

‘Our Community, Our Rights’: empowering refugee women through human rights education



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women's **health** west - equity and justice for women in the west

Our Community, Our Rights



About Women's Health West

- Health Promotion
- Family Violence Service

Our approach

- Social model of health
- Gender equity, health promotion and community development

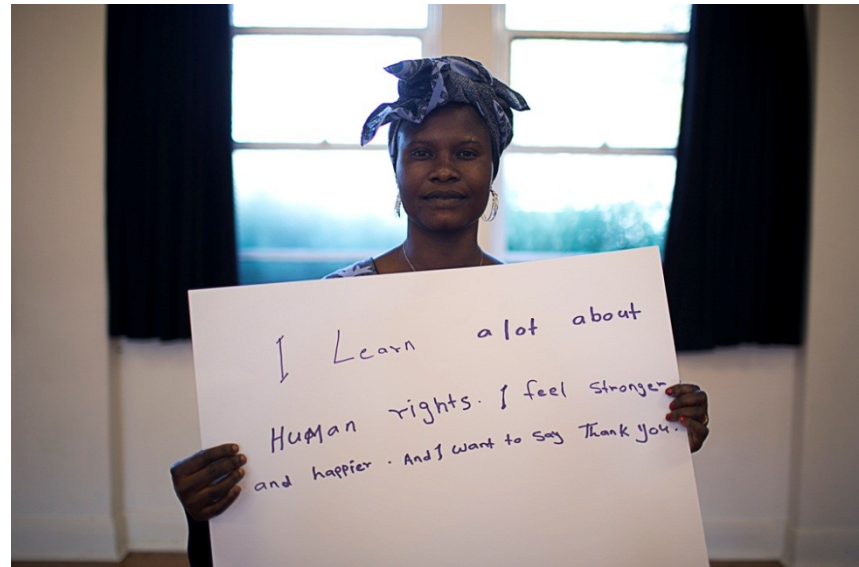


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Background and development

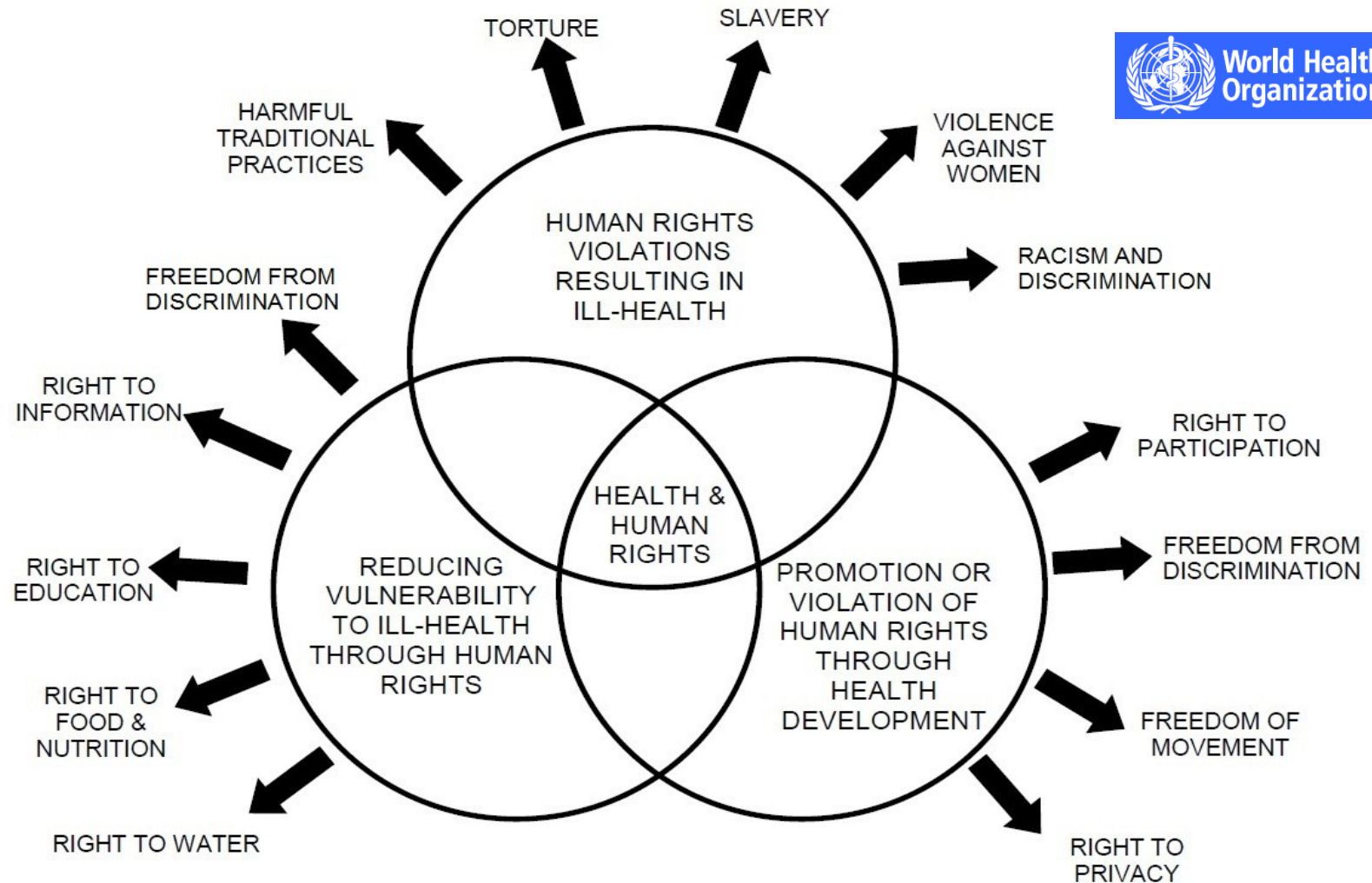
Why do we need a project centred on human rights, advocacy and civic participation?



