

QUESTIONNAIRE

Response of the Government of: **BHUTAN**

Date of completion of questionnaire: **19 December 2008**

Name(s) of governmental entity responsible for preparing/coordinating completion of this questionnaire: National Commission for Women and Children (NCWC)

Name(s) of entities/organizations that contributed information for the completion of this questionnaire: **RENEW and NCWC**

Name and contact details of focal point(s) responsible for communicating with the secretariat on any future matters related to the database: **Ms. Chime Wangmo chimyd@yahoo.com, RENEW Ms. Choeki Penjore chhoekip@gmail.com (NCWC)**

Website, if available: **www.renew.org.bt, http://www.ncwcbhutan.net/**

Definition of violence against women

This questionnaire uses the United Nations definition of violence against women as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”¹ The term “women” is used to cover females of all ages, including girls under the age of 18.

When responding to the questionnaire, Member States are encouraged to provide information on measures taken to address **all forms** of violence against women. Forms include, but are not limited to, intimate partner violence, such as battering, and marital rape; harmful traditional practices, such as female genital mutilation, female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, early marriage, forced marriage, dowry-related violence, crimes against women committed in the name of “honour”, and maltreatment of widows; femicide; sexual violence by non-partners; sexual harassment and violence in the workplace and elsewhere; trafficking in women; custodial violence; and forced sterilization; as well as violence against women in armed conflict.²

I. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

1. Has your country established any of the following mechanism(s)/institution(s) to address violence against women? If YES, please provide a brief summary of each mechanism/institution, not exceeding 100 words, which includes the

¹ See United Nations (2006) *Secretary-General's in-depth study on all forms of violence against women (A/61/122/Add.1)*

² United Nations (2006), *supra. note Error! Bookmark not defined.*, Chapter IV.

following information:

- Name
- Mandate
- Date established
- Details of membership
- Whether or not the mechanism/institution was established through legislation, policy, decree, or other action.

The National Commission for Women and Children established in January 2004 via the Cabinet of the Council of Ministers (CCM) order to fulfil commitments of the RGoB to the international treaties ratified, in particular the CRC and CEDAW.

Mandates of the NCWC:

- Fulfil reporting obligation of the RGoB to international conventions ratified
- Coordinate the preparation of reports and ensure that all activities implemented in the country are in line with the CRC and the CEDAW in particular
- Monitor and ensure that all programs and policies in the country are in line with the CRC, CEDAW and other ratified conventions
- Provide a platform to receive complaints on the violation of the rights of women and children
- Institutional support and social mobilisation

The NCWC has a group of Commissioners that is chaired by the Minister of Education as the Chairperson. The Commission previously had 11 Commissioners (cross sectoral representation from RGoB, NGOs, and private sector) that has been disbanded. Currently, list of potential Commissioners has been submitted to the PM for approval.

Founded by Her Majesty the Queen Mother Sangay Choden Wangchuck, in 2004, RENEW (Respect, Educate, Nurture and Empower Women) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) dedicated to empowerment of women and girls in Bhutan, especially the disadvantaged, with a special focus on victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

RENEW firmly believes that gender-based violence stands in the way of achieving gender equality. Hence it campaigns to prevent and eradicate GBV in pursuit of its mission to better the lives of disadvantaged women and girls and help integrate them back into their communities as independent, socially and economically productive members of society.

RENEW was established on Her Majesty the Queen Sangay Choden Wangchuck's initiative based Her Majesty's compassion and interest in the welfare of women, youth and children of Bhutan.

a) Task Force(s)

Yes No

The SAARC gender group

b) Rapporteur(s)

Yes No

NCWC is the rapporteur of the SAARC gender group

c) Inter-agency Committee(s)/Council(s)

Yes No

Under RENEW, there is a Steering Committee consisting of members from the Police, Judiciary, Ministries of Finance, Home and Health and private sectors.

d) Parliamentary Committee(s)

Yes No

There is a sub-group for women and children amongst the parliamentary members.

e) Other(s) (please specify)

Yes No

Under RENEW, there is a working committee to monitor the implementation of activities related to VAW and GBV.

2. Does your country have dedicated staff/civil servants who develop/coordinate/monitor policy on violence against women? If YES, please provide details.

Yes No

NCWC

There is also a sub-group for women and children amongst the parliamentary members.

II. COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION

3. Has your country collaborated with any of the following stakeholders in measures to address violence against women? If YES, please provide a brief summary of the nature of such collaboration, not exceeding 400 words.

a) Non-governmental organizations or community-based organizations

Yes No

Collaboration with RENEW in terms of provision of land for the office set-up and for the shelter home. The Government also assisted NCWC in the process of establishing the women and child protection unit with the police.

b) Religious and/or cultural organizations

Yes No

Through RENEW, advocacy campaigns are conducted for religious groups.

- c) The media
Yes No

The media is used as one of the most powerful medium to create awareness on GBV and VAW by NCWC as well as RENEW.

- d) The private sector
Yes No

Through RENEW, collaboration with some of the private agencies such as printing press, individual experts such as doctors, lawyers and business communities are done for both financial and technical assistance. They are called the “Friends of RENEW”. Further NCWC also has close collaboration network with private sector.

- e) International and/or regional organizations
Yes No

NCWC has coordinated with RENEW on cases as well as regional and international organisations like the UNIFEM that has not only provided financial support but also support for capacity building. The UN also support the strengthening of national capacity and systems to formulate, review and implement national legislation in line with ratified international conventions – CRC and CEDAW.

- f) Other (please specify)
Yes No

4. Has your country engaged in any regional and/or multi-lateral effort(s) to address violence against women? If YES, please provide a brief summary of such effort(s), not exceeding 400 words.

- Yes No

Bhutan has as a member of the SAARC being coordinating with the SAARC secretariat in addressing VAW. Currently, in the process of establishing the SAARC Gender Info-Base which is an info base that will provide information and data on issues related to women on three prioritized themes Health with a focus on HIV/AIDS, Feminization of Poverty and VAW.

III. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

5. Does your country have any specific constitutional provision(s) or amendment(s) regarding violence against women? If YES, please provide a brief summary of each provision(s)/amendment(s), not exceeding 200 words, which includes the following information:
- Title
 - Date of adoption
 - Date of entry into force
 - Forms of violence addressed

Where possible, please also provide the **full text** of the relevant provision.

Yes No

Though there is no specific legislation in place for VAW, the Constitution of Bhutan has mention of 2 Articles covering some aspects of VAW. Please note that VAW is treated as any other assault violence.

Constitution of Bhutan (18 July 2008)

Article 8

Fundamental Duties

5. A person shall not tolerate or participate in acts of injury, torture or killing of another person, terrorism, abuse of women, children or any other person and shall take necessary steps to prevent such acts.

Article 9

Principles of State Policy

17. The State shall endeavour to take appropriate measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination and exploitation against women including trafficking, prostitution, abuse, violence, harassment and intimidation at work in both public and private spheres

6. Has your country enacted any specific legislation, legislative provision(s), subsidiary legislation (including rules or regulations), and/or amendments regarding violence against women? If YES, please provide a brief summary of each law, not exceeding 400 words, which includes the following information:
- Title
 - Date of adoption
 - Date of entry into force
 - Forms of violence addressed

Where possible, please also provide the **full text** of the relevant law(s).

Yes No

Of date not specific provision on VAW but provisions have been included in the Penal Code of Bhutan 2004, the Civil and Criminal Procedure Code and in the Marriage Act of 1980.

Amendment to the Marriage Act, 1980

Kha 7-3 of Marriage:

- 1) Where a married couple has been granted a divorce, the custody of a child under the age of nine years shall be given to the mother. The father shall pay child support allowance according to the provisions of a marriage settlement agreement. In the absence of any such agreement, the father shall pay a sum in cash amounting to twenty percent of his monthly income per month to each child as child support allowance. Provided, the total child support allowance does not exceed 40% of his monthly income.

The payment of the child support allowance may be made either monthly or once a year in lump sum, depending upon his convenience, until the child attains eighteen years of age.

Kha 8-1:

- 1) Where a suit has been filed in the court of Law on the grounds of an unmarried women having been made pregnant and if the suit succeeds, the person committing the offence shall pay an amount equal to the national daily wage for ten months calculated in accordance with the Chathrim for national wage rate to the unmarried woman towards the cost of her medical treatment.
- 2) The father of child born out of wedlock shall pay child support allowance according to the provision of a mutually settled agreement. In the absence of any such agreement, the father shall pay sum in cash amounting to twenty percent of his monthly income per month to each child. Provided, the total child support allowance does not exceed 40% of his monthly income.

