



LAGOS STATE DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE RESPONSE TEAM
(DSVRT)

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RESPONSE TEAM

(DSVRT)

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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INTRODUCTION

The Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Team (DSVRT) provides a coordinated response and creates unprecedented levels of collaboration among professionals working to end Sexual and Gender Based Violence in the State.

DSVRT provides a one stop shop for survivors and third parties (Mandated Reporter) to report instances of domestic, child and sexual abuse as well as zero tolerance by the Lagos State Government

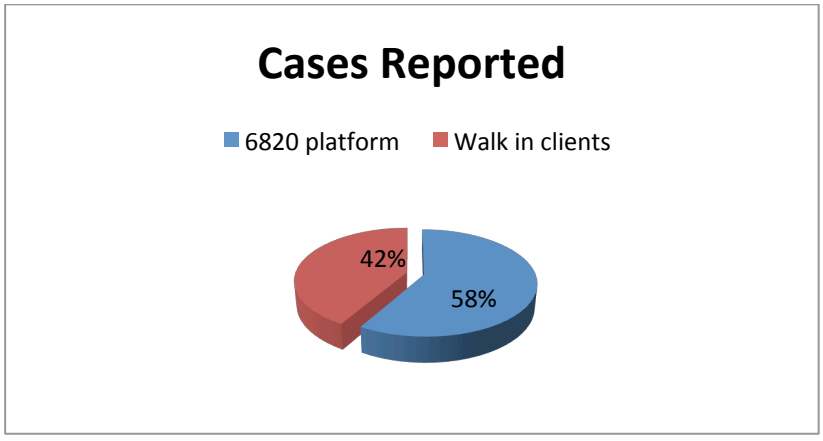
DSVRT adopts a three-pronged approach to address these issues:

- Ensuring the quick Dispensation of Justice
- Facilitating the provision of Medical-Related Services
- Continual Awareness & Sensitisation

By virtue of the Team's various initiatives, as well as the zero tolerance declared, we have continued to see a steady increase of formal reportage of cases in the State.

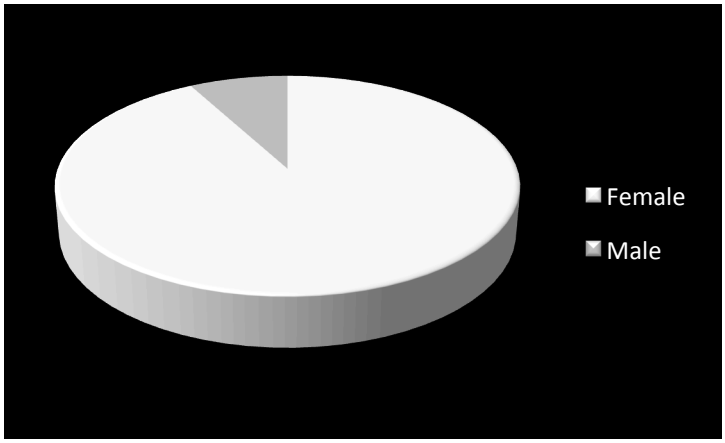
DATA FOR THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW

From January 2018 to December 2018, DSVRT received a total of **4808** reported cases. This is a combination of reported cases from the 6820 platforms and walk in clients. The Chart below indicates 58% of the report were made using the 6820 platform, however some of the users are still referred to come into the office as some are attended to via this platform. This result indicates an increased number of usages of the platform.

