CSVR

Centre for the Study of
Violence and Reconciliation

CSVR FOUR-YEAR REVIEW

Reflecting on 2012-2016
Looking forward to 2017-2019



Cover image: Anataban

#Anataban is a community of young South Sudanese creatives who are tired of seeing their people suffer as a result of ongoing conflict. This is a photo of one of their pieces of street art completed in September 2016 in Juba, South Sudan.

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VISION AND MISSION

The VISION of the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR) is societies that are peaceful, equal and free of violence.



The MISSION of CSVR is to understand and prevent violence, to heal its effects and to build sustainable peace at community, national and international levels. We do this through collaborating with and learning from the lived and diverse experiences of communities affected by violence and conflict in order to:

- inform innovative interventions;
- generate knowledge;
- shape public discourse;
- influence policy;
- hold the state accountable;
- advance gender equality;
- promote social cohesion;
- enable active citizenship.

ORGANISATIONAL IDENTITY



KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING



EQUITY AND EQUALITY



UBUNTU (RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY)



ACCOUNTABILITY

As reflected in the images above and the logo explanation below, CSVR's core values are the foundation of its organisational identity. What we do and how we do it is informed and underpinned by this set of values. These shared values also provide a common frame of reference for encouraging organisational cohesion as well as sustainable relationships with partners and stakeholders.



The CSVR logo is symbolic of a traditional *umqombothi* pot, used by people in many African cultures. Once one has sipped from the communal pot, it must be offered to someone else in a courteous manner. This pot of traditional brew is always present at important ceremonies. It is also present during negotiations and when solidifying agreements, for example between neighbouring tribes. This communal sharing and the pot's relevance to community, social cohesion, respect and conciliation are the reasons it has been chosen to symbolise CSVR – these are the qualities needed to build durable peace and to heal the wounds of the past.

The logo depicts a circle which is almost fully formed and represents wholeness. Through its interventions, CSVR aims to complete this circle, and, in so doing, to create the peace and unity reflected in the symbolism of a circle.

INTRODUCTION FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON



Tefo Raditapole
Chairperson

It is a privilege to serve as Chairperson of such a highly respected organisation. CSVR has advanced its innovation and relevance in an increasingly complex and competitive environment. Throughout the period under review, CSVR's research and intervention work has produced original and internationally relevant lessons about violence in transitional contexts, and the challenges facing durable peace and reconciliation in emerging democracies.

CSVR's reciprocal learning partnerships in South Africa, on the continent and abroad have underscored the critical value of lessons (positive and negative) from Africa. These issues relate to preventing violence, healing from its effects and building a robust peace in transitional contexts, at a time when there is an unprecedented need for South-based solutions

CSVR's reputation in South Africa, continentally and internationally is a source of pride for the CSVR Board. I am also grateful to the dedicated Board members for sharing their acumen, experience and skills, which they have put to use in pursuing the common goal of ensuring CSVR's relevance, efficiency and sustainability.

We thank our donors and partners for their continued cooperation and support, and especially for their recognition of the value of CSVR's contribution to creating societies that are peaceful, equal and free of violence. This commitment to a shared vision is immensely important to us and we look forward to expanding these partnerships into the future.

We thank and congratulate all CSVR staff and management for their efforts over the past four years. They have developed and shared critical understandings about the nature of conflict and the opportunities to prevent violence, heal its effects and build sustainable peace at community, national and regional levels.

We recognise the invaluable role of Nomfundo Mogapi, the Executive Director, who has undertaken this complex leadership role with a deep passion and determination. Her dedication ensures that CSVR fulfils its mission and vision with a steadfast commitment to the organisation's values – equity and equality, respect for human dignity (ubuntu), accountability, and knowledge and learning. These achievements were made possible by building on the foundations laid by her predecessor, Delphine Serumaga.

Lastly, we wish our patron, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Mpilo Tutu, a speedy recovery from his illness in 2016. The "Arch" has always shown deep commitment and enthusiasm for the work of CSVR. We look forward to further deepening our relationship with him when he recovers.

Tefo Raditapole
Chairperson

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2015 CSVR celebrated its 25th anniversary. Since its inception, CSVR has worked towards understanding and preventing violence, healing its effects and building sustainable peace and reconciliation in South Africa, on the continent and across the globe. This has involved targeted research and advocacy with civil society and state institutions (national, continental and international) as well as individual and community interventions aimed at healing and preventing violence.



Nomfundo Mogapi
Executive Director

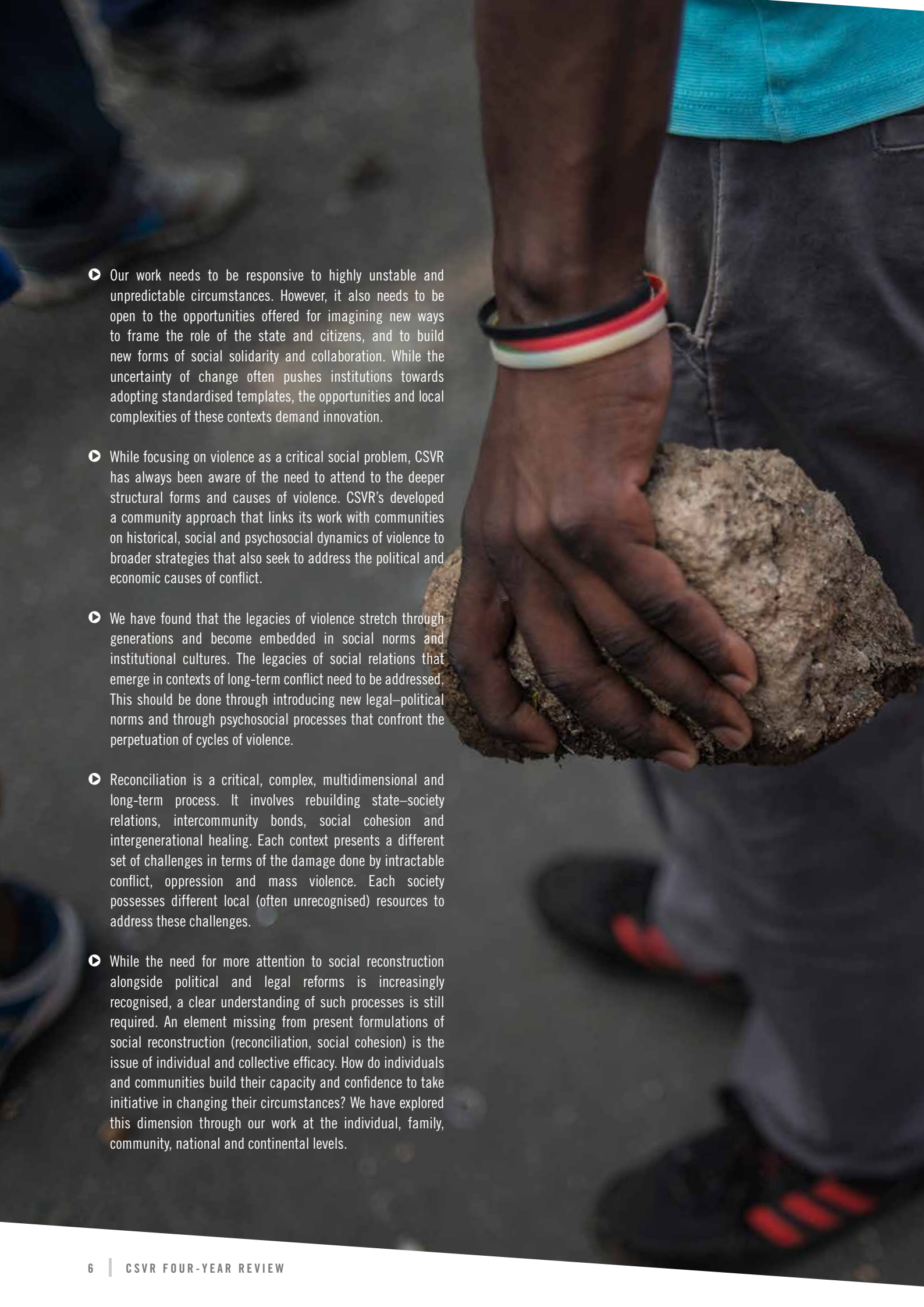
As we celebrated our 25th anniversary, we remembered with gratitude those who have contributed to the success of CSVR. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to my predecessors, the co-founders Lloyd Vogelman and (long-standing Executive Director) Graeme Simpson, for establishing a lasting foundation, for our strategic relevance and for situating us on the cutting edge of research, intervention and advocacy work. Thanks are also due to Ahmed Motala for reminding us that while the external is important, we also need to create an internal environment that is conducive to staff doing their work sustainably. Adele Kirsten is thanked for her hard work in installing organisational systems and processes that have become a building block for CSVR to be a more professional and efficient organisation, and Delphine Serumaga for positioning CSVR to increase its impact on the continent.

