behavior perpetrated against the will of victims that can lead to serious bodily harm – such as physical, emotional or sexual abuse - or even death (Médecins Sans Frontières, 2021). Population Council (2018) further defines Sexual violence as “any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic women’s sexuality, using coercion, threats or harm or physical force, by any person regardless of relationship to the survivor, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work.” Gender-based violence on the other hand is “physical, mental or social abuse that is directed against a person because of his or her gender or gender role in a society or culture. In these cases, a person has no choice to refuse or pursue other options without severe social, physical, or psychological consequences.” Gender speaks to society’s ideas of masculinity and femininity. However, although SGBV happens to both men and women, it disproportionately affects women and girls.

Global statistics show that SGBV prevails in every region of the world, and it still remains a taboo that is spoken in whispers and suffered in silence (UNHCR, 2021). This shows that many cultures still hold a critical influence in the way people of different genders socialize. In many of the cases, women’s social positions are determined on the basis of societal roles of men and women and are rooted in gender inequality. Hence, women inherently face gender discrimination and remain excluded from decision-making processes. Some African cultures, such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), expose women to SGBV due to weak or lack of socio-economic opportunities and widespread impunity to the perpetrators. Moreover, challenges such as wars in Africa make women and girls more vulnerable to SGBV acts either as internally displaced persons, victims of conflicts or victims of human rights violations.

In Kenya, it has been observed that although SGBV cases have been on the increase, lack of access to justice has impacted the social, emotional and financial outcomes of survivors/victims and their families. The SGBV strategic plan by the Republic of Kenya (2023) acknowledges that the “quest for justice for victims/survivors of sexual offences/SGBV has for many years been encumbered by numerous institutional, social and structural barriers.” It further notes that the barriers have resulted in a growing backlog of SGBV cases. This is because the trial

chambers were not equipped to deal with vulnerable persons such as persons living with disabilities and children; hence victim interaction in the court room left them exposed and confidentiality of their matters not always prioritized. Hence, Kenya has been on the process of putting in place mechanisms and frameworks to address SGBV. First of these has been a national framework that safeguards the rights of victims and which provides for expeditious disposal of sexual violence cases.

The Social Change Initiative (SCI) was conducted in two neighbouring informal settlements in Nairobi: Kangemi and Kawangware. Kangemi is an informal settlement located in Nairobi, Kenya. It is estimated to have a population of approximately 100,000 residents, most of whom live in poverty. The population continues to fluctuate due to rural-to-urban migration. This has resulted in overcrowding and a range of social issues, including poor sanitation, prostitution, high HIV/AIDS prevalence, ethnic tensions, child abuse, criminal gangs influenced by delinquent youths, substance abuse, and alcoholism fuelled by the availability of illicit brew. In addition, child labour and gender-based violence are common. Kawangware slum is situated about 15km west of Nairobi in Kenya. It is a huge, sprawling city of makeshift homes crammed with hundreds of thousands of residents, struggling to survive on less than one dollar a day. The Kawangware slum lies between Lavington Estate and Dagoretti. According to the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census, Kawangware's population was 291,565 people at this time. It is estimated that 65% of the population are children and youths (Population Council, 2018). Most inhabitants live on less than \$2 (although they earn in shillings) a day and unemployment is high; many are self-employed traders. There is a diversity of ethnic backgrounds.

1.2 Problem Statement

In Kenya, 39-45% of women experience physical and/or sexual violence at-least once in their lifetime (Life & Peace Institute, 2022). Though research in this area is limited, studies from Kenyan informal settlements demonstrate that violence against women was more widespread compared to the general population in Kenya (Ajema et al., 2011). During the Covid-19 pandemic, violence against women and girls increased significantly (Republic of Kenya, 2023). Gendered stigmatization affects opportunities for reporting gender-based violence. We find that women and girls are repeatedly blamed if they experience sexual violence. Often

‘inappropriate dressing’ or ‘staying out late’ are given as the causes for why they experienced the violence. When attempting to report cases of sexual violence, women and girls are stigmatized, and their family reputation hurt. Furthermore, 1 in 4 men experience physical violence; but often reporting gender-based violence was explained to be difficult for men due to stigma and norms of masculinity (Tandrayen-Ragoobur, 2020). Consequently, incidences of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) are high within the Nairobi informal settlements, and in particular Kawangware and Kangemi areas which are the focus of this SCI. Failure to address this issue entails a significant cost for the future.

1.3 Goals and Objectives

1.3.1 Goals

The main goal of this SCI was to build the capacity of young people (18-26 years) living Kangemi and Kawangware informal settlements so as to enable them participate in future community advocacy interventions aimed at ending SGBV/ Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and promoting positive peace; and by doing so contribute towards social transformation.

1.3.2 Objectives

Key objective was to establish a platform for Young Anti-SGBV Ambassadors/ “Advocates” who will enhance continuous engagement of youths in the fight against Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and the promotion of Positive Peace values in Kangemi and Kawangware informal settlements. Through the platform, the SCI specifically aims to achieve the following:

- ❖ To bring together like-minded youths and train them on ending SGBV/ Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and the positive peace pillars
- ❖ To equip the youth with relevant advocacy skills in ending SGBV/ Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and promoting positive peace
- ❖ To enable the youth engage the community members in Kangemi and Kawangware on ending SGBV/ Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and promoting positive peace

Furthermore, the SCI was guided by the following Positive Peace Pillar alignment: Acceptance of the Rights of Others, Good Relations with Neighbours, High Levels of Human Capital, Free Flow of Information, Well-functioning Government and Low Levels of Corruption. Lastly, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) addressed by this SCI were numbers: 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing), 5 (Gender Equality), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). Ultimately, the SCI aims at creating a peaceful society free from Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV).