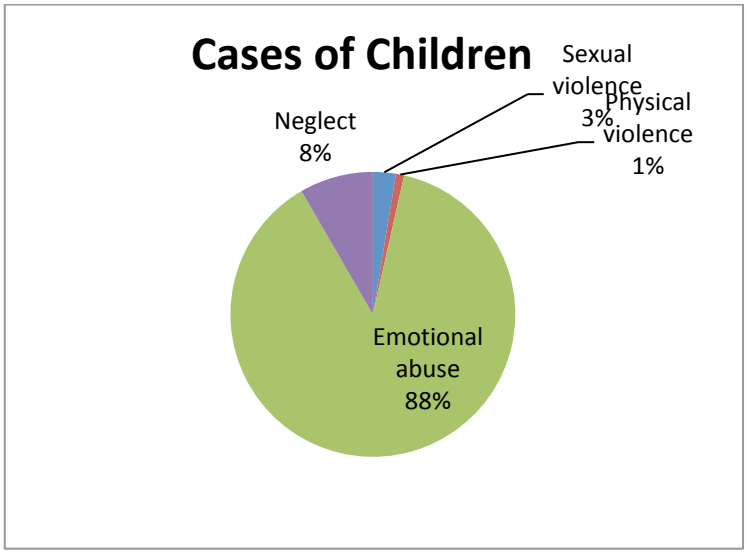


From January 2018 to December 2018, the Team has handled 1999 cases in the office. Domestic Violence cases, 245 Child Abuse, 40 Defilement cases 22 Rape cases, 13 cases of attempt to commit Rape and Sexual Assault by Penetration, 10 Sexual Assault by Penetration cases and 48 other cases. The office on an average receives 166 new cases monthly.

The trends from the data disclose a steady increase in men coming forward to make report. As at 31st of December, 2018 a total of 159 men came forward to report. This implies about 8% of cases handled in 2018 was reported by men and larger portions of the client's 92% were women.



It should also be noted that the team has handled 3003 cases of Children in the office. 78 Sexual Violence cases, 28 physical violence cases, 2646 Emotional abuse and 251 cases of Neglect were handled in the office. This year, the Team has also given a stronger focus on children who have witnessed Intimate Partner Violence. A total of 2646 children have been exposed to Domestic Violence within the home. Some of these children have been taken through counselling programs to ensure they are able to psychologically deal with the events they have witnessed without it having a permanent and negative impact on them.

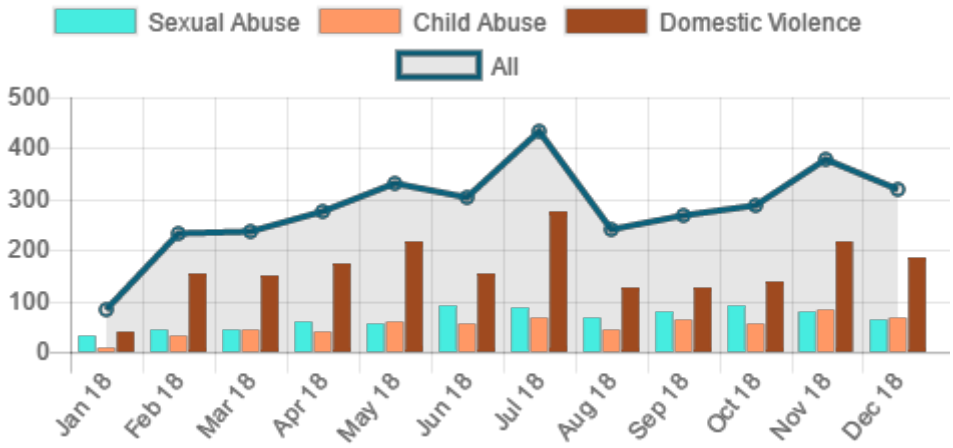


There have also been reported cases through the 6820 USSD platform which was commissioned in 2017 to facilitate the swift reporting of incidents of Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence and Child Abuse. From 1st of January 2018 to 31st December 2018, DSVRT has received 2809 reports via the 6820 shortcode. A total of 840 actual cases were reported (a lot of the reporters were testing the shortcode to see if it actually works while some try the code from other states in the Nigeria). Hence, DSVRT has responded to 439

reports of Domestic Violence, 215 reports of Sexual Abuse and 186 reports of Child Abuse, all reported via the 6820 platform. What is most exciting about the platform is that it breaks the initial barrier of people not want to make a formal report at an office or police station, we are now able to interact directly with survivors and concerned witnesses and take vital steps in dealing with a case.