I also thank all the former and current CSVR staff members who have critically engaged with all aspects of CSVR's development as a South-based organisation. They have provided an innovative voice on the multifaceted issues of transitional justice (TJ), post-conflict violence prevention and peacebuilding processes in emerging democracies internationally. I am honoured to have been entrusted with the responsibility of leading this amazing organisation.

Finally, without the trust and confidence of local and international donors who have invested in us for over 25 years, none of this would have been possible. To them, as always, we remain deeply grateful.

Reflections and the Way Forward

CSVR's 25th anniversary encouraged reflection on the organisation's developmental iterations over the years as well as critical engagement with key lessons, the changing and expanding contexts of our work and what these imply for our future. Some of the key lessons identified from CSVR's work in violence prevention and peacebuilding processes in contexts of democratic transition include the following:



- Our work needs to be responsive to highly unstable and unpredictable circumstances. However, it also needs to be open to the opportunities offered for imagining new ways to frame the role of the state and citizens, and to build new forms of social solidarity and collaboration. While the uncertainty of change often pushes institutions towards adopting standardised templates, the opportunities and local complexities of these contexts demand innovation.

- While focusing on violence as a critical social problem, CSVR has always been aware of the need to attend to the deeper structural forms and causes of violence. CSVR's developed a community approach that links its work with communities on historical, social and psychosocial dynamics of violence to broader strategies that also seek to address the political and economic causes of conflict.

- We have found that the legacies of violence stretch through generations and become embedded in social norms and institutional cultures. The legacies of social relations that emerge in contexts of long-term conflict need to be addressed. This should be done through introducing new legal–political norms and through psychosocial processes that confront the perpetuation of cycles of violence.

- Reconciliation is a critical, complex, multidimensional and long-term process. It involves rebuilding state–society relations, intercommunity bonds, social cohesion and intergenerational healing. Each context presents a different set of challenges in terms of the damage done by intractable conflict, oppression and mass violence. Each society possesses different local (often unrecognised) resources to address these challenges.

- While the need for more attention to social reconstruction alongside political and legal reforms is increasingly recognised, a clear understanding of such processes is still required. An element missing from present formulations of social reconstruction (reconciliation, social cohesion) is the issue of individual and collective efficacy. How do individuals and communities build their capacity and confidence to take initiative in changing their circumstances? We have explored this dimension through our work at the individual, family, community, national and continental levels.

- The varying levels and forms of conflict in the contexts where we work raise complex questions regarding the multiple divisions and sources of identity at play. Interventions provide opportunities to challenge rigid categories and examine the way that conflict has shaped and distorted images of the "self" and "other".
- The global context of inequality and the enduring legacies of colonial exploitation and oppression still frame relations between the global North and South. As such, the legitimacy of post-conflict social change initiatives requires leadership and innovation rooted in South-based experience, particularly those rooted in African values and contexts.
- The causes and solutions to violence and conflict have both a global and a local dimension. Holistic responses require interventions that link global analysis and interventions to local understanding and capacities. We have developed a unique niche in working from the personal to the global in an integrated manner.
- Gender has been a ubiquitous factor that shapes conflict dynamics in the various contexts where CSVR works. Understanding how gender shapes conflict, and how it needs to be addressed in our efforts to prevent and redress violence, has been a critical factor in formulating CSVR's approach in all our areas of work.



Anti-xenophobic demonstration in South Africa, 2015: "Africans supported the struggle against apartheid" (Image: CSVR).

Despite the extent and depth of CSVR's engagement with these complex challenges in transitional contexts, we remain acutely aware of the substantial efforts currently required to contribute to durable peace and democracy in our country and on our continent. These include addressing the continued legacies of colonialism and authoritarian rule which permeate post-conflict social, economic and institutional contexts. Additionally, it is crucial to understand the gendered nature of violence and conflict on the African continent, including how it affects women and children differently. Specifically, it is critical to design effective violence prevention, TJ, peacebuilding and healing interventions that take these disparities into consideration.

The shifting and increasing socio-political volatility in our country, the region and the continent, coupled with continuing gross human rights violations in transitional and "democratic" contexts, remain serious threats to durable peace and to realising human rights at the local level. CSVR will continue to navigate this uneven terrain with local partners in pursuit of democratic accountability on multiple levels.

We further need to think beyond developing normative frameworks at the regional (African Union [AU] institutions) level in relation to TJ/peacebuilding issues, and to address the practical challenges in ensuring that these frameworks are implemented. This work needs to be linked to other efforts at the sub-regional and regional levels through the Regional Economic Communities and institutions such as the Pan African Parliament and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR). However, ensuring that these normative frameworks find traction at the state level, where they are operationalised, will require increased mobilisation and partnership work with local civil society organisations (CSOs). Turning policies into impact at the local level requires concerted, long-term efforts.

CSVR will continue its work in understanding, preventing and responding to the effects of increased social unrest and collective violence, such as violent service delivery protests, vigilante attacks, xenophobic violence, terrorist attacks, and ethnic and large-scale conflicts. The organisation will also continue its long-standing work in understanding and addressing the link between criminal violence and political conflict. This includes how and to what degree criminal activities – e.g. narcotics, human trafficking



The causes and solutions to violence and conflict have both a global and a local dimension. Holistic responses require interventions that link global analysis and interventions to local understanding and capacities. We have developed a unique niche in working from the personal to the global in an integrated manner.



It is crucial to understand the gendered nature of violence and conflict on the African continent, including how it affects women and children differently. Specifically, it is critical to design effective violence prevention, transitional justice, peacebuilding and healing interventions that take these disparities into consideration.

and more convoluted political and economically driven conflicts which instigate or fuel violence – compromise key elements of the justice system.

We recognise that as a CSO in a traumatised nation, CSVR's internal dynamics frequently mirror the external dynamics of our society. This includes issues of equity, collective trauma and healing related to identity – race, gender, nationality – and livelihoods. We believe that by continuing to deal with these issues internally, we will increase our efficacy in understanding and dealing with them in society.

CSVR continues to work at both the cutting edge and coalface of the issues raised above. This is done by:

- working directly with those affected by violence and conflict, mainly through the clinical and community work programmes;
- researching and understanding the root causes of and strategies for addressing violence and conflict;
- using this knowledge to shape public discourse, policies and legal frameworks and to strengthen practice.

Gender equity and strategic partnerships are principles that drive our approach. CSVR will also be further strengthening its professionalism through ensuring the efficiency of its systems and processes, and deepening an organisational culture that enhances our work and enables us to thrive.

CSVR could not have achieved, shared and learnt so much without the local and international stakeholders who have partnered with us in advocacy, research and working with those affected by violence or conflict. We are immensely grateful to our clients and beneficiaries. We thank you for letting us into your lives, for trusting us with your most painful experiences and hopes for the future, and for letting us travel with you on the painful journey of healing. These collaborations assist us in our endeavour to build peace on our continent.

As you page through this report, we invite you to celebrate our achievements with us. We hope you will continue journeying with us into the next 25 years of preventing violence and building durable peace in our country, on our continent and across the globe.

Nomfundo Mogapi
Executive Director

LOOKING BACK, 2012–2016: CONTINUITY AND CHANGE IN SHAPING CSVR'S FUTURE



During the period under review, CSVR took a step back to assess its organisational contribution and impact, and to reflect on the new and enduring challenges presented by the local and global contexts of its work. This necessitated examining the ways in which we structure our work and our organisation to remain innovative and relevant, while ensuring that the organisation remains steadfast in its values and purpose.

The continued relevance of CSVR's work and analysis was identified, in part, by the partnership and advisory work that CSVR engages in at local, national, continental and international levels. This includes work in relation to issues of TJ, collective violence, peacebuilding, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), psychosocial interventions, as well as reparations and redress for victims of human rights-based violations. CSVR has strengthened its global reputation of being a credible, independent South-based non-governmental organisation (NGO) capable of providing leadership and evidence-based knowledge on key policy challenges facing TJ, violence prevention and healing. At the continental level, CSVR's consistent, productive engagement over the years with the AU and the ACHPR on these issues has secured the organisation a distinguished reputation as a key African CSO for engagement with these institutions.

After a series of iterative reflections on both content and structural issues, and discussions on the Strategic Plan which emanated from these processes, CSVR embarked on an organisational change plan. This was informed by its newly developed Theory of Change. Broadly, the plan for reorganisation aimed to, among other things:

- improve CSVR's impact;
- better anticipate and manage changing demands for its organisational partnership work and intervention services;
- increase creativity and productivity in how CSVR pursues its goals, including deepening cross-programmatic work;
- strengthen learning, monitoring and evaluation (L,M&E) systems;
- mainstream gender justice as well as diversify the local and international dissemination methods and formats of CSVR knowledge.

Corresponding updates in particular policies and procedures were also identified as essential to the sustainability of changes in the structure and operations of the organisation.

In addition to focusing on five integrated programmatic areas (Community Interventions, Clinical Interventions, Research, Advocacy Interventions, Knowledge and Learning), CSVR's gender specialist began to facilitate mainstreaming of gender justice in all of CSVR's work in 2016. The improved Operations and Finance departments support the smooth, cohesive and sustainable running of the organisation.



This has been the most comprehensive collection of changes to CSVR's operations and structure since its formal registration as an independent non-profit organisation in 1990. CSVR has not, however, moved away from its original focus, which remains as relevant today as it was 27 years ago: to contribute to the increase in violence free, equal and peaceful societies through improved social cohesion, increased active citizenship, deepened democratic governance and increased constructive resolution of conflict.

As part of CSVR's 2017–2019 Strategic Plan, the organisation decided to concentrate its efforts on particular themes. This was done in order to maximise its impact and provide a comprehensive engagement with the topics and target groups that its programmes encompass. The themes are:

- TJ, including peacebuilding;
- sexual and gender-based violence;
- collective violence;
- state violence, including torture.

The following two pages provide a graphic representation of the alignment between CSVR's Theory of Change, its strategic priorities and the thematic areas of focus.

CSVR has strengthened its global reputation of being a credible, independent South-based NGO capable of providing leadership and evidence-based knowledge on key policy challenges facing transitional justice, violence prevention and healing.

CSVR'S THEORY OF CHANGE

CSVR seeks to address the interrelated problems of violence, social division and inequality. In the context of transitioning from conflict to democracy and peace, this is characterised by specific challenges in relation to addressing issues of:

- Authoritarian institutions
- Deeply entrenched patriarchy
- Colonial legacies
- Collective and intergenerational trauma
- Structural inequalities
- Fragmented societies and communities
- Fragile governance capacity

CSVR'S ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE:
Increasing violence free, equal and peaceful societies

- Improved social cohesion
- Increased active citizenship
- Deepened democratic governance
- Increased constructive resolution of conflict

PROXIMATE OUTCOMES (inextricably linked):

- Building collective efficacy
- Advancing responsive government policies and programmes
- Strengthening redress and healing for victims
- Building informed and engaged public/societies

Strategies CSVR employs to enable a durable peace:

- Development of networks, partnerships and dialogue forums
- Participatory learning and reflection processes
- Evidence-based knowledge production
- Linking healing with violence prevention and peacebuilding
- Linking interventions, research, and advocacy
- Linking local to national, regional, continental and global
- Community partnerships and mobilisation
- Civil society partnerships
- Balancing of partnership and accountability at state level
- Integrating and mainstreaming gender throughout our work

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND THEMATIC AREAS (2017-2019)

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

In order to strengthen the organisation's ability to engage effectively with the thematic areas, CSVR will also use these three years to strengthen its organisational capacity in key areas that are critical for successful impact. These priorities have been mapped out in terms of the following strategic objectives for 2017–2019:

1. To contribute to increased awareness, improved policies, programming and practices related to violence prevention and addressing the consequences of violence and conflict.
2. To strengthen networks and strategic partnerships for preventing violence/ conflict and for responding to its consequences (including opening up spaces for dialogue).
3. To strengthen learning and reflective practice which generates knowledge that informs practice, policy and shapes public discourse.
4. To ensure a smoothly operating, cohesive and sustainable organisation.
5. To promote/ advance a gender-mainstreaming approach in all organisational programming and operations.

THEMATIC AREAS

From 2017–2019 CSVR will concentrate its efforts on particular topics and target groups in order to maximise its impact and provide a comprehensive engagement that encompasses the efforts of all its programmes. CSVR's efforts during this period will thus be concentrated on four specific areas:

1. Transitional justice (including peacebuilding)
2. Sexual and gender-based violence
3. Collective violence
4. State violence (including torture)

CSVR GEOGRAPHICAL FOOTPRINT

From 2012 through 2016 CSVR staff engaged in partnership work, provided expert input, facilitated workshops and/or presented at conferences in the following African countries:

Angola
Botswana
Burundi
Cape Verde
DRC
Ethiopia
Ghana
Ivory Coast
Kenya
Liberia
Malawi
Mauritius
Morocco
Mozambique
Senegal
South Africa
Sudan
South Sudan
Swaziland
Tanzania
The Gambia
Tunisia
Uganda
Zimbabwe





"No to the bill of impunity, yes to the transitional justice," Tunis, Tunisia 2016. CSVR participated in North African TJ capacity building workshops with NGOs from the region in 2015-2016.





A local NGO conducting psychosocial therapeutic activities with school children in Lalitpur, Nepal.

Additional countries include:

Australia
Belgium
Brazil
Canada
Denmark
Germany
Guatemala
India
Israel
Jordan
Malaysia
Mexico
Nepal
Netherlands
Norway
Philippines
Switzerland
Turkey
United Kingdom
U.S.A

CSVR's partnership work contributes to building informed and engaged societies; advancing responsive government policies; strengthening therapeutic services; and building collective efficacy. The issues CSVR deals with are manifested both locally and globally. CSVR's work seeks to support efforts that echo our goals, whether these occur in international institutions, NGOs across the globe, or locally-rooted community initiatives.



Guatemala Forensic Anthropology Foundation (FAFG) staff discuss their process for identifying the disappeared from the Guatemalan conflict. In 2015-2016, CSVR collaborated with FAFG and other NGOs across the globe to provide integrated TJ interventions and expert input in a range of post-conflict countries.



Protest during rush hour in Johannesburg, South Africa during xenophobic violence in 2015.



"Banedya Abobo-Kolatier, release is alright, but justice and reparations for the victims first," Abidjan, Ivory Coast 2014. CSVR engaged with TJ policy processes in Ivory Coast during the period under review.



Hundreds of women in Nairobi, Kenya, hold a protest against the November 2014 public stripping of two women by mobs for allegedly dressing "indecently". Gender justice concerns emerge at every point of a country's transition and in some ways challenge and define the meaning of these transitions.