1.4 Challenges and Mitigation Strategies

First and foremost, men initially shied away from participating in the SGBV engagement, for they are largely viewed from the perpetrator point of view. To mitigate this and create an attitude change, it was clearly explained that the male gender participants will be engaged not as part of the problem but as part of the solution that the society desires and seeks; for SGBV is a vice that cuts across all genders. Secondly, after the June 2025 youth-led anti-Government protests, surveillance was increased in the Nairobi informal settlements with security agents dispersing any youth gatherings they termed: “anti-government youth radicalization funded by foreign international organizations and disguised as empowerment and advocacy programs.” So as to guarantee the success of the youth training event and security of participants, the mitigation strategy adopted was replacing of one large event banner with many posters (100) and flyers (1000) containing the key advocacy message for the SCI. The printed materials were given to the trained youths, who later placed them in public places in the SCI implementation areas and the flyers distributed to youths within the communities. This was seen as a ripple effect method through which the SCI message would reach a wider population, especially after we were denied the permit to conduct a youth-led anti-SGBV community sensitization campaign walk in the market places and streets of Kawangware and Kangemi. The area chiefs noted that due to the existing high tensions, such an event would easily be infiltrated by other ill-intentioned persons and possibly cause unintended public disorder. Lastly, during the youth training workshop session, participants who have undergone SGBV acts were uncomfortable sharing their experiences in public. The facilitator then asked those willing to anonymously write their experiences briefly on a piece of paper and place them on the facilitator’s desk during lunch break. The facilitator was able to receive three handwritten shared experiences.

CHAPTER TWO

2.1 Literature Review

Rockowitz et. al (2023) note that Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is a leading cause of physical, emotional and psychosocial problems around the world, with many countries in East Africa having rates above the global average. While SGBV can be perpetrated by and against anyone, perpetrators are majorly men, and victims are largely women and girls. For example, worldwide, 35% of women have experienced at least one form of SGBV, such as intimate partner violence (IPV) or non-partner sexual violence, and 15 million girls have experienced forced sex (UNHCR, 2021). During situations of conflict, women bear the greatest burden for their rights are violated and there is exacerbation of SGBV against women and girls (Institute of Development Studies, 2022). Tandrayen-Ragoobur (2020) further highlights that intimate partner violence towards women in relationships in Sub Saharan Africa has been on an increase over the past one decade. This has immensely affected community development because some of these violent acts have resulted to physical disabilities and even loss of lives. This issue is not only devastating for survivors of violence and their families, but also entails significant social and economic costs. In some countries, violence against women is estimated to cost countries up to 3.7% of their GDP – more than double what most governments spend on education (World Bank Group, 2019). Retrogressive cultural practices in many societies have enabled the culture of silence, hence making the situation even worse.

East Africa is one of the regions with the highest rates of lifetime SGBV in the world hence posing a major obstacle to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5, which concerns achieving gender equality in all its forms (Rockowitz et. al., 2023). Policies in East African countries on SGBV service provision are scarce, while existing policies outlining services that survivors should receive may not be actioned or enforced (Ajema et al., 2011). To counter this, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, otherwise known as the Maputo Protocol, was written. The Maputo Protocol covers SGBV at length, including female genital mutilation (FGM) and underage marriage as well as stigma and bias against SGBV victims (African Union, 2003). Signatories vow to enforce change through policy action or administrative decision making. However, while multiple countries in the East African region are signatories to international human rights and global

health treaties regarding SGBV-related service provision, like the Maputo Protocol, there are reports that survivors in these countries still find it difficult or impossible to access services (Rockowitz et. al., 2021).

Increasingly SGBV cases are being reported in some counties in Kenya. The Kenya Health Information Systems (KHIS) data for January to June 2021 indicated that 10,997 females and 717 males were victims of SGBV (KHIS, 2022). The cases reported included: assault, defilement, incest, grievous harm, rape and sexual assaults during abductions. Hence, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Kenya is a pervasive issue rooted in gender inequality and power imbalances, with far-reaching consequences for individuals and communities. SGBV is a significant public health concern, contributing to morbidity and mortality, and hindering progress towards gender equality goals. Furthermore, SGBV is often linked to other forms of violence, including physical, psychological, and economic abuse.

Although there is no specific international legal instrument to redress SGBV, there exists some related international legal instruments dealing with women's rights applicable during peace, conflict, and post-conflict situations are implicitly dealing with the issue (Agosin, 2001). This is indeed a gap that the international community need to pay keen attention to if the promotion of human rights and sustainable peace is to gain desirable successes. SGBV can cause lasting health consequences, such as injuries and sexually transmitted infections, mental health impacts – such as depression and anxiety, stigma and social rejection. Injuries from SGBV can include stab wounds, fractures, vaginal fistulas, and victims may become pregnant. Furthermore, female victims are twice as likely to have an abortion across their lifespan.

Failure to address this issue also entails a significant cost for the future. Numerous studies have shown that children growing up with violence are more likely to become survivors themselves or perpetrators of violence in the future (Ajema et al., 2011). One characteristic of gender-based violence is that it knows no social or economic boundaries and affects women and girls of all socio-economic backgrounds: this issue needs to be addressed in both developing and developed countries. Decreasing violence against women and girls requires a community-based, multi-pronged approach, and sustained engagement with multiple stakeholders. The most effective initiatives address underlying risk factors for violence, including social norms regarding gender roles and the acceptability of violence.

2.2 Theoretical Underpinnings

Theoretical framework is a set of ideas and theories that help to explain why things happen the way they do in a study. A theoretical framework focuses on the “why” and “how” and helps in understanding the relationship between different concepts and guides the research or study process. Hence, ideas are organized and data collection methods and processes identified; making it a structured way to connect theories to real-world experiences. Furthermore, a theoretical framework helps the researcher to narrow their focus, develop meaningful research tools and ensure that their study builds on existing knowledge in an organized and logical way. There are two main types of theoretical frameworks: first, deductive which start with an existing theory and use it to make specific predictions, and second, inductive which are built by observing patterns in data and developing a theory from those observations.

A theory, in this context, is understood as a systematic explanation of an aspect of reality or phenomenon that can be tested and used to make predictions. Generally, a theoretical framework provides clarity and focus. It serves as a “structure” that can hold or support the study, as well as explain the relationship between and among variables and provides a context for interpreting the study’s results. In the arena of peacebuilding and conflict transformation, various theoretical frameworks are used to analyze situations and suggest best ways of reaching sustainable solutions. One of these is Johan Galtung’s Negative and Positive Peace Theory; on which this Social Change Initiative (SCI) is grounded. The theory distinguishes between the mere absence of violence (negative peace) and a deeper, more constructive state of social justice and equality (positive peace). Whereas negative peace is shown to be pessimistic, positive peace is optimistic.