The trends from the data disclose the level of usage of the platform form January 2018 to December 2018. It trends shows July 2018 with the highest numbers of report.

Trends of Report on 6820 Platform



We have also witnessed an increase in reporting of cases, via telephone and walk-in client from other States and outside Nigeria with 5% of the total report this year being from Ogun, Oyo. Cases of this nature were to the relevant agencies in the states or embassies.

The Lagos Public Interest Law Partnership (LPILP) provided free legal assistance to 81 of the survivors of the Domestic Violence, ranging from Judicial Separation, Divorce, Custody of children, Mediation and Settlement.

As regards provision of shelter for survivors, the Ministry of Youth & Social Development, as well as strategic partner Non-Governmental Organisations have played key roles in ensuring survivors are evacuated to a safer environment of shelter homes. All the survivors of Sexual Assault received medical attention from Comprehensive Primary Health Care Centres that have been equipped with Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits (also known as rape kits). And there are the continuous available services of referral centres like Mirabel Centre and Women at Risk International Foundation (WARIF). All the Rape cases were charged to court. We have also forwarded rape kits to the Lagos State DNA Forensic Centre Lab for processing and possible matching, which would aid speedy prosecution.

All reports of Child Protection Policy contravention in schools were duly responded to. From January 2018 to December 2018, the attention of DSVRT has been drawn to incidents of

Child Abuse in 19 schools; all erring schools are under investigation by the Office of Education Quality Assurance in the Ministry of Education.

All the Defilement cases have been charged to court. DSVRT clinical psychologists provided Psychosocial support to 60% of children who have witnessed Intimate Partner Violence, whilst counselling has been offered to 80% of the Domestic Violence survivors whose cases were treated by DSVRT. Anger management therapy was also offered to Domestic Violence perpetrators who admitted to needing help with managing their emotions. This is a most encouraging new trend as a perpetrator seeking help is a critical step towards rehabilitation.

The media was also instrumental in ensuring that survivors who wanted to share their story were able to do so while protecting their privacy, thereby encouraging others to speak out. This was achieved through constant engagement and expertise training which has resulted in a paradigm shift as regards how these cases are reported in the media, with focus shifting away from the survivor and more towards the perpetrator. These new trends in reporting are an output of consistent and intensive knowledge sharing sessions.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF DATA BETWEEN THE YEAR 2017 AND 2018.

DSVRT recorded a total number of 1044 of cases handled in the year 2017 including 933 cases of Domestic violence, 28 Child Abuse cases, 41 Defilement cases, 20 Rape cases, 15 Attempted Rape cases and 7 other cases. However, the team recorded a major increase in the number of cases handled in the year 2018; a total number of 2356 of cases including 1750 Domestic Violence Cases, 279 Child Abuse cases, 78 Defilement cases, 44 Rape cases, 51 Attempted Rape cases and 154 Other cases.

Below is a table showing the distribution of cases between the year 2017 and 2018

	YEAR 2017	**YEAR 2018**	**TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES**
TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES HANDLED AT THE OFFICE	1044	2356	3400
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES	933	1750	2683
CHILD ABUSE CASES	28	279	307
DEFILEMENT CASES	41	78	119
RAPE CASES	20	44	47
ATTEMPTED RAPE AND RAPE CASES	15	51	64
OTHER	7	154	161

