



Help & Shelter Inc

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

June 2025 - December 2025

Empowering Survivors, Strengthening Communities

Welcome to Our Quarterly Newsletter!

At Help & Shelter we believe in empowering individuals and fostering safe, healthy communities. Each quarter, we're dedicated to sharing the latest news, updates, and stories of resilience, highlighting our services, and offering ways for you to get involved in making a difference.

Volunteers Activities

As part of activities marking the 16 Days of Activism for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls, volunteers carried out public sensitization activities on November 29 and December 6, 2025. The initiative focused on increasing visibility of key prevention messages through the distribution of bumper stickers in high-traffic public areas.

The activity began in the Bourda area, starting at the Bourda car park and targeting hire cars operating around Bounty Supermarket, Orange Walk, areas opposite the Market, and Bourda Green Road. Additional stickers were placed along Charlotte Street. Notably, two women, motivated by the campaign message, requested that stickers be placed on their market tents where they would be clearly visible to shoppers and passers-by. A total of twenty-one (21) stickers were distributed in the Bourda area.

The sensitization drive then moved to the Stabroek area, where forty-five (45) stickers were distributed. Coverage included the Kitty-Campbellville bus and car parks, areas around Demico, the Parika bus and car parks, and several boats that transport passengers daily across the Demerara River between Georgetown and Vreed-en-Hoop. Overall, the campaign was well received by both women and men, contributing to increased public awareness and engagement around the prevention of violence against women and girls.

OUR MISSION

Help & Shelter's mission is focused on the elimination of violence from our society by the transformation of attitudes towards the use of violence.

SUMMARY OF SERVICES

 **Face-to-face counselling** - 45 new clients and 32 repeat clients were engaged.

 **Court support** - 12 clients benefitted from court support.

 **Referrals** - 37 referrals were given for follow-up services.

 **Public Education** – Over 243 persons were engaged.

 **Hotline** – 44

 **Facebook** – 33 new persons were engaged

OUR SERVICES

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Throughout the reporting period, the Public Education Team remained actively engaged in expanding outreach and awareness efforts, delivering sensitization sessions at health centers and other key service agencies. These initiatives focused on strengthening understanding and responsiveness around key issues, while fostering collaboration with frontline institutions. Engagements were carried out with the Guyana Fire Service, several Health Centers, and Parent-Teacher Groups, reinforcing a coordinated, community-based approach to public education and prevention.

Photos from Pub Ed Sessions



Guyan Fire Service HQ workshop



Stakeholders in a s session



UNTF – Help & Shelter Project (Year One: 2025)

Project Title: *Advancing Women Through Education and Skills Enhancement*

In 2025, Help & Shelter began implementing the first year of its UNTF-supported project, working closely with partners in the health sector, tertiary institutions, community groups, faith-based organizations, and public and private agencies. The project focuses on addressing the challenges faced by individuals at risk of gender-based violence, particularly women and girls, including survivors of violence.

During this period, we expanded services in the target regions by providing psychosocial support and related assistance to women and girls. These efforts aim to support healing, build skills, and promote empowerment through education and training opportunities.

ADVANCING WOMEN THROUGH EDUCATION AND SKILLS ENHANCEMENT

Know your services — Know Who — Know when — Know Where



Every woman deserves a life free from violence and marginalization



Seek counselling and social support from available agencies which are near



You are not at fault for any abuse you suffer

Counselling, Capacity Building Training, Sensitization. Referrals, Accommodation, Information



Recognize Respond Report Seek Help



Children who witness violence are victims too



Skills Training Builds women's self esteem



Educate yourself and others about gender-based violence



Promote community safety for women & girls



Speak out against harmful attitudes & behaviors in the community

Don't be silent reach out- Help to make a difference - Help to make a change in your community



Make a difference by your actions and support



Engage men & boys as part of the solution



Gender equality is key for better and safe relationships

Past the hospital, over the Canje bridge to the Good Bananen Land Health Center

Call the Hotline
613-1811
613-1758

Call the National Hotline
914

Visit - Comforting Hearts Org or United Bricklayers Org.



Help & Shelter Project with Support of United Nations Trust Fund (UNTF)



BB Energy Foundation Project – *Building Resilience through Advocacy, Education, and Intervention*

This project seeks to reduce violence against women by strengthening public education, promoting key messages on violence prevention, and improving access to support services through client-centred interventions. A core focus of the initiative is engaging men and boys as advocates for positive change and non-violence, while also building the capacity of essential workers in the health, social, and security sectors to deliver coordinated and effective psychosocial support for survivors of violence, particularly women and children.

Implemented in the Essequibo Region, the project works closely with communities and service providers to strengthen protection systems and build resilience at the community level. The project commenced in October 2025 and will be implemented over a twelve-month period ending in September 2026.

During the reporting period, four (4) awareness sessions were conducted as part of the project's public education activities. Two (2) sessions were held at the Onderneeming Health Centre, with one (1) session each at the Lima and Charity Regional Hospitals. These sessions reached a total of seventy-four (74) participants, comprising sixty-nine (69) females and five (5) males, including community members as well as temporary and permanent staff from the respective institutions. These engagements contributed to increased awareness and shared responsibility for violence prevention within the communities served.

Photos from Pub Ed Sessions



Shelter Services

Skills and empowerment initiatives

During the year, seven (7) clients who accessed our shelter services participated in personal development and skills-training courses facilitated by the Ministry of Human Services and various private agencies. These opportunities supported clients in building practical skills and improving their readiness for independent living. Notably, three (3) clients successfully enrolled in Health Care Services training programmes, marking a significant step toward sustainable employment and self-reliance.



As we continue to provide safe refuge, holistic care, and advocacy for survivors of domestic, intimate partner, and gender-based violence, we remain mindful of the many challenges inherent in this work. However, through strong partnerships and the unwavering support of our communities, we are able to make a meaningful and lasting difference in the lives of survivors.

In July 2025, representatives of Help & Shelter met with the Honourable Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr. Vindhya Persaud. Discussions focused on strengthening collaboration between the Ministry and Help & Shelter, with the shared objective of further enhancing service delivery and support mechanisms. The meeting reaffirmed the Government's commitment to working closely with Help & Shelter to advance and strengthen services for victims and survivors of domestic and gender-based violence.

Thank You for Your Support

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed to our work, whether through cash donations or gifts in kind. Your generosity plays a vital role in helping us provide critical services to survivors of domestic and gender-based violence.

Every contribution, no matter the size, makes a meaningful difference. We are deeply grateful for your continued support and partnership in our mission to create a safer, more compassionate society.

We offer special thanks to the European Union Election Observer Mission for their generous donation of office equipment and appliances, which has strengthened our operational capacity and service delivery.

We are also deeply grateful to Ms. Nadia Sagar and her friends for their kind donation of children's storybooks, which have brought comfort, learning, and encouragement to the children in our care.

