

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE
GENDER JUSTICE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND
PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE

9th October
2022

RECALLING SOME KEY NORMS

Safe space

Diversity of views

Confidentiality

Some of the conversation may affect us or bring back difficult / emotional moments, memories – please feel free to step out for a bit.

We are also available if you would like to connect with us after the session.



ACTIVITY — CASE STUDIES DISCUSSION

CASE STUDY A

Layla* shares about her relationship with the head of a company she worked for:

He told me he was in love with me and was planning to propose to me soon. I trusted him, but he hit me whenever I disagreed with him. I endured everything, from sexual violence to emotional abuse. He became more and more violent as the days passed. He had total control over me. He made me believe that I stood no chance against him. I did not know what to expect, whom to turn to for seeking help with my situation. I was at a stage of my life where nothing seemed to matter anymore. I was pregnant, unmarried, and lonely. I was afraid that the police wouldn't believe me.

CASE STUDY B

Mariam* 47 has lived with her husband for over 17 years.

My husband physically abuses me, forbids me from moving freely, and threatens to kill me when I would disagree with him. One day, as we sat on the balcony he said, out of the blue, “I wish I know in advance when I will die. I would shoot you five minutes before. I would hate to die and leave you by yourself, feeling happy.” On that day, we were not even arguing. I had married him despite my parents’ objections. I was in love. My dad told me: “If you want to marry him, fine, do it but don’t come back feeling distressed or as a divorcee.” Since this was the deal, I remained quiet for so long. At one point, I could not hide the abuse anymore, and my parents told me I could return home alone, without my children. I couldn’t leave them behind.

CASE STUDY C

Gadifa* a young activist was participating in the political protest in her country. During the police action against the protest, Gadifa was followed by the police and detained from her house at the security service headquarters.

During my detention, I was first beaten, verbally abused before one of the security officers attempted to sexually assault me. I faced further beatings on resisting the assault until I became almost unconscious. The security force members present there took turns in raping me.

QUESTIONS

- What forms of violence is she experiencing?
- What responses do women like Layla / Mariam / Gadifa generally receive in such situations?
- What systems (law, policy, health care) and other support services are available for them?

UNDERSTANDING /UNPACKING GBV

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

- Is directed against a person because of gender power relationships, which are deeply rooted in gender and intersectional inequities.
- Includes all acts / actions that result in, or are likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life (adapted from DEVAW).
- Is a systemic form of oppression that is embedded in unequal social, economic, cultural and political structures, and not an aberration.
- Not only impacts survivors but everyone through perpetuating fear of violence.
- Is an extreme manifestation of discrimination, situated along the continuum that begins with more normalized forms of discrimination.

DATA ON GBV REVEALS

1 in 3 women worldwide experience physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime.

1 in 4 women experience physical and/or sexual violence during pregnancy.

About 1 in 4 adolescent girls (24 per cent) aged 15 to 19 years and in a relationship have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner or husband.

5,000 honour killings are reported every year around the world.

Around 137 women are killed by their partner or a family member every day.

As many as 38% of murders of women are committed by a male partner.

DATA ON GBV- MENA REGION

- 37% of Arab women have experienced some form of violence in their lifetime.
- 133 million women alive today have experienced Female Genital Mutilation.
- More than 6 in every 10 women survivors of violence refrain from asking for support or protection of any sort.
- The remaining ones who do speak up turn to family and friends for this support or protection.

(Source: UN Women-Arab States-<https://arabstates.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures-0>)

GBV IN CRISIS/HUMANITARIAN/CONFLICT SITUATIONS

- The estimate of women & girls within humanitarian contexts who have experienced different forms of GBV is double. More than 70% compared to 35 % globally (2015).
- Sexual violence as a 'tactic' to humiliate specific communities/groups.
- Certain groups of women/survivors who are at increased risk of violence, violations of their rights experience exacerbated risks during times of crisis, humanitarian, conflict settings.
- GBV and discriminations lead to other human rights violations including the denial of services, worsening of access to information, healthcare, housing, water, sanitation, education and employment.