Table 1.1

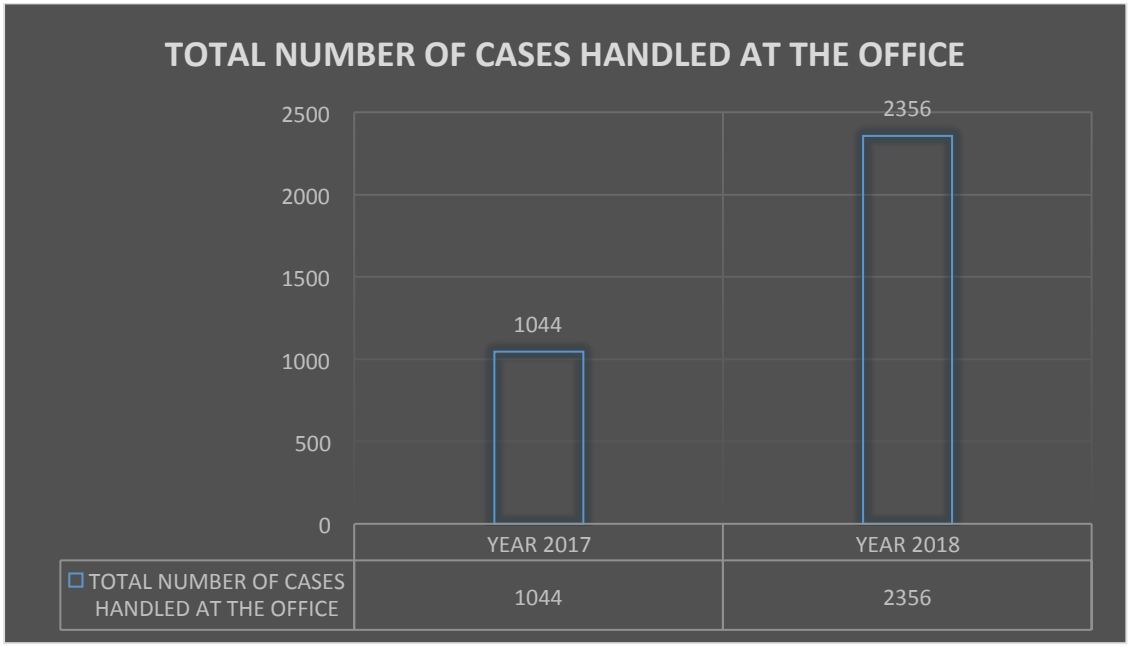


Figure 1.1

The figure above shows the total number of cases handled in 2017 and 2018. In 2017, the team recorded a total number of 1044 of cases while in 2018, a total number of 2356 of cases was recorded. A sum total of number cases was recorded between 2017 and 2018. It was discovered that the number of cases increased by 134% in the year 2018.

