

THE JUSTICE INSTITUTE ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



Santiago, Chile

In June of 2017, Vital Voices conducted its twelfth **Justice Institute on Gender-Based Violence** in Santiago, Chile. Through convening diverse practitioners across the criminal justice system, the Institute strengthened their ability to investigate, prosecute and provide services for victims of gender-based violence (GBV) crimes, and in doing so fortified participants' capacity to better collaborate in promoting victim safety and offender accountability.

31.9%

of Chilean women have experienced some form of domestic violence in their lifetime



- Discussing how allied professionals within and outside the justice system can collaborate to promote more effective responses to victims of GBV
- Holding the news media accountable when they report GBV cases

Module 1 Practical Exercises – introduced the regionally-tailored hypothetical cases on which the Institute is centered.

- *Practical Exercise A: Children Exposed to Violence*
- *Practical Exercise B: Charging Decisions*
- *Practical Exercise C: Sexual Assault in the Workplace*

This module identified systemic and widespread challenges in Chile, while also allowing faculty to observe which participants might be leaders on the issues, or, to the contrary, hold attitudes that endanger or blame victims.

Module 2 Evaluating and Investigating the Case

In this module, participants discussed common goals and challenges faced by professionals handling GBV cases, including victim safety, re-occurring violence, offender accountability, family unification, psychological violence in the context of risk and lethality, and social media's role in these kinds of cases.

June 5 | Faculty Training Day

Faculty Facilitators included representatives of diverse sectors of Chilean society working to address violence against women through the criminal justice process. Vital Voices implemented a revised training curriculum, consisting of both training modules and a site visit involving Chilean stakeholders. Additionally, 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 legal and cultural sensitivity.

June 6 | Institute Day 1

Media Launch The Institute launched with a panel discussion focused on:

- Explaining how the Justice Institute model seeks to actualize a multi-sector approach to address GBV

June 7 | Institute Day 2

Participants continued working on Module 2, which included the evidence gathering activity. Several participants commented on the realistic attributes of the case file and seemed emotionally invested in the new case information they learned. The activity allowed participants to consider how issues such as incomplete police reports, alternative sources of information, history of abuse, and the diverse contexts in which violent acts occur may impact the handling of GBV cases.

What was your favorite part of the Institute?

"The role playing that allowed us to understand the work of different institutions and how we can collaborate to combat gender violence."

"The practical exercises were very useful and very dynamic."

"The methodology and the mixture of the teams facilitated a potent training, different from the ones that I have previously experienced."

June 8 | Institute Day 3

Module 3 Prosecuting the Case

The final day of training concluded with activities from **Module 2** after which participants embarked on **Module 3**, generating productive discussions about conducting thorough investigations that lead to more informed charging decisions to help ensure stronger prosecutions and increase offender accountability.

Module 4 Holding Offenders Accountable

The final module included dialogue on sentencing in which participants considered new methods for implementing coordinated community responses post-conviction and discussed how to transform victims into survivors. Participants also developed individualized Action Plans in which they identified steps they will take to improve the quality of justice as it relates to GBV cases. The day ended with participants' reflection on the past three days and a small celebration.

Closing thoughts

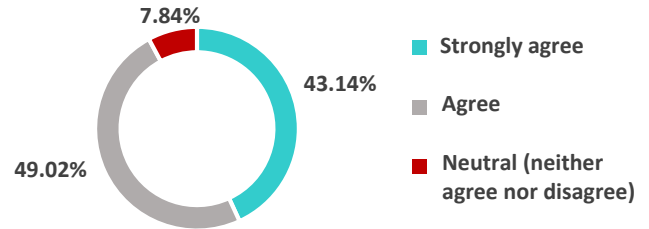
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Activities Participants Found Most Useful

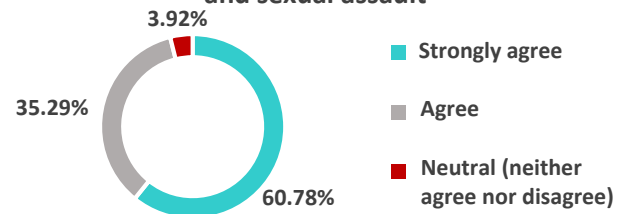
1. Practical Exercises
2. Collaborating with Agencies and Advocates
3. Working with the Recanting or Reluctant Victim

Knowledge & Empowerment

The Institute deepened my understanding of domestic violence



The training gave me a sense of empowerment to combat domestic violence and sexual assault



Above. Media Event panelists.

Right. Local Faculty Facilitators receive their certificates.



Institute Results



Over 50 participants & Local Faculty Facilitators

Based on post-training surveys...

98%

Agreed or strongly agreed the Institute established a *network* where participants can share information with others

90%

Rated level of increase in their abilities to partner with others to identify victims of domestic violence as either high or very high