The payment of the child support allowance may be made either monthly or once a year lump sum, depending upon his convenience, until the child attains eighteen years of age.

Income shall mean:

- a) Net salary/wage in the case of employees
- b) Net income from ownership of property/farm/business
- c) Net income from dividends of stocks or shares or
- d) Any net income earning not included above.

7. Has your country developed any policy guidelines or protocols which provide detailed advice for the following sectors on how to implement legislation on violence against women? If YES, please provide a brief summary for each instrument, not exceeding 200 words, which includes the following information:
 - o Title
 - o Date of adoption
 - o Date of entry into force
 - o Brief summary

Where possible, please also provide the **full text** of the relevant document(s). Bhutan lacks National Policy guidelines which provide detailed advice however, RENEW provides support to victims within their capacity. NCWC and the Women and Child Protection Unit though not mandated also provide support to victims within their own capacity.

- a) Police
Yes No

A protocol is under development for the police manual.

b) Prosecutors

Yes No

c) Corrections officials

Yes No

d) Immigration officials

Yes No

e) Military personnel

Yes No

f) Health professionals

Yes No

g) Social workers

Yes No

h) Education professionals

Yes No

i) Other (please specify)

Yes No

8. Does your country have any of the following measures in place to protect and support victims/survivors of violence against women during the court process? If YES, please provide a brief summary of each measure, not exceeding 100 words, which includes the following information:

- o Legislative/policy basis (if any)
- o Geographical availability and distribution

a) Independent support person(s) to accompany victims

Yes No

RENEW case workers accompany the victims to the court.

b) Legal aid

Yes No

Bhutan has some measures in place to protect and support the victims/survivors of VAW in the Penal Code.

Penal Code of Bhutan

Chapter 5, section 34

“Only an indigent accused shall have legal aid provided for one’s defense when the interest of justice so requires.”

A local NGO - RENEW also refers the cases to the legal authority for further compiling and investigation

- c) Possibility of providing testimony via video or video-link
Yes No

Provisions are available for In-Camera hearing based on the victim’s preferences.

- d) Physical separation of the victim/survivor and perpetrator in courtrooms (eg by installation of screens)

Yes No

- e) Separate entrances to court rooms

Yes No

- f) Other (please specify)

Yes No

9. Does your country have any of the following specialized institutions and officials designated to address violence against women? If YES, please provide a brief summary of each such initiative, not exceeding 100 words, which includes the following information:

- o Policy/legislative basis (if any)
- o Number of institutions/officials
- o Geographical location and distribution
- o Mandate and duties

Within the RBP, Women and Child Protection Units (WCPU) has been established in Thimphu to deal specifically with cases related to women and children including VAW. WCPU is a separate detention facility for female and juvenile offenders. The NCWC, in association with the UN system is supporting the RBP in setting up Women and Child Protection Desks in four district police stations in 2009 and then by the end of 10FYP, plans to establish 3 more regional WCPUs. The NCWC has also been building the capacity of the RBP and the Judiciary to deal with these issues.

- a) Specialized courts on violence against women.

Yes No

- b) Specialized stations/desks/officers within the police force to deal with violence against women.

Yes No

There is a women and children protection unit in the capital under the Department of Police which was established in 2006.

- c) Specialized prosecutors/prosecution units to deal with violence against women.

Yes No

- d) Other (please specify)

Yes No

10. Do the following categories of criminal justice and other officials in your country receive specific training on violence against women and gender-sensitivity? If YES, please provide a brief summary of all such training(s), not exceeding 100 words, which includes the following information:
- o Policy/legislative basis (if any)
 - o Whether training is mandatory/compulsory or voluntary
 - o Content of training
 - o Number of officials trained
 - o Frequency of training

Capacity building of the RBP personnel in country as well as ex-country in collaboration with the NCWC. Also capacity building of the judiciary as well. Also looking into coordinating with other sectors such as health, local governance and education on this. Plans also in place to advocate issues through sensitization programs to the armed forces.

- a) Local government officials
b) Police
Yes No

The Police force forms one of the main stakeholder of RENEW. RENEW organizes sensitization workshops on gender issues and VAW is one of the main component. 30 male police officers from various training institutions have been trained so far. NCWC has also conducted sensitization programmes for the police force (Nov:2007) to raise awareness of existing legal instruments that protect women's and children's rights and is helping improve the process of complaints and violation of these rights by creating more women and child friendly police procedures.