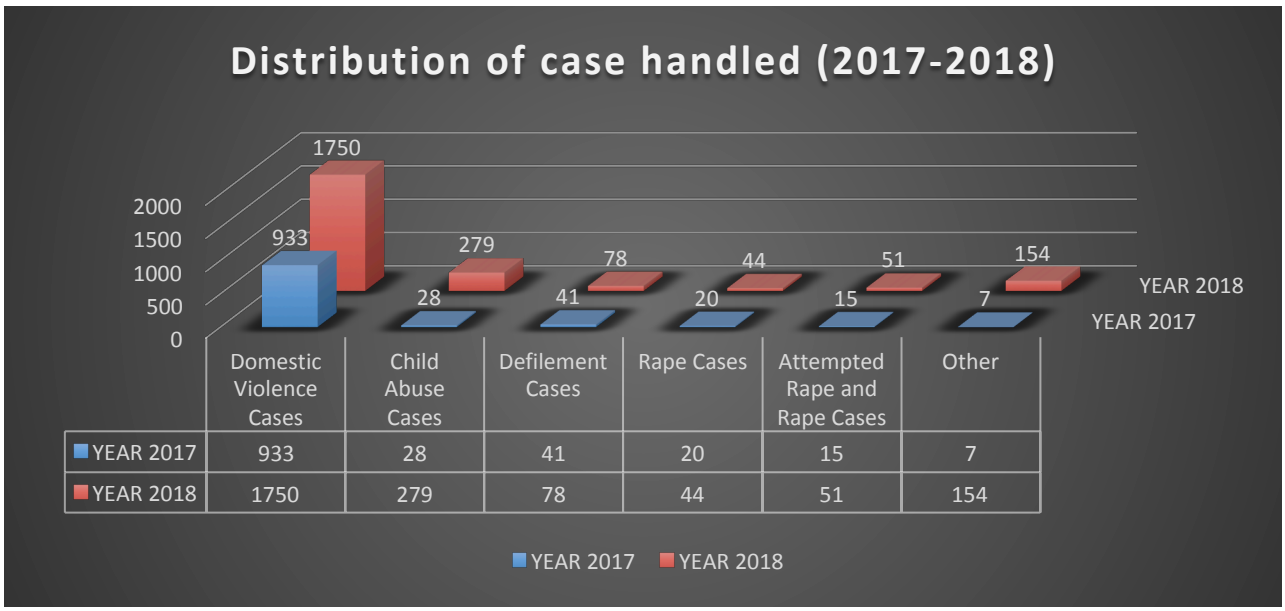


Figure 1.2

The foregoing data shows that there is a significant increase in reportage of the above type of cases in Lagos State. This means that there is a positive correlation between the programs/ activities organized by the office and reportage. It also shows that in the year 2018, the total number of cases handles and segregated cases increased by 134%.

PROGRAMMES AND MILESTONES

Symbolic Walk Against Sexual and Gender Based Violence

The team had symbolic walk against Sexual and Gender Based Violence in commemoration of the International Women's Day held at Alausa, Ikeja on Monday 12, 2018. The activity was led by the executive governor of Lagos State, Akinwunmi Ambode and other members of the team.







Presentation of Information Technology Equipment to Family Support Units of Lagos State Police Command

The presentation of the IT Equipment (laptops, phones, printers and memory cards) to various Family Support Units in Lagos state was held at the Office of Commissioner of Police at the Lagos State police command, Ikeja. The Commissioner of Police, Mr Imohimi Edgal, the representative of the Attorney General (Chairman DSVRT), Mrs TK Shitta-Bey, Director of Public Prosecutions, Ministry of Justice, members of DSVRT were present.





DSVRT Partners with SME 100 to Organize Training for Survivor on Small and Medium Scale Enterprise for Business Funds

The maiden edition of the Business training organised by SME100 in partnership with DSVRT, commenced on the 7th of June 2018. The four weeks had in attendance and mentors who trained and mentor the participant on various business strategies.





DSVRT organizes its maiden Safeguarding and Child Protection Day

In commemoration of the children's day celebration, DSVRT organized the safeguarding and child protection day which took place on the 30th of May 2018. They were sensitized on child rights their responsibilities, child abuse and step to report same to the relevant authorities. Pupils from various primary and secondary schools in District 6, Lagos were in attendance. The children also depicted their understanding of what constituted domestic violence through different artistic performance.