The prominent peace theorist Johan Galtung popularized the basic distinction between negative peace and positive peace in the *Editorial* to the founding edition of the *Journal of Peace Research* in 1964, and this definition has become perhaps the most widely used today. Galtung (1964) describes negative peace as the absence of direct violence and positive peace as the absence of indirect and structural violence. He expanded the concept of peace and violence to include indirect or structural violence, and this was a direct challenge to the prevalent notions about the nature of peace. According to Galtung (1996), peace research is a research into the conditions for moving closer to peace or at least not drifting closer to violence.

Johan Galtung's Negative and Positive Peace Theory emphasizes that violence exists because of the structure and actors merely carry out that violence. He defines violence as being "present when human beings are being influenced so that their actual somatic and mental realisations are below their potential realisation" (Galtung, 1969, p.168). Consequently, peace is not merely the absence of direct violence (negative peace) but also absence of structural violence (positive peace). From the above, we can deduce that structural violence stems from violence in the structure of society, rather than the actor-generated personal and direct violence. Galtung in most of his work has sought to project positive peace as higher ideal than negative peace.

By relating violence to the structure of society, Galtung creates a connection between peace, conflict and development. Since personal and direct violence are often built into the social structure, it is much better to focus on the bigger picture revealed by structural violence as this would reveal the causes and effects of violence and conditions for peace. The theory hence shows us that we should be conscious of negative as well as positive aspects of peace, both the conditions for absence of violence and the conditions for peace. This is because an adequate understanding of violence is required in order to understand and define peace. Furthermore, Galtung (1996) presents the causal flow of violence through the direct-structural and cultural violence triangle. He employs the concept of power and identifies four dimensions of power impacting positive and negative peace: cultural, economic, military and political. Galtung believes that the vicious spiral of violence can be broken with the virtuous spiral of peace flowing from cultural peace through structural peace to direct peace. This process would bring about positive peace. For Galtung (1996), examples of positive peace policies and proposals include improved human understanding through communication, peace education, dispute resolution, arbitration, conflict management and so on.

2.3 Change Theory and how it was applied

The change theory for this SCI was: *Youth meaningful engagement in anti-SGBV advocacy and promotion of positive peace can lead to a society where youths take lead in safeguarding human rights and enhancing social cohesion.* Grounded on Johan Galtung's Negative and Positive Peace Theory, it was envisioned that the youth hold an influential position in driving positive social transformation. This is more so because the world of the future is in their hands. Humanity desires to live in a world that is cohesive and peaceful. The young people live in,

and are part of, a community that can be called a “system.” Systems thinking represents a potent framework for analysing complex phenomena, offering a means to understand the networks of relationships within systems. The strength of systems thinking lies in its capacity to reveal patterns, interdependencies, and feedback loops, and thereby model outcomes based on systemic interactions. It offers a particularly useful approach for understanding how changes in one part of a system can flow-on effects throughout the system have, allowing for better decision making and policy making. Systems thinking is central to the Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP)’s conception of Positive Peace. It represents a holistic approach to understanding and solving complex problems by assessing them in terms of interconnected wholes, rather than breaking them down into isolated components. It is a way of analysing the world which entails focusing on the connections between the relationships and flows of the components of the system to understand the dynamics of the whole.

Hence, cognizant of the fact that the youth are key part of the community “system” in Kawangware and Kangemi, the SCI intended to make them part and parcel of the problem-solving agents so as to amplify the inevitable reality that the involvement of youth in the advocacy against SGBV will lead to reduction in the vice, social transformation and ultimately enhance positive peace. The SCI empowered an initial core-group of 20 youths, (18-26 years) living Kangemi and Kawangware informal settlements, who will cascade the knowledge and skills acquired to other youths, women and men in their communities. The capacity of the 20 young people was enhanced so as to enable them participate in future community advocacy interventions aimed at ending SGBV/ Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and promoting positive peace; and by doing so contribute towards social transformation. Consequently, the SCI engaged other key community stakeholders so as to ensure that all aspects of the community “system” are brought on board for their support and sustainability of the SCI outcomes. The SCI aimed at reducing both direct conflict (SGBV) and addressing aspects that propagate indirect conflict within the areas of implementation.

The initial twenty trained youths intend to establish a platform for Young Anti-SGBV Ambassadors/ “Advocates” who will enhance continuous engagement of youths in the fight against Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and the promotion of Positive Peace values in Kangemi and Kawangware informal settlements. This will enable them engage with their

fellow youths and make the advocacy network grow. In addition, the platform will offer them a structure for engagements with duty bearers and other key community stakeholders, especially in addressing issues of inequality in the society; whether from the aspect of gender or socio-economics. Engagement of elderly men and women in the community sensitization advocacy program as secondary beneficiaries was also seen as a way of ensuring that the SCI objective is realized and the intended messages shared with members of the wider community. This sensitization is envisioned to enable the community members reflect on their actions and also be of support to the young in the initiative to end SGBV.

Through the SCI it was envisioned that SGBV acts would be mitigated through addressing of underlying issues that often lead to SGBV acts in the communities. Reduction in direct, cultural and structural violence would greatly lay a good foundation for the youth to continue with anti-SGBV sensitization engagements that ultimately aim to end acts of SGBV and enhance positive peace in Kangemi and Kawangware. The youth have to meaningfully engage in anti-SGBV advocacy if at all this fight is to be won. In addition, capacity building of the youth with knowledge on pillars of positive peace was seen as one key way of enabling the young people to understand themselves in relation to the various aspects that influence conflicts in their lives and that of their communities. Social change can only be achieved and sustained when community members are engaged and given a platform to raise and discuss their concerns with the aim of finding a common ground and viable solutions. Lastly, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be addressed by this SCI included numbers: 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing), 5 (Gender Equality), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). Ultimately, the SCI aimed at creating a peaceful society free from SGBV acts.

