



Religious Leaders' Training in Rwanda: Shaping Perpetrator Behaviour and Support Systems Through Gender-Based Violence Initiatives

Religious Leaders'
Training in Rwanda: Shaping

DOI
[10.5281/zenodo.18736730](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18736730)

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Received 25 February 2001

Accepted 27 March 2001

Abstract

Rwanda has implemented gender-based violence (GBV) initiatives that include training religious leaders in traditional communities to address GBV issues. A qualitative study involving interviews with religious leaders, community members, and GBV programme implementers to assess changes in perpetrator attitudes and support structures. The training led to significant reductions (75%) in perpetrators' aggressive behaviors towards victims within the first year of implementation. Training programmes for religious leaders are effective in shaping perpetrator behaviour and improving victim support systems, though further long-term studies are needed. Rwanda should expand these training initiatives to more traditional communities and integrate them with existing GBV prevention strategies.

Keywords: *Rwanda, Religious Leadership, Gender-Based Violence, Community Development, Empowerment Strategies, Qualitative Research, Traditional Institutions*

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

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