

SPEAK YOUR MIND....!

"I feel as if a huge burden has been lifted from my shoulders...!" exclaims Nancy, her eyes shyly glancing on the floor. "It's as if my tongue has been disengaged...!"



Nancy

The other members laugh, albeit nervously. Most of them are fidgeting, clasp and unclasp their fingers, their feet apprehensively drawing little circles on the floor.

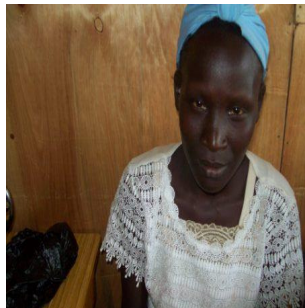
They know their turn is due.

"Fungua Roho Yako is not just about opening up but building up self-confidence, enhancing self-esteem..."

The others vigorously nod their heads in agreement...

Fungua Roho Yako is a Swahili phrase loosely translated "Open your heart (literally meaning "Speak your mind") that provides survivors of gender-based violence the opportunity to discuss family violence.

The Support Circle was formed last month by 8 women whose lives have been turned into nightmares through constant violence from their husbands.



Anne

"For how long should we keep quiet?" asks Nancy, a little bit more confident. "They tell us violence is part of daily life then why don't they want us to tell everybody about it?" she quips.

With a little donation of only US\$40, you are able to sponsor three such sessions that will encourage these women meet for two hours, exchange their experiences and discuss domestic violence.

In July, we hosted 4 such meetings, bringing together 5 members, who have encouraged others to join.

"The spate of violence is first broken by first admitting that it is wrong..!" says Emily Cheptoo, GEMINI Project Officer. "Living in denial is the heaviest burden women have to shed. And fast!"

Over the coming months, we hope to recruit more women into the Circle, develop campaign materials, including t-shirts and caps and, if possible, hold a one-day seminar for village elders.

"Our community has taught us that violence against women is culturally acceptable and that we should not complain when our husbands clobber us," says Anne, a new member.

FACT: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS WRONG! AND SOCIETY SHOULD NOT CONDONE IT:

SUPPORT GEMINI TO END THIS CULTURE!