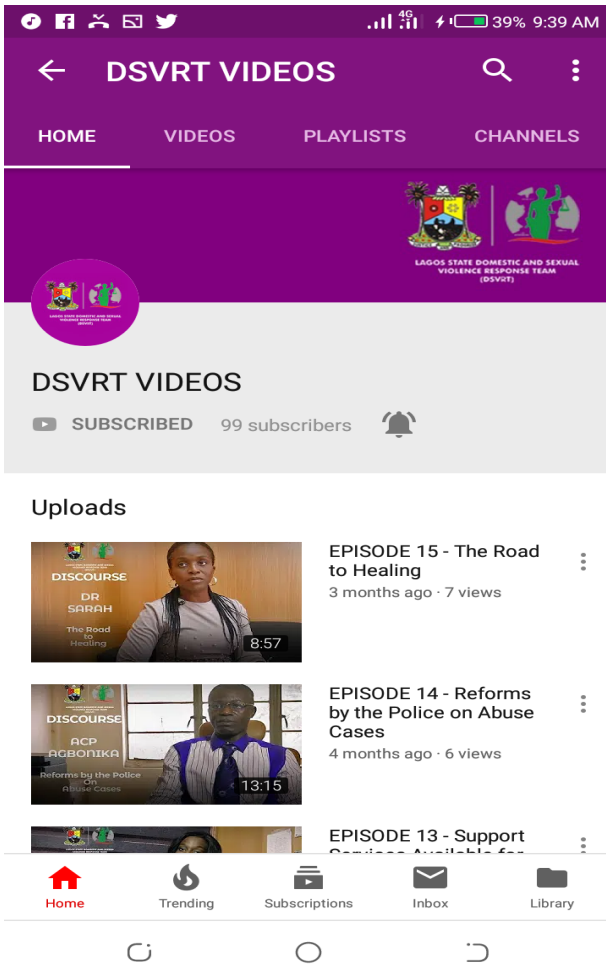


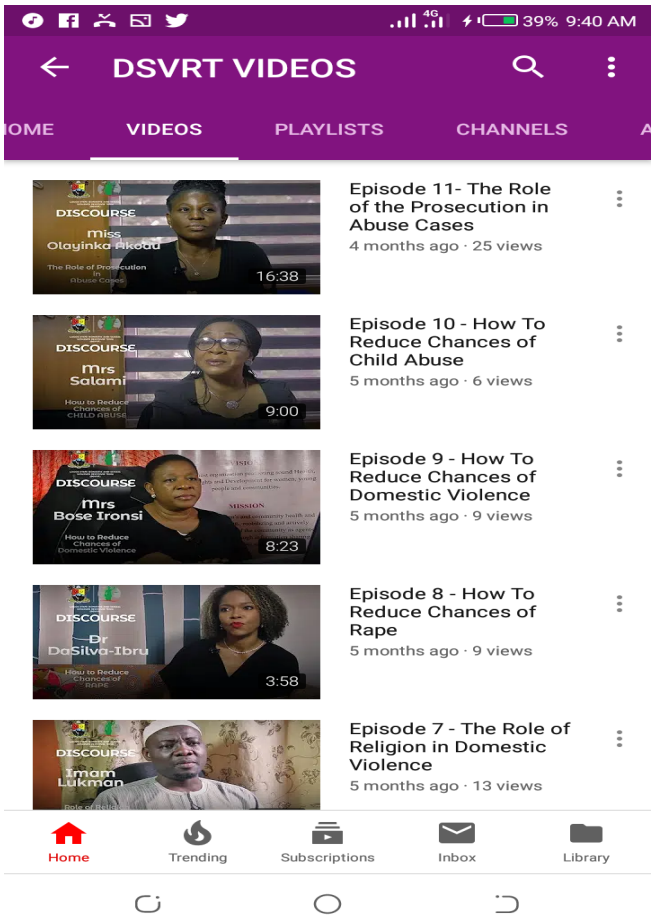


DSVRT Launches its VLOG

DSVRT launched its vlog in July 2018. Our YouTube channel seeks to inform and enlighten members of the public on Rape, Domestic Violence and Child Abuse. We invite you to please subscribe, like and repost the different episodes, even as we all join hands to eradicate this menace out of our society.

The vlog consists of 13 short episodes on Domestic Violence, Sexual Abuse and Child Abuse.





Continuous Training of Health Workers on Sexual Assault Management Services

DSVRT in partnership with the Lagos State Primary Health Care Board organized several training health workers for provision of sexual assault management services. The training included demonstration of the use of the rape kit to extract various specimen from the survivors and proper handling of the kits to avoid contamination of such evidence.



Disbursement of Grants from DSVRT Trust fund to Domestic and Sexual Violence Survivors of SGBV

DSVRT disbursed grants to survivors of domestic violence and sexual violence through the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Trust Fund. The Solicitor General and Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Funlola Odunlami who officiated the disbursement, spoke to the survivors and encouraged them to use the funds resourcefully. The recipient of the grant used this medium to appreciate His Excellency governor of Lagos State, Mr Akinwumi Ambode for his continuous support.



DSVRT Commissions a Research on "Domestic Violence and Casualty Among Intimate Partners in Lagos State"

The office carried out a research on **"Domestic Violence and Casualty Among Intimate Partners in Lagos State" between** May and July 2018. The major findings of the research were that, there is a high occurrence of domestic violence among intimate partners with more female than male victims. The study also established that while there exists a relationship

between experience of domestic violence and increased likelihood of casualty among intimate partners, awareness of Lagos State mechanisms against Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is low. The research also shows that individuals who experience domestic violence in intimate relationship are most likely to experience casualty of various types and women are the most victimized of such casualties in intimate relationships.