Fatou Bensouda, former Minister of Justice of The Gambia, as well as legal advisor and trial attorney at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, began her term as the International Criminal Court's prosecutor in June 2012.

COMMUNITY INTERVENTION PROGRAMME

Over the last four years CSVR's peacebuilding work at the community level has shifted to encompass an increased psychosocial healing component.

CSVR believes that a key component of building a durable peace involves healing those traumatised by different forms of violence and torture, their families and communities. The psychosocial effects of violence (including collective and intergenerational trauma) perpetuated under an authoritarian state do not simply cease once a democratic government is elected. If left unaddressed, unresolved trauma, combined with repeated exposure to violence, including violent crime, commonly feeds into the repetition of cycles of violence at multiple levels. Recurring violent incidents within communities, including sexual and domestic violence, severely constrain individual and collective agency and limit livelihood opportunities. Disillusionment around the role of the state in reducing violence and poverty limits people's aspirations for change. This restricts their capacity to build agency grounded in active citizenship on issues of governance and state accountability.



"We are here to help each other" placard held during an anti-xenophobic violence demonstration in Johannesburg, South Africa, April 2015 (Image: CSVR).



CSVR has found that individuals, families and communities that have dealt with the psychosocial effects of violence are better equipped to resolve differences/conflicts and deal with difficulties without resorting to violence. When carefully facilitated, this can transform into greater locally-based collective efficacy and a more peaceful society.

In everyday contexts of high levels of violence, such as in South Africa, CSVR has confirmed that the loss of empathy through the banalisation of violence is a significant barrier to social cohesion. This is particularly true for the most vulnerable, including victims of human rights abuses, women and youth. Empathy is necessary for interpersonal relationships that can further enable democratic rights-based social activism.

The intra- and interpersonal transformational development emphasis of CSVR's community intervention work results in recognising oneself as a social actor working towards democratic rights-based goals, and sharing this experience and process locally with others. These actions multiply to form a "critical mass" at the local level. This in turn results in building networks of rights-based activists that mobilise to hold government accountable at a range of levels, and that address a variety of issues. Engaging in rights-based social activism, rooted in personal healing, is an important pathway to building positive change-agent identities at the local level, particularly among the most vulnerable. It is a critical component of building a durable peace, which is crucially underpinned by democratic accountability and an active citizenry.

CSVR has found that individuals, families and communities that have dealt with the psychosocial effects of violence are better equipped to resolve differences/conflicts and deal with difficulties without resorting to violence. When carefully facilitated, this can transform into greater locally based collective efficacy and a more peaceful society.

The banalisation of violence: a man armed with an axe crosses the road after a service delivery protest turned violent between two communities in Ennerdale, South Africa, in July 2016.

Over the past four years, CSVR engaged in protracted community intervention work in eight impoverished communities in Gauteng and North West provinces: Kagiso, Orange Farm, Diepsloot, Pretoria, Ekangala, Mamelodi East, inner-city Johannesburg and Marikana. The interventions focused on SGBV, youth violence, xenophobic violence, urban violence, torture and collective violence. All interventions included:

- understanding and addressing the consequences of violence;
- training local community members (community change agents) in these processes for use within the community more widely and to build local action groups;
- implementing locally designed awareness-raising and networking activities;
- organising local advocacy opportunities for engaging with relevant government structures and service providers.

Teams of local action groups used various methods – e.g. community theatre, sports activities, community dialogues, campaigns – to educate and raise awareness about forms of violence and their consequences. Educational pamphlets, which included information on how to access CSVR's free professional trauma counselling services, were also distributed. Advocacy opportunities included action group/stakeholder meetings with members of the local South African Police Services, Community Policing Forums, traditional authorities and local government counsellors.

"I work at the local radio station as a host of the show called Let Us Talk. In the show, I use all the knowledge I gain from CSVR to talk about gender-based violence, HIV, AIDS, school violence, youth violence, torture, trauma and so forth. I feel being a host of this show on radio helps spread the message to the whole community of Ekangala. The feedback from community members has been very good. I feel being a member of CSVR's action group has helped me a great [deal] to sharpen my thinking skills."

-Mr Mashele,
Ekangala Action Group member and volunteer at local radio station



Comments from members of the Inner-City Johannesburg Action Group known as Voice of the Voiceless:

"We work to contribute towards justice, peace and reconciliation through assisting victims of torture and other forms of violence to access their rights and to get healing. We also encourage people to report their cases of abuse to the police until they get justice."



Voice of the Voiceless farewell function at CSVR for University of the Witwatersrand Community Psychology interns in Johannesburg, South Africa, 2012 (Image: CSVR).



Kagiso Anti-Torture Community Project (KACP) Change Agents, Kagiso, Mogale City, South Africa, 2012 (Image: CSVR).



The KACP organised a soccer match to raise awareness about torture. Held in 2014 at a school in Kagiso, the match was between KACP Change Agents and a team comprised of former Professional Soccer League and South African national women's soccer team players (Image: CSVR).



Thousands of South African platinum mineworkers gathered at Marikana on August 16, 2014 to commemorate the second anniversary of the killing of 34 of their colleagues by police during a strike in 2012.

"My life has changed since I joined the group. I am actively involved in raising the awareness about the trauma of the [Marikana] massacre. The trauma of the massacre lives in me but I use these memories to help others. [The] massacre has created so much pain but through this pain we are learning through the support of CSVR. I have attended so many workshops. Before the massacre I was sitting and doing nothing, but now I am active. I work for the well-being of the people of Marikana. Our work is to change the lives of the people of Marikana."

-Thumeka, Marikana Action Group member

"I'm now making a positive contribution in the community of the inner-city of Johannesburg through organising meetings and workshops to raise awareness about different forms of violence and explor[ing] ways in which this may be prevented."

"In the beginning of the project I was shy and I did not have a sense of belonging…I am no longer shy and I now participate and contribute freely to the group activities because I now feel that I belong somewhere in South Africa as a non-national from the DRC [Democratic Republic of the Congo]."

The lessons learnt from the community intervention work inform CSVR's ongoing research and advocacy work, which in turns feeds back into community intervention design and implementation work.

CLINICAL INTERVENTIONS PROGRAMME

The Clinical Interventions Programme has been a cornerstone of CSVR's work since its inception. While working within a violence prevention and human rights framework, the Clinical Programme focuses particularly on the most marginalised and vulnerable groups. They require specialised interventions in order to break the cycles of trauma and violence. This is a critical but commonly overlooked element in building a durable peace in societies transitioning to democracy.

Increase in Provision of Services to Victims of Torture

Over the past four years the Clinical Programme has seen a marked increase in its provision of counselling and psychosocial support to victims of torture. This includes South Africans who experienced torture under apartheid and more recently by the police, as well as non-nationals currently residing in South Africa. The programme also deepened its network of referral partners who have made themselves available to provide various services to torture victims, including legal support, humanitarian and social interventions.

CSVR was able to build further on its expertise in the area of torture rehabilitation during this period, partly due to a partnership with the Centre for Victims of Torture (CVT) from 2012–2015. This included a brief secondment of a CVT advisor during 2013. The advisor assisted in developing sustainable strategies for the clinical work and enabling CSVR clinicians to participate in international clinical trainings. The latter addressed a range of evidence-based mental health interventions for victims of trauma and torture.

In this period, the Clinical Programme finalised its own evidence-based African Torture Rehabilitation Model, in conjunction with CSVR's Research and Knowledge and Learning programmes. The model and the steps involved in its development were carefully documented and shared through publications and international conferences.

Greater Focus on Family Therapy

During the period under review the clinical team, through regular reflection and learning exercises, decided to prioritise family and couple counselling as a key component of its work with victims of trauma and torture. Consequently, the programme secured updated training on family therapy from both local and international experts. In addition, appropriate new M&E tools were developed. The team also collaborated with the Research Programme in the ongoing evidence-based development of a context-based family therapy model. This shift also involved refining supporting systems and procedures to enable the integration of family counselling services into the Clinical Programme for maximum sustainable impact. CSVR's Denmark-based partner, Dignity, provided expertise to assist with developing these strategies.