2.4 Methods and Design

The success of an initiative heavily depends on proper use of available methods and design of information gathering. Social science research operates at two levels: a theoretical level and an empirical level. The theoretical level is concerned with developing abstract concepts about a natural or social phenomenon and relationships between those concepts (i.e., build “theories”), while the empirical level is concerned with testing the theoretical concepts and relationships to

see how well they reflect our observations of reality, with the goal of ultimately building better theories (Bhattacharjee, 2012). Equally, data collection is a methodological process of gathering and analyzing specific information to put forward solutions to relevant questions and evaluate results. It focuses on finding out all there is to a particular subject matter.

This SCI titled *Leveraging Youth anti-SGBV Advocacy as a Tool for promoting Positive Peace in Kawangware and Kangemi, Nairobi – Kenya* relied mainly on collecting original data from the experiences of the twenty young people that were trained on anti-SGBV advocacy skills and promoting positive peace. The main aim was to identify the role that the youth play, and should continue to play, in the fight towards ending SGBV acts in their communities. In addition, secondary data was obtained from existing research literature on the topic of SGBV. This helped in supplementing what had been obtained from the original data. During the trainings, data was collected through observation, focus group discussions (FGD), photography, videography, interviews and questionnaires. The SCI blended both qualitative and quantitative data in establishing patterns of association. Mixing of these two methods enabled the gathering of more relevant information regarding SGBV in Kawangware and Kangemi, and hence a better understanding of the problem. Some of the data collection tools used included: paper questionnaire, FGD guide, interview guide and observation checklists. These ensured that quality evidence is captured hence allowing a balanced analysis. Throughout the process, it was ensured that the integrity of the SCI is safeguarded and consent is obtained from the participants involved.

The SCI primarily involved twenty (20) young people, aged 18-26 years, from diverse gender, social and religious backgrounds living in Kangemi and Kawangware informal settlements. Participants were selected using the snowball sampling method. Snowball sampling is a non-probability sampling method where new units are recruited by other units to form part of the sample. During the trainings, proceedings of the various presentations were carefully captured by the rapporteur. These were very helpful during the analysis process. The trainings focused on three main areas: understanding SGBV concepts and acts, the role of the youth in advocating against SGBV and mechanisms for promoting pillars of positive peace. The topics were all geared towards enhancing social cohesion.

Purposive sampling method was also involved in reaching out to specific individuals for specific knowledge. These included: Key community stakeholders, such as religious leaders and community leaders, and duty bearers were also secondary participants that were engaged mostly at the initial stages of the SCI so as to buy-in their support and partnership towards the implementation of the SCI. Most importantly, ethical consideration was key throughout the SCI implementation. It was ensured that all participants understood the purpose of the SCI and were requested to provide informed consent before participating. These included the youth and different key community stakeholders. Maintain confidentiality and anonymity of participants' data to protect their privacy, especially given the sensitive nature of the subject matter was prioritised in the interventions of this SCI.

CHAPTER THREE

3.1 Interventions and Activities

Activities implemented, over a period of six months (1st March to 31st August 2025), included: mobilization and partnerships building, community stakeholders meeting, capacity building training workshop for 20 youths, distribution of posters and flyers to community members and an online dialogue forum on SGBV in Kawangware and Kangemi. Finally, the SCI was evaluated and the final report and policy brief prepared.

Log Frame

Activity required steps/list of tasks to carry out the SCI Year 2025	Target/Objective the desired result	Baseline a reference point to evaluate performance	Indicators quantitative or qualitative parameters to assess progress and success	Means of Verification methods or tools to collect data that shows the achievement of an indicator
Mobilization & Partnerships building 5 th March to 20 th April	To identify partners and implementors/ Youth for the SCI	Building a Forum of relevant stakeholders and implementors	3 partners engaged and 20 youths identified for the capacity building training	Partnership Agreements, List of youths identified for the capacity building training
Community Stakeholders' SCI Meeting 20 th April	To introduce the SCI to the key stakeholders	Activity invitation letters	18 persons attended Stakeholders' meeting	List of Participants, activity photos
Capacity Building Training for 20 Youths 19 th July	To build the capacity of 20 youths with knowledge and skills on anti-SGBV advocacy	Training Manual	20 youths enhanced in knowledge and skills on anti-SGBV advocacy	Activity Report, List of Participants. Activity photos

Community Sensitization Campaign 2-4 August	To sensitize the community on anti-SGBV advocacy	Printed posters and flyers	100 posters and 1000 flyers distributed to the community	Activity Report, design of the posters and flyers
Online dialogue forum on SGBV in Kawangware and Kangemi areas 27 th August	To engage the youth and leaders on anti-SGBV advocacy	Activity Implementation Plan, online meeting link	41 persons participate in the google meet dialogue forum on SGBV	Screenshot of the online meeting, Activity Report, List of Participants
SCI Evaluation & Report Compilation 1 – 10 September	To review the SCI and prepared a final report	Activity Evaluation Questionnaire	SCI reviewed and final report successfully prepared	Final SCI report & policy brief

Mobilization and partnerships building:

Between 5th March and 20th April 2025, three mobilization and partnerships building meetings were held so as to form a network of partners (individuals and organizations) that would be of great help during the implementation of the SCI. These included:

(i) Meeting with Westlands Sub-Division leaders/ “gatekeepers” and Partners

Kawangware and Kangemi informal settlements fall within the jurisdiction of Westlands sub-division in Nairobi. On 5th March 2025, I met with the Westlands sub-division manager Mr. Herman Kitur together with the area security coordinator and youth leaders from Kawangware and Kangemi. I introduced the key aspects of my SCI to them and sought their support and also permission of the local authorities in implementing my SCI.

(ii) Meeting with youth chaplains/religious leaders in Kangemi and Kawangware

Religious leaders play a key role in the social undertakings of our communities. Kawangware and Kangemi areas have a Christian majority population and a minority Muslim population. On 13th March, at the office of the priest at St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church – Kangemi, I met with three religious leaders (2 Christians, 1 Muslim) so as to engage with them on the involvement of their youths in my SCI. This was a key step because the religious leaders

possess a massive influence to their congregations, and especially the youths within the community.

