

Resources for first time of reflection

For printing or for use on Zoom screen sharing

What is Gender-based violence?

Gender-based violence (GBV) is any act of violence or abuse which is directed at an individual or group on the basis of their gender.

It is important to note, therefore, that both women and men can be made targets of gender-based violence. However, it has been widely acknowledged that the majority of persons affected by gender-based violence are women and girls, as a result of unequal distribution of power in society between women and men.

Gender-based violence occurs in every culture and context around the world. It can be carried out by a wide range of people, including: partners; family members; those in the community; strangers; friends; those in positions of authority; armed groups; and the state.

About the 16 Days of Activism Campaign

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence against women is an international campaign originating from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute. "16 Days," as it has become known, was launched and continues to be coordinated by the Center for Women's Global Leadership.

The dates for the campaign were chosen to link violence against women and human rights and emphasize that gender-based violence against women is a violation of human rights: since 1991, the campaign has been active between November 25, the International Day Against Violence Against Women, and December 10, International Human Rights Day.

The Shadow Pandemic: Violence Against Women and Girls and COVID-19

Globally,

243 million



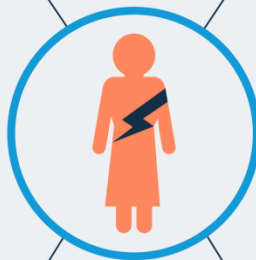
women and girls aged 15-49 have been subjected to sexual and/or physical violence perpetrated by an intimate partner in the previous 12 months.

The number is likely to INCREASE as security, health, and money worries heighten tensions and strains are accentuated by cramped and confined living conditions.

Emerging data shows that since the outbreak of COVID-19, violence against women and girls (VAWG), and particularly domestic violence, has INTENSIFIED.

In **France**, reports of domestic violence have increased by **30%** since the lockdown on March 17.

In **Argentina** emergency calls for domestic violence cases have increased by **25%** since the lockdown on March 20.



In **Cyprus** and **Singapore** helplines have registered an increase in calls of **30%** and **33%**, respectively.

Increased cases of domestic violence and demand for emergency shelter have also been reported in **Canada, Germany, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States.**

As stay-at-home orders expand to contain the spread of the virus, women with violent partners increasingly find themselves isolated from the people and resources that can help them.

87,000

 women

were intentionally killed in 2017. The majority of these killings were committed by an intimate partner or family member of the victim.

Violence against women and girls is pervasive but at the same time widely under-reported. Less

than **40%** of women who experience violence report these crimes or seek help of any sort.

The global cost of violence against women had previously been estimated at approximately.

US\$1.5

 trillion

That figure can only be rising as violence increases now, and continues in the aftermath of the pandemic.

The surge in COVID-19 cases is straining even the most advanced and best-resourced health systems to the breaking point, including those at the front line in violence response.



Domestic violence shelters are reaching capacity, or unable to take new victims due to lockdown and social distancing measures. In other cases, they are being re-purposed to serve as health centers.

National responses to COVID-19 must include:



Services to address violence against women and girls, including increased resources to support shelters, hotlines and online counselling. These essential services should be expanded and adapted to the crisis context to ensure survivors' access to support.



A strong message from law enforcement that impunity will not be tolerated. Police and Justice actors must ensure that incidents of VAWG are given high priority and care must be taken to address the manifestations of violence emerging in the context of COVID 19.



Psychosocial support for women and girls affected by the outbreak, gender-based violence survivors, frontline health workers and other frontline social support staff must be prioritized.



Sexual exploitation – one type of MODERN SLAVERY

This is when someone is deceived, coerced or forced to take part in sexual activity. Places where someone could be sexually exploited:

- Prostitution
- Brothels – massage/sauna
- Escort agencies
- Pole/lap dancing
- Forced marriage
- Stripping on a web cam
- Phone sex lines
- Internet chat rooms
- Pornography
- Mail order brides
- Sex tourism



Of an estimated 40.3 million people trapped in slavery across the world, 28.6 million (71%) are women; 4.8 million are sexually exploited; 15.4 million are forced into marriage, many when under age.

Ending violence against women in the context of COVID-19

Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2020



Julienne Lusenge, Executive Director of the Fund for Congolese Women (FFC), a UN Trust Fund grantee, leading a workshop before the pandemic in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Photo: Jonathan Torgovnik

As the current COVID-19 global pandemic spreads through the world, the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) recognise the gender dimensions of the impact from the COVID-19 outbreak. This includes **risk of increased levels of domestic violence and a decrease in the ability of service providers to respond to cases of violence.** In this challenging time, the need to respond to the immediate and long-term consequences of the current crisis for women and girls is critical.