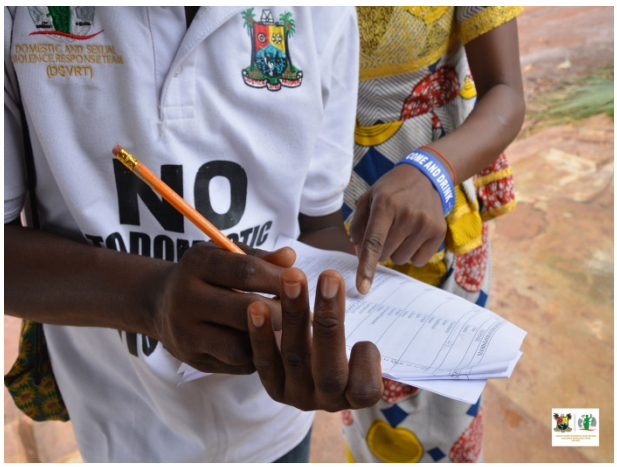
On the awareness of Lagos State mechanisms against domestic violence among intimate partners, findings from the study show that the awareness among the respondents is very low. However, the study found that medical experts and police officers who participated in the qualitative study had more information regarding Lagos State mechanisms such as Family Social Services and The Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Team than other respondents of the study.

There is therefore a most compelling need to ensure continuous sensitization on the relevant laws and the support services.









DSVRT COMMENCED CAMPAIGN AGAINST SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE

In a bid to proactively address Sexual Harassment in the Workplace, DSVRT commenced its Anti-Sexual Harassment Campaign drives. Staff of multi national companies were engaged on the intricacies of Sexual Harassment, the impact of Sexual Harassment, some of which include depression, PTSD steps to take to report and the role of corporate organizations in ensuring safe spaces for reporting. Corporate organisations were also encouraged to have structures in place for reporting.

Similarly, DSVRT engaged over 100 Human Resource Professionals and Psychologists from various corporate organisations. This engagement was focused on the impact of Domestic Violence on victims and how it affects their productivity in the workplace some of which include, absenteeism, reduced productivity, inability of victims to fully participate in the workforce, etc. Booklets on Sexual Harassment and Domestic Violence were also distributed even as corporate organisations were reminded that indeed, Sexual Harassment is a crime and the State Government reserves the right, at any point to intervene.







DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH, SEPTEMBER, 2018

Has it our custom, DSVRT in commemorated the Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness Month in September 2018. The theme of the Awareness Month was "Securing the Home

against Violence: Everyone's Responsibility". This theme was developed out of the need to ensure that members of the public are awakened to the fact that Violence most of the time stems from the home and is exemplified in the society. Thus, it is everyone's responsibility to be properly sensitized about their roles and also look out, report, educate and raise awareness about this menace in our society.

Below were the activities executed during the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness Month.

ADVOCACY WALK / MOBILE GENDER BASED VIOLENCE CLINIC

The Team set out on the 13th of September 2018, for an advocacy walk violence clinic which took place at Ojuwoye Market, Ago-Palace way Okota, Isolo, Lagos. It was an avenue to sensitize the residents on these ills and to enlighten survivors on the services available to them through the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Team, in terms of Legal Assistance, Medical Services, Psycho-Social Support, Empowerment and Emergency Assistance. We also had a Mobile Gender Based Violence Clinic going on during the walk to educate the residents on their rights, what constitutes a violation of these rights and to whom to make a report in the event that they experience or witness such violation.





ONE DAY SYMPOSIUM ON SECURING THE HOME AGAINST VIOLENCE; EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

One day symposium took place at the MUSON Centre, Onikan, Lagos. This major aim was to use the symposium as a medium to involve major stakeholders in the society to proffer

practical solutions and opinions on the role of every member of the family in securing the home against Violence. The symposium also looked at impact of SGBV on Mental Health of survivors, The Role of the Family in preventing violence, the need to leave an abusive relationship in order to live and if possible, resolve the issues, Self Defence Turned Bad, Life after Violence, Importance of Effective Communication in resolving Disputes and the Role of Men in eradicating this menace out of our society.