OTHER GLOBAL DATA

- Women between the ages of 15 and 44 are at a higher risk of rape and domestic violence than cancer, car accidents, malaria or being injured in war.
- Across five regions, 82 per cent of women parliamentarians reported having experienced some form of psychological violence while serving their terms.
- 1 in 10 women in the European Union report having experienced cyber-harassment since the age of 15.
- Calls to helplines have increased five-fold in some countries to report intimate partner violence during COVID-19.

Rape of Rohingya woman in Rakhine state, Myanmar

Dalit women stripped and paraded naked in their village, India

Pregnant women abused during birthing / delivery in Nepal

Violence against persons with non-binary gender identity while accessing rations being distributed during COVID lockdown in India

Garment factory worker in Dhaka Bangladesh sexually harassed

Sexual violence against Yazidi women

Marital rape of women in the Philippines

Honor killing in Pakistan

FGM in Uganda and India

Domestic violence against male child by family members

Sexual harassment at the workplace against lesbian women in Sri Lanka

Women with disabilities robbed on a public transport bus in South Africa

1 in 3 women

throughout the world will experience physical and/or sexual violence by a partner or sexual violence by a non-partner



GBV AS A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE &
ACCESS TO JUSTICE

ACCESSING JUSTICE | ADVANCING STATE ACCOUNTABILITY

- Access to justice is a fundamental protection to be ensured for survivors to seek justice, remedies to address the impacts of violence.
- Laws/legal system in place for recognition of violence.
- Legal protection from varied forms of violence - specific legislations on violence both public and private spheres-domestic, family, or sexual violence.
- Access to justice, support systems; resources directed to implementation of the GBV addressing laws.
- Global response-International Human Rights instruments, covenants; Obligations of States in ratifying these commitments and upholding protection of rights of people/survivors
- CEDAW-Ratification? Implementation?

ACCESSING JUSTICE | BARRIERS | ADVOCACY

Normalizing' of violence

Blaming the survivor / victim / Stigma

Culture of silence

Lack of accessible and adequate information on support services

Lack of accessible and adequately resourced support services

GBV AS A HEALTH ISSUE

- Health consequences – physical, mental, psychosocial – in the short and long term.
- Health care providers, health facilities are very often the first point of contact for survivors.
- Health care context is comparatively perceived as less / non threatening.
- Health systems in many countries have a vast network and outreach.
- Public Health response implies recognition of GBV as a health issue, ensuring resources including skilled human resources to address GBV.
- Public health system facilitates access to justice through medico-legal support, and coordination of referral linkages and services required by survivors in addition response to health needs.
- Public health system can play a critical role in prevention as well as response to survivors.

KEY MANDATES THAT RECOGNIZE GBV AS A HEALTH ISSUE AND ROLE OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

- World Health Assembly Declaration A67/22 (2014)
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Nairobi Statement on ICPD 25 (International Conference on Population and Development) [2020]
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Recommendation No. 35 (2017) on gender-based violence against women, updating General Recommendation No. 19

ROLE OF HEALTH SYSTEM / HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS ARE:

In a position to integrate messages about violence and the need for survivors to seek health care in health education and outreach programs.

Health care providers' expressions of concern and support can validate survivors' experiences, help them recognize abuse and feel motivated to seek support, care and justice. It can enable them to feel motivated to leave situations of violence – to safe spaces.

Health care providers can also help document the magnitude and causes/consequences of violence to help guide future programming. Thus, healthcare providers can both help prevent violence and respond to survivors of violence.

RESPONDING TO GBV- BUILD A CAMPAIGN / BECOME PART OF CAMPAIGNS

- Advocate for recognition of GBV as a human rights, gender justice and health issue.
- Advocate for improved quality of health care and other support services; for state accountability to address gender inequities, gender discrimination, GBV.
- Raise awareness to break the silence, prevent stigma, facilitate reporting on GBV among communities, peers, policy makers and others.
- Share knowledge/information materials to enable multi-sectoral coordination – health, legal, psychosocial support, etc.
- Build evidence/data.
- OTHER.....many ideas amongst participants!!

