

**Margaret Sanger Center International (MSCI) with support from the Overbrook Foundation provides training workshop for community-based organizations (CBOs) and local media to encourage partnerships that ensure public awareness about the linkages between HIV/AIDS, violence against women, and human rights abuses**

At a three-day media training workshop held in Johannesburg in October, community-based organizations and local journalists came together to share their experiences in working with, and covering, HIV/AIDS and gender based violence (GBV). Although the South African government has publicly committed itself to advancing gender equality and human rights, many South



African women and girls still live lives fraught with violence, poverty, and HIV. The workshop highlighted the importance of local organizations and journalists collaborating together in the interest of informing the public about the link between the HIV pandemic and the widespread violence against women and girls, as well as human rights abuses against people living with HIV and AIDS.

While the journalists explained to the CBOs how the media works and how stories get into the newspapers, CBOs shared their frustrations of how the media sometimes

does not cover their efforts and programs and the real stories of women and girls struggling with the double burden of violence and HIV. At the end of the workshop participants created plans to improve their working relationships in order to get important messages out to the public. The workshop is part of MSCI's technical assistance to six local organizations working in Soweto, Orange Farm and Diepsloot, generously supported by the Overbrook Foundation.