



## Safe Spaces for Learning: Teachers Take a Lead to Prevent and End SRGBV

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*Aide Memoire: UNGEI – EI Consultation and Design Workshop*

**November 12-13, 2013 · New York City**

Gender-based violence (GBV) and the fear of GBV is a global phenomenon that knows no geographical, cultural, social, economic or other boundaries. It occurs across all societies and is a major obstacle to achieving gender equality. School-related gender-based violence (SRGBV) – in particular the violence against girls that occurs in and around schools -- continues to be a serious barrier to the right to education and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). While it is impossible to measure the true magnitude of violence against children worldwide, the Global School Based Student Health Survey, estimated that between 20% and 65% of school-aged children reported being verbally or physically bullied in school in the previous 30 days. Between 500 million and 1.5 billion children are estimated to experience violence annually.

It is within this context that **the UN Girls Education Initiative (UNGEI) and Education International (EI) have forged a partnership to explore how to support teachers and communities in and around schools to take leadership to address SRGBV.** Teachers, school administrators and teachers' unions are key partners in tackling SRGBV and an important force for protection and change. EI is the global union representing the voices of more than 30 million teachers around the world. UNGEI is a partnership of leading development organizations worldwide that join together to assist national governments to fulfil their commitment to the right to education for all girls and boys.

UNGEI and EI convened a small group of leading experts on education, child protection, gender equality, and communications for development for a two-day Consultation and Design workshop to explore the goals, methodologies and alliances that would enable the partnership to have a concrete and measurable impact on ensuring that schools worldwide are free of gender-based violence. The Workshop drew on the experiences of The White Ribbon Campaign, 16 Days of Activism against Violence against Women (Centre for Women's Global Leadership), the Because I am a Girl Campaign (Plan International and Plan Canada), the End Violence Against Children campaign (UNICEF) and the Bell Bajao/One

Million Men One Million Promises initiative (Breakthrough). See Annex 2 for the full participant List.

This note summarizes the major recommendations and ideas that emerged in six areas: guiding principles; overarching results to be achieved; key actions that teachers can take; research agendas to build the knowledge base on teachers' roles in ending SRGBV; normative agreements to strengthen action on SRGBV; and partnerships that will bolster the initiative.

### **EI-UNGEI Partnership: Some Guiding Principles**

The ideas below draw on lessons learned from participants' campaigns and initiatives. As overarching principles, participants highlighted the importance of: a) Focusing on positive and solution-oriented messages as an overall approach; b) Reaching out to men and boys, recognizing that men look to other men for guidance and as role models; b) Developing unifying visual and written materials, such as logos, public pledges, action kits, regular use of global commemorative days, etc.; c) De-centralized approaches that enable partners to adapt to local contexts and devise ways of modelling a different relationship to power; d) Internal advocacy to ensure that the leadership and staff of 'host' organizations are fully on board; e) Undertaking actions that catalyse change from the classroom, to the whole school, to the community.

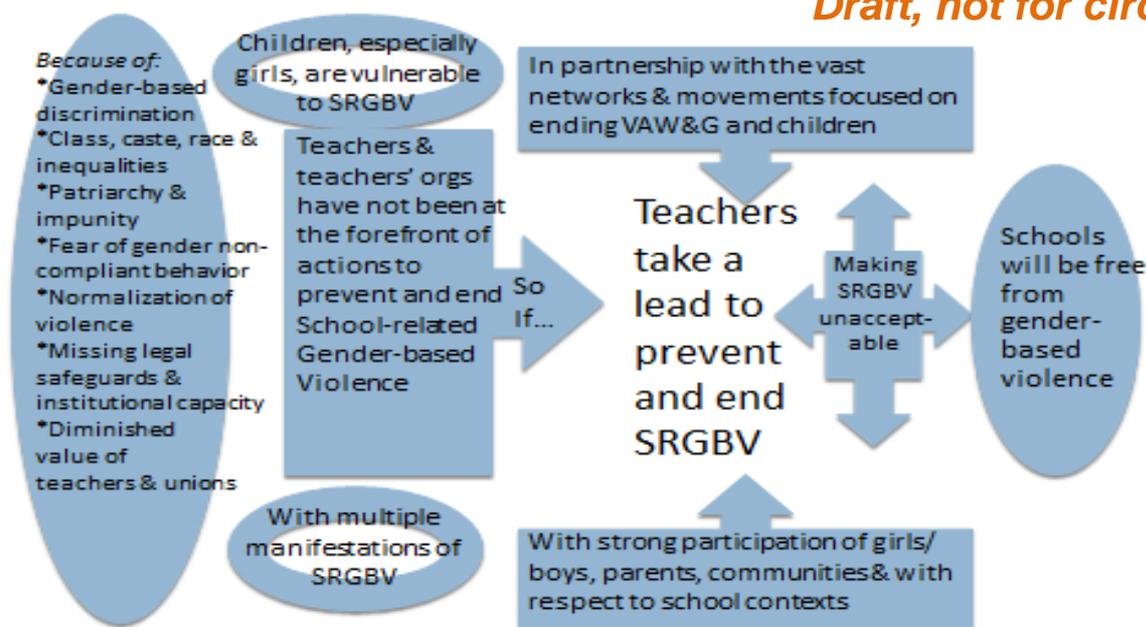
### **EI-UNGEI Initiative Draft Results Framework**