AN EXAMPLE-VIOLENCE ISSUE RECOGNITIONS WITHIN OTHER THEMES



Estimation- 80 per cent of people displaced by climate change are women, according to UN Environment.

Greater risk of violence, including sexual violence

According to Astrid Puentes Riaño, Independent Consultant on human rights and climate change, migration and forced displacement are among the most serious impacts of the climate crisis that are already impacting millions of people around the world. “For example, there are reports of migrant women who have suffered sexual violence while under the protection of the authorities and who, upon reporting it, instead of being protected, have been imprisoned,” she said.

(GBV to curb activism, movement building spaces for challenging big players!)

“When women stand up to challenge environmental destruction, pollution and dispossession, they are stepping out of their traditional roles to challenge unjust power that is in the hands of political, economic, social and cultural institutions; and society retaliates with violence against the women.”

Source:
[HTTPS://WWW.OHCHR.ORG/EN/STORIES/2022/07/CLIMATE-CHANGE-EXACERBATES-VIOLENCE-AGAINST-WOMEN-AND-GIRLS](https://www.ohchr.org/en/stories/2022/07/climate-change-exacerbates-violence-against-women-and-girls)

MANY MORE EXAMPLES OUT THERE/HERE!

16 DAYS ACTIVISM AGAINST GBV

25 NOVEMBER — 10 DECEMBER

“In March 2021, Sarah Everard was raped and murdered by an off-duty police officer in the UK. Marisol Cuadras, 18, was shot dead in Mexico on November 25, 2021 while attending a public protest to denounce violence against women. While all too often femicide happens in private, it is committed in public too, by non-family members and State actors.”

Today, we ask you, communities at large, organizations, and leaders around the world, to join us in calling on the UN to declare December 6 as the International Day to End Femicide. Governments are legally obligated to end femicide, and many have promised to do so. Yet, they are failing. Through an international day dedicated to ending femicide, we can:

AMPLIFY femicide awareness and the response globally
DEMAND that our governments act urgently to end ALL forms of femicide

UNITE our movements and struggles across borders and build solidarity

ي مارس، تعرضت سارة إيفرارد للاغتصاب والقتل من قبل ضابط شرطة خارج الخدمة في المملكة المتحدة. قُتلت ماري سول كوادراس، البالغة من العمر ١٨ عامًا، بالرصاص في المكسيك في ٢٥ نوفمبر أثناء حضورها احتجاجًا عامًا للتنديد بالعنف ضد المرأة. في حين أن قتل النساء يحدث في كثير من الأحيان في السر، إلا أنه يرتكب في الأماكن العامة أيضًا من قبل أفراد من خارج الأسرة والجهات الحكومية.

اليوم، نطلب منكم، ومن المجتمعات عمومًا، والمنظمات، والقادة في جميع أنحاء العالم، الانضمام إلينا في دعوة الأمم المتحدة لإعلان السادس من ديسمبر يومًا عالميًا لإنهاء قتل النساء. الحكومات ملزمة قانونًا بوضع حد لقتل النساء، وقد وعد الكثير بالقيام بذلك. ومع ذلك، فهم يفشلون. من خلال يوم دولي مخصص لإنهاء قتل النساء، يمكننا:

زيادة الوعي بقتل النساء على الصعيد العالمي

مطالبة الحكومات بشكل عاجل لوضع حد لجميع أشكال قتل النساء

تعاون حركاتنا ونضالاتنا عبر الحدود وتبني التضامن



From the darkness of the walls of the houses, they broke the silence and their voices rose in the streets, they confronted the rapist hiding in the walls and spoke to encourage other than women to raise their voice..

