

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



Planet 50-50 by 2030
Step It Up for Gender Equality

A HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION OF PANDEMIC PROPORTIONS

Whether at home, on the streets or during war, violence against women is a HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION that takes place in PUBLIC and PRIVATE spaces.

FORMS OF VIOLENCE

Physical

Sexual

Psychological

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Fast Facts

1 in 3 women worldwide have experienced physical or sexual violence – mostly by an intimate partner.

In 2012, 1 in 2 women killed worldwide were killed by their partners or family. Only 1 out of 20 of all men killed were killed in such circumstances.

Are there laws to protect women?

Two-thirds of all countries have outlawed domestic violence.

32 countries

exempt rape perpetrators from prosecution when they are married to or subsequently marry the victim.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Sexually violent acts can take place in different circumstances and settings. These include, for example:

Rape (within marriage and relationships, by strangers, and during armed conflict)

Unwanted sexual advances or sexual harassment, including demanding sex in return for favours

Sexual abuse of children

Forced marriage or cohabitation, including child marriage

Fast Facts

In some countries, up to one-third of adolescent girls report their first sexual experience as being forced.

In the European Union, 45% to 55% of women have experienced sexual harassment since the age of 15.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

“I wasn’t even allowed to cry. If even one tear fell they beat me. I used to think it was better to die than to live like this.”
— Meena Hasina, a survivor of sex slavery, India

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human trafficking is the acquisition and exploitation of people, through means, such as force, fraud or deception. The practice ensnares millions of women and girls into modern-day slavery, many of whom are sexually exploited.

Fast Facts

4.5 million

of the estimated 21 million people in forced labour are victims of sexual exploitation.

98%

of them are women and girls.

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION/CUTTING

“Once you know that everyone has a right to be free from all forms of violence, and that you yourself have a responsibility to help them achieve that right, you don’t look back.”
— Sister Fa, Senegalese hip-hop star

WHAT IS FGM/C?

FGM/C includes procedures that intentionally alter or cause injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. Beyond extreme physical and psychological pain, the practice carries many health risks, including death.

At least **200 million** women and girls alive today have undergone FGM/C in 30 countries where representative data is available.

Age 5

In most of these countries, the majority of girls were cut before age 5.

CHILD MARRIAGE

“Since forever, I have learned to say yes to everything. Today I have decided to say no.”
— Nujood Ali, Yemeni advocate

Fast Facts

700 million

women alive today were married before 18 — more than one-third were married before 15.

2.5X

poor girls are more likely to marry in childhood than wealthy ones.

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF CHILD MARRIAGE?

Child marriage usually means an end to girl’s education, vocation and her right to make life choices. Research confirms that girls who marry in childhood are at greater risk for intimate partner violence than girls of the same age who marry later.

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Statistics: Ending Child Marriage: Progress and Prospects, UNICEF, 2014; Global and regional estimates of violence against women, WHO, 2013; Global Study on Homicide, UNODC, 2013; Hidden in Plain Sight: A Statistical Analysis of Violence against Children, UNICEF, 2014; Violence against women: an EU-wide survey, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, 2014; Women, Business and the Law 2016, World Bank Group, 2016; World report on violence and health, WHO, 2002; ILO Global Estimate of Forced Labour, ILO, 2012; Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: A global concern, UNICEF, 2016.

Quotes: Half the Sky, Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women, Sheryl WuDunn, Nicholas Kristof, 2009; “My battle against female genital cutting,” The Guardian, 2012; I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced, Nujood Ali, Delphine Minoui, 2010.