(iii) Partners Engagement Forum

On the evening of 20th April 2024, one of my partners – Rotaract Club of Kikuyu – hosted my three other potential partners in a forum aimed at enabling me pitch my SCI and deliberate with them on ways in which they can be involved during the implementation of my SCI. Potential Partners that participated included: Rotaract Club of Kikuyu, Seeds of Peace Africa (SOPA), PROCMURA and Mr. Henry Kinyajui – a community development advocacy expert.

Community stakeholders meeting:

I undertook this activity on 20th April 2025 from 9.00am to 12.00pm in partnership with Programme for Christian Muslim Relations in Africa (PROCMURA) at their conference hall located in Westlands. PROCMURA are also undertaking anti-GBV advocacy programmes. I had one hour (11.00am – 12.00pm) during which I shared with the key community stakeholders about my Rotary Peace Fellowship and particularly the objective of my SCI (*Leveraging Youth anti-SGBV Advocacy as a tool for promoting Positive Peace in Kawangware and Kangemi, Nairobi – Kenya*). The key community stakeholders from Kawangware and Kangemi that attended the activity included: community leaders, gender-based violence desk officer, youth leaders, GBV warriors/survivors, anti-GBV advocates, religious leaders, police officers, Westlands Constituency Women Representative in Parliament and political parties registrar.

Capacity building training workshop for 20 youths

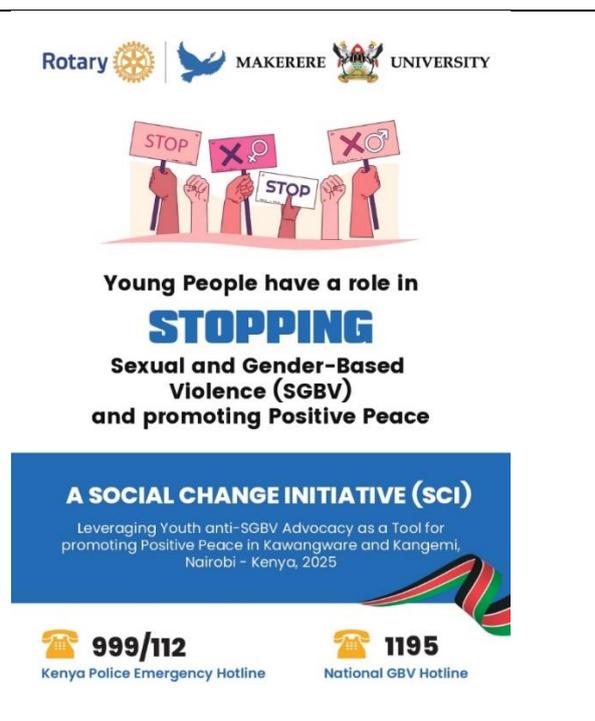
This was the main intervention of this Social Change Initiative (SCI) titled *Leveraging Youth anti-SGBV Advocacy as a Tool for promoting Positive Peace in Kawangware and Kangemi, Nairobi – Kenya*. It was conducted on Saturday 19th July 2025 at Kawangware Social Hall, during which twenty (20) selected youths, aged 18-26 years, living in Kawangware and Kangemi informal settlements were equipped with knowledge and skills on how to advocate against SGBV and promote positive peace. Ten of the youths were selected from Kawangware and ten from Kangemi, and in addition gender balance was considered. Methodologies for the training workshop included: inputs from resource persons in the areas of SGBV and positive peace, story telling sessions and sharing of experiences from the participants/ trainees, watching a short video on SGBV, focused group discussions and a general plenary session.

There was also a questionnaire provided for those who were willing to fill, regarding their personal experiences with SGBV.

One important aspect highlighted during the training was that the youth in the areas where the SCI was implemented are affected by the challenges posed by economic poverty, a reality which often places pressures on them. With the institutional failure to address their concerns, those pressures pose for them the risks of their enslavement to numerous social vices – such as conflict and SGBV violations. Hence, the training addressed the roots causes of the problem and the broader question of the role of youths in the transformation agenda of their societies. The participants agreed that promoting the pillars of positive peace can greatly contribute towards eradicating SGBV in the society. The trainees concluded by making a call that more still needs to be done in Kawangware and Kangemi to advocate against SGBV; especially after incidences of violence and SGBV were reported during the 25th June 2025 anti-government demonstrations. On the basis of that, and as a sustainability plan for the gains made, the trained youths agreed to engage further and by December 2025 formally register a youth dialogue platform that will continue to champion against SGBV and promote positive peace in Kawangware and Kangemi.

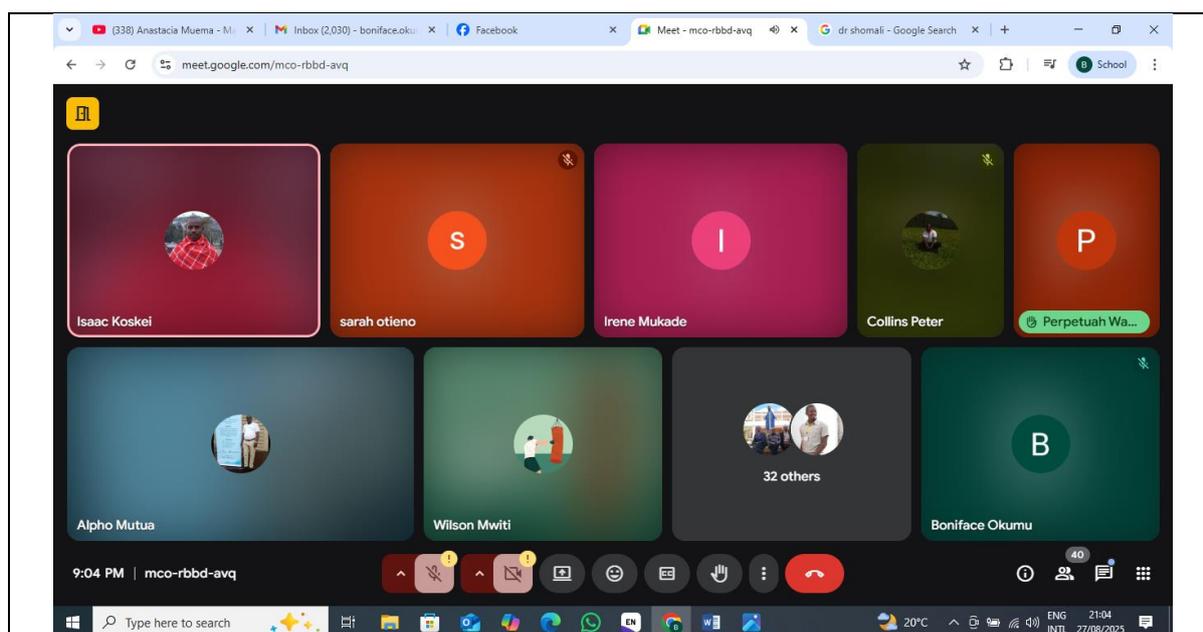
Distribution of posters and flyers to community members