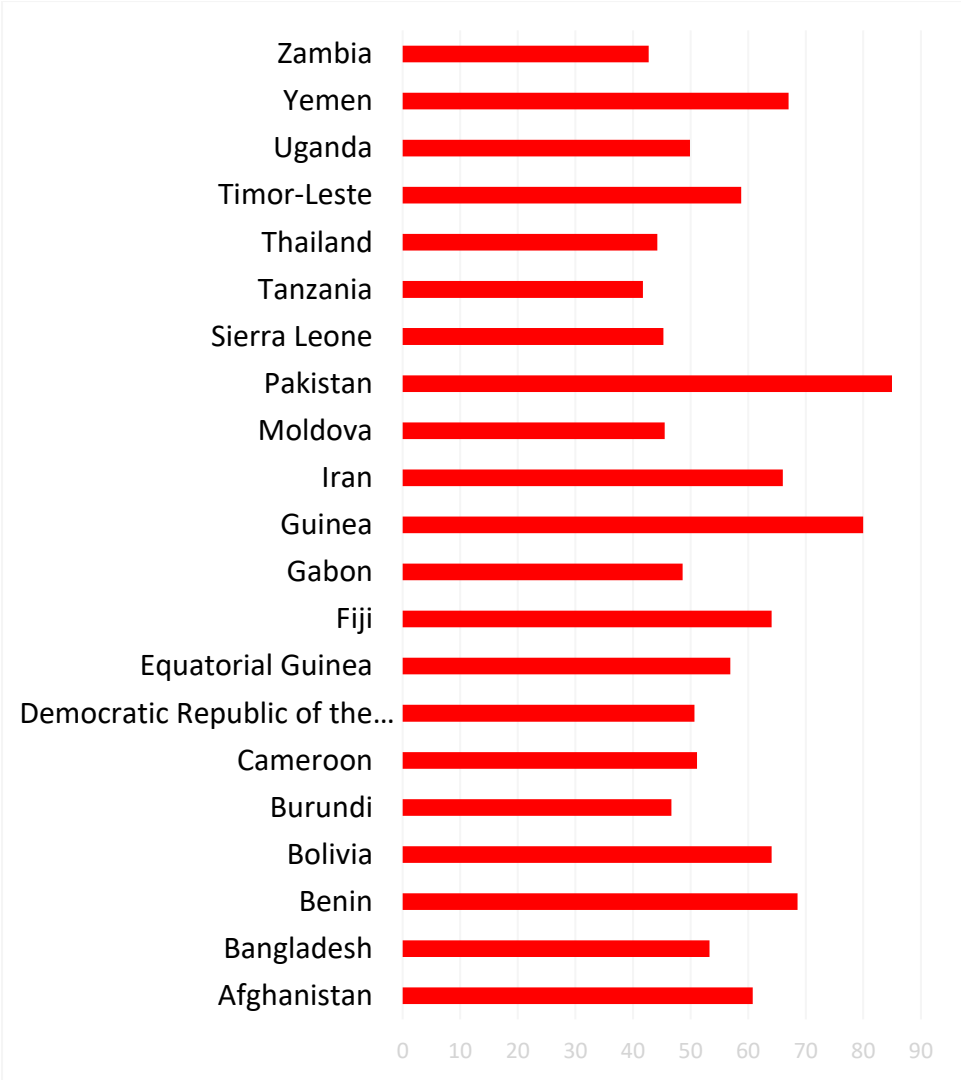
Democratic Republic of the Congo

Julienne Lusenge, Executive Director of the Fund for Congolese Women (FFC), a UN Trust Fund grantee, explained that, “this pandemic will increase the precariousness of women’s and girls’ situations and heightens their vulnerability, emphasizing gender inequalities. We will continue to insist that it's not up to the woman to fight on her own. It's the man and the woman together, it's the whole family that has to fight this pandemic.” The FFC’s project aims to prevent and reduce sexual violence against schoolgirls through education, training and collective advocacy. Due to the pandemic, schools are closed, and therefore activities are impacted and children are more exposed to domestic violence, sexual violence, and all kinds of violence.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/3/ending-violence-against-women-in-the-context-of-covid-19> accessed 05/09/2020 and edited

Resources for 2nd time of reflection

The prevalence of violence against women in countries that exceed 40% (2 in every 5) women suffering violence Source: OECD 2020



Domestic violence in India

While cases of sexual assault and rape might grab headlines, it is domestic violence that is the top crime Indian women faced in 2019. Of the 405,000 crimes registered by the National Crime Records Bureau, 30% were domestic violence. ...The other gendered crimes against women are sexual assault (20%) abduction (18%) and rape (8%).