“Women need to know their rights so they can bring about change.”

Rumia Abbas, Ethiopian Community Leader, 2011

Examples of health and human rights linkages



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“We don’t know our rights so we stay home because we’re scared of doing the wrong thing.”

“If you don’t understand your rights, you can’t speak up or make things right.”

“If we know our rights, we will have confidence; when we don’t know our rights we feel scared and stressed.”

“We need to understand our rights so we can stand up with confidence.”

“Although we are born with human rights, we need to know how to demand them.”



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To make progress on the social determinants of health for refugee and migrant women:

- Build understanding of human rights;
- Enable women to undertake advocacy around their rights; and
- Enable participation in community life.

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Goal: To deliver advocacy training within a human rights framework to enable women to participate in civil society and to facilitate change.



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Our approach:

- Gender equity
- Community development



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Background and development

- Expert Advisory Group
 - Choosing the population group
 - Community Consultations
 - Funding applications



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Designing the model:

- Series of capacity-building workshops;
- Support for women to implement their own advocacy projects.



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Evaluation

- Human rights
- Advocacy
- Civic participation
- Participant projects
- Evidence base
- Partnerships



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Workshops

- Introduction to human rights
- Racism and discrimination
- Health
- Employment
- Education
- Violence against women
- Tenancy and consumer

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Project Planning

“A human rights-based approach to addressing the social determinants of health means supporting the collective action of disadvantaged groups to analyse, resist and change social structures and policies, assert their shared power and alter social hierarchies towards greater equity.”
(WHO, 2002)