Between 2nd and 4th August 2025, the trained youths distributed posters and flyers containing key message of the SCI, to community members in Kawangware and Kangemi. This was a targeted youth-led anti-SGBV community sensitization campaign during which some of the posters were placed in public places in the SCI implementation areas and the flyers distributed to youths and other community members. This was seen as a ripple effect method through which the SCI message would reach a wider population.



Online dialogue forum on SGBV in Kawangware and Kangemi.

On the evening of 27th August 2025, an online dialogue forum on SGBV in Kawangware and Kangemi was organized via the google meet platform (8.15pm – 9.15pm) and attended by 41 participants that comprised of youth, women and men, most of whom are residents of the areas of the SCI implementation. The participants deliberated on the causes and effects of SGBV and further proposed mechanisms that can be pursued in handling the menace.



3.2 Key Findings and Impact

There were four key findings during the implementation of this SCI:

- (i) SGBV among the young people in Kawangware and Kangemi is increasing at an alarming rate. However, this is often ignored because the discussion around SGBV generally tends to be within the marriage institution.
- (ii) The youth, and especially male, have not actively been involved in the fight against SGBV in Kawangware and Kangemi.
- (iii) There are still many gaps that exist when it comes to the implementation of the national anti-SGBV laws, especially in the informal settlements.
- (iv) There is need for more community sensitization programs to enable the community members understand their rights and available help resources when it comes to SGBV violations.

During the training workshop, A total of seventeen (17) filled questionnaires were handed back and from them were obtained information that was relevant to the SCI. The questionnaires were checked for completeness, accuracy and uniformity of the information. In summary, more than half of the respondents reported having experienced SGBV and majority of them being female. In addition, face-to-face interviews with two (2) participants were conducted; giving room for seeking clarifications and hence resulting to a large amount of qualitative data. All the respondents echoed that seeking legal justice after SGBV acts has been a frustrating journey.

Having noted the above, an evaluation of the SCI impact shows that the deliberations during the SCI activities were an eye opener to many of the young people that participated. The SCI enabled them to review and understand the challenge at hand when it comes to matters of SGBV. Whereas most of them had taken these as normal day-to-day social happenings, their engagement in the SCI enabled them to appreciate and embrace the role that they have to play as young people in advocating against SGBV acts and promoting positive peace; thereby contributing towards social cohesion and social transformation in Kawangware and Kangemi areas. As empowered change agents in their communities, the initial twenty (20) trained youths have realized that they have to engage with many other youths and community members so as to establish a strong network that will safeguard human rights and ensure that policy gaps in the area of SGBV are voiced out and addressed. The findings support the approach of equal participation which guides that all the stakeholders should work together to address affirmative as well as socio-economic issues if real peace is to be achieved.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.1 General Conclusions

This SCI raised youth awareness of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), encouraged critical thinking about its cultural and social dimensions, and amplified youth voices through a capacity building training and community sensitization. In societies where men are dominant and do not value women, women can be subjected to violent treatment both outside and in social settings; learned helplessness and normalisation were the underlying factors of violence noted in Kawangware and Kangemi. Youths exposed to violence from a young age described themselves as resorting to violence as a means of conflict resolution and, on occasion, held misconceptions that violence was justified. Those who normalised violence played an important role in carrying this cycle on to future generations. Given the well-documented impact of SGBV, the youth are in a pivotal position for advocacy and prevention. Training and awareness raising are needed across all sections of society with the aim of preventing sexual and gender-based violence. The test of peace is in the ability to handle conflict without recourse to violence.

4.2 Recommendations/ Implications for Policy

The SCI offers the following recommendations:

1. There is need for comprehensive sensitization on rights of SGBV victims and services available for victims, such as medical care and legal assistance in Kawangware and Kangemi. SGBV sensitization manuals tailored for secondary school and college students be prepared and distributed.
2. Enhanced active engagement of partners and social anti-SGBV youth activists, especially men, who condemn the act and promote positive peace and social cohesion.
3. Need for implementing legislation that protect victims and hold perpetrators accountable; hence ensuring justice to survivors of SGBV in Kawangware and Kangemi. This will be achieved through the elimination of unnecessary bureaucracies in the SGBV cases. Members of the justice system need to be firm in defending the rights of abused victims.

4. There is need to establish a local platform for youths that will document fact-based record of SGBV cases, train young human rights defenders that will expose violations and hold perpetrators accountable; and empower the wider community to protect human rights and end impunity for perpetrators.

