

Prevention and Proactive Policing

Most police activities are reactive and respond to complaints

It is however important for police to be pro-active in dealing with women and girl victims of violence

- The police are in a unique position. They are there to not only to fight crime & protect citizens, but to educate the community and to try to prevent violence before it happens.

- ***POLICE OBLIGATION***

- The police have an obligation to honor relevant international instruments that outlaw all forms of violence against women and girls
- They have an obligation to protect and respect the rights of the people they deal with but also to promote the basic rights of every one

How can this be achieved?

- Working with communities to prevent violence against women and girls



- By working closely with the community, especially law abiding citizens, to prevent and solve crime. Police are in a position to better protect the community against crime



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- On the other hand the community are in a good position to ensure that the police act in a professional and transparent, and respect & protect the basic human rights of every one when fulfilling their duties



Community co-operation

- Through community co-operation, for example:
 - Policing forums
 - Education programmes
 - Outreach programmes
- Helping and educating the community to understand and deal with violence against women & girls, and how to work with the police to try to stop the cycle of violence in the community



Building trust

Building trust with the community by putting forward a friendly face to represent the criminal justice system, and by dealing with victims in a professional manner while respecting their basic human rights



Dealing with perpetrators

Dealing with perpetrators in a strict and professional way and by explaining and educating the community on how the criminal justice system works when dealing with perpetrators of violence against women and girls



Police attitude

- The attitude that the police project in a community about violence against women & girls plays a huge role in what happens inside peoples' homes and on the streets
- For example; If an officer ignores sexual harassment while he is patrolling, he or she implicitly tells the harasser that it is safe to continue with impunity



- If a police officer stops and addresses the sexual harassment as a form of violence against the victim and takes appropriate measures against the offender, this response contributes to a culture of *non-tolerance* for such activities in the future
- Other people in the community who may have been afraid to speak out or help victims in the past, will come forward and be more vocal if they know the police understand violence against women & girls, the law and will act to combat these crimes if supported by the community



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Public education and outreach

Police should be involved in educating the community about violence against women and girls through training and outreach programmes

Encourage people to report crimes

- The most important aspect of encouraging people to report is for them to participate and identify with their community and to become proactive about denouncing violence against women & girls
- It is important to dispel myths, not only about indifferent police services, but violence against women & girls, and encourage neighbours to call the police or to intervene when they see or hear violence around them.

Raising awareness about violence against women & girls

- Police should be involved in consulting with public schools about inviting guests to speak against gender based violence
- Distribute educational brochures and reading materials about gender based violence
- **Campaigns**: The best way to reach a large audience with a specific message is through campaigns

WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE ?



Verbally abusing a child



Teasing a child unnecessarily



Exposing a child to pornographic acts or literature.



Touching a child where he/ she doesn't want to be touched.



Forcing a child to touch you.



Breaking down the self-confidence of a child.



Hitting or hurting a child - often to relieve your own frustration.



Manipulating a child



Not taking care of a child, for example: unclean, unclothed, unfed child



Using a child as a servant



Not listening to a child



Neglecting emotional needs of a child



Making your own child a 'servant' depriving of time for education/leisure



Hitting and ridiculing a child at school



Neglecting a child's medical needs



Neglecting a child's educational needs



Leaving a child without supervision



Produced by: National Child Protection Authority
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16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence

November 25

December 10

16
DAYS



International Women's Day

Community programmes

- Establish community programmes that encourage citizens to work with police on stamping violence against women & girls
- Programmes can be implemented to prevent forms of violence or to prevent further victimisation and a potential escalation of force, or of communities taking the law into their own hands

Ways to prevent

- Adopting police policy that directs police to always respond to an alleged act of violence to against women and girls, and to make arrests where evidence permits
- Creation of specialised police teams that focus specifically on violence against women and girls
- Mainstreaming of gender issues in national and local policy as well as legislative reform and institutional practices

- Promoting a culture that does not tolerate violence against women & girls
- Police using specialised tools and training
- Police conducting risk assessments to help determine the likelihood and potential of future attacks

Conclusion

- The effects of violence against women and girls are numerous and research has found that it is one of the major deterrents to development in communities, hence there is a need for preventative measures to stop such occurrences
- Proactive policing is seen as an effective tool in preventing such cases and institutionalising action to end the violence against women and girls
- Pro-active & community orientated policing should be embraced by all police services and forces

OneVoice

I
WILL
ACT TO STOP
GENDER
BASED
VIOLENCE

a pledge supported by



Identifying problems in the community



It is important for police and members of the community to understand what the causes of the problem are in each community and it is also important to involve community members who are affected by the problem in concretely defining what they see as the root causes