INFORMATION SOURCE: 16DAYSCAMPAIGN.ORG (LEBANON CAMPAIGN LISTING)

× f

بعدها حاكَمُن المجتمع
لأنّ تعرّضوا للإغتصاب،

After being blamed by their family
and society for getting raped,

0:09 / 1:46

× f

ناجيات قرروا بشجاعة
يكسروا الصمت.

brave women finally
decided to break their silence.

0:09 / 1:46

× f

Woman 1: His eyes are big and bulge out a lot.

0:16 / 1:46

× f

Woman 2: He has a moustache.

0:19 / 1:46



Woman 3: His nose is normal, not big or small.

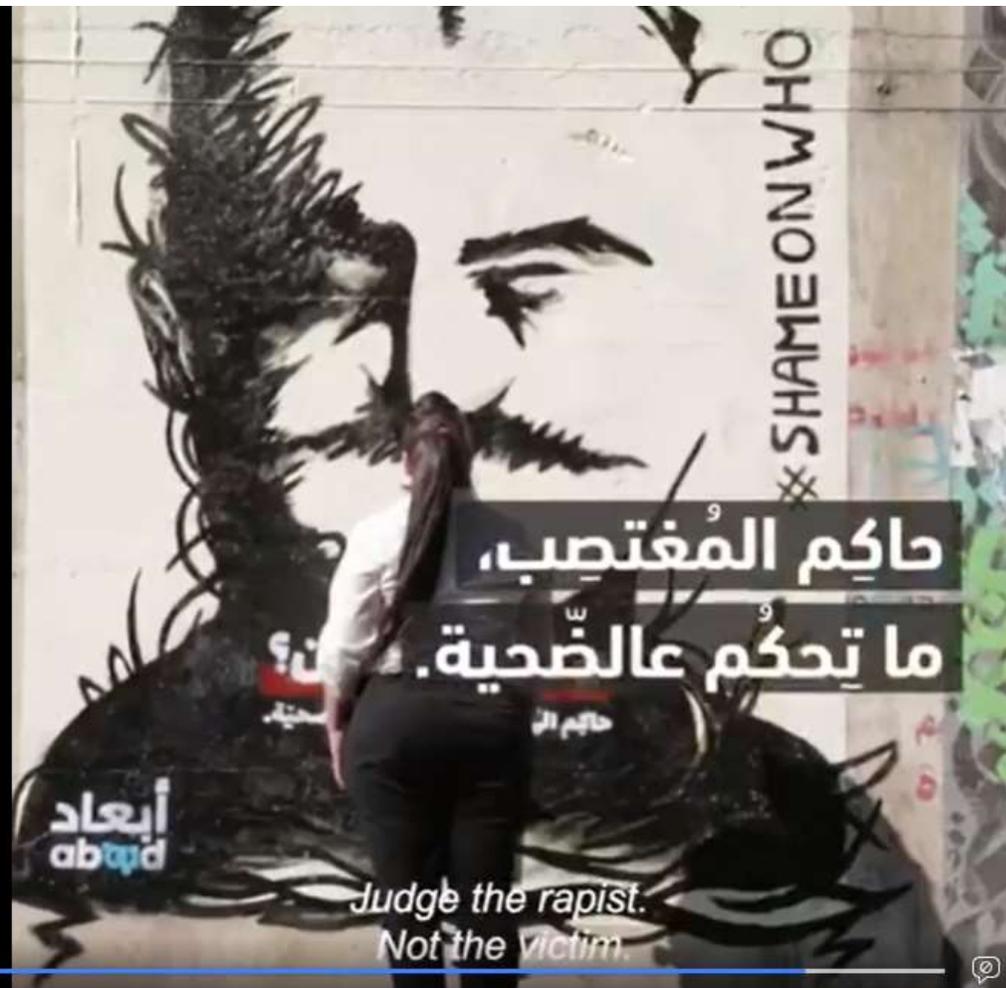


Woman 4: He's bald



and has a big mouth.





1:32 / 1:46







**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
PARTICIPATION**