

Title: Workshop for Journalists on Post-Rape Care

Date: 30 August 2011

Venue: Wits Development Hub, Johannesburg

Brief of the post-rape care workshop

The Population Council South Africa (PCSA) and HIV/AIDS and the Media project'sⁱ post-rape care workshop seeks to improve the ethics of reporting and writing on sexual assault issues among journalists. In addition, the workshop is aimed at empowering journalists with HIV prevention information, postexposure prophylaxis in particular, for those affected by sexual assault. The outcome of the workshop is expected to result in sexual assault stories being covered more accurately and focusing the messaging on behaviour change, thus reducing the stigma associated with it. Journalists are also expected to report and write stories that empower media consumers with knowledge on what to do after experiencing a sexual assault.

Objective of the post-rape care workshop

PCSA and HIV/AIDS and the Media project will facilitate the Post-Rape Care workshop:

- To bring journalists to exposure and knowledge of why it is important to cover sexual assault and the stigma associated with it
- To raise awareness on how sexual assault is currently covered in South Africa
- To increase knowledge among journalists on post-rape care services available to survivors of sexual assault
- To increase ethical and informative messaging around sexual assault issues for accurate reporting

Participation in the training

PCSA and HIV/AIDS and the Media project have identified the following as participants for the training:

- Radio presenters/journalists
- Television presenters/journalists
- Print media journalists
- Sexual assault experts (to share technical information around sexual assault)
- Public health facility officials (to share the procedures on PEP)
- Sexual assault NGOs (to share their intervention from the community level and psychological support they provide)

Implementation of the training

PCSA and HIV/AIDS and Media project will organise a one-day journalist training/workshop event. This training will focus on the following proposed plan:

- Introduction to the training
- Why the topic of sexual assault is so important
- Understanding post-rape care
- Discussing rights and responsibilities under sexual assault subject
- How the media currently covers sexual assault in South Africa
- Understanding the elements of messaging around sexual assault and survivors
- Increasing exposure to sexual assault survivors and public health facility officials for more accurate reporting
- Learning and sharing information on sexual assault

Contact information

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ⁱ HIV/AIDS and the Media Project is jointly managed by the Anova Health Institute and the Journalism and Media Studies Programme at the University of the Witwatersrand.