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/not-rape-domestic-violence-is-top-crime-against-women/articleshow/78494876.cms> Accessed on 09/10/2020.

In 2018, a poll of experts found India to be the most dangerous country in the world to be a woman, closely followed by war-torn Syria and Afghanistan. India's top spot was "due to the high risk of sexual violence and being forced into slave labour" and for customary practices such as forced marriage, stoning and female infanticide.

<https://www.express.co.uk/comment/expresscomment/1344991/Indian-women-rape-case-in-India-worlds-most-dangerous-country-for-women> Accessed on 09/10/2020

A survey conducted Deepa Narayam reported that, "almost every woman I interviewed had experienced some form of sexual molestation. Only two had told their mothers, only to be dismissed, "Yes, this happens in families," or "No, this did not happen." Indian government surveys show that 42% of girls in India have been sexually abused.

"Over 50% of Indian men and women still believe that sometimes women deserve a beating. This preserves a culture of violence to create pleasers... this means to be punished to force you to fit in, to do what others want you to do and never say no.

"Women whose sense of self has been worn down, by definition must depend on others, which only serves to breed fear and violence. One woman is killed every hour for not bringing enough dowry to a husband. But dependency is still presented as a virtuous habit, independence as a bad characteristic. Dependent women have no separate identity and are legitimate only as mothers, wives and daughters. Such women are trained to put duty over self – the suicide numbers are highest for housewives.

"The real genius of this system lies in the fact that oppression has been recast as a virtue. So it hides in plain sight, sanctified by loving families, perfumed by definitions of goodness. And the private sphere, the family, remains impenetrable and untouchable. We have underestimated the power of culture in creating violence within our families. To reclaim our humanity we need a national conversation about what it means to be a good woman and a good man in India today.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/apr/27/india-abuse-women-human-rights-rape-girls> Accessed on 09/10/2020

Gender-based violence across the world

People everywhere experience gender-based violence, but there are some countries where the prevalence is much higher than others. War, poverty and a poor human rights record are particular factors that raise the likelihood of gender-based violence, especially war-time rape, domestic violence, violence against homosexually orientated people. Please pray for the area of the world you feel drawn to.



Reversing the tide of rising violence against women in Liberia

Liberia is grappling with rising incidences of sexual and gender-based violence. Children as young as six are being raped, with devastating impact on their health and wellbeing. Little Decontee from Nimba County was returning from the farm when a 22-year old male relative raped her. She is among a minority of survivors whose rapist was eventually prosecuted and sentenced to prison. Under Liberia's Rape Law of 2005, statutory rape or sexual intercourse with minors is a non-bailable offence. However, a proposed amendment that is now with the House of Representatives, could make statutory rape a bailable offence. UN Women, together with partners is advocating for stronger laws and engaging community leaders to prevent violence against women and girls.

Date: Thursday, November 16, 2017

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/11/feature-reversing-the-tide-of-rising-violence-against-women-in-liberia> accessed 05/09/2020

This violence continues:

September 2020: Undeterred by previous state security brutality, the organizers of the just-ended nationwide anti-rape protest, has threatened to stream back into the nation's streets if President George Weah government refused to take deliberate and visible steps to address the issue of rape and declare it 'national emergency.' The three days protest, which saw thousands of Liberians on the street marching against rape and other acts of sexual and gender-based violence, comes amid the rapid increase in these crimes across the country, particularly 900 plus rape cases within the first six months of this year.

As part of their demands, the group is calling on the legislature to deliver on their petition, beginning with a public hearing on rape and sexual GBV to increase budgetary allotment for the Ministries of Health, Gender, Children and Social Protection and the Liberia National Police to empower these structures to combat the scourge of rape.

<https://allafrica.com/stories/202009020285.html> accessed on 05/09/2020

Resources for 3rd time of reflection

Abuse and violence in UK against LGBT communities

Hate crimes in UK due to sexual orientation or transgender

Sexual orientation	14,491
Transgender	2,333

(Source HOME OFFICE, 2018/19 statistics)

Reports of homophobic hate crimes have trebled in the past five years, according to official data from the UK's police forces.

In 2014/15, a total of 6,655 homophobic hate crimes were recorded by the 45 different police forces across the UK. In 2019/20, the number had increased to 18,465.

The increase may partly be due to greater awareness of the issue, making it more likely that homophobic incidents will be correctly recorded. However, some LGBT charities say there is in fact a growing number of attacks taking place.

Nancy Kelley of Stonewall said: "We are definitely seeing a real increase in people reaching out for help across all of the LGBT organisations. So we are very concerned that this is a real rise in people who are being attacked because of who they are and who they love. We know that 80 per cent of LGBT people don't report hate crimes. So this is really just the tip of the iceberg."