PREMIERE OF SHORT FILM (COMMENDATION NIGHT)

The Grand Finale of the Awareness month, was the prestigious Dinner / Commendation Night held at the Excel Event Centre, Oregun, Ikeja on the 28th of September 2018. This was a night to celebrate officers and individuals who have distinguished themselves in the fight against Sexual and Gender Based Violence. The team also premiered a short film which portrays the different intricacies of Domestic and Sexual Violence. The highlight of the evening was the Commendation segment. It was an avenue to recognise and celebrate individuals and organizations who have displayed stellar commitment in the war against Domestic and Sexual Violence in Lagos State.



CONTINUOUS TRAINING OF POLICE OFFICERS

DSVRT continue training of police officers for best practices for Investigating SGBV. The participants also receive protocol in form of postal, booklet, copies of the relevant laws which will be useful in the discharged and performance of their duties







MAIDEN DSVRT MEETING WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

DSVRT in partnership with the Europeans union funded rule of law anti-corruption program organised a round table discussion with the Non-governmental organisations working Domestic Violence. Part of the deliverables of the meeting was to create a directory of NGOs that provides services in Lagos State and also improve referral pathways between DSVRT and NGOs.





LAUNCH OF THE KING'S CLUB…. Promoting Positive Masculinity

The Kings Club Project which seeks to create a sustainable social structure in secondary Schools that will help debunk socio-cultural misconceptions, promote positive masculinity and bring about behavioural and attitudinal change in the minds of young boys in Lagos State. The project constitutes an alliance of trained young boys in schools to serve as peer educators and advocate of positive masculinity. Between November 2018 to December 2018, the team engaged a total number of 48 boys across the Lagos State Education District VI.

Considering the knowledge of the participants on their understanding of the concept of Gender Based Violence (GBV), the result of the Pre and Post evaluation shows that there was a positive effect in their perception of the concepts as 95.8% of the participants now understands the concept of GBV. It further shows their understanding of the subject matter (GBV) as 70.8% of them understand the concept of physical assaults giving possible examples. The findings also reveal that 81.3% of the participants understand the concepts of psychological/emotional abuse giving precise examples and instances. Hence, the participants have been impacted with this topic which forms a basis for the Kings Club Project.

At the end of the first phase, 48 boys drawn from four schools across Lagos State District VI were fully trained and empowered in the area of promoting positive masculinity among peers and the community at large. One of the notable achievements was the setup of Kings' Club in their various schools as a club society in their weekly curricular activities.











GOING FORWARD… IN 2019

In a bid to ensure sustainability of the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Team, we look forward to achieving the following within the year 2019:

- Decentralize the efforts of DSVRT by establishing a presence in all Local Government Area Secretariats, thus bringing the services closer to the people
- Ensure that at least 15 million residents of Lagos State are fully empowered to report cases of Sexual and Gender Based Violence. This will be achieved through sustained awareness initiatives and amplifying the usage of the newly launched '6820' service.
- Collaborate with the Nigeria Police Force College in ensuring their training curriculum includes best practices for investigating and prosecuting Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Nigeria.
- Expand the services available to meet the civil legal needs of victims. Civil legal needs are often unmet for sexual assault victims, and this represents an area where communities can often work to see considerable improvement.
- Establish a clear path to recovery for survivors who were financially dependent on their abusers. This would include empowerment for abused spouses to enable them generate income for themselves, or perpetual accommodation and education for children abused by their parents.
- Establish Sexual Assault Referral Team's in all Higher Institutions within the State and ensure sustainability.

- Establish State-Wide Days-Child Protection Day, Sexual Violence Awareness Day, Domestic Violence day and Child Abuse day for the purpose of ensuring these issues remain on the front burners.

CONNECT WITH US

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