

VOTES WITHOUT VIOLENCE

SAMPLE AGENDA



This tool was developed by Caroline Hubbard and Claire DeSoi for NDI's Votes Without Violence program and toolkit.

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This is a suggested outline for an agenda that can be used as a starting point for planning purposes for a discussion and training on gender and election observation and violence against women in elections (VAW-E). This agenda outlines one day of training, but the two components could be expanded out over two or more days as needed or desired.

Activity 1 - Welcome and Introductions (30 minutes):

Objective: Review and re-confirm the goals and objectives of the observation effort. This is an opportunity to discuss goals of the training and any changes to the agenda.

Activities:

Welcome and introduce goals of the workshop

Introduce and review the goals of the observation initiative

Participant introductions

Review of the agenda

Activity 2 - Understanding Gender and Election Observation (1.5-2 hours):

Objective: Review the general barriers to women's participation on a global level, as well as discuss particular country-specific barriers.

Activities:

Training on the particular barriers women face as voters, candidates, election administrators and observers (refer to the Gender and Election Observation module for prepared presentations), including:

What to look for as part of an election observation to ensure women are able to participate equally

Strategies for incorporating gender into the methodology, checklist, training materials and execution of an election observation

EXERCISE: Write down institutional, legal, socio-cultural or individual barriers on a board or flip-chart in an initial discussion. Refer to the list as the training progresses to incorporate country-specific examples. Discussion can continue as the training moves forward. This should be done with the PowerPoint presentation on Gender and Election Observation.

Activity 3 - Understanding Violence Against Women in Elections (1.5-2 hours):

Objective: Define the concept of VAW-E, identifying the categories of violence, victims and perpetrators, and illustrating its impact on the democratic integrity of elections.

Activities: Training on the particular barriers women face as voters, candidates, election administrators and observers. Refer to the VAW-E module for prepared training presentations. Review the following critical concepts:

How violence against women is defined, and the important role election observers can play in identifying and mitigating it

Overview of the different categories of victims and perpetrators, and a review of the defined types of violence

Activity 4 - Exercise (1 hour):

Objective: Practice and build on the knowledge gained through the workshop to deepen understanding of the concepts.

Activities: Split participants into small groups of two or three, and brainstorm answers to the following questions. They should not focus on “right” or “wrong” answers, but rather discuss the concepts presented in the trainings from their own perspectives and experiences.

What are 2-3 potential root causes for electoral violence in general in this country?

What are 3 examples of gender norms, or of social norms for women and for political leadership that might be root causes of violence targeting women to prevent or influence their political participation?

Based on the categories of violence identified (physical, sexual, psychological, threats and coercion, and economic violence), what are 3 examples of incidents of violence that might occur in the pre-election or campaign period, or on election day?

Also identify who might be particularly at risk to suffer violence, commit violence, and what the impact would be. For example, a man who threatens his wife with divorce in order to influence her vote would give you the following information:

Victim: woman voter

Perpetrator: male family member

Type of violence: threats and coercion

Impact: influence her vote

Participants should report back on their answers in common discussion. The group should then identify some of the most common responses, and list them. If the group plans on conducting an election observation, this conversation can also be guided to inform any future discussions on the observation, and help the group begin prioritizing indicators of violence.

Activity 5 - Closing (30 minutes):

Objective: Wrap up any loose ends from the discussion and review the overall objectives of the workshop to confirm these objectives were met.

Activities: Answer questions and discuss next steps.