Dignity also provided therapeutic resources for use in the clinic, such as:

- faces with moveable parts to help children (and adults) articulate their feelings more easily;
- an outline of the human body to assist clients in identifying where they feel their trauma;
- drawing exercise tools for clients to use to convey their family and its dynamics.

To enable context-appropriate peer supervision, audio and recording equipment was installed in the clinic. A one-way mirror was also installed to allow for better observation of family therapy sessions and more effective feedback for the clinician.

Collaboration with Other CSVR Programmes

The clinical team engaged in collaborative interventions with CSVR's other programmes. The collaborations frequently involved providing psychosocial perspectives and insights to deepen and build more holistic TJ capacity-building initiatives at the local, national and regional levels.

An example of "body mapping" as a psychosocial therapeutic exercise.







CSVR clinicians have regularly contributed to the advocacy team's regional consultative workshops with African CSOs on issues related to torture and redress. The clinical team has also been heavily involved in CSVR's work with the Global Initiative on Truth, Justice and Reconciliation (GITJR). Members of the clinical team facilitated capacity-building workshops with CSOs from the Middle East and North Africa on psychosocial support for survivors of gross human rights violations. Given that psychosocial service providers have also experienced trauma as citizens of war-torn countries, and are constantly exposed to its horrors, the workshops included strategies and skills relating to the treatment and self-care of these providers, particularly in terms of protecting themselves from retraumatisation.



(Image: CSVR)

CSVR Clinician presenting at 2016 capacity-building workshop for human rights defenders in Arusha, Tanzania. Participants were particularly interested in how to take witness statements professionally without retraumatising a victim of human rights abuses.



In 2016, members of CSVR's clinical team facilitated capacity-building workshops with CSOs from the Middle East and North Africa regions on psychosocial support for survivors of gross human rights violations.

These workshops helped highlight the importance of psychosocial support in the TJ process, an issue that is under-resourced but slowly gaining more formal recognition among key multilateral agencies.

CSVR clinicians also participated in the GITJR South Sudan project. This involved working with representatives from South Sudanese CSOs involved in providing psychosocial support services. In the workshop held in South Sudan, participants were assisted in processing their own trauma so that they could, in turn, assist others in a country where professional psychosocial trauma support is extremely limited. A train-the-trainer workshop was subsequently held with South Sudanese CSOs, utilising a cascade model of psychosocial skills transference.



Traditional dance is used as part of psychosocial support activities with South Sudanese children in Northern Uganda.

In collaboration with CSVR's Advocacy Programme and the Denis Hurley Peace Institute, the Clinical Programme ran a series of capacity-building workshops with priests working in South Sudan. The workshops were aimed at equipping the priests with the necessary skills to assist victims of trauma and torture, and addressed the following issues:

- understanding torture and trauma;
- the impact of varied manifestations of torture on individuals, families and groups;
- how to focus interventions to meet the myriad, yet specific needs of the individual, family or group.

Feedback from capacity-building workshop participants (priests working in South Sudan):

"This was well done, especially the debriefing, impact of trauma, psychological first aid and self-care. I would like to work together with CSVR in the future."

"The workshop was well organised and on schedule, with all expectations met. I have learnt a lot of things that will benefit me and our organisation. I recommend that such training needs to be rolled out to the most needy people of our society. I thank the facilitator and CSVR at large for affording me this opportunity to learn and share experiences."

The Clinical Programme's collaborations with the Community Interventions Programme increased significantly during the period under review. In 2016 in particular, clinicians were involved in numerous community-based awareness-raising and training initiatives on the lasting impact of trauma, torture and other forms of violence and conflict on communities. These interventions were held in deeply impoverished areas where the Community Interventions team is engaged in facilitating ongoing peacebuilding skills development and mobilisation initiatives.

RESEARCH PROGRAMME

CSVR's research supports and guides the organisation's intervention areas and tackles key gaps in society's understanding of how to prevent violence and heal its effects. CSVR has a long history of conducting conceptually innovative as well as policy-oriented research that remains grounded in the experiences of local communities. The last three years built on this tradition and sought to apply CSVR's expertise to long-standing and newly emerging challenges and opportunities for understanding and addressing violence.

In 2012, CSVR concluded a large comparative research project, Violence in Transition Project Phase 3, which examined the changing nature of violence during periods of transition. Focusing on sexual violence and informal armed formations, the collaborative research, with partners in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Kenya, produced a number of research reports. These reports challenge conventional thinking about the impact of political shifts on the causes and forms of violence that continue to plague transitional societies.



CSVR's research has maintained a regular focus on torture, seeking to understand new patterns that have emerged and exploring the effectiveness of monitoring bodies and legal remedies. The organisation's in-depth empirical research has resulted in widely disseminated knowledge products as well as frequent engagement with state officials and the media. This work has contributed to increased awareness that:

- torture continues to occur, even in postapartheid South Africa;
- it has dire consequences for victims, particularly non-nationals and other marginalised groups;
- existing state monitoring bodies and legal frameworks have not been effective in providing redress and accountability.

In 2016, CSVR initiated an ambitious comparative study of TJ processes across the African continent. This 12-country study, conducted in collaboration with regional partners, seeks to assess the factors shaping specific policy choices and examine the trajectories shaping their impact on peace and human rights in the respective countries. The findings from this research will bolster CSVR's continental advocacy in supporting the development and implementation of the AU Transitional Justice Policy (AUTJP).

From 2011 to 2015, CSVR was contracted to teach an MA class on Post-Conflict Justice in Africa and to coordinate a Justice and Transformation in Practice internship programme as part of the University of Cape Town's interdisciplinary Justice and Transformation course. A number of these students are now involved in TJ and other developmental and conflict resolution NGOs around the globe.

Based on the success of CSVR's partnership research project with the University of the Witwatersrand, resulting in the 2011 publication of the seminal research report *The Smoke that Calls: Insurgent Citizenship, Collective Violence and the Struggle for a Place in the New South Africa*, CSVR launched an innovative research project in 2013 to evaluate the impact of a national government job-creation project, the Community Work Programme (CWP), on urban violence.

The CWP project conducted in-depth case studies in six communities around the country, examining how this programme has been implemented and how it has affected local dynamics





of violence and resilience. Lessons drawn from these case studies were developed into widely disseminated thematic policy briefs exploring how the violence prevention capacity of such programmes can be enhanced. As of 2016, a second phase of this project is being rolled out to pilot specific intervention strategies so that they can be upscaled through CWP at a national level.

In 2015 and 2016, CSVR partnered with Khulumani Support Group in the Western Cape to conduct participatory action research on socioeconomic drivers of violence in Khulumani communities. (Khulumani is a membership-based organisation of victims and survivors of apartheid-related gross human rights violations in South Africa.) The research culminated in an in-depth report on the drivers of violence and a "process learning" on how to conduct participatory action research with victims of apartheid. The project has resulted in the ongoing development of a new five-year plan, held by Khulumani Western Cape, which takes the work forward through multiple channels.

Development of Intervention Approaches and Models

In 2013, CSVR published the *African Torture Rehabilitation Model: A Contextually Informed, Evidence-Based Psychosocial Model for the Rehabilitation of Victims of Torture*. This innovative approach integrated insights from our clinical M&E system, an extensive literature review and a consensus-building approach to best understand the impacts of torture on survivors in our specific local context. The most appropriate interventions to address these impacts were then developed. This model is now used as the basis for our clinical intervention approach. This research and design method, which integrates international best practice with local priorities and in-house expertise, also now serves as a model for CSVR's development of intervention strategies within other teams.

CSVR has prioritised the development and implementation of community intervention strategies that are:

- theoretically grounded;
- more uniform across the organisation;
- amenable to M&E;
- ethically sound;
- replicable and evidence-based.

