

## FROM A WHISPER TO A SHOUT

### Integrity Women In Business Center, Inc. (IWBC) launches the Virgin Islands “Voices Against Violence” Initiative

“Voices against Violence” is a co-educational curriculum developed by the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) and UN Women, with inputs from young people. Designed for various age groups ranging from 5 to 25 years, it provides young people with tools and expertise to understand the root causes of violence in their communities, to educate and involve their peers and communities to prevent such violence, and to learn about where to access support if violence is experienced. See more at:

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2013/10/voices-against-violence-curriculum#sthash.RC0cM4de.dpuf>

In July 2011, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) launched a global campaign to “Stop the violence – speak out for girls’ rights”, which will run until 2020. IWBC has partnered with this campaign to bring the “Stop the violence” message to the Virgin Islands.

Different forms of violence affect millions of girls and women worldwide every day. Up to 7 in 10 women are targeted for physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime, according to available data. Yet there are too few conversations, too little action, poor data and limited investment to stop violence against girls and women; which then extends itself throughout the community.

Girls, as females and as children, are especially vulnerable to violence. They experience sexual, physical, financial, emotional and psychological violence in their homes, their relationships, their friendships, their schools, their communities, their work, and in areas of conflict. Right here in the Virgin Islands, girls and young women are subject to different forms of violence such as sexual

“In terms of prevention, everyone (boys, girls, men, women, and anyone who doesn’t feel they fit into those categories) needs to be educated about human rights. Everyone needs to know that violence against girls and women (or against anyone, for that matter) is unacceptable. People also need to know what, specifically, they can do to help stop violence against girls and women and how to treat and provide support (if desired) for victims”.

**Sangam group leader**

harassment, dating violence and domestic violence, and this legacy can be passed down for generations and affect multiple families.

**WAGGGS' campaign to 'Stop the violence – speak out for girls' rights' has five key elements**

1. GLOBAL AWARENESS CAMPAIGN
2. EDUCATION PROGRAM
3. RESEARCH AND POLICY
4. LOBBYING
5. COMMUNITY ACTION

As part of the campaign's education program, the curriculum uses non-formal education as a tool to help end violence against girls and women. The curriculum supports children and young people to learn about violence; to understand their rights; and to develop the skills and confidence to speak out and take action against violence in their own lives and in their communities.

### **What impact will this campaign have?**

#### **CHANGE LIVES**

- Build the self-esteem of girls and young women
- Protect and support children and young people who have been or are at risk of being abused
- Promote alternative models of masculinity and femininity
- Empower girls and young women to access more resources
- Nurture the leadership of girls and young women

#### **CHANGE RELATIONSHIPS**

- Create safe and supportive spaces
- Challenge all discrimination and violence against girls and young women
- Model a respectful relationship
- Build empathy and respect for girls and young women
- Engage boys and men in the elimination of violence

#### **CHANGE COMMUNITIES**

- Work with communities to change harmful attitudes, beliefs and practices that condone violence against girls and young women



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- Campaign for gender equality and the end of discrimination against girls and young women
- Breakdown gender stereotypes and myths about violence
- Raise awareness and advocate for the implementation of laws to stop violence against girls and women
- Build partnerships with local organizations to campaign for better support services

## **CHANGE SOCIETIES**

- Promote the rights of girls and young women
- Run a campaign for better services, or against discrimination and violence and calling for increased action from the government and/or the community to eliminate and prevent all forms of violence against women and girls.
- Challenge the media representation of girls and women

## **THE LOCAL CAMPAIGN**

**IWBC** will partner with local organizations such as:

- community youth organizations
- public and private schools
- after –school programs
- non-profit organizations supporting women and children
- domestic violence programs
- government agencies

**IWBC** through its “Voices Against Violence” Initiative will:

- Hire and obtain training for outreach educators, who will disseminate education program that encompasses: self awareness, financial literacy, conflict resolution and career development
- Manage education program through agreements with local partners
- Host community awareness activities
- Collaborate with male groups and group leaders on anti-violence programs

### The link between gender inequality and violence

- Men and boys are less likely to respect women and girls if they are not encouraged to treat them as equals.
- Women and girls are less likely to realize that they are experiencing violence if they are used to being treated differently because they are female.

