

Survivors' Voices:

Empowerment of Survivors Across All Borders

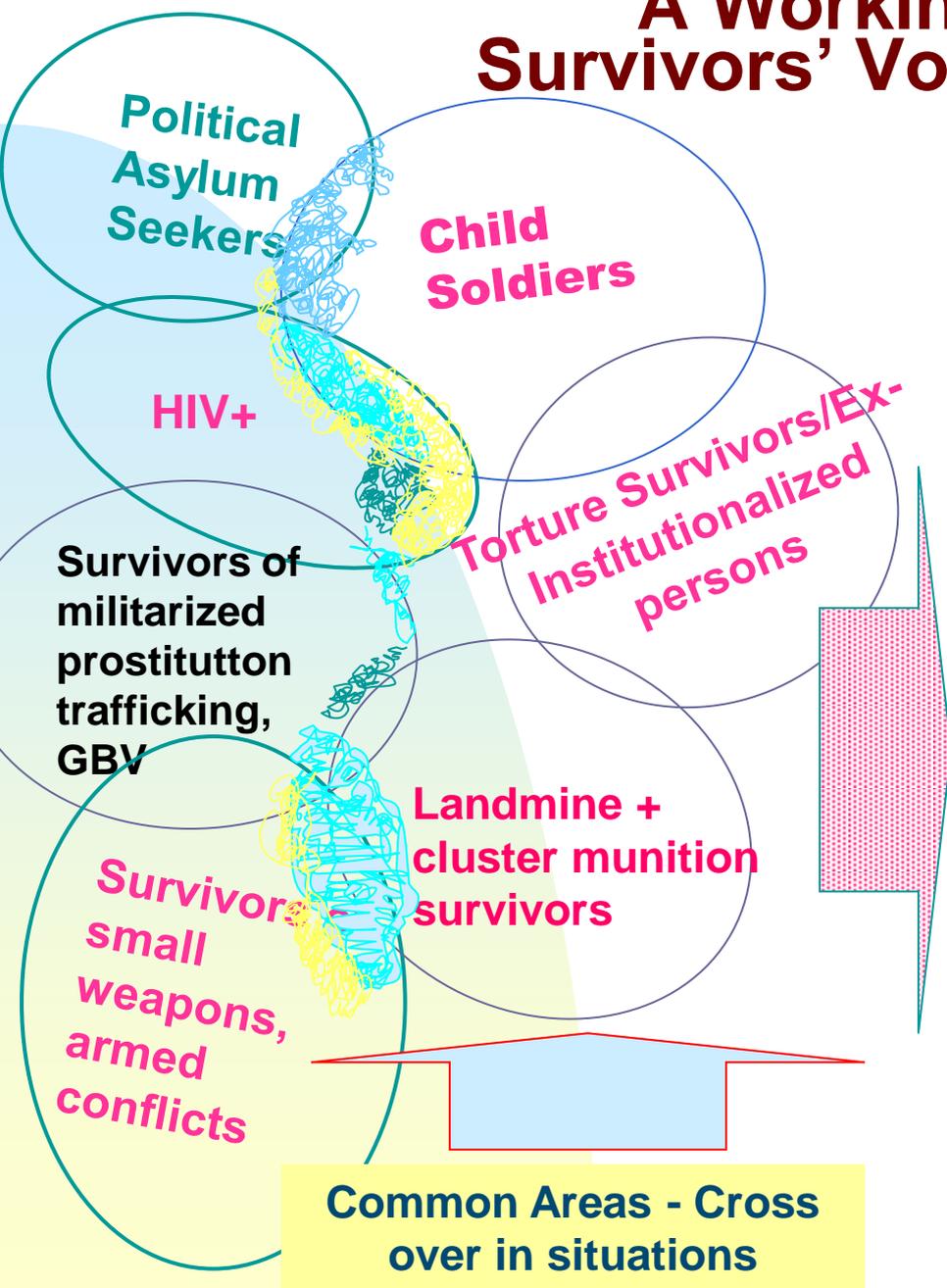
Concept Piece

Betsy Kawamura, Oslo, Norway

bkawamura@btinternet.com, +47 97 00 28 19

January 17, 2011

A Working-Group with Survivors' Voices Can Help via:



- Empowerment, bridge-building North + South of fellow survivors from different groups – Use Synergies on MDG, ATT and UNSCR1325 action!!
- Stansing humiliation and marginalization to avoid future armed conflicts!
- Creating solidarity *for political engagement+ stop stigmatization*
- Facilitating exchange of legal, medical, human rights info to other survivors for *capacity building + empowerment.*
- Providing testimonials for legal bodies, ie. ICC International Criminal Courts, Tribunals, local legal instruments, etc.