The following community intervention models have been developed since 2012:

The **anti-torture community model** was developed through rigorous research in the Johannesburg township of Kagiso. The model is rooted in Paulo Freire's theory of conscientisation and proposes that in order to prevent torture, victims must first be conscientised and then mobilised. Any sustainable changes to individuals, groups and communities affected by torture will take place only once this has been done. The theory has been utilised in implementing community intervention in four communities with which CSVR works (Kagiso, Marikana, Ekangala, Johannesburg inner city).

CSVR developed the **psychosocial/healing community model** to strengthen its community efforts of preventing and healing the effects of violence. The model emanates from research which shows that cycles of violence can be interrupted through addressing unresolved trauma at the individual, group, family and community levels. While recognising the importance of Freire's theory of conscientisation, the model also integrates the principles of collaboration, participation, resilience, empowerment, gender sensitivity and restoration. The model is now being applied in the four communities mentioned above.

The **integrated community intervention model** is a multifaceted model that seeks to combine the prevention and healing components of CSVR's community intervention work. Besides utilising Freire's theory and the community healing approach outlined above, the integrated community model addresses key challenges of leadership, ownership, formalisation, institutionalisation, organising, inclusivity, shared vision, planning, communication and sustainability. The model is grounded in the belief that to prevent violence and heal communities, interventions require sustainable human, social and economic resources and capacity.





ADVOCACY INTERVENTION PROGRAMME

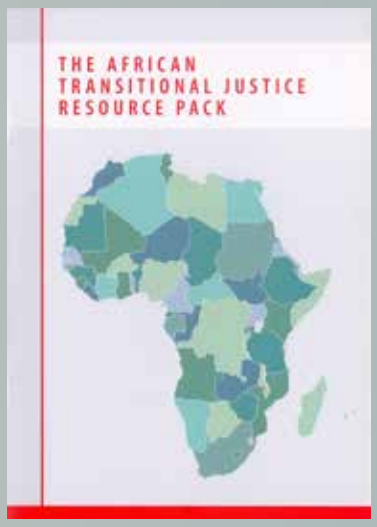
CSVR's advocacy work is aimed at influencing policy and institutional development locally, nationally, continentally and internationally. It is underpinned by a strategy to understand violence, violence prevention, building resilient and peaceful societies, and conflict transformation. This has been achieved through pursuing five key strategic focus areas.

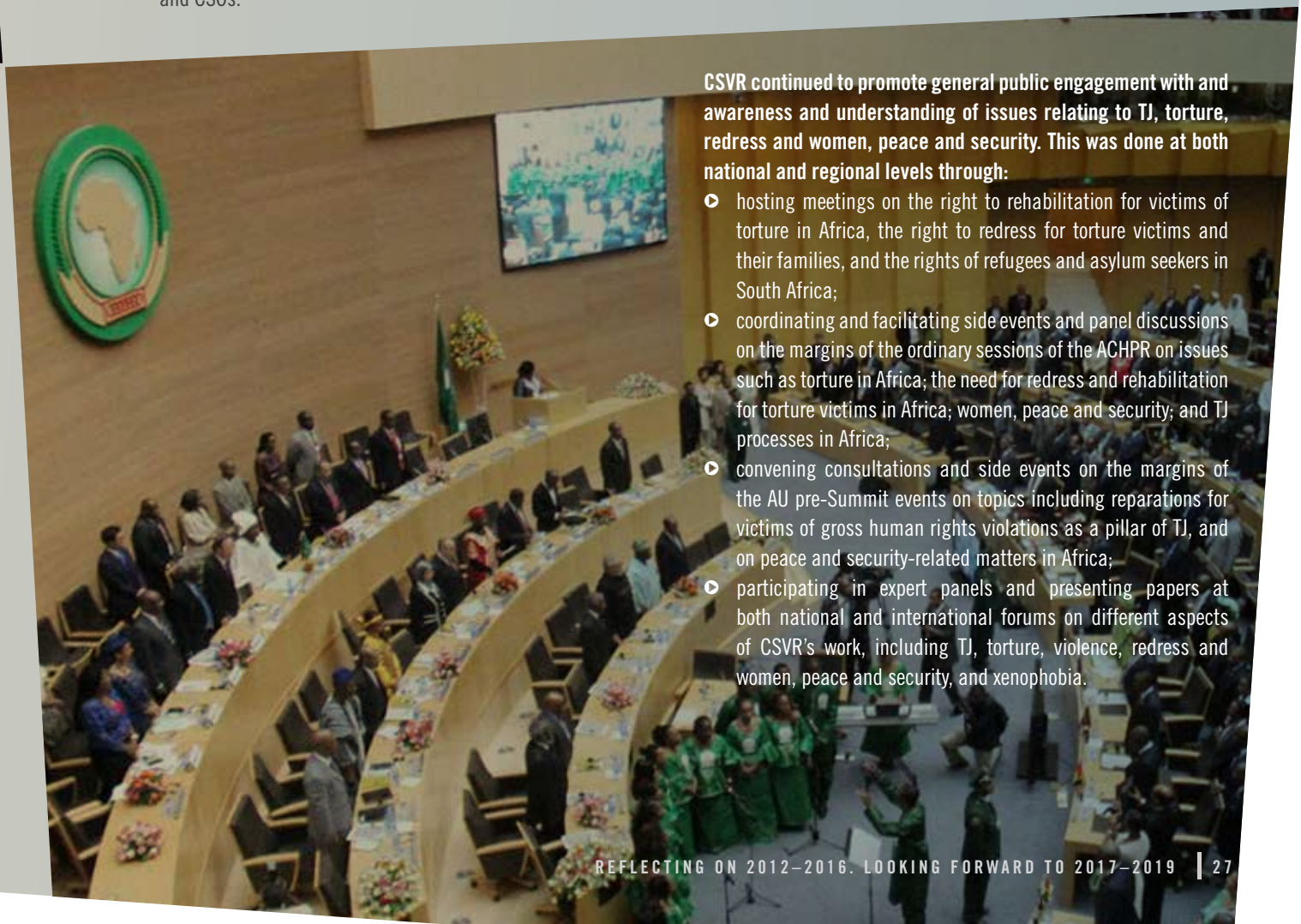
Five key strategic focus areas of CSVR's advocacy work:

1. influencing the development, adoption, ratification and implementation of national, regional and international policies on targeted topics (TJ, torture, redress and women, peace and security);
2. fostering public engagement, awareness and understanding of targeted topics;
3. enhancing knowledge, understanding and practice through technical and content support to policy and decision makers, CSO partners, implementers and practitioners;
4. strengthening engagement and strategic alliances and bolstering collaboration towards a pan-African approach on targeted topics;
5. providing victims and survivors of gross human rights violations access to interactions with key national, regional and international human rights mechanisms to seek effective and adequate redress.

CSVR was a significant participant in influencing national and regional policy agendas during the period under review. The organisation:

- played a key role in developing and sustaining the torture agenda and informing the Torture Act (No. 13 of 2013) in South Africa;
- shifted the discourse on TJ, conflict resolution and peacebuilding in Africa through direct engagement with the AU Commission (AUC) by providing content and technical support to the AUC Department of Political Affairs (DPA). This working relationship was formalised in an official Memorandum of Understanding with the AUC, signed in May 2013;
- consistently worked in the African region, resulting in strategic partnerships with the Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa (CPTA), the AUC, the ACHPR and other AU organs. For example, an ACHPR resolution called for a study on TJ in Africa to be undertaken to help establish the role of the ACHPR in relation to TJ on the continent. The ACHPR selected CSVR as the secretariat of the study, to coordinate the development and finalisation of the study in collaboration with regional partners and CSOs.





