Reviewer's report

Title: Gender norms in transition: a qualitative study on community understanding of intimate partner violence in urban Tanzania

Version: 2 Date: 9 February 2011

Reviewer: Stephen Lawoko

Reviewer's report:

The authors have responded well to all but one of my concerns expressed below:

The title of this work should be considered very carefully. I still argue that the new title "Gender roles in transition...." creates the illusion that there is a positive change in Tanzania stakeholders views towards IPV. Yet, there are at least as many positive as there are negative findings in this work. Moreover, there are no previous studies from this context acting as a gold standard for comparison to imply there is a change (or transition). Unless the authors in their discussion compare what was with what is (as per their findings), transition cannot be assumed! Let us not give the impression that developments in Tanzania with regard to IPV is promising, when the data does not clearly speak for that. As I had in the earlier review indicated, a more neutral title is called for.

Otherwise, all the issues raised previously have been well addressed by the authors.