# WHAT IS GENDER BASED VIOLENCE?







### **Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation**

Fact Sheet: What is Gender Based Violence?



Easy-to-read version



#### **Easy Read: Gender-Based Violence (GBV)**



#### What is Gender-Based Violence?

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) means hurting someone because of their gender.

This harm can be:

- Physical, which is hurting the body
- Sexual, which is forcing someone to do sexual things
- Emotional, which is hurting the feelings of a person
- Economic, which is controlling money to hurt someone



#### **Types of Gender-Based Violence**

#### Physical violence

When someone uses force to hurt another person.

Examples:

- Hitting or slapping
- Strangling, which is squeezing the neck of a person to stop them from breathing
- Pushing or using weapons



#### Sexual violence

This is when someone forces another person to do sexual things without agreeing.

Examples:

- Forcing someone to have sex, which is called Rape
- When someone does acts of a sexual nature which makes you feel unsafe and uncomfortable. This is called Sexual harassment
- When people are moved or sold for sex. This is called Trafficking.



#### **Emotional violence**

This is when someone controls or hurts another person's feelings.

Examples:

- Saying mean words
- Controlling who someone can talk to
- Making someone feel bad about themselves



#### **Economic violence**

This is when someone controls money to hurt another person.

Examples:

- Stopping someone from working
- Taking their money away
- Not giving money for food or rent





#### **Domestic violence**

Domestic violence is when someone hurts or controls a person they live with.

It can happen between partners, family members, or people in the same home.

Example: A man hitting his wife.

#### **Types of Domestic Violence**

#### Against elderly people also known as Elderly abuse

Hurting older people in the family. Example: Taking an old person's money and not looking after them.



#### Against children also known as Child abuse

Hurting children at home or in the community.

Example: Hitting a child too hard, making them work, or forcing them to marry.

#### Honour-based violence



Hurting someone because they did something their family does not like.

Example: A girl being hurt because she married someone her family did not choose.

The family may hurt or punish the person to protect their reputation

#### **Other Types of Gender Based Violence**



#### **Technology violence**

Using the internet or phones to hurt someone. Examples:

- Sending bad messages
- Sharing private photos without permission
- Threatening someone online



#### **Forced marriage**

When someone is made to marry without agreeing.

Example: A girl under 18 being forced to marry a man.



#### **Drivers of Fuelers of Gender Based Violence.**

What Causes Gender Based Violence?

- Unfair traditions and beliefs, for example thinking women are less important than men
- Substance Abuse: when people become violent after drinking or using drugs
- Past trauma: when people do not heal from violence happening in families again and again
- Social Challenges: for example being poor or jobless
- **Ignoring violence:** When people do not do anything to stop violence because they are used to it.

 No punishment: When those who hurt others are not arrested or do not go to jail

#### **Culture and Religion**



Some traditions and beliefs treat women and girls unfairly.

Some families believe men must control women.

These ideas lead to Gender Based Violence.

#### **Alcohol and Drugs**



Drinking too much alcohol or using drugs can make people act violently.

People may fight more or hurt their families.

#### **Past Violence and Trauma**

People who saw or experienced violence as children may also be violent when they grow up.



#### **Social Challenges like Poverty and Unemployment**

When people do not have money or jobs, stress increases.

Some people take out their anger on family members.

#### Seeing Violence as Normal



Some communities see violence as a normal way to solve problems.

People do not do anything to stop violence because they are used to it.

#### No punishment for abusers

When people who hurt others are not punished, they keep doing it.

Others also think they can get away with violence

## Factors that increase the likelihood of Gender Based Violence

These are things that make Gender Based Violence more likely to happen

#### Family and Childhood



When children see their parents fighting, they learn that violence is normal.

If a child is hurt or abused, they may grow up to hurt others.

This can continue from one generation to the next.



#### **Alcohol and Taverns in Communities**

More taverns mean more people drinking alcohol.

Alcohol makes some people violent.

This can lead to partner violence, sexual violence, and even murder.



#### **Unfair Treatment of Women and Children**

In some places, men have more power than women and children.

Women and girls are treated as less important.

This makes GBV more common.



#### **Unsafe Places to Live**

Many people live in areas with no proper houses, toilets, or police stations.

If something bad happens, there is no help.

This makes GBV worse because victims cannot get support.



#### **★** Unsafe Communities

Some places do not have police or support services.

This makes it easy for GBV to happen without help for victims.



**Gender Based Violence is not okay!** 



Everyone has the right to be safe and treated with respect.



Gender Based Violence is wrong and against the law!



People must report Gender Based Violence and support victims.



Everyone deserves to be safe!

#### **Contact Details**

Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR)

Address: 87 De Korte Street, 8th Floor, Braamfontein,

Johannesburg, South Africa

**Phone:** 011 403 5650

Email: info@csvr.org.za

Website: www.csvr.org.za



## This pamphlet was written by Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation



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#### This document was proof read by

Teboho Tseki
Mphohadi Mosala
Lerato Plaatjie
Lerato Jantjie
Kelebohile Matlakala

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