- c) Prosecutors
Yes No

- d) Judges
Yes No

- e) Lawyers
Yes No

- f) Corrections officials
Yes No

- g) Immigration officials
Yes No

- h) Military personnel
Yes No

RENEW has trained one military personnel since he is also a volunteer.

- i) Health professionals
Yes No

Training for health workers is scheduled for 29th December 2008.

j) Social workers
Yes No

k) Education professionals
Yes No

Teachers have been sensitized and are the core members of the community based support system. Non Formal Learners all throughout the country.

l) Religious and community leaders
Yes No

m) Other(s) (please specify)
Yes No

IV. POLICIES TO ADDRESS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

11. Has your country adopted a specific National Action Plan(s)/Strategies, or other similar policies, regarding violence against women, and/or any of its forms? If YES, please provide a brief summary of each policy, not exceeding 200 words, which includes the following information:

- o Title
- o Year adopted
- o Duration
- o Forms of violence addressed

Where possible, please also provide the **full text**.

Yes No

The Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) has maintained a gender-neutral position in the formulation and implementation of its plans, policies and programmes. However, a review of Bhutan's Five Year Plans (FYPs) shows an evolution from a Women in Development approach as recently as 20 years ago to a gendered approach to development in preparations for the Tenth Plan (2008-2013).

The National Plan of Action for Gender (NPAG), the result of a series of consultations with national Gender Focal Points (GFPs) and key stakeholders, is the first of its kind in Bhutan. The NPAG should be considered a continually evolving document; it looks at advances and challenges in promoting and achieving gender equality in seven areas identified as critical for action during the National Gender Planning Retreat in November 2005: good governance; economic development, with a focus on employment; education and training; health; ageing, mental health and disabilities; violence against women; and prejudices and stereotypes. The overall gender mainstreaming strategy for the period of the NPAG will focus on three aspects: (i) strengthening capacity of the GFPs, the Planning Commission and the National Commission for Women and Children (NCWC); (ii) strengthening collection, analysis and use of sex disaggregated data and gender-

related information; and (iii) integrating gender into monitoring and evaluation. The NPAG also identifies specific gender interventions for the period 2007-2013, a time frame set so that the end of the NPAG coincides with the end of the Tenth Plan. Two tables for each critical area for action form the main basis for implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NPAG: The first presents the expected goal, outcomes and outputs, including targets and indicators, as well as activities to be undertaken; the second identifies responsible agencies and partners for the activities.

12. Do any plans/strategies/policies exist at the sub-national and/or local/municipal level to address violence against women? If YES, please provide the following information for each policy:
- Locality/region covered
 - Title
 - Year adopted
 - Duration
 - Forms of violence addressed

Not yet

13. Is violence against women addressed in any of the following general National Action Plans/Strategies, or other similar policies, of your country? If YES, please provide a brief summary of how violence against women is dealt with in each policy, not exceeding 100 words, which includes the following information:
- Title
 - Year adopted
 - Duration,
 - Provisions that deal with violence against women
 - Forms of violence addressed

Where possible, please also provide the **full text** of the relevant sections. If your country does not have any of the following National Action Plans, please indicate “Not Applicable”

The Government is committed to recognising violence against women (VAW) as both a development and a fundamental human rights issue. Despite being considered a society free of overt gender biases, Bhutan does face VAW. It is, however, very difficult to obtain a full picture because of a lack of available and reliable data; hardly any study has been conducted, and there is no established system for systematic collection and analysis of VAW-related data. Nevertheless, participants at the National Consultation on Violence Against Children (2004/05) indicated that violence occurs in workplaces, schools and institutions, homes and families, and communities. A need thus exists to have adequate measures to prevent/address sexual harassment in the educational and work settings, and to recognise practices such as rural ‘night hunting’ and violence against female domestic workers as forms of VAW in Bhutanese society. Records from Royal Bhutan Police (RBP) Thimphu reveal that more than half of the cases of domestic violence reported in 2005 were withdrawn. It will be important to equip police and judiciary officials with the skills to deal adequately and sensitively with victims of violence, and to develop women-friendly police and judicial procedures. Focus Group Discussions conducted by the

