

Govt is taking tangible measures to address GBV : Minister

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Addis Ababa, November 28, 2009 - Women Affairs Minister Muferihat Kamil said government is taking tangible measures to address Gender Based Violence (GBV).

The 16-day Gender Based Violence Campaign–Ethiopia (GBVC-E) was launched as of Wednesday under the theme "Commit -Act -Demand: We can End Violence against Women. " The campaign consists of various assortments that highlight thematic issues. Speaking at stakeholders’ consultation workshop held here on Thursday as part of the campaign, Muferihat Kamil said through her representative said the government has been undertaking wide ranging activities to ensure the rights and benefits of women. The minister said various activities aiming at raising citizen’s awareness and mobilizing public movement at various levels are being carried out. She said government has attached due attention to the issue and the role of NGOs in addressing GBV. The minister said as coordinated effort of all stakeholders will help address the issue the ministry will work closely with partners. GBVC-E Chairperson, Saba Gebermedhen on her part said the campaign has brought about auspicious achievement in the fight GBV since its establishment in 2006. The campaign enables the actors to make GBV is a burning issue, to amend legal articles, to solicit coordination and collaboration among stakeholders. She said the workshop would enable stakeholders to share good experiences in tackling GBV and to look ways for furthering collaborations with pertinent bodies to address GBV. She said actions taken by the government and NGOs to prevent and stop action of gender based violence on women and children in Ethiopia are very proactive and encouraging. Chairperson called upon the government to better integrate, heighten its action to protect those exposed to such practice. GBVC-E was established in 2006 and chaired by the Network of Ethiopian Women Associations (NEWA). The campaign consists of training, carnival for secondary schools in Addis Ababa, celebration of Anti AIDS DAY at Dire Dawa University, distribution of white ribbon and key messages, high-level consultation workshop, street march and media campaign among others.