Based on an analysis of the underlying causes that contribute to SRGBV, experience from existing campaigns, and the capacity of UNGEI and EI, the following draft results framework was developed as a starting point for the goals and outcomes that could frame the UNGEI-EI partnership. This framework will need further development and details, including targets and indicators, as the partnership moves forward.

Participants recognized that the primary goal of the UNGEI-EI initiative would be that "teachers take a lead in preventing and ending SRGBV". This initiative is one amongst many – including the work of development assistance organizations, women's networks focused on gender-based violence and efforts to increase men's engagement – that could contribute to the larger goal of making SRGBV unacceptable and resulting in schools that are free from GBV.

## GOAL FOR EI / UNGEI PARTNERSHIP

*Draft, not for circulation*



### Ideas on actions that teachers could take

Based on the overall goal outlined above, some ideas on specific actions teachers could take included:

- Position teachers as key leaders and 'in the driver's seat' *vis à vis* actions to prevent and end SRGBV
- Teachers sign on to a declaration / pledge / promise / vow
- Develop symbol or flag for the school to show that "This is violence-free classroom/school"
- Develop kits with tools, lessons plans and summer institutes to help teachers build skills on preventing SRGBV;
- Ensure at least 2 teachers per school are engaged for mutual support
- Public recognition, back-to-school campaigns, and contests that recognize the leadership of teachers, schools and communities

### Research agendas to build a knowledge base on teacher's roles in ending SRGBV

Discussions on the need to deepen knowledge on SRGBV broadly, and specifically on teachers' roles, affirmed that developing a collective research agenda could fill a crucial knowledge gap. Initial ideas specifically related to the UNGEI-EI initiative – and which would contribute to a baseline to measure progress – included:

- Undertaking a baseline survey in a targeted number of schools to find out what helps/prevents teachers from taking a lead on SRGBV; undertake a needs assessment to find out what teachers would need for classroom, school or community activities;
- Producing an inventory of actions that teachers are already taking to address SRGBV
- Coordinating with Plan's 2014 research agenda on quality education that includes a focus on teachers and SRGBV
- Working with the Canadian Teachers' Federation and other teachers groups to field-test materials produced for this initiative.

### **International Normative Agreements to Strengthen Action on SRGBV**

The absence of normative commitments that are specific to preventing and ending SRGBV is an area that could be further explored in a partnership context. Three immediate possibilities were highlighted:

- There will be an education goal in the post-2015 agenda, but there is little likelihood that SRGBV will be specified as an indicator or target. Partners agreed to pursue ways to stimulate discussion and alliances around this issue, most immediately in the upcoming UN Commission on the Status of Women (March, 2014).
- Education International will hold a world conference in 2015. Advocacy will start immediately – with the international Status of Women Committee and with their World Congress on Women – to build support for a resolution on SRGBV from their 2015 Congress.
- The idea of a Teacher's Pledge (see section above on Actions) could become an international norm, building from the grassroots.

### **Key Partnerships for the UNGEI – EI Initiative**

Participants brainstormed the web of partnerships with which this initiative could build synergies. The partner framework included a first level of five "essential" partners – relevant UN system and Global Partnership for Education (GPE) initiatives, such as the UNICEF End Violence against Children Campaign; women's human rights networks, including the Centre for Women's Global Leadership and Breakthrough; men's networks, including the White Ribbon Campaign and Men Engage networks and their school-based programmes; global and regional education networks, such as FAWE; existing campaigns and initiatives that are relevant, such as Plan's Because I Am a Girl.

Participants also highlighted an outer and important tier of many other sectors that could be mobilized. The graphics in Annex 1/Partnerships illustrate both proposed tiers of partnerships.