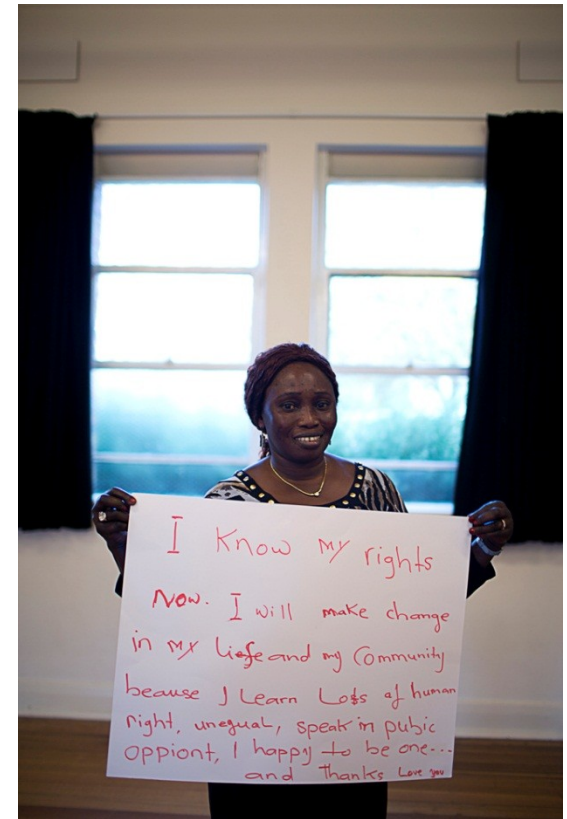


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Project Planning

- Human rights issue important to your community
- Providing support *and* fostering independence
- Grants process



HOPE FOR A NEW BEGINNING

Information session for Equatorial South Sudanese women

Domestic violence against women happens in every community. The impact of domestic violence can significantly affect the individual, families, communities and the society.

Hope for a New Beginning is a workshop for Equatorial women from South Sudan to increase understanding about domestic violence and what to do about it.

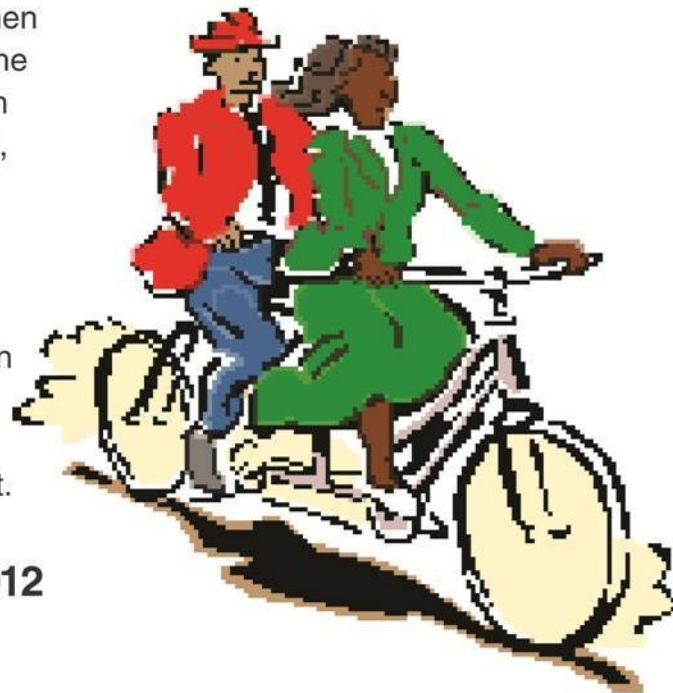
Saturday 25 August 2012

9:30am - 4:30pm

The Uniting Church

310 Barkly Street, Footscray

Melway map reference 42 B4



Riding towards hope

Lunch and child minding provided



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“You have knowledge – you gain confidence”

“I can help others become more independent. Teach them that it is okay to question”

Stories of change

“All of the topics and information I didn’t know about before... It’s my voice, it’s my body and to learn the importance of an education”

“This project will help me become a voice within my community”

“I feel stronger and happier”

“It gave me the confidence to change issues in this country through knowledge of how the law and our rights work, especially because I come from a country where people don’t have rights”



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**Most Significant
Change stories:
findings from
iteration one**



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Where to now?

- Continue evaluation
- Continue workshops
- Support women in development of projects
- Identify 2014 community



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Questions?

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