

A silhouette of a woman with her arms raised in a gesture of triumph or freedom, set against a teal background with a subtle pattern of horizontal lines. The woman is wearing a patterned top. The overall mood is one of empowerment and advocacy.

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FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS SINCE 1993



Framing the problem

Explanations for men's violence against women

The concept of GBV and how it accommodates different types of vulnerability




Framing the problem

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?



- What is Alexandra subjected to (types of violence, abuse and discrimination)?
- What are the consequences?
- Who expose/s her to this?
- In which arena is she exposed?



The UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women encompasses all forms of gender-based violence against women (physical, sexual and psychological), no matter in which context or setting they occur:

- in the **family** (such as battery, marital rape; sexual abuse of female children; dowry-related violence; female genital mutilation/cutting and other traditional practices harmful to women);
- in the general **community** (such as rape, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in school and elsewhere; trafficking in women; and forced prostitution), and;
- violence perpetrated or condoned by the **state**, wherever it occurs (Article 2)

The Beijing Platform for Action adopted in 1995 further expanded on the definition of DEVAW to include:

- violations of the rights of women in situations of **armed conflict** (including systematic rape, sexual slavery and forced pregnancy)

PROBLEMS



- The use of violence
- Physical and psychological damage
- Lack of recognition, due to surrounding community's attitudes and values
- Discrimination and weak respect for women human rights
- Weak law enforcement and lack of accountability among state- and community actors

➔ Gender based violence, and threats of violence, deprives women and girls their fundamental human rights, it prevents them from fully participating in and benefiting from society and it hinders their struggle for a change.



Notions of power

Social norms: the concept of gender



Power over; Conventional view on power; Some groups take advantage at the cost of others; Power includes a relation where an individual or a group is dominating and the other group is subordinated; Power over represent a zero-sum-game where someone always win and someone always loose

Power to; Another view which refers to power as giving ability in the sense of problem solution and creativity

Power with; Includes that people organise themselves for a collective aim with an *understanding on how to reach the collective goal*

Power within; Includes having self confidence and a consciousness about oneself as an individual; Includes a consciousness of power relations in the every day life and how these effect our lives; Includes a consciousness of how these power relations can be transformed to increase the space for choice and the possibility of agency

SOCIAL NORMS



- A social norm is a rule of action typical and appropriate in some group, for example
 - dress codes for certain occasions
 - a practice to pierce baby girls' ears
 - importance of being a virgin before marriage
- Many social norms are beneficial, some social norms are harmful, for example
 - how people in a community greet each other
 - female genital mutilation

TO CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN SOCIAL NORMS



- A social norm is constructed by social expectation:
 - one's beliefs about what others do (typical), and
 - and by one's beliefs about what others approve of doing (appropriate)
- A social norm is maintained by social influence:
 - Approval, including anticipation of positive sanctions, and
 - Disapproval, including anticipation of negative sanctions

EXAMPLES OF SANCTIONS



- admiration or contempt
- verbal approval or disapproval
- praise or correct
- compliment or insult
- prize or fine
- promises of physical reward or threats of physical punishment
- actual physical reward or punishment
- threats of death
- or actual death



Two narrow frames

- Is there any difference in status between the two frames?
What frame contains things that lead to power in our society?
- What happens if you go outside the frame?
- What happens if a man moves into "women's frame" and vice versa? Is there a difference? If so, why?



Explanations for men's violence against women

EXPLAINING MALE VIOLENCE



Individual level

Men's violence explained by personal factors. Men with certain characteristics and / or social problems are violent

Cultural level

Norms and values, which are harder to see and be aware of than what happens on the structural level

Structural level

The problem is connected to the societal structures that frame our lives

PERSPECTIVES ON MALE VIOLENCE



Deviation perspective

- A certain type of men → a certain type of women
- Class, culture and ethnicity
- Abuse, addiction, mental illness

