



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



37th DIRECTING COUNCIL
45th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington D.C., 27 September - 1 October 1993

RESOLUTION

CD37.R19

VIOLENCE AND HEALTH

THE 37th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having seen Document CD37/19, "Violence and Health," and its Annex, "Report of the Special Subcommittee on Women, Health, and Development";

Considering that violent behavior is a public health problem of great magnitude and importance in the Region of the Americas and is a cause of economic loss, physical, psychic and social injury, avoidable premature death, and deterioration of the quality of life, among other consequences;

Recognizing that violence against women is a special problem with serious social repercussions, given the link that exists between discrimination and abuse;

Recognizing as well that violence against distinct vulnerable groups, especially children, youth, and the elderly, generates specific problems that have a negative impact on their physical, psychological, and social development; and

Acknowledging that the health sector should play a fundamental role, along with other sectors, in the search for solutions and the application of measures for the prevention and control of all forms of violence,

RESOLVES

1. To urge the Member Governments to:

- a) Establish national policies and plans for the prevention and control of violence in collaboration with all the sectors involved, and to propose in the ministries of health the formation of working parties to coordinate measures against violence;
- b) Give priority to the establishment of policies and programs for the management of violence against women and children, and against adolescents and youth, particularly those aged 15 to 24 years, in collaboration with women's organizations and other relevant groups;
- c) Identify and mobilize the necessary resources for establishing multisectoral health promotion and protection programs for the promotion of healthy behaviors, specially among young adult males, discourage exposure to unnecessary risks, and adopt legal measures that support the prevention and control of violence;
- d) Strengthen emergency services in health units, including blood banks and referral and counterreferral systems, and treat the psychosocial problems of the victims and their families;
- e) Promote the development of epidemiological surveillance and multidisciplinary research on the problem, including the use of alcohol and psychoactive substances, and establish the necessary training programs;
- f) Complement the foregoing by generating measures for the analysis and promotion of the positive channeling of information through the mass media.

2. To ask the Director, within the resources available to:

- a) Formulate a regional plan of action on violence and health that contains a special component on violence against women and considers all risk groups;
- b) Collaborate with the countries on the identification and mobilization of financial resources for the execution of these proposals;
- c) Ensure that effective measures are taken in PAHO/WHO for the compilation and dissemination of accurate data, and that before information on specific aspects on countries is released to the press, its accuracy be checked and the consequences for the country concerned considered; and to transmit this request to the Director-General of WHO.

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