### **Next steps:**

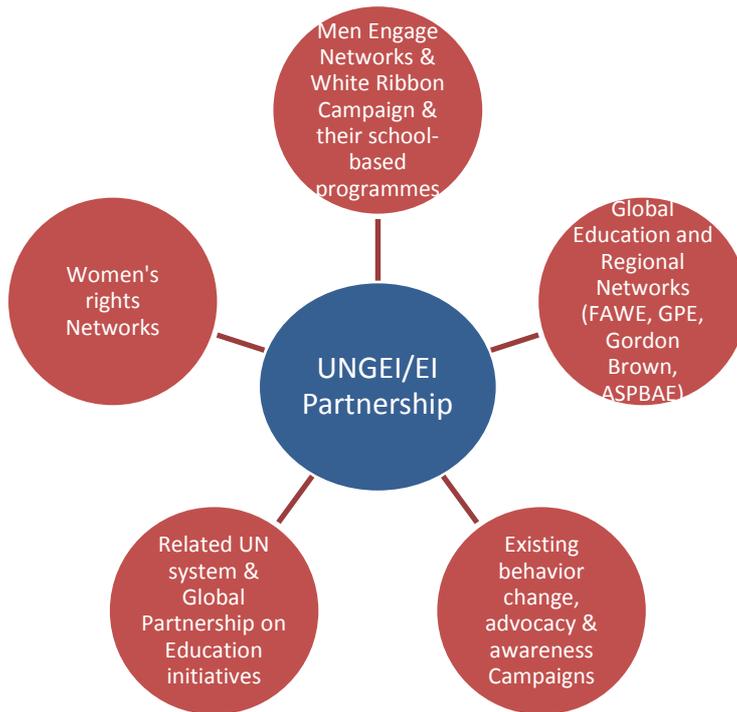
The feedback and guidance provided by participants during the consultation strengthened both the commitment and vision guiding the UNGEI-EI partnership. It helped to clarify that the partnership would focus on a first-phase initiative that could run until 2015, with a view toward a longer-term engagement in the post-2015 environment.

There are four immediate next steps:

- *Internal advocacy* within: a) EI to generate broad buy-in and participation across the organization, as well as to strengthen the normative agreements emerging from EI's global congress in 2015 and; b) UNGEI to bring members of its Global Advisory Committee (GAC) on board and propose mapping SRGBV activities of UNGEI members;
- *Preparing consultations and advocacy for the upcoming UN Commission on the Status of Women*, including through side events to launch the Global Monitoring Report, a side event/ consultative meeting on girls' education and the post-2015 agenda;
- *Getting SRGBV on the agenda for the 2015 Global Action Week*, including by liaising with influential partners;
- *Move a potential research agenda*, including by liaising with Plan on upcoming research on quality of education and contacting key donors.

## Annex 1: Key Partners for the EI/UNGEI Initiative

### *Essential Partnerships*



#### **Key Upcoming Events**

- Men Engage International Symposium - November 2014 in Delhi
- Global Action Week May 2015
- EI Global Congress in 2015

*Other Key Partners*



## **Annex 2: Contact Information of Consultation Group**

	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Representative</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Organization website address</b>	<b>Org. social media (Twitter/FB) acct</b>
1	16 Days of Activism Campaign	Savi Bisnath	Associate Director, Center for Women's Global Leadership	<a href="mailto:savi.bisnath@rutgers.edu">savi.bisnath@rutgers.edu</a>	16days/cwgilrutgers.edu	@16DaysCampaign @16Days
2	Break-through	Lynn Harris	Communications Director	<a href="mailto:lynn@breakthrough.tv">lynn@breakthrough.tv</a>		
3	Canadian Teachers' Federation	Cassie Hallett DaSilva	Program Officer, International Programs	<a href="mailto:chall@ctf-fce.ca">chall@ctf-fce.ca</a>	www.ctf-fce.ca	@CTFPresident @CANTeachersFed
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7	Plan International	Emily Laurie	Advocacy Manager, BIAG Campaign	<a href="mailto:Emily.Laurie@plan-international.org">Emily.Laurie@plan-international.org</a>	<a href="http://www.planinternational.org/girls">www.planinternational.org/girls</a>	@PlanGlobal @EmilyJayneLaurie
8	SADTU (South African Democratic Teachers Union)	Mpule Dorcus SEKABATE	Vice President of Gender, South African Democratic Teacher's Union	<a href="mailto:Dsekabate@SADTU.org.za">Dsekabate@SADTU.org.za</a>	<a href="http://www.sadtu.org.za">www.sadtu.org.za</a>	
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