*Girlguiding UK*



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### **KEY PRINCIPLES OF THE CURRICULUM**

1. It takes a human rights based approach. It informs girls and young women of their rights and it empowers them to assert these rights. It holds communities accountable for their role in upholding girls' and women's rights and preventing violence.
2. It operates in a safe and supportive setting. Leaders will follow their organizations or WAGGGS' child protection policy and procedure. Leaders will not accept or tolerate any form of violence or abuse and will not condone harmful attitudes.
3. It recognizes that children and young people are active participants in their own lives and that they play an important role in changing attitudes and raising awareness about ending violence against girls and young women.
4. It acknowledges gender inequality as a cause and consequence of violence against girls and young women.
5. It uses a non-formal education approach to challenge harmful norms, attitudes and behaviors to stop violence against girls and young women.
6. It develops a global curriculum that is adaptable, relevant and culturally appropriate.
7. It works in partnership with communities and builds relationships with parents, schools, community leaders, support services and women's organizations.
8. It recognizes that men and boys play an active role in stopping violence. It engages men and boys in sessions. It creates safe spaces for them to think about and challenge gender inequality and violence and it encourages them to take an active role in preventing and ending violence.
9. It delivers a survivor-centered approach that respects the agency of survivors and responds to their needs by providing support to children who disclose violence in a way that is appropriate for their age as required by the local or WAGGGS child protection policy.
10. It takes an evidence-based approach. The curriculum has been informed by initiatives proven to stop violence around the world, by the expertise of global leaders in ending violence against women and girls, and by the experiences of Girl Guide and Girl Scout groups.

Abbelle Bakr, the founder of IWBC is an entrepreneur and community organizer. She started this non-profit organization in 2005. She saw that women and girls of the Virgin Islands needed support and empowerment, not just after a crisis, but before crisis; giving women tools and resources to avoid crisis situations and lift themselves out of poverty. She felt that an organization such as IWBC could be instrumental in changing the many staggering statistics as it related to women and their children and has initiated programs and built a team of caring persons to do just that. IWBC has since been nationally recognized for many of its initiatives and is a member of the National Association of Non Profit Organizations and Executives (NANOE), where Abbelle sits on the Governing Board.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has”.

*Margaret Mead,  
American anthropologist*

IWBC believes that when women succeed, communities benefit. Violence issues affect the quality of life for the entire community. By collectively pooling our resources and efforts, we can make a difference.

### Support our vision

*By supporting Virgin Islands “Voices Against Violence” you'll be helping girls and young women to develop their full potential as responsible citizens of the world. You would be supporting the upliftment of an entire community.*

For more information on how you can get involved and support the “**Voices Against Violence**” Initiative, please contact Abbelle Bakr at 340-778-4228 or email [abbelle@ibcvi.com](mailto:abbelle@ibcvi.com). You can also learn more about IWBC at: [integritywomeinbusiness.org](http://integritywomeinbusiness.org) and the global campaign at: [www.stoptheviolencecampaign.com](http://www.stoptheviolencecampaign.com)



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## Charitable Contribution/Sponsorship Form

I \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
(Organization/ Company)

Pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to Integrity Women In Business Center, Inc.

I would like to offer this for specific purpose of (circle)

- a) Voices Against Violence Initiative
- b) Other Initiative \_\_\_\_\_
- c) General fund
- d) Volunteers
- e) I am interested in sponsoring # \_\_\_ of members to the organization at \$125.00 per member.

There are other opportunities to help:

- f) I would like to become a Strategic Partner
- g) I would like to become a Volunteer

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that my charitable contribution is tax deductible up to 50% of my adjusted gross income and I will receive a letter from IWBC for tax purposes.

Please enclose check to Integrity Women In Business Center, Inc.

Mail or drop off at 2019 Mt. Welcome Ste. 2, Christiansted VI, 00820

Or make contributions via your credit card at:

[www.integritywomeninbusiness.org](http://www.integritywomeninbusiness.org)



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*Schedule A - Logic Model (Impact and Budget)*

Activity	Cost	# of beneficiaries	Community Impact
6 week Interactive Sessions (10 Groups)	Personnel (5 outreach educators) - \$10,000.00 (stipend)  Supplies (handouts and awards) - \$5,000.00	200 (annually) Ages 5-25	-Educate, empower and encourage (200) youth to become aware and avoid violence in their homes and communities -increase awareness of rights and resources -decrease violent occurrences in the community
One on One Counseling with Family Members	Personnel (2) (in-kind)  Supplies (handouts and publications) - \$1,000.00	50	-Increase awareness and family support -Encourage Mentorship and participation in other community initiatives - Provide resources for family planning, life skills, education (GED), substance abuse and health
Benefit Concert/ Launch	Fundraising Expenses – \$2,500.00  Production/Guest Artists – \$10,000.00	STX – 100-300	-Raise funds for initiative and “voices against violence community partners” -Bring community awareness to project -Inspire community with non violent messaging

2016-2017 Initiative Budget = \$28,500.00

Indirect Cost = \$2,850.00

Total = \$31,350.00



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