*Identifying gaps in current
strategies and methods*

DISCUSSION

Identifying available resources

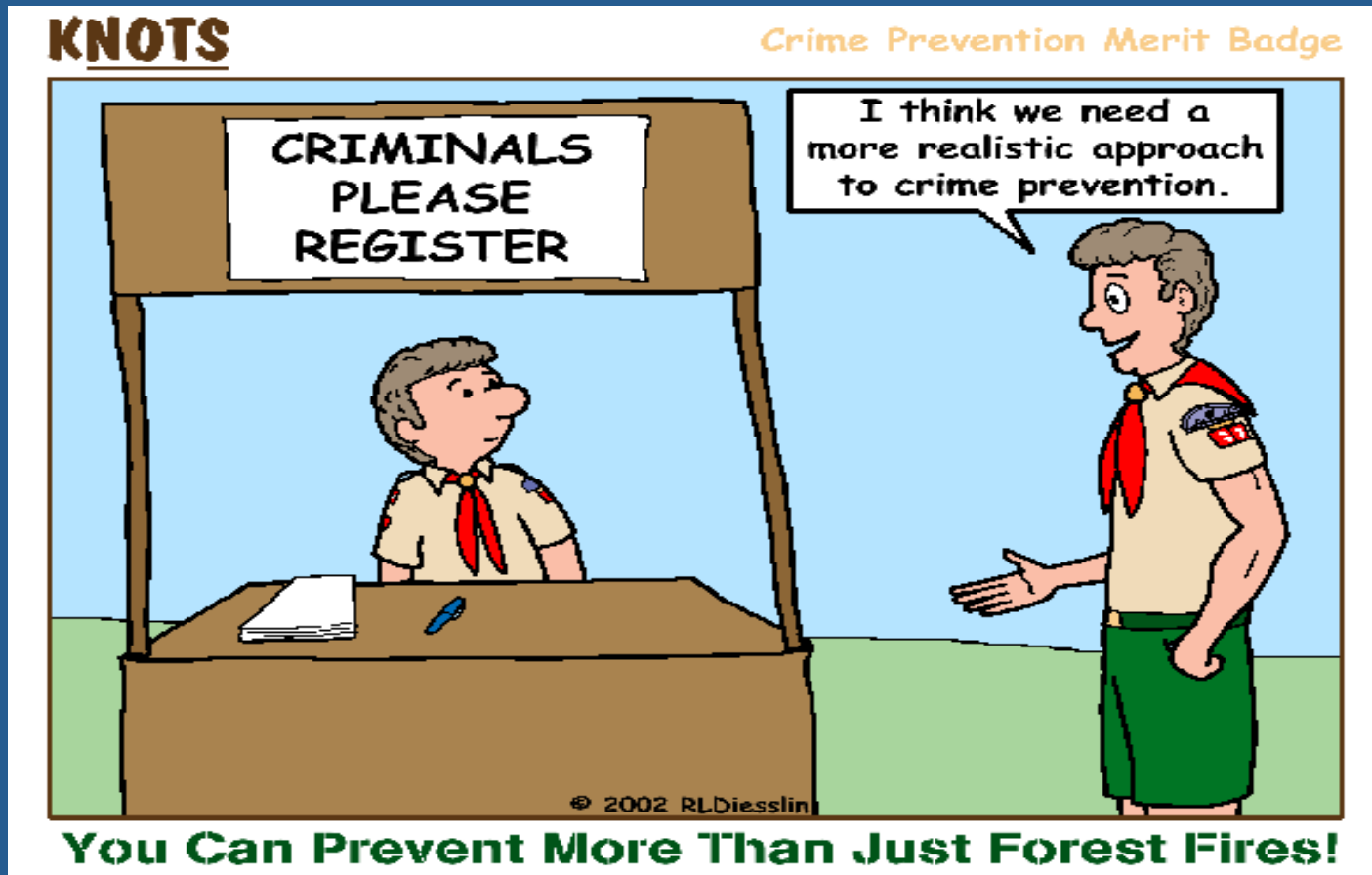
- Resources are often scarce, but this is no reason not to look at how stations are making use of what is available. For example:
 - Statistics
 - Using Experienced Officers
 - Working With organisations

NOTE: Sometimes resources are right under one's nose, and don't always mean more money or more time; but merely require a different perspective

COLLECTING AND ANALYSING INFORMATION ABOUT CRIME PATTERNS

reactive vs proactive

Generating crime prevention plans



PURPOSE OF A CRIME PREVENTION PLAN

- Helps police become part of the solution
- Identifies a particular problem and analyses it
- Locate resources to address the problem
- Define a police strategy to work towards the problem elimination

Steps to a crime prevention plan

- Define the problem
- Identify gaps in the current strategy and method
- Identify available resources
- Generate a plan
- Share the plan with relevant role players
- Monitor results



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