CSVR continued to promote general public engagement with and awareness and understanding of issues relating to TJ, torture, redress and women, peace and security. This was done at both national and regional levels through:

- hosting meetings on the right to rehabilitation for victims of torture in Africa, the right to redress for torture victims and their families, and the rights of refugees and asylum seekers in South Africa;
- coordinating and facilitating side events and panel discussions on the margins of the ordinary sessions of the ACHPR on issues such as torture in Africa; the need for redress and rehabilitation for torture victims in Africa; women, peace and security; and TJ processes in Africa;
- convening consultations and side events on the margins of the AU pre-Summit events on topics including reparations for victims of gross human rights violations as a pillar of TJ, and on peace and security-related matters in Africa;
- participating in expert panels and presenting papers at both national and international forums on different aspects of CSVR's work, including TJ, torture, violence, redress and women, peace and security, and xenophobia.



Experts Meeting: Applying a Gender Lens to the AU TJ Policy, December 2016, Kampala, Uganda, hosted by the AUC-DPA in partnership with CSVR (Image: CSVR).

CSVR was active in enhancing knowledge, understanding and practice through technical and content support to policy and decision makers, CSO partners, implementers and practitioners on TJ, torture, redress and women, peace and security issues. This was done through:

- serving as a member of the Reference Group assisting the CPTA with both content and technical support in developing the General Comment on the Right to Redress for Victims of Torture in Africa, under Article 5 of the ACHPR;
- providing technical support to the AUC-DPA on the development and finalisation of the AUTJP;
- membership of the GITJR consortium. Through this partnership, CSVR:
  - worked on a number of country-based, short-term, TJ-related intervention projects ranging from South Sudan to Syria. These rapid-response projects were aimed at responding to current crises in countries seeking to develop their own TJ processes to address the legacies of conflict and violence. CSVR's contribution included workshops on psychosocial support training for community-based organisations (CBOs), locally-rooted CSOs and truth commissioners, as well as M&E training and training on how to use documentation for advocacy purposes at national, regional/continental and international platforms;
  - trained local human rights CSOs and TJ practitioners at the GITJR-sponsored Middle East/North Africa Transitional Justice Academy;
  - participated in developing GITJR partner knowledge-harvesting initiatives, such as the Building a Learning Community: Sharing Models and Lessons from the GITJR (TJ Toolkit) project, the Reparations Summit project and the Community Consultations project.

Dialogue on a Cooperative Framework on Human Rights and TJ Mechanisms in Darfur, held in Kampala, Uganda in December, 2016, hosted by the AUC-DPA in close cooperation with United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur, Office of the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights, and CSVR (Image: CSVR).



CSVR has contributed to a pan-African approach to TJ, torture, redress and women, peace and security through facilitating and contributing to national, international and pan-African umbrella-body advocacy structures and forums, including:

- the South African Coalition for Transitional Justice, a national network that seeks to implement the unfinished business of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, especially reparations to victims of apartheid human rights violations, including torture;
- the South African No Torture Consortium, a national consortium of five organisations providing rehabilitation services to victims of torture in South Africa. The Consortium aims at ensuring that redress for torture victims in South Africa is prioritised and reflected in national anti-torture legislation and practice;
- the Detention Justice Forum, a national coalition of organisations dealing with victims of torture in detention areas;
- the Pan-African Reparation Initiative, a network of NGOs and experts working with and advocating for the rights of victims of torture and ill-treatment throughout Africa;
- the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (sub-Saharan African region) is part of the Council's international network of organisations providing rehabilitation services to victims of torture worldwide;
- the Advisory Group on Transitional Justice, together with other African organisations from the five regions in Africa. The Group has worked together on a TJ in Africa study and also hosts the annual Institute for African Transitional Justice training programme for aspiring TJ practitioners from across Africa.

CSVR has continued to provide victims and survivors of gross human rights violations access to interactions with key national, regional and international human rights mechanisms to seek effective and adequate redress through:

- engaging and networking with key national and international human rights mechanisms towards ensuring access to these mechanisms for victims;
- providing capacity-building workshops on human rights and human rights mechanisms on key issues affecting torture victims, including the right to redress, the right to rehabilitation, international and legislative frameworks on torture and redress and rights of refugees and asylum seekers. The team also develops knowledge products on human rights issues affecting torture victims.

AUC-DPA and CSVR consultation with the Committee on Justice and Human Rights, Pan African Parliament, August 2014, Midrand, South Africa (Image: CSVR).



MAINSTREAMING GENDER JUSTICE

Since the mid-1990s, CSVR has contributed towards the eradication of SGBV by promoting understanding of the causes of and contributors to such violence, and building the capacity of organisations and institutions to respond effectively. Because SGBV is a complex, multifaceted problem, CSVR works within a variety of areas to effect change, while maintaining a focus on the most marginalised and vulnerable. In 2016, CSVR decided to institutionalise gender justice as a key cross-cutting priority. The organisation's engagement with these issues was consciously elevated throughout all its programmatic work and operations. This has led to a deepened understanding of the more nuanced meaning and significance of gender justice in all of CSVR's work. Furthermore, it has led to greater involvement with issues around women, peace and security in societies transitioning from armed conflict

CSVR employed a dedicated gender specialist in 2015 to guide programmatic work to address frequently overlooked yet embedded gendered aspects of CSVR's research and intervention initiatives. She also leads the organisation's engagement with gender justice mainstreaming. Other key achievements during the period under review are discussed below.

Addressing SGBV within the Context of Harmful Traditional and Cultural Practices

CSVR ran a multi-year partnership-based intervention with women- and youth-led organisations in four South African communities: Thulamela in Limpopo, Orange Farm in Gauteng, Loskop in KwaZulu Natal and Bo-Kaap in the Western Cape. The intervention aimed at identifying and addressing SGBV within the context of harmful traditional and cultural practices. The four communities were specifically targeted due to their high levels of SGBV and low levels of government intervention or support in relation to SGBV and its social impacts. The project was implemented in partnership with CBOs and women's rights groups in the targeted areas.

The project communities identified two key traditional and cultural practices linked to SGBV issues:

- Some men understand payment of *lobola* to the bride's parents before marriage as "purchasing" their wife as their own property. As such, they believe they have the right to control her.
- Muslim marriages are not legally recognised under South African law, resulting in many Muslim women being left with nothing in the event of a divorce. Many female Muslim participants in the project argued that this puts them at further risk of SGBV.



CSVR staff with Ambassador Salah Hammad of the AUC-DPA at the launch of Her Voice, Her Peace, She Matters Campaign in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, January 2015 (Image: CSVR).



"Women are more than just victims in conflict. They are agents of change, representing untapped potential for creating a more peaceful, secure and just world."

A key component of addressing the SGBV issues prioritised within each community included capacity building for advocacy. These skills were effectively utilised when community-led engagements were held. The engagements took place with relevant local government institutions, traditional authorities and, in one project area, religious authority representatives. Issues identified early in the project around SGBV within the context of harmful traditional and cultural practices were raised and options explored for policy and intervention initiatives.

Through this project, CSVR expanded the conceptual knowledge and debate on SGBV primary prevention interventions. It also developed and implemented interventions based on research that measured the effects of traditional cultural and religious practices on SGBV. Three research reports emanated from this project and were well received by key stakeholders in the targeted provinces as well as by those which were not the focus of the studies. The reports were published in 2016.

Women, Peace and Security Campaign

CSVR is part of a consortium on women, peace and security which seeks to promote and amplify the women, peace and security agenda in African regional and global spaces. The consortium, led by the Human Rights Institute of South Africa (in collaboration with CSVR, People Opposing Women Abuse and Southern African Liaison Office), initiated a media campaign called 'Her Voice, Her Peace, She Matters'.

The campaign is a broad-based movement of informed and concerned CSOs that believe women are indispensable to peace and that recognise that women are more than just victims in conflict. Rather, they are agents of change, representing untapped potential for creating a more peaceful, secure and just world.

KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING PROGRAMME

Knowledge and learning, as dedicated focal points of the organisation, have expanded and gained in prominence over the course of CSVR's history. In 2016, it was agreed that a key strategic objective for CSVR is to strengthen learning and reflective practice which generates knowledge that informs practice, policy and shapes public discourse. This commitment was translated into an organisational restructuring that resulted in the establishment of the Knowledge and Learning Programme. Furthermore, increased attention was given to the quality of knowledge management, evaluation, learning and reflection processes and tools within the organisation.

In order to address CSVR's focus on the interrelated challenges of violence, social division and inequality, the organisation requires regular, rigorous cross-pollination of experiences and learnings within the organisation, as well as with the ever-changing external environment. The Knowledge and Learning Programme is ultimately aimed at ensuring CSVR remains innovative and relevant. The programme is thus tasked with the responsibility to:

- improve the value and quality of CSVR's work;
- evaluate and strengthen the systems and tools for pursuing its goals;
- better anticipate and manage changing demands for its services;
- increase creativity and productivity in how CSVR pursues its goals;
- increase the profile of CSVR's pioneering work by disseminating knowledge locally and internationally through a varied range of product formats and direct engagement in a variety of pertinent forums.

During the period under review, the Clinical Interventions Programme's learning, monitoring and evaluation systems were formalised. More attention was also given to producing knowledge products emerging from practitioner experience and expertise. The M&E system now rigorously and systematically tracks client progress over time and provides direct feedback to clinicians. This information is then examined to draw out insights for individual cases and for lessons regarding appropriate therapeutic strategies.

Rigorous monitoring also allows CSVR to identify and analyse trends and patterns in the experiences and challenges faced by torture victims and their communities. CSVR uses the data collected to track the progress of certain areas of the clinical work and impact of intervention over time. A range of reflection reports have deepened CSVR's understanding of its clients' needs and the clinical intervention strategies that are employed. This data and the reflections on its implications have provided the substance for oral presentations at local and international conferences, seminars and workshops in the fields of community psychology, TJ, mental health and resilience, as well as M&E methodologies.

Given the success of the Clinical Interventions Programme's Knowledge and Learning (K&L) system, the roll-out of K&L systems into other programmes was prioritised. This started with the Community Interventions Programme, and has been introduced less systematically (but still intensively) into the work of the Research and Advocacy programmes.

The Knowledge and Learning Programme is ultimately aimed at ensuring CSVR remains innovative and relevant.







A central achievement of the implementation of the Community Interventions K&L system has been an increase in project deliverables through reflective learning sessions which resulted in bottlenecks being identified and successfully addressed. This has increased the programme's creativity, productivity and ability to anticipate and manage change. This has impacted positively on relationships with CSVR constituents, in addition to strengthening ongoing intervention model development work during the period under review.

Through creating improved forums for sharing, reflection and learning, CSVR has encouraged a culture of valuing the knowledge that emerges from our various interventions and exchanges. Formalised internal reflections and facilitated lunchtime discussions are examples of the platforms CSVR utilises for collective learning and reflection about our work.

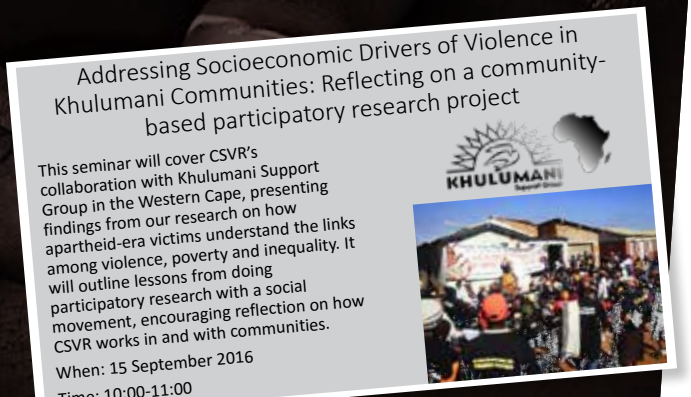
Internal seminars provide spaces in which all members of CSVR have the opportunity to present on specific project work. In these spaces, participants offer rigorous, constructive feedback aimed at improving various aspects of a project's planning, content and implementation, as well as the K&L systems being developed.

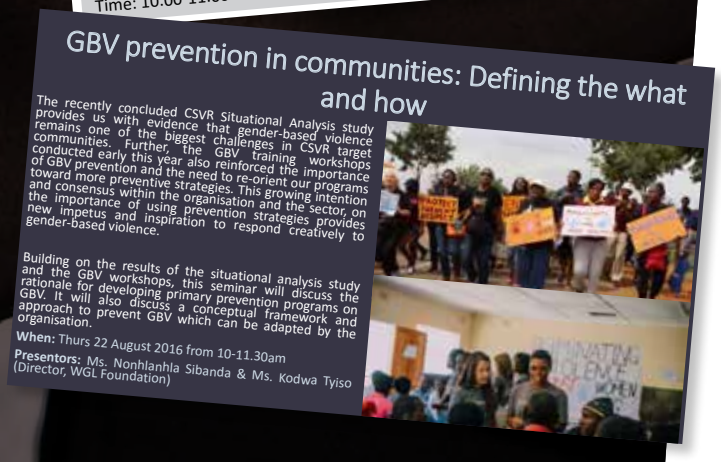
Internal seminars held in 2016 included presentations on:

- innovative M&E tools being explored in CSVR's research and intervention work (e.g. Photovoice);
- key lessons learnt from intervention model development and testing in both the clinical and community intervention work;
- the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in relation to CSVR's work;
- prescient issues with overarching relevance to CSVR's work presented by each programme (respective session led by each team);
- lessons and challenges from CSVR's international partnership work.

Facilitated lunchtime discussions, or "brownbags", provide an informal sharing forum in which current events are discussed in relation to CSVR's work. Where required, a joint plan of action or media statement is generated at the end of a session. These forums ensure that CSVR can respond rapidly to external events in a way that draws on various programme perspectives and enables practitioners to speak on behalf of the organisation. Some of the brownbags held in 2016 included South Africa's local election violence, service delivery protests, xenophobic violence, SGBV, university fees protests and the AU's engagement with the International Criminal Court.

CSVR has also sought to contribute to the creation of various platforms for knowledge exchange among practitioners and





academics, policy makers and activists, between North and South and between policy communities divided by various fault lines. CSVR's flagship initiative for this knowledge exchange is the International Journal of Transitional Justice, which is managed by CSVR (and co-edited with the Centre for Human Rights and International Justice at Boston College). It is published three times a year, with one special edition, by Oxford University Press. The Journal published four special editions with distinguished guest editors over the period under review:

- *Transitional Justice and the Everyday* (Erin Baines and Pilar Alcala);
- *The Role of International Justice in Transitional Justice* (Naomi Roht-Arriaza);
- *Transitional Justice: Does It Have a Future?* (Makau Mutua);
- *Reconsidering Appropriate Responses to Victims in Conflict* (Juan E. Mendez).

According to the most recent indicators available (2015), the Journal achieved a particularly impressive impact in the field, being rated 25th (out of 86) among international relations journals, and 45th (out of 149) among law journals.

A key achievement over the past four years was the increased sharing of CSVR knowledge through reports, policy briefings, journal articles and presentations at local and international conferences, seminars and workshops. Over this period, CSVR presented knowledge on a wide range of issues, including the prevention and healing of torture, collective violence, context-based M&E, various TJ-related issues, urban violence and SGBV.

These are all important platforms for CSVR to share its experiences and lessons and engage with practitioners, researchers and M&E experts from other parts of the world working on similar issues and/or in similar contexts. Significant international partnership work has been generated through such experiential learning forums, further ensuring the sustained relevance and innovation of CSVR's work.



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1st For Women Trust
Amnesty International
Atlantic Philanthropies
Belgium Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Bread for the World
Centre for Victims of Torture
Centre for Historical Research and Documentation on War and Contemporary Society
Dignity (Danish Institute against Torture)
Embassy of Finland (Pretoria)
Freedom House
Foundation for Human Rights
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International Development and Research Centre
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United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
United Nations Development Programme
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture
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