



Valencia cross-cutting workshop

5-7 June 2006, University of Valencia, Spain

Benefits and limitations of human rights frameworks: the case of interpersonal violence



Local organizers:

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The cross cutting workshop took successfully place from the 5th to 7th of June 2006 at the University of Valencia, Spain.

34 CAHRV members of the four sub-networks, one member of the advisory committee and two invited speakers attended the workshop.

Overall objective of the workshop was to examine, on the one hand, how human rights frameworks have been, and could be, elaborated to shape constructive approaches to interpersonal violence; on the other hand, how well our growing understanding of, and methods of addressing interpersonal violence fit into human rights frameworks and may benefit from these.

Further aim was to develop an integrated theoretical framework for the many dimensions of CAHRV, within which the relevance and the limitations of human rights frameworks are articulated and the nature of controversies and differing perspectives is better understood.

Furthermore the workshop aimed to begin outlining how policy recommendations on a European level may result from the work, on the principle of respecting diversity while securing universal rights.

The workshop was structured in five sessions, each session focused on a central issue and aimed to make controversy explicit. Session themes cut across the areas of victimization (women, men, children and elderly), and the theoretical tasks of the sub-networks (profiling victimization, exploring the roots of violence, addressing violence, and identifying protective/ preventive factors).

Following sessions were held:

1. Relevance of human rights and civil rights to addressing violence against women: Contrasting country cases
2. Gendering human right
3. Patterns and profiles of violence
4. Relevance of human rights frameworks to men being victims or becoming perpetrators of interpersonal violence
5. Conflicts between and among basic human rights – can the holistic approach be expanded to include everyone's rights?

The concept of approaching each issue from (at least) two directions with the aim of casting light on the gaps, confusions and deficits “in the middle” was successful implemented. CAHRV members and invited speakers presented in prepared statements their perspectives on the central issues, and in each session there was time for fruitful discussion in the plenary.

In a closing session the Co-ordinator and the rapporteur of each session sum up the most important aspects and insights, followed by an intensive discussion on perspectives for further work.

The results of the discussions and analysis of the cross-cutting workshop were prepared in a separate report by Liz Kelly and are disseminated to the CAHRV members and the EC project officer.