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# ProGender

A Digital Hub on Gender,  
the COVID-19 Crisis and its Aftermath

## Between two pandemics: Day 1

Definitions of violence

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The project is implemented by:



# Violence against women

UN definition:

“any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”

It is considered a human rights violation. Why?

155 countries have passed laws on domestic violence

140 have legislation on sexual harassment in the workplace

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women  
CEDAW 1979

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CEDAW.aspx>

Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women 1993

# Gender-based violence

harmful acts directed at an individual based on their gender. It is rooted in gender inequality, the abuse of power and harmful norms.

During displacement and times of crisis, the threat of GBV significantly increases for women and girls.

Can include sexual, physical, mental and economic harm inflicted in public or in private. It also includes threats of violence, coercion and manipulation. This can take many forms such as intimate partner violence, sexual violence, child marriage, female genital mutilation and so-called 'honour crimes'.

Using the 'gender-based' aspect is important as it highlights the fact that many forms of violence against women are rooted in power inequalities between women and men.

# Intimate partner violence

behaviour by an intimate partner or ex-partner that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviours.

# Sexual violence

is "any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, or other act directed against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting. It includes rape, defined as the physically forced or otherwise coerced penetration of the vulva or anus with a penis, other body part or object, attempted rape, unwanted sexual touching and other non-contact forms".

# Types of GBV

- Physical
- Sexual
- Psychological/Emotional
- Economic/Financial

<https://eige.europa.eu/gender-based-violence/forms-of-violence>

# Global statistics

- 35% of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence.
- Globally, 7% of women have been sexually assaulted by someone other than a partner.
- Globally, as many as 38% of murders of women are committed by an intimate partner.
- 200 million women have experienced female genital mutilation/cutting.

# European statistics

- 1 in 3 women experience physical or sexual violence
- 1 in 2 experience sexual harassment
- 1 in 20 has been raped
- 1 in 5 experienced stalking
- Rises during unrest or times of trouble
- <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240022256>



# Why might COVID-19 increase risk for GBV?

- Impact on those who experience violence:
  - Limited information and awareness about available services
  - Limited access to social and health services
  - Limited access to legal and protection services
- Service providers:
  - Essential workers
  - Difficulties maintaining essential services
  - Resources and efforts are diverted from VAWG response to immediate COVID-19 relief
  - Limited capacity and resources to adapt or respond during crisis.

# Responses during COVID-19:

- Maintaining service provision and capitalizing technologies to support women and girls.
- Responding to the livelihood and relief needs of women and girls.
- Conducting rapid assessments to understand the needs of women and girls.
- Monitoring and reporting incidents and trends of violence against women and girls.
- Raising awareness and disseminating information.
- Strengthening service providers capacity to respond to and manage the crisis or emergency.
- Coordinating responses with other actors/stakeholders.
- Advocating for mainstreaming gender in socio-economic responses to COVID-19.

# Reflections and question to think about

- What is your understanding of VAW/GBV/IPV/DV?
- Why are there so many terms?
- How do these terms differ? How are they similar?
  
- For tomorrow's session select one of the international conventions CEDAW, Declaration on elimination of violence against women, Sustainable development Goals or Istanbul convention and review it (Not in depth).

- <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures>