



UNDERSTANDING KEY TERMS RELATED TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Gender-based Violence

Gender-based violence (GBV) refers to harmful acts directed at an individual or a group of individuals based on their gender. It is rooted in gender inequality, the abuse of power and harmful norms.



Violence Against Women and Girls

Violence against women and girls is defined as any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women and girls, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life. Violence against women and girls encompasses, but is not limited to, physical, sexual, and psychological violence occurring in the family or within the general community, and perpetrated or condoned by the State.

Survivor of violence

The term survivor of violence refers to any person who has experienced sexual or gender-based violence. It is similar in meaning to “victim” but is generally preferred because it implies resilience.

Consent

No means No. Yes, means Yes. Consent is an agreement between participants to engage in sexual activity or enter marriage. It must be freely and actively given and cannot be provided by someone who is under the influence of drugs or alcohol or by someone underage.

TYPES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

1. Domestic violence

Domestic violence, also called domestic abuse or intimate partner violence, is any pattern of behaviour that is used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner. It encompasses all physical, sexual, emotional, economic, and psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This is one of the most common forms of violence experienced by women globally.



Domestic violence can include the following.

a. Economic violence

Economic violence involves making or attempting to make a person financially dependent by maintaining total control over financial resources, withholding access to money, and/or forbidding attendance at school or employment.

b. Psychological violence

Psychological violence involves causing fear by intimidation; threatening physical harm to self,

partner, or children; destruction of pets and property; “mind games”; or forcing isolation from friends, family, school and/or work.

c. Emotional violence

Emotional violence includes undermining a person's sense of self-worth through constant criticism; belittling one's abilities; name-calling or other verbal abuse; damaging a partner's relationship with the children; or not letting a partner see friends and family.

d. Physical violence

Physical violence involves hurting or trying to hurt a partner by hitting, kicking, burning, grabbing, pinching, shoving, slapping, hair-pulling, biting, denying medical care or forcing alcohol and/or drug use, or using other physical force. It may include property damage.

e. Sexual violence

Sexual violence involves forcing a partner to take part in a sex act when the partner does not consent.

2. Femicide

Femicide refers to the intentional murder of women because they are women but may be defined more broadly to include any killings of women or girls. Femicide differs from male homicide in specific ways. For example, most cases of femicide are committed by partners or ex-partners, and involve ongoing abuse in the home, threats or intimidation, sexual violence, or situations where women have less power or fewer resources than their partner.

3. Honor killing

Honor killing is the murder of a family member, usually a woman or girl, for the purported reason that the person has brought dishonor or shame upon the family.



4. Sexual harassment

Sexual harassment encompasses non-consensual physical contact, like grabbing, pinching, slapping, or rubbing against another person in a sexual way. It also includes non-physical forms, such as catcalls, sexual comments about a person's body or appearance, demands for sexual favors, sexually suggestive staring, stalking, and exposing one's sex organs.

5. Human trafficking

Human trafficking is the acquisition and exploitation of people, through means such as force, fraud, coercion, or deception. This heinous crime ensnares millions of women and girls worldwide, many of whom are sexually exploited.

6. Online or digital violence

Online or digital violence against women refers to any act of violence that is committed, assisted, or aggravated using information and communication technology (mobile phones, the Internet, social media, computer games, text messaging, email, etc) against a woman because she is a woman. Online violence can include the following.

a. Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying involves the sending of intimidating or threatening messages.

b. Non-consensual sexting

Non-consensual sexting involves the sending of explicit messages or photos without the recipient's consent.

c. Doxing

Doxing involves the public release of private or identifying information about the victim.