national NGO RENEW revealed alcohol consumption, financial pressure and jealousy arising from suspicion of infidelity to be leading causes for domestic violence, although the cultural belief in the fate of being born as a female was also recognised as playing a role. Most focus group participants agreed that domestic violence is usually accepted in silence, thus leading to vast under-reporting. This also clearly came out from records of wife battery cases reported to the National Referral Hospital: In only about 60 percent of cases had the incident also been reported to police; moreover, for about one-third of the total cases, the reported incident represented the fifth to tenth episode of wife battery. Turning to the legal and policy framework, the draft Constitution reiterates the Government's commitment to eliminating all forms of VAW, while the Penal Code of Bhutan 2004 includes several provisions for crimes that constitute gender-based violence. Eleven categories of rape are classified as felonies of the fourth degree or higher, except for marital rape, which is a petty misdemeanour. Prostitution also is criminalised, which could have a negative impact in terms of adequate access to health care by commercial sex workers. A pressing need exists to draft and enact legislation on domestic violence. Moreover, although sexual harassment is included under the sexual offences dealt with by the Penal Code, this issue, including its definition, must be more adequately addressed. The issue of VAW is now gaining focus, largely due to coverage by the media and the efforts of agencies such as the NCWC and RENEW.

a) National Development and/or Poverty Eradication Plan/Strategy
 Yes No Not Applicable

b) National Action Plan for Gender Equality/Women
 Yes No Not Applicable

c) National Action Plan on Health (including on HIV/AIDS, sexual and reproductive health or maternal mortality)

Yes No Not Applicable

National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS presents a holistic picture on health issues with special focus on women issues.

d) National Action Plan for Crime Prevention/Criminal Justice

Yes No Not Applicable

Currently the Chief of Police is taking the lead to sensitize the various relevant institutions on violence, substance abuse and parenting skills etc.

e) Other(s) (please specify)

Yes No Not Applicable

V. RESOURCES TO ADDRESS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

14. Has your country made any specific budgetary appropriation(s) for the purpose of addressing violence against women? If YES, please provide the following details for each appropriation:
- Year in which the appropriation was made
 - Amount of money appropriated (in US dollars)
 - Amount of money appropriated as a percentage of the overall National

Budget (where possible)

- Whether the appropriation was mandated by legislation or policy

Yes No

15. Has your country received and/or provided bilateral or multilateral financial assistance earmarked for projects addressing violence against women? If YES, please provide the following details for all such assistance, since 2006:

- Details of the relevant project(s)
- Amount of money received or provided
- Date of funding
- Duration of funding

Yes No

Project “Voices” and research on VAW funded by the UN system. Under the NCWC AWP's funds have been allocated and NCWC has received funds from the UN systems in Bhutan. The UN Trust Fund on EVAW's grant to NCWC was for \$ 75,000. It was given in 2005, but the implementation of the project began in 2006. The project title was Creation of women friendly police and judicial procedures in Bhutan. The final payment is still pending as the project will be completed by March 2009

VI. SERVICES FOR WOMEN VICTIMS/SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

16. Does your country have any of the following services for women victims/survivors of violence against women? If YES, please provide a brief summary of each type of service, not exceeding 200 words, which includes the following information:

- Source of funding
- Operating entity
- Number available
- Geographic distribution
- Whether, and how, women were involved in the development of the service
- How victims/survivors are informed of the availability of the service
- Languages in which information and services are available
- Whether the service is targeted to a particular group of victims/survivors (eg rural women, indigenous women, migrant women, girls, women living in slums)

The NCWC is in the process of setting up the CRM (Complaints and Response Mechanism) in collaboration with the RBP. The NCWC plans to link the CRM to regional and international mechanisms. RENEW also to set up a hotline and NCWC plans to coordinate with RENEW in linking the two mechanisms. NCWC in

collaboration with relevant partners in particular the national referral hospital to set up the One stop Crisis Centre first on a pilot basis in JDWNRH.

Renew has been supported by the UN system and other international organizations for services for women victims/survivors of VAW. These kinds of services are available in 5 districts (west, south and central) and will be expanded to other districts gradually. Media and RENEW volunteers are used as mediums to get the information across to all women of domestic violence and sexual abuse.

- a) Free emergency hotlines available 24 hours to provide advice to women victims/survivors of violence

Yes No

Free emergency hotlines are recently initiated by RENEW. Capacity building on counseling methods are going on with support from the UN system. The NCWC is in the process of setting up the CRM in collaboration with the RBP.

- b) Free shelters for women victims of violence and their children (number of beds per 10,000 population)

Yes No

There is a shelter home for victims established by RENEW with a capacity for 8-10 women funded by the UN system.

- c) Integrated service centers for victims (for example 'one stop centers')

Yes No

NCWC in collaboration with relevant partners in particular the JDWNRH to set up the One stop Crisis Centre first on a pilot basis in JDWNRH.

- d) Counseling and psychological care

Yes No

Counseling services are provided by RENEW and JDWNRH

- e) Free health services

Yes No

Free health services are free to all in Bhutan.

- f) Free legal advice/referrals

Yes No

RENEW provides free legal advice to the victims.

- g) Rehabilitation/empowerment programmes for victims/survivors, such as education and training programmes

Yes No

Livelihood skills trainings are provided to the victims with support from the UN system.

- h) Housing assistance, including public housing and rental assistance

Yes No

RENEW also provides rental assistance for housing which is done case by case.

- i) Financial assistance, including readily accessible loans

Yes No

RENEW have self-help schemes whereby women in need can avail micro loan of Nu. 5,000 to Nu. 15,000 (around 100 to 300\$) repayable in 2 years.

j) Other(s) (please specify)

Yes No

VII. LEADERSHIP, PREVENTION, AWARENESS RAISING AND ADVOCACY

17. Have any public statements/addresses regarding violence against women been made by the highest level of government/political leadership in your country, since 2006? If YES, please a brief summary of the statement(s), including the following information:

- o Name and title of speaker
- o Date
- o Audience
- o Main message

Yes No

Her Majesty Queen Mother Ashi Sangay Choden Wangchuck is the Pioneer, Founder and the President of RENEW.

Every year during the International Women's Day 8th March and International Day of the Elimination of Violence 25 November Her Majesty addresses the nations and conveys messages on VAW

Her Majesty's advocacy tours around the nation as the UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador has provided the forum for discussion and interaction with women from all walks of life.

18. Has your country conducted or commissioned any awareness raising campaigns regarding violence against women? If YES, please provide a brief summary of each campaign, not exceeding 100 words, which includes the following information:

- o Title
- o Launch date
- o Duration
- o Main messages
- o Forms of violence addressed
- o Media used (eg print media, radio, television, theatre, public meetings)
- o Target audience (eg general public, students)

Yes No

RENEW has carried out the following activities:

1. Musical album "Dronme"
2. 2 songs "Say no to violence" and "Renew Theme Song"
3. TV serial entitled "Kitsho"
4. Movie entitled "The unfortunate"
5. UN agencies and RENEW have also used the media (both print & broadcast) on a regular basis to advocate key messages coinciding with

International Women's Day(s)

UN agencies provided partial funding for a Bhutanese film : Perfect Girl in 2005 which focuses on the different elements of gender based violence. The film is a good advocacy tool particularly in rural Bhutan.

19. Has your country included information on the issue of violence against women in its educational curricula? If YES, please provide a brief summary of how violence against women is addressed, not exceeding 100 words, which includes the following information:
- Legislative/policy basis for this inclusion (if any)
 - Level of education targeted (primary, secondary, other)
 - Year information was integrated/implemented in the curriculum
 - Forms of violence covered
 - Main messages

Yes No

It is included in the NFE curriculum (Adult Education) and Royal Institute for Health and Sciences.

20. Has your country undertaken any initiatives to engage men and boys in addressing violence against women? If YES, please provide a brief summary of such initiatives, not exceeding 200 words, which includes the following information for each initiative:
- Year undertaken
 - Number of men and boys involved
 - Type of activities
 - Topics covered
 - Forms of violence addressed
 - Main messages

Yes No

Both men and women are included in the sensitization workshop on gender equality, GBV and VAW.

21. Does your country have any programmes in place to rehabilitate perpetrators of violence against women and prevent recidivism in such perpetrators? If YES, please provide a brief summary of each programme, not exceeding 200 words, which includes the following information:
- Title
 - Content
 - Duration
 - Date undertaken
 - Geographical availability
 - Whether the programme is mandatory (eg ordered by the court) or voluntary
 - Attendance

Yes No

RENEW has initiated, in a small way, counseling and sensitization programme for some perpetrators but no direct programme exists. This is still at a very early stage.

The NCWC is exploring the possibility of initiating a program to include men and boys in the prevention of VAW in the coming years.

VIII. DATA COLLECTION, ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH

[It is recommended that the national statistical office be consulted in the preparation of responses for this section of the Questionnaire]

22. Have any of the following population-based sample surveys regarding violence against women been undertaken in your country? If YES, please provide a brief summary of each survey/data collection effort and its results, not exceeding 100 words, which includes the following information:
- Responsible agency/author(s)
 - Title
 - Year(s)/date(s) conducted
 - Sample size
 - Whether the sample is representative of the entire country or only selected region(s)
 - Characteristics of the target population (sex, age, marital status etc)
 - Form(s) of violence covered
 - Whether the data is disaggregated by sex, age, race and other relevant characteristics
 - Whether the survey/data collection effort is repeated on a regular basis and, if so, at what intervals
 - Whether the national statistical office was involved in the survey/data collection effort

Where possible, please also provide the **full report** of the results.

Though there are no national surveys been undertaken, RENEW has initiated 3 studies on VAW. These include a research study on Violence Against Women, August 2007; Effects and Impacts of Domestic Violence on the Psychological and Social Well-being of Children; and Interviews with students about their witnessing domestic violence in childhood. These studies are in the draft stage and once finalized will be used to provide a better understanding of the situation of VAW and the way forward based on the country's needs.

- a) Dedicated violence against women survey(s)

Yes No

- b) Inclusion of module(s)/question(s) on violence against women in demographic and health surveys or Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey(s)

Yes No

c) Inclusion of module(s)/question(s) on violence against women in population-based crime surveys

Yes No

d) Research studies

Yes No

A VAW study carried out by the RENEW with support from UNIFEM through the NCWC. The study is still to be endorsed by the National Statistical Bureau.

e) Other (please specify)

Yes No

23. Do any of the following sectors collect data on violence against women in your country? If YES, please provide a brief summary of the data collected by each sector, not exceeding 200 words, including the following information:

- o Type of data collected
- o Availability of information on relationship between victim and perpetrator
- o Year in which data collection began
- o Frequency of data collection
- o Location(s) and accessibility of data collection

Where possible, please also provide the **full text** of available data.

a) Justice system (including number of cases reported, number of perpetrators charged and convicted and, where relevant, data from informal justice mechanisms)

Yes No

System in place but limited access to information.

b) Health system

Yes No

c) “Violence against women observatories”

Yes No

d) Other (please specify)

Yes No

IX. EVALUATION

24. Have any studies, surveys and/or other efforts to evaluate the effectiveness of the following activities to address violence against women, including key challenges to implementation, been undertaken in your country? If YES, please provide a brief summary of each evaluation and its results, including the following information:

- o Author(s)
- o Title
- o Year(s)/date(s)
- o Whether victims/survivors were involved in the evaluation

Where possible, please also provide the **full text** of the evaluation.

a) Legal framework

Yes No

b) National Action Plan/Strategy/other policy

Yes No

c) Resources allocated to address violence against women

Yes No

d) Free emergency hotlines to provide advice to women victims/survivors of violence

Yes No

e) Shelters for women victims of violence and their children

Yes No

f) Integrated service centers for victims (for example 'one stop centers')

Yes No

g) Counseling and psychological care

Yes No

h) Free health services

Yes No

i) Free legal advice/referrals

Yes No

j) Rehabilitation programmes which provide education and training

Yes No

k) Housing assistance

Yes No

l) Financial assistance

Yes No

m) Awareness raising campaigns

Yes No

n) Incorporation of information addressing violence against women in educational curricula

Yes No

o) Initiatives to engage men and boys in addressing violence against women
Yes No

p) Programmes for perpetrators
Yes No

q) Any other activities
Yes No

X. GOOD PRACTICES

25. The Secretary-General's in-depth study on all forms of violence against women notes that "good or promising practices have been developed by many States to meet their human rights obligations to address violence against women" and refers to various promising practices in three areas: addressing violence against women in the law, in the provision of services, and in prevention. Please provide a summary of up to three initiatives in your country (one in each of these three areas, and each not exceeding 400 words) which have been most effective in addressing violence against women. Please explain why the initiative is deemed to be a good practice. Examples can be drawn from the responses provided in this questionnaire.

Issues on violence against women have come out in the open and have been accepted by all due to the high level advocacy by Her Majesty The Queen Mother Sangay Choden Wangchuck. The Royal Family is highly revered by all Bhutanese and Her Majesty's personal commitment and passion on the issue gives RENEW and other organizations working in this area the strength to make a difference in the lives of those women who suffer from VAW.

XI. OTHER COMMENTS