

THE JUSTICE INSTITUTE ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



BRAZIL 2017

In partnership with Avon Brazil, Vital Voices conducted Institutes in three different cities in **Brazil: Brasilia (May 7-11), São Paulo (May 14-17), and Fortaleza (July 9-12)**. Avon Brazil funded these three Institutes in pursuance of their new strategy to focus on women's access to justice. These Institutes were considered three component parts in a broader program –*The 2nd International Workshop on Access to Justice: Implementing Effective Responses to Violence Against Women*– which focused primarily on domestic violence and femicide.

**13
million**

More than 13 million women have been victims of domestic abuse in Brazil.

Justice
Institutes
Brazil



Faculty Training Day

During each Faculty Training Day, Vital Voices introduced the structure and content of the Justice Institute model, highlighted particular tools for effective facilitation, and sought feedback on key issues of cultural sensitivity. Following this, faculty asked questions and provided insights on ways to best deploy the curriculum so as to provide an effective, adaptable training. Following the first Institute in Brasilia, Vital Voices led a Training-of-Trainers workshop for all participants of the Institute, and several of those trained were empowered as facilitators in the two subsequent Institutes in Brazil.

Module 1 | Practical Exercises

Participants were introduced to three hypothetical cases, which encouraged them to identify systemic challenges posed by GBV in Brazil. Moreover, the observation of role-play activities around these cases allowed faculty to observe which participants might hold attitudes that endanger or blame victims.

Module 2 | Evaluation & Investigating the Case

Participants reflected on the legal strides embodied by the Maria da Penha Law, and identified remaining challenges to ensuring that the law fulfills its promise. Of particular emphasis during this module, and through each of the three Institutes, was that while Brazilian law is comprehensive, its implementation varies greatly in different parts of the country depending on a variety of factors, including available resources.

Media Launch

The US Delegation, Local Faculty Facilitators, Avon Brazil, Institute participants and various media outlets attended panel discussions held at each hotel where the Institutes occurred. Panelists focused their remarks on discussing their role in addressing GBV, the challenges they face in these roles, and how the Institutes provide an opportunity for increased collaboration and capacity in addressing these challenges. Since each media event occurred on the second or third day of the training, rather than before its inception, also discussed were highlights of the Institute training itself.

Module 3 | Prosecuting the Case

Faculty led activities focused on conducting thorough investigations that lead to more informed charging decisions and help ensure stronger prosecutions. Vital Voices piloted a new activity centered on a domestic violence homicide that was very well-received during each of the three Institutes,

What was your favorite part of the Institute?

“The opportunity to sensitize the court about the victim’s situation.”

“Role playing with other participants because it allows you to practice empathy.”

“All the themes were quite important but the one that caught my attention was identifying when a woman may have Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.”

which exposed the differing approaches and attitudes on cases where victims are unavailable due to death, versus due to reluctance to participate in the criminal justice process.

Module 4 | Holding Offenders Accountable

Faculty engaged participants in active deliberation regarding sentencing, during which participants considered new methods for implementing coordinated community responses on their cases that allow for holistic sentencing. Immediately following this, participants worked to design individual action plans, and in some cases collaborated with colleagues on agency-specific or city-specific action plans. This culminating activity galvanized participants to incubate the strategies and relationships developed during the Institute, in order to better serve their communities.

Closing thoughts

The Action Plans provided participants with an opportunity to focus on the ideas they discussed during the Institute and think through how to apply them within their institutions and organizations to create change. Ultimately, the Action plans allowed participants to set realistic and achievable goals, to think through the steps they will need to take to achieve these goals, and to consider the various stakeholders that should be involved in the process.

Institute Results



Over 150 participants & Local Faculty Facilitators

Based on post-training surveys...

96%

Agreed or strongly agreed that the Workshop established a network where participants can share information with others

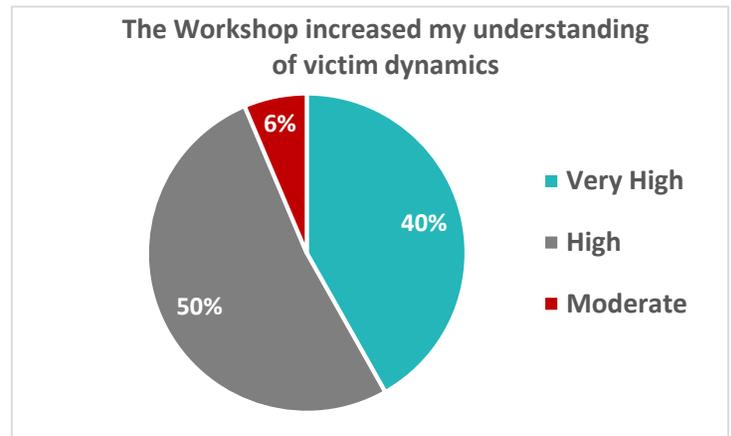
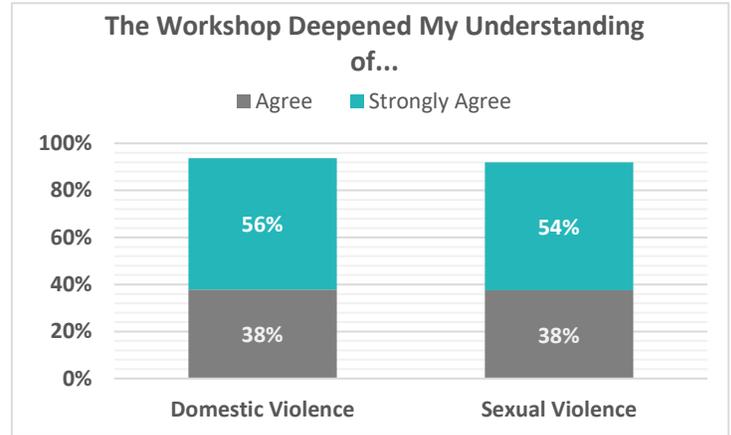
95%

Agreed or strongly agreed the training gave them a sense of empowerment to combat domestic and sexual violence in Brazil

Activities Participants Found Most Useful

1. Practical Exercises
2. Working with the Recanting or Reluctant Victim
3. Assessing a Domestic Violence Incident where Children are Present
4. Assessing Dangerousness (Risk and Lethality)

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities



Maria de Penha - the woman after which Brazil’s domestic violence law is named after – speaks during the Institute in Fortaleza.