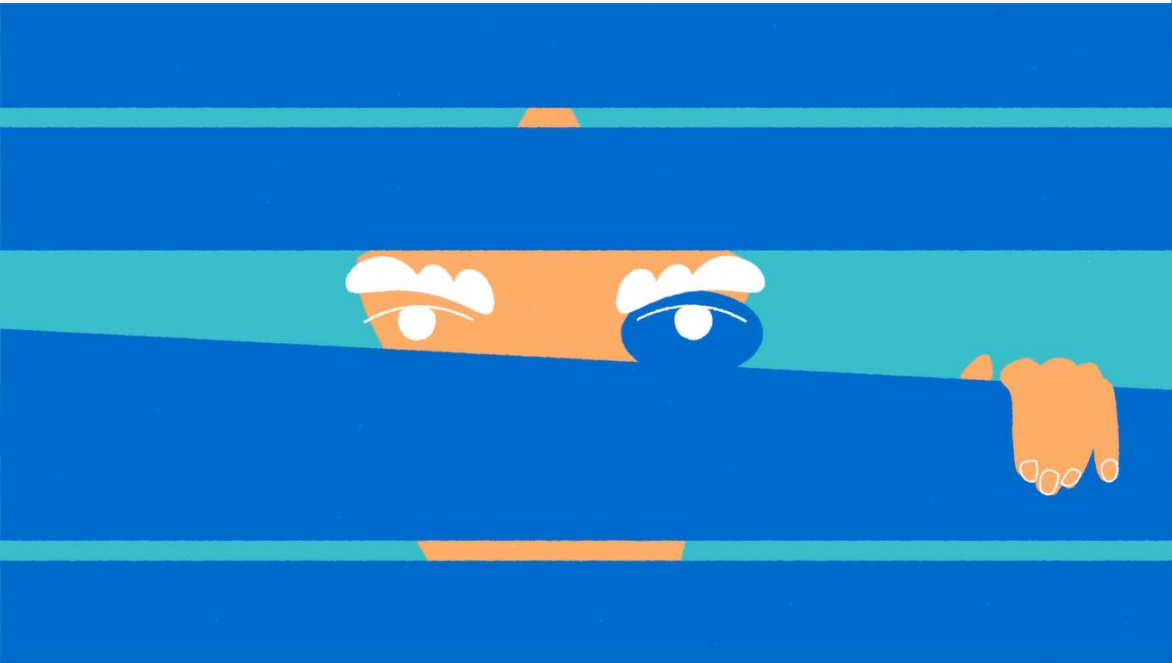
Gendered power perspective

- Ordinary men → ordinary women
- Gender the common denominator (rather than, for example. class and ethnicity)
- Gender inequality, masculinity and norms for how boys and men are expected to be

CAUSES OF VIOLENCE



Discuss why it is meaningful to reflect on causes of violence and how that can affect how your work on response to, and prevention of gender based violence.



The concept of GBV



Normalisation

Circle of violence

Adaptation and Resistance

Shift in responsibility – applying guilt

Switch between violence and affection

VARIOUS, OR MULTIPLE, VULNERABILITY



Can you think of any extra vulnerable groups that you work with?

Does this vulnerability affect your response?

INTERSECTING POWER STRUCTURES



Class

Ethnicity

Gender

Disability Sexual orientation

Age

To recognize how different power structures are interconnected and cannot be examined separately from one another.



How is this phenomenon best described?

“Men’s violence against women”

“Gender based violence”

“Domestic violence”

“Interpersonal violence”

“Other”

“violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately”

CEDAW

"violence against women" is "violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women and shall mean all acts of gender-based violation that result in, or are likely to result in physical, sexual, psychological, or economic harm or suffering to women including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life"

Istanbul Convention

[...] the term "violence against women" means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.

DEVAW



Domestic Violence: Violence perpetrated by any member of the household on another household member (eg. Father/son, wife/mother-in-law). Violence can be physical, psychological, sexual or economic.

Gender Based Violence: Any harm or suffering that is perpetrated against a woman or girl, man or boy and that has a negative impact on the physical, sexual or psychological health, development or identity of the person. The cause of the violence is founded in gender-based power inequalities and gender-based discrimination.

Intimate partner violence: Violence committed within an intimate relationship. Includes former partners. Violence can be physical, psychological, sexual or economic.



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