An Effective Survivors' Working Group/Network Can ***Prevent Marginalization + Future Conflicts:***

Abolish Survivor Groups' *Vulnerabilities*

We will *never* be able to be healthy, succeed, *have* *dignity*, be respected, be financially secure, be able to secure our nation...

Break Public's Misconceptions

"These people will never be able to succeed, *be* *trusted*, empowered, *capable of running countries*, be ambitious enough to overcome their traumas, etc. ..."

Empowerment of Survivors Network:

Survivors are "*competence centers*" in their own rights.

Help toward empowerment + integration of others
socially, politically, economically amongst ALL sectors.

**Create politically active survivors in global *working committees* that
create + maintain *benchmarking, evaluation, strategy work***

Network + working group = platforms to *discuss* stories/experiences.

The "conspiracy of silence" around survivor-hood can be broken.

Strengthen Article 19 press/media work for survivors - work directly
with media/journalists and to destroy stigmatization as survivors.
Press media freedom = Better survivors' rights + Women's
rights!

Enhance skill-sets toward *global bridge building between North and
South regions for survivors of all groups.*

*Western nations and Southern Region = competency exchange,
and strategy formulation for political engagement + bench-
marking progress*

Politically engaged survivors to interact *directly* with UN working
committees , ICC, international tribunals, etc. Work at HIGHEST
LEVELS possible. VISIBILITY IMPORTANT!!!

A Powerful Survivors' Net-Work Can:

- Strengthen ties with global state actors on MDG, ATT and UNSCR1325. *Observe synergies* with survivors of cluster munitions, landmines, small weapons, etc.. Input toward MDG, Arms Trade Treaty, SALW, environmental issues, etc.. *Survivors can direct implementation, bench-marking and evaluation.*
- Engage lawyers, doctors and other professionals on international competence-building . Add resources to working groups in post-conflict and unstable areas for peace negotiations/reconciliation
- Prevent re-marginalization, i.e. from economic hardship; *prevent marginal marginalization*, esp in cases of gender based violence.
- **Survivors' Net-Work can catalyze State Heads, Ministries, NGOs +decision makers to walk their talk on National Action Plans...!**

Survivors' Working Groups –Required Engagement+Support from:

Resources, Networking + Bridging Required:

Private Sectors/Corporate Social Responsibility divisions, esp those with Gender + Human Rights Interests

Hospitals, trauma research centers, WHO, etc.

International Governments, Ministries, i.e. Ministry of Health, Foreign Affairs, Defense, Justice etc.

Financial Institutions, "Green" banks, IMF, World Bank- to secure gender perspectives in program funding

Faith-based groups, i.e. Pax Christi, etc.

Foundations, i.e. Hewlett Foundation, Fritt Ord, OAK Foundation, Bill Gates, Heinrich Bolls, Ford, etc.

NGOs focused on survivors' rights : IANSA, AOAV, Oxfam, YWCA, WILPF, Red Cross, etc.

Media/press agencies, Institute for War and Peace Reporting, Dart Centre for Journalism + Trauma, VII, Magnum, etc.

Key political figures, ambassadors, Parliaments engaged in implementation

Recognized leaders in human rights +gender work: Nobel Peace Laureates, Nobel Women's Initiatives, State Heads, human rights opinion leaders, etc.

Bertha Von Suttner, Nobel Lecture 1906

Inspiration for Women + All Survivors to partake in Peace Negotiations

“One of the eternal truths is that happiness is created and developed in peace, and one of the eternal rights is the individual’s right to live. The strongest of all instincts, that of self-preservation, is an assertion of this right, affirmed and sanctified by the ancient commandment: **"Thou shalt not kill."** – It is unnecessary for me to point out how little this right and this commandment are respected in the present state of civilization. Up to the present time, *the military organization of our society has been founded upon a denial of the possibility of peace, a contempt for the value of human life, and an acceptance of the urge to kill.*”

Bertha Von Suttner , Nobel Peace Laureate
18th April 1906, Norway, Lecture

Survivors' Actions = Empowerment for ALL !

Thank You to:

International Peace Bureau, Action On Armed Violence, IANSA International Alliance Network Against Small Weapons, Forum for Development and Environment, Women's International League for Peace + Freedom, Bestmødre for Fred, Forum Norway 1325, Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies at Ullevål Hospital, Nobel Women's Initiatives, PeaceJam UK, PRIO Peace Research Institute of Oslo, Red Cross Norway, FOKUS Forum for Women and Development, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, World Aids Day Planning Committee (Oslo), Human Dignity + Humiliation Studies, Institute for War + Peace Reporting, Dart Centre for Journalism and Trauma, and

mostly to survivors of GBV globally who shared their stories of empowerment and transformation with me !

B. Kawamura

bkawamura@btinternet.com