<https://inews.co.uk/news/politics/homophobic-attacks-recorded-uk-trebles-five-years-police-statistics-704851>

LGBT Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual

Homophobic hate crime: Beaten-up for being gay

Jarek was beaten and hospitalised in a homophobic attack after a night out in February 2019.

"I thought London was the best place to be happy and safe and gay - until I was beaten up," he said.

A BBC 5 Live investigation found the number of hate crime reports across the UK more than doubled in the last five years, to over 13,000.

But the number of cases that led to charges or court summons being issued fell by 10% in the same time, to 1,047.

Jarek says he has had a positive experience with the police, but hate crime victim Ferhan says the police have not taken his report of being chased by a group of men shouting abuse from a car seriously.

"These men should have been tried for their crimes, but that never happened."

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/stories-49743545>

Homophobia in Uganda

November 21, 2019

To address homophobia in Uganda, sexual rights must draw on the need for justice and social obligation.

In recent years homosexuality in Uganda has become an increasingly volatile political and social issue. Last month an LGBT activist was murdered in his home and Ugandan police detained 16 men on suspicion of homosexuality and human trafficking.

These events followed rumours that Uganda might be reintroducing an anti-homosexuality bill. An earlier attempt at legislation, introduced in 2009, became known as the "Kill the Gays" bill because it proposed the death sentence for acts of "aggravated homosexuality". It was passed by Uganda's parliament in 2013 but eventually overturned by the constitutional court on a technicality.

<https://thisisafrica.me/african-identities/whats-driving-homophobia-in-uganda/>

Resources for 4th time of reflection

Joint UN Statement on International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

**“ending
violence against women
and girls is not a
short-term endeavor.
it requires coordinated
and sustained efforts
from all of us.”**

#ENDVIOLENCE



Support Available for Survivors of Gender-Based Violence

Forced Marriage Unit Helpline: 0207 008 0151 / email: fmu@fcdo.gov.uk

Honour Network Helpline: 0800 599 9247 / www.karmanirvana.org.uk

National Domestic violence Helpline: 0800 200 0247 / <https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/>

Refuge: 0808 200 0247 / www.refuge.org.uk

Women's Aid: 0808 200 0247 / www.womensaid.org.uk

Rights of Women: 020 7251 887 / www.rightsofwomen.org.uk

FLAWS (Finding Legal Options for Women Survivors): 0203 745 7707 / <https://www.flows.org.uk/>

Men's Advice Line: 0808 8010 327 / www.mensadviceline.org.uk

Mankind Initiative: 01823 334 244 / www.mankind.org.uk

National Centre for Domestic Violence: 0800 970 2070 / www.ncdv.org.uk

Samaritans: 116 123 / www.samaritans.org

Rape Crisis England and Wales: 0808 802 9999 / www.rapecrisis.org.uk

Victim Support: 08 08 1689 111 / www.victimsupport.org.uk

The Survivors Trust: 08088 010818 / www.thesurvivorstrust.org

National LGBT Domestic Violence Helpline: 0800 999 5428 / www.theproudtrust.org/national-lgbt-domestic-abuse-helpline/

Respect Phoneline: 0808 802 4040 / www.respectphoneline.org.uk

Yellow Door: Helpline 02380636313 (Mon-Fri 12 noon-2pm) / www.yellowdoor.org.uk

Charlie's story

When I first visited Yellow Door it was called Southampton Rape Crisis, and it was in a different building from where it is now. I've been to the new building too so while what I describe is the *old* building, I know that anyone going for the first time will find the same things in the new building.

The counselling room itself was always calm, peaceful, uncluttered and felt friendly. ... Sometimes there was art on the walls or a patterned rug. The table would always have a box of tissues on it, and sometimes a box of small toys, or art materials, or maybe even pebbles. Even though I was 29 when I went into counselling, and might not have expected a toy dinosaur or glitter paint to help me, I eventually used all those things in sessions.

Before I started, I'd been scared that the counsellor would ask me to describe what had happened, or maybe ask why I hadn't been to the police or say it was my fault for having gone to the place where my rape happened. None of these things ever happened. (The counsellor and I would) sit down and I'd often feel unsure about how to start talking. I'd been told not to tell anyone about what happened to me, and also had a long history (since I was about 8) of carrying other people's emotional baggage and so I didn't really know how to be supported by someone. ...

