

**Ending Violence against Girls/Women ::  
Advancing Safety & Rights**

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# **One of the most widespread violations of human rights**

Violence against women and girls takes many different forms including:

- domestic violence,
- sexual assault and harassment,
- child, early and forced marriage,
- sex trafficking,
- so called 'honor' crimes and female genital mutilation.

# **Background of Violence against Women**

It is rooted in the gender inequality that women face throughout their lives from childhood through to old age.

Many perpetrators believe that violence toward women and girls is normal or appropriate behavior, supported by society. They feel that they can commit violence without disapproval.

- It is one of the most widespread violations of human rights and has long-term devastating effects on the lives of women, their communities and wider society.
- It is time to say 'enough is enough'. We want violence against women to end

# Violence on a massive scale

- 35 percent of women will experience violence at the hands of their current or former partners in their lifetime, up to 70 percent according to some national studies.
- Around 650 million women alive today were married as children. Of those women, more than one in three got married before 15.

- 200 million women and girls have undergone female genital mutilation - the majority of girls are cut before the age of five.
- Women and girls together account for 71 percent of all human trafficking victims detected globally, with girls representing nearly three out of every four trafficked children.

## **Violence and poverty: a vicious cycle**

- We believe that violence against women and girls is one of the most significant barriers to our mission to end poverty.
- Violence against women and girls not only devastates women's lives and divides communities, but it also undermines development efforts and the building of strong democracies and just, peaceful societies.

# Violence locks women and girls into poverty.

- It limits women's choices;
- Their ability to access education,
- Earn a living and participate in political and public life.
- Poverty exposes them to further violence and a lack of options when violence occurs.



# Forms of Violence against Women

Violence against women and girls has many manifestations, including forms that may be more common in specific settings, countries and regions.

Violence against women manifests itself as:  
physical,  
sexual,  
emotional and economic.

# Forms of violence against women

The most universally common forms include:

- domestic and intimate partner violence,
- sexual violence (including rape),
- sexual harassment, and
- emotional/psychological violence.

Sexual violence as a tactic of warfare and in the aftermath of emergencies is also common in the respective countries and areas affected.

# Other forms of violence against women

Other widespread forms around the globe include:

- sexual exploitation,
- sexual trafficking, and
- harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C),
- forced and child marriage.

# Less Documented Forms of Violence against Women

Less documented forms, include:

- crimes committed in the name of “honour”
- femicide
- prenatal sex selection
- female infanticide
- economic abuse
- political violence
- elder abuse
- dowry-related violence
- acid-throwing

# Vulnerable groups as Victims of Violence

Particular groups of women and girls, such as:

- members of racial, ethnic and sexual minorities;
- HIV-positive women;
- migrants and undocumented workers;
- women with disabilities;
- women in detention and
- women affected by armed conflict or in emergency settings.

They may be more vulnerable to violence and may experience multiple forms of violence on account of compounded forms of discrimination and socio-economic exclusion.

## Perpetrators of violence

The perpetrators of violence may include:

- the State and its agents,
- family members (including husbands),
- friends,
- intimate partners or other familiar individuals,  
and
- strangers. (UN General Assembly, 2006)

# Settings where violence occurs

Violence against women and girls takes place in various public and private settings including:

- the home;
- within the community, such as in and around schools,
- on streets or other open spaces (e.g. markets, public transportation),
- places of work (e.g. offices, farms and factories); and
- state-run or custodial institutions, such as correctional, police, health and social welfare facilities.
- Refugee and displaced persons camps and areas related to armed conflict, such as military compounds or bases, are also often sites of violence. (UN General Assembly, 2006)

## **The Life Cycle and Violence**

Women and girls are at risk of different forms of violence at all ages, from prenatal sex selection before they are born through abuse of widows and elderly women.

While sexual violence affects women of all ages, the changing nature of women and girls' relationships (with family members, peers, authorities, etc.) and the different environments (at home, in school, at work, within the community, etc) in which they spend time expose women and girls to specific forms of violence during each phase of their life. (Council of Europe, 2000)



# Life Cycle of Violence against Women and Girls

- Pre-birth- Pre-natal Sex-Selection.
- Infancy- Female Infanticide, Neglect (healthcare, nutrition).
- Childhood-Child Abuse, Child Marriage, Malnutrition, FGM/Child Trafficking.
- Adolescence- Femicide FGM/Child Forced marriage, Forced Sex (including initiation) Intimate partner violence/ Dating, Violence, Sexual Harassment, Trafficking.

- Reproductive Age – Femicide, Dowry-related violence, Intimate partner violence, Non-partner sexual assault, So-called ‘honour’ crimes, Sexual Harassment, Political Violence, Economic abuse, Trafficking.
- Elderly-Elder/Widow Abuse, Economic Abuse, Sexual abuse and Psychological Abuse.

## **Reducing Violence against Women and Girls in India**

- Through Do Kadam: Barabari ki Ore (In Step: Towards Equality)
- Using women-only economic self-help groups
- Working with boys' sports clubs
- Training elected local government representatives
- Training health workers to look for signs of violence

- Assessing the perspectives and experiences of women seeking help from and the providers at the government's services for female victims of violence
- Stringent Laws, Stringent Regulation
- Helplines/ Booths to address issues of violence against girls/women
- Friendly approach to be adopted
- It all starts at home – Charity begins at home

# **16 ways to end violence towards girls**

list of some of the most effective ways to tackle violence towards girls and women.

1. Raise awareness of the dangers of harmful traditions
2. Tackle violence against girls in school
3. Challenge and speak out about violence in the home
4. Transform attitudes towards harmful practices at multiple levels

5. Listen to girls' experiences of violence - and their solutions

6. Help make girls' journeys to school safer

7. Connect specialists and at-risk communities

8. Engage respected community elders in the fight against violence

9. Mobilize youth to fight harmful practices such as child marriage
10. Engage boys and young men to become agents of change
11. Protect girls who face additional risks during emergencies
12. Embolden girls to speak out

13. Share vital information with the community

14. Challenge rape culture

15. Reach out to marginalized and rural girls

16. Take a stand against regressive forces



# Main Strategies to End Violence against Women and Girls

- Investing in Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
- Introducing or Reforming Legislation
- Ensuring Holistic, Multi-sectoral Policies and National Plans of Action
- Securing Resources/Gender-Responsive Budgeting

- Promoting Primary Prevention
- Main Strategies and Lessons Learned for Key Sectors
- Developing Coordinated Community
- Responses and Analysis

- Engaging Key Groups
- Capacity Development
- Monitoring and National Accountability
- Conducting Research, Data Collection and Reporting

# How to end Violence against women?

- **Break the silence:** Never condone Violence. Always raise your voice and report it.
- **Know the law:** Gain basic awareness of the laws so that you are able to recognise when violence is taking place and know what law to use when.
- **Build solidarity:** With a concerned and committed group of friends and colleagues build an informal solidarity group within your organisation or institution which can extend solidarity to victims of violence.

- **Connect with women's rights groups:** Get in touch with local women's rights groups if you hear of any violence-related incident, or if you wish to attend or organize trainings on violence against women for your colleagues, friends and peers.
- **Demand to know your rights as a woman:** Within an institution or organization you have a right to find out the processes in place to combat Violence against women. For instance, you have a right to know whether your office or college has set up an anti-sexual harassment cell, and the right to demand that it is set up.

# Conclusion

In addition to empowering women and girls to protect themselves, it is essential to address the sources and perpetrators of violence, whether actual or potential.

This requires hands-on engagement with men and boys to help shift attitudes about the use of violence and to empower.

THANK YOU