4.3 Sustainability Plan

It is envisioned that the interventions resulting from the objective of this SCI will continue beyond the officially indicated deadline of the SCI (12th September 2025). The already established partnerships with SOPA, PROCMURA and Rotaract Club of Kikuyu will continue as part of the ongoing social transformation agenda. The twenty (20) youths that were trained in July 2025, will have a follow-up training and meeting scheduled for 4th October 2025. The main purpose of the day is threefold: (i) share feedback of what the youths have so far individually undertaken in promoting the SCI *Leveraging Youth anti-SGBV Advocacy as a Tool for promoting Positive Peace in Kawangware and Kangemi, Nairobi – Kenya*, (ii) a training session on handling SGBV cases and the abuser(s), and (iii) the youths intend to lay structures for the path towards formal registration of the platform for Young Anti-SGBV Ambassadors/ “Advocates” who will enhance continuous engagement of youths in the fight against Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and the promotion of Positive Peace values in Kangemi and Kawangware informal settlements. Once established and formally registered as a Community Based Organization (CBO), the platform for Young Anti-SGBV Ambassadors will continue with advancing the mission of contributing towards a society free from Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) violations. Networking with other like-minded CBOs will also contribute towards the growth of the initiative by the young people; whose number will increase from the initial twenty. There is also a future plan to undertake a mapping of the types of services SGBV survivors receive and the available centers for such services in Kawangware and Kangemi. The SCI acknowledges that a win in the fights against SGBV in Kawangware and Kangemi is a vital contribution to the progress toward Kenya’s SDG goals and targets.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Pictorials



Photo 1:
Meeting with Westlands Sub-Division leaders/ “gatekeepers” and Partners - On 5th March 2025

L-R: Beatrice Mueni (Youth Leader, Kangemi), James Njung’o (Westlands sub-division Security Coordinator), Mr. Herman Kitur (Westlands sub-division Manager), Patrick Wamalwa (Youth Leader, Kawangware) and Boniface Okumu (RPF cohort 8 – Makerere).

Venue: Office of the Westlands sub-division Manager, Kipande road – Westlands.

Photo 2: SCI Banner



**Leveraging Youth anti-SGBV Advocacy
as a Tool for
promoting Positive Peace**

Objective

To build the capacity of young people (18-26 years) so as to enable them participate in community advocacy interventions aimed at ending Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and promoting Positive Peace; and by doing so contribute towards social transformation.

Slogan

“Empowered Youths, Transformed Societies”



Venue: Office of the Parish Priest, St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church – Kangemi

Photo 3:

Meeting with youth chaplains/religious leaders in Kangemi and Kawangware

On 13th March 2025

L-R: Boniface Okumu (RPF cohort 8 – Makerere), Fr. Beatus Mauki (Parish Priest & Youth Chaplain, St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church – Kangemi), Pastor Roseline Uwanize (Youth Moderator, ACK Kangemi) and Mr. Ahmed Abdirizzak (Patron - Kawangware Muslim Youth Council).

Photo 4: Partners Engagement Forum

On the evening of 20th April 2024, Venue: Motherland Meeting Room, Kawangware
GROUP PHOTO of my SCI potential partners that attended the Forum – Rotaract Club of Kikuyu members, representatives of Seeds of Peace Africa (SOPA) NGO, PROCMURA staff and Mr. Henry Kinyajui – a community development advocacy expert.



Photo 5

Community Stakeholders Meeting



Photo 6: Community Stakeholders Meeting – Engagement session



Photo 7: Training on SGBV and Positive Peace for 20 youths – Input on SGBV



Photo 8: Training on SGBV and Positive Peace for 20 youths – Input on Positive Peace



Photo 9: Training on SGBV and Positive Peace for 20 youths – Participants' FGD



Appendix 2: Clearances/ Permission Letters

Letter from Makerere RPC that was shared with potential partners



MAKERERE



UNIVERSITY



MAKERERE UNIVERSITY ROTARY PEACE CENTER

Plot 146, Pool Road. Makerere Kampala-Uganda, Email: info.rpc@mak.ac.ug
Website: www.rpc.mak.ac.ug

13th January 2025

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Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: RECOMMENDATION LETTER

Warm greetings from Makerere University Rotary Peace Center.

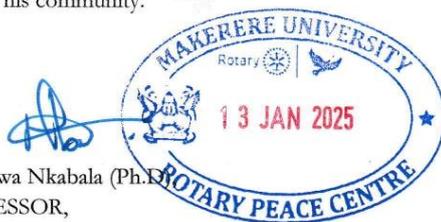
I am writing this letter to confirm that Mr. Okumu Boniface is a student at Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda. He is enrolled in the Rotary Peace Fellowship, pursuing a Post-Graduate Diploma in Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation. His registration number is 2023/HD03/027K, and his student ID is 2400700027.

Okumu Boniface is on course for a period of one year. So far, he has completed his onsite stay at Makerere University and is right now implementing his social change initiative titled **“Leveraging Youth anti-SGBV Advocacy as a Tool for Promoting Positive Peace in Kawangware and Kangemi - Nairobi, Kenya.”**

The purpose of this letter is to request for your support to Okumu Boniface in implementing his social change initiative.

We believe that the support rendered for his social change initiative will be impactful in promoting peacebuilding in his community.

Yours sincerely,



Helen Nambalirwa Nkabala (Ph.D)
ASSOC. PROFESSOR,
**DIRECTOR, ROTARY PEACE CENTER,
MAKERERE UNIVERSITY.**

Email: nhnambalirwa@gmail.com , helen.nambalirwa@mak.ac.ug

Tel: +256 772309982

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION AND PEACE STUDIES, SCHOOL OF LIBERAL AND
PERFORMING ARTS
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Support Letter from one of the SCI partners



Our Ref.: ED/SOPA/2025.74

27th February 2024

Mr. Herman Kitur
Manager
Westlands sub-division
P.O. BOX 25468-00625
NAIROBI

Dear Sir,

RE: RECOMMENDATION FOR BONIFACE ONYANGO OKUMU

Boniface Onyango Okumu, a Kenyan – ID: 24073717, is currently a student at Makerere University undertaking peace and conflict transformation studies at the Rotary Peace Center. For the last three years, Boniface has been a key-consultant in helping SOPA strategize its youth-related peacebuilding and advocacy programs in Nairobi county. SOPA operates in the entire Nairobi county, and has active community empowerment projects being implemented in five informal settlements: Kawangware, Mathare, Kibera, Kangemi and Huruma.

As part of his academic program requirements, Boniface intends to implement a Social Change Initiative on sensitizing youths in Kawangware and Kangemi areas on advocacy against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). This will be a commendable contribution to our community, and Boniface possesses the knowledge and skills to execute this undertaking.

I highly recommend Boniface Onyango Okumu and request that you provide him the necessary authorization and support to enable him implement his Social Change Initiative.

