

3^o WORKSHOP DE ACESSO À JUSTIÇA

BRAZIL 2018

In partnership with Avon Brazil, Vital Voices conducted its fifth Justice Institute training as part of *The 3rd International Workshop on Access to Justice: Implementing Effective Responses to Violence Against Women*. The training took place in **João Pessoa (JP) between May 21-23, 2018**. In preparation for the training, Vital Voices created an updated curriculum adjusted in response to evaluations and observations from the three workshops in 2017. Additions included, but were not limited to, increased focus on sexual assault and intersectional issues such as race, socioeconomic class, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

92,000

The number of women in Brazil who have lost their lives since 1985, often at the hands of a husband, partner, or family member.



João Pessoa

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 in JP, as well as the state of Paraíba more broadly. Following this, faculty asked questions and provided insights on ways to best implement the curriculum in order to provide an effective, inclusive training.

Module 1 | Practical Exercises

Participants were introduced to three hypothetical cases that encouraged them to identify both abuser-created and system-created challenges faced by survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in JP. The observation of role-play activities around these cases allowed faculty to observe participants' experience level with, and attitudes towards, victims of violence.

Module 2 | Evaluating & Investigating the Case

This module began with discussions of the Maria da Penha law and related policies as implemented in JP, in order to lay a foundation for discussions about how to ensure that laws keep their promise. Participants delved into the factors that make GBV cases uniquely difficult to investigate and prosecute and then transitioned to strategies needed to overcome these challenges. Following this, participants engaged in activities around collaboration, lethality assessments, intimidation, and the impact of violence on children—all of which underscored the importance of conducting thorough, thoughtful investigations that help ensure victim safety and offender accountability.

Module 3 | Prosecuting the Case

Participants gained a more nuanced understanding of the implications of charging decisions and robust, corroborated prosecutions upon offender accountability. They also gleaned a deeper understanding of victim's reasons for not cooperating with investigations and learned how individual assessments of vulnerabilities and holistic responses by allied advocates can help victims make educated choices about if and how they want to participate in the prosecutions of their abusers. Also discussed were strategies for overcoming common defenses during which participants listened to the perspective of judges in the room in order to strengthen their cases.

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What was your favorite part of the Workshop?

"The workshop was VERY positive, about everything, the discussions about racism, LGBTQIA+ and management of GBV."

"Exchanges of experiences between the diverse services."

"It was very important to mix activities of the U.S. facilitators and the Brazilians. A very different mix of experiences that was enriching."

Module 4 | Holding Offenders Accountable

Faculty engaged participants in discussions regarding sentencing and worked to identify experts in the room with particular experience and insights in Paraíba. Following this, participants worked to identify priority obstacles regarding GBV in JP. Later, participants worked together to identify and develop feasible solutions to overcome obstacles through short, medium and long-term actions. They then presented these to local government officials in the form of a Commitment Pact.

Module 5 | Conclusions & Celebrations

Faculty led a short lecture on creating a "survivor toolbox" of multifaceted services that emphasized the importance of providing survivors with tools to empower them economically. The workshop concluded with an opportunity for participants to create the endings of the hypothetical cases, followed by a celebratory reception.

Workshop Results



81 Participants & Local Faculty Facilitators

Based on post-training surveys...

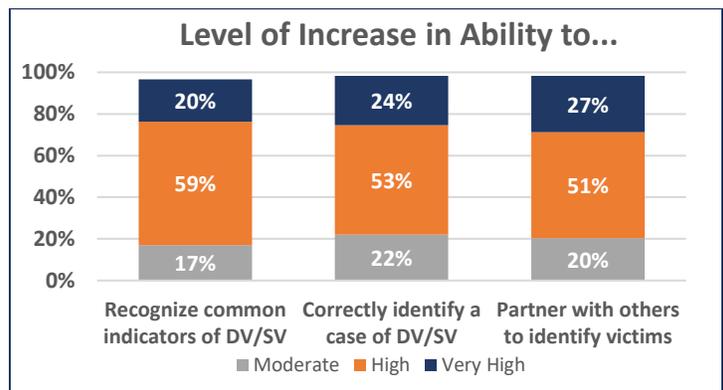
98%

Agreed or strongly agreed that the Workshop deepened their understanding of both domestic and sexual violence

86%

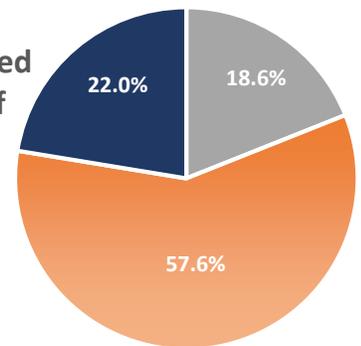
Agreed or strongly agreed the Workshop gave them a sense of empowerment to combat domestic and sexual violence in Brazil

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities



The Workshop Increased my Understanding of Victim Dynamics

■ Moderate
■ High
■ Very High



Activities Participants Found Most Useful

1. Practical Exercises
2. Developing an Action Plan
3. Assessing the Case
4. Working with the Recanting or Reluctant Victim