My counsellor would ... usually ask me, 'So, how's the week been?' Because I'd never really had support before, there was always something going on that was difficult, that pretty much tracked back to my bad experiences. As I talked about my week, and over time, my counsellor would help me see these links. She helped me understand that I was accepting bad treatment, or treatment I didn't like, as I didn't know I was allowed not to. Most of my sessions were spent like this - talking through how I was feeling, why I was feeling that way, what I could do about it.

There were times when we talked about the actual rape but they were very, very few. I was terrified of this, especially as I didn't remember it all, only flashes. I thought because of this, my counsellor wouldn't believe that it had happened. My counsellor always believed me and said that my brain would not usually give me anything that I couldn't cope with. If I got panicky she'd help me relax and talk with me about how to help calm my body and how this could help calm my mind. She was very gentle and never got angry or snapped at me, which I had been very used to.

I even learned to cry. I was so scared to cry in case I couldn't stop, I'd been holding it all so long, and one day she gently almost teased me and said, 'We haven't got rooms full of people crying 24 hours a day'. She made me realise that she understood me, and that I wasn't alone because my experience wasn't unique.

I basically feel like I went into counselling, took myself apart and then rebuilt a new me. A lot of lessons I'd learned early in life got unlearned. I learned to say 'No, I don't like that, I don't want to do that'. I learned to say 'Yes, I like that and I want to do that.' I even learned to say to other people, 'Hey this looks fun, shall we do it together.' I learned that I had never been "broken" but had had a perfectly normal and healthy reaction to a terrible thing that was done to me and to the subsequent lack of support from my family.

To this day I love and support Yellow Door and advocate for them. ... please know three things

1. It was never your fault
2. Like every baby ever born, you deserve love and happiness
3. Yellow Door will believe you.

<https://www.yellowdoor.org.uk/single-post/2019/04/26/Charlies-Story>

Our hope

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. *Galatians 3:28*

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. *1 Corinthians 13:4-7*

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word. *2 Thessalonians 2:16-17*

Our God

And [THE LORD] passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness. *Exodus 34:6*

When they were oppressed they cried out to you. From heaven you heard them, and in your great compassion you gave them deliverers, who rescued them from the hand of their enemies. *Nehemiah 9:27*

The LORD looked and was displeased that there was no justice. He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene... *Isaiah 59:15b-16*

Additional materials

India

“Our 24-hour hotline, and our crisis and rehabilitative services for burn survivors are accessible to those who require support. There is worry that many burn survivors may slip through the cracks and not get the physical or psycho-social services they need. As an organization that works in providing crisis services to the most vulnerable, we are working round the clock to ensure that no woman is left behind even as we prioritize the health and safety of everyone”, said Rashmi Singh, Programme Director of UN Trust Fund grantee PCVC.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/3/ending-violence-against-women-in-the-context-of-covid-19> accessed 05/09/2020 and edited

3 in 5

Worldwide, almost 3 in 5 women killed were killed by their partners or family in 2017.

3/4

Almost three quarters of the world's countries have outlawed domestic violence.

Source Women, Business and the Law 2018,

World Bank Group, 2018

Approximately 15 million adolescent girls (aged 15 to 19) worldwide have experienced forced sex at some point in their life. *Source A Familiar Face: Violence in the lives of children and adolescents, UNICEF, 2017*

Modern slavery

4_{out of}5

trafficked women are trafficked for sexual exploitation.

200 Million

At least 200 million women and girls aged 15-49 have undergone Female Genital Mutilation in 30 countries where representative data is available. (UNICEF 2016)

In the UK, the FGM annual report states there were 6,590 individual women and girls who had an attendance where FGM was identified in the period April 2019 to March 2020.

Almost 4_{in} 10

girls in sub-Saharan Africa were married before age 18. (UNICEF 2019)





<https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/infographic/violenceagainstwomen/en/index.html>

FGM female genital mutilation

Violence against women is preventable.

Violence against women is **rooted in gender inequality**.

Programs to reduce intimate partner violence
need to address risk factors at multiple levels.

Level	Risk Factor	Intervention
Individual 	! History of violence in childhood	Parenting programmes to prevent child maltreatment ✓
Relationship 	! Male control over women	Programmes targeting men and boys to promote gender equitable attitudes and behaviours ✓
Community 	! Unequal gender norms that condone violence against women	Programmes promoting equitable gender norms through media, community mobilization, schools, and religious institutions ✓
Societal 	! Male partner's harmful use of alcohol	Reducing availability and access to alcohol ✓
	! Women's lack of access to education and employment	Laws, policies, and programmes that promote women's access to employment and microcredit, girls' access to education, and that ban or prohibit violence against women ✓

Violence against women takes many forms, including:



The most common type of violence experienced by women is **intimate partner violence**.