Warm regards,

Dr. Ambrose Ombok Atalo
Executive Director

Copy: Kawangware area Community Chairperson
Kangemi area Community Chairperson
Westlands sub-division GBV desk officer
SOPA Project Manager
Boniface Onyango Okumu



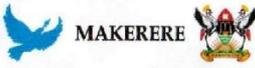
Seeds of Peace Africa 4th floor, North Star Building, Lenana Road.

P. O Box 53958-00200, Nairobi Tel: +254 (0) 722 818010 Email: info@seedsofpeaceafrica.org www.seedsofpeaceafrica.org

Appendix 3: Participants' Testimonies

1	Woman P residing in Kangemi shared that when she went to report a case of domestic violence to the area chief, she was disappointed by the response she was given that she should prove “that the beating she had received from her husband was indeed violence and not discipline” Moreover, the chief told her that it would traumatize the children to see their father being arrested.
2	The village elder in Kawangware shared with the participants that in November 2024, they arrested a 56 year old woman T who had for months used her two bedroom house as a brothel to recruit vulnerable under-age ladies from the area and engaged them in sex-for money with men who would pay the ladies and pay woman T a commission. Such an act creates a situation where the future dreams of the girls are snatched from them.
3	Participant X shared that during the June 2025 <i>maandamano</i> (anti-Government protests), women in Kawangware were at high risk of SGBV. As a result of the disorder and breakdown of structures, women and girls became more vulnerable and cases were reported where some faced physical, sexual and psychological harm; as well as denial of necessary services.
4	A female participant Y from Kangemi confided/shared that while she was still a minor, she was forced to get married due to shortage of food at home. This act, according to her parents, would ease the burden to the family and enable them ‘gain’ from their new in-laws.
5	Participant V noted that “Despite the high prevalence of SGBV cases in Kangemi, service provision for post-SGBV care is often unavailable or of poor quality. This training has given me the knowledge and courage to demand for better service delivery from the duty bearers.”

Appendix 4: Screenshot photo of Participants List – Partners Engagement Forum


Boniface Okumu, Cohort 8 - SCI:
 Leveraging Youth anti-SGBV Advocacy as a Tool for
 promoting Positive Peace in Kawangware and Kangemi, Nairobi – Kenya

ACTIVITY: COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION AND PARTNERSHIP BUILDING DATE: 20/04/2025
 (PARTNERS' ENGAGEMENT FORUM)

PARTICIPANTS' ATTENDANCE/ PHOTO-VIDEO CONSENT/ REIMBURSEMENT FORM

NO	NAME	M/F	CONTACTS	REIMBURSEMENT	SIGNATURE
1.	Rose Nambi Zull	F	Refugee Club of Kisumu (RCK)		<i>Rose</i>
2.	FAIZA NJERI	F	SOPA		<i>Faiza</i>
3.	Amira Ibrahim	F	Mullim Anti Cancer		<i>Amira</i>
4.	BONIFACE O. OKUMU	M	RPC - C8 MAKERERE		<i>Boniface</i>
5.	Vincent Mudebu	M	RCK		<i>Vincent</i>
6.	Mwangale Kelvin	M	Kangemi Youth		<i>Mwangale</i>
7.	Andrew S. M. M. M.	M	Vigata Enara		<i>Andrew</i>
8.	Rekhina Chelebasy	F	RCK		<i>Rekhina</i>
9.	Henry Kinyani	M	KANGEMI ADVOCACY GROUP		<i>Henry</i>
10.	Merabash Aziz	M	Seeds of Peace Africa (SOPA)		<i>Merabash</i>
11.	DR JAMES KEMBEI	M	COMMUNITY ELDER - KANGEMI		<i>James</i>
12.	JULIA NJUNGE	F	PROEMUKA		<i>Julia</i>
13.	Odongo Alfred Bol	M	Kawangware Panofa		<i>Odongo</i>
14.	Sylvester Namalwa	M	Kangemi Youth		<i>Sylvester</i>
15.	Audrey Mlolo	F	RCK		<i>Audrey</i>
16.	Sammy Kahublo	M	Kawangware Football Club		<i>Sammy</i>
17.	Winnie Cheronu	F	PROEMUKA		<i>Winnie</i>
18.	Hawa Lanebe	F	RCK		<i>Hawa</i>
19.					
20.					

Venue: MOTHERLAND MEETINGS ROOM - KAWANGWARE TOTAL:

Appendix 5: Questionnaire for Youth Training Workshop

YOUTH TRAINING PARTICIPANTS' QUESTIONNAIRE

I. Demographics and Background:

- Age Bracket
 18-20 21-23 24-26
- Gender
 Male Female Other
- Location (e.g., Ward, Sub-county)
 Kawangware Kangemi
- Education Level
 Primary/Secondary Tertiary University
- Socio-economic background (e.g., employment status, income level)
 Employed Self-Employed Unemployed

II. Forms of SGBV Experienced or Witnessed:

- Have you experienced SGBV at a personal level?
 Yes No
If yes, indicate which type of violence?
 Physical Violence Sexual Violence
 Psychological Violence Economic Violence
 Early or Forced Marriage Female Genital Mutilation (FGM):

III. Prevalence and Frequency:

- Frequency of SGBV experiences: once a few times regularly
- Perpetrators: Who are the perpetrators of the violence?
 spouse/partner family member friends stranger
- Location: Where did (does) the violence occur?
 home/private spaces workplace public space Other.....

IV. Impact of SGBV:

- Indicate to what degree SGBV has impacted your life or that of those you know

Impact on:	✓ Impact Level (tick where appropriate)		
	Low	Average	High
Physical Health			
Mental Health			
Social Impact			
Economic Impact			

V. Knowledge of SGBV Laws and Reporting Mechanisms:

- Indicate to what degree you are aware of the below SGBV aspects:

Awareness	✓ Awareness Level (tick where appropriate)		
	Low	Average	High
Awareness of Laws (e.g., Sexual Offences Act, etc)			
Awareness of Services (e.g., police, hospitals, shelters, NGOs)			

- What would you consider the main Barriers to Reporting SGBV acts in your area:
 fear of stigma lack of trust in authorities lack of access to services

VI. Suggestions for Improvement:

- What steps can, do you suggest, be taken to prevent SGBV and promote Positive Peace?

- How can access to support services be improved?

