

Violence Against Women

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25 November the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

Until 10 December, Human Rights Day. 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign.

See more at:

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/16-days-of-activism#sthash.Lg2mdOt9.dpuf>





United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women



What is Violence Against Women?

UN Declaration on Violence against Women: Article 1

United Nations Declaration defines violence against women/girls: “any act of **gender-based violence** that results in, or is likely to result in, **physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering** to women/girls, including **threats** of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivations of liberty, whether occurring in **public or private life** (United Nations, 1993)”.

What is Violence Against Women?

UN Declaration on Violence against Women: Article 2

- a) Violence against women shall be understood to encompass, but not be limited to, the following: (a) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation;
- b) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution;
- c) Physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the State, wherever it occurs

What is Violence Against Women?

UN Declaration on Violence against Women: Article 3

Women are entitled to the equal enjoyment and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field. These rights include:

- (a) The right to life;
- (b) The right to equality;
- (c) The right to liberty and security of person;
- (d) The right to equal protection under the law;
- (e) The right to be free from all forms of discrimination;
- (f) The right to the highest standard attainable of physical and mental health;
- (g) The right to just and favourable conditions of work;
- (h) The right not to be subjected to torture, or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Violence Against Women, Introduction

Violence against women takes many forms – physical, sexual, psychological and economic.

- ✓ These forms of violence are interrelated and affect women from before birth to old age.
- ✓ Women who experience violence suffer a range of health problems and their ability to participate in public life is diminished.
- ✓ Violence against women harms families and communities across generations and reinforces other violence prevalent in society.
- ✓ Violence against women also impoverishes women, their families, communities and nations.

Violence Against Women, Introduction

The two main forms of violence against women are intimate partner violence (IPV, or domestic violence) and sexual violence.

- Most victims are women and most perpetrators are men.
- **Intimate partner violence** refers to behavior by an intimate partner or ex-partner that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviours.
- **Sexual violence** is any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, or other act directed against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting. It includes rape.

Violence Against Women, Introduction

Violence against women is not confined to a specific culture, region or country, or to particular groups of women within a society. The roots of violence against women lie in persistent discrimination against women.

Other common forms of violence against women are:

Early marriage of girls in South Asia and Sub-saharan Africa (60 million girls/year)

Female genital mutilation, in Africa

Dowry murder, in South Asia (woman killed by husband's family)

"Honor killing" (rape victims, accused of adultery) killed by relatives

Human trafficking (80% of trafficked are women and girls)

Sexual harassment (reported by 30-50% working women around the world).

Violence Against Women, Introduction

Domestic violence is an extremely sensitive issue that raises uncomfortable questions concerning ideology, morality and culture.

It is perpetrated behind closed doors, hidden from public view and deliberately disguised by both the victims and the societies in which they live.

Although violence against women is widespread, efforts of its documentation and quantification, in all countries are hindered by the “culture of silence” that surrounds the issue (Population Reference Bureau, 2000).

Scope of the Problem

The first report of the "WHO Multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence against women" (2005) in 10 mainly low- and middle-income countries found that:

- between 15% of women in Japan and 71% of women in Ethiopia reported physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime
 - between 0.3–11.5% of women reported experiencing sexual violence by someone other than a partner since the age of 15 years
 - Globally 35% of women have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence.
- ❑ International studies reveal that approximately 20% of women and 5–10% of men report being victims of sexual violence as children.

Setting or Location: Public/Private Dichotomy

- 1) Violence in home seen as normal or Private matter
- 2) Community
- 3) Workplace
- 4) En route during migration, smuggling, in refugee camps
- 5) War- rape of female civilians due to ethnicity, female soldiers exposed to sexual abuse (institutionalized sexual violence)

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Risk Factors

Some factors are associated with being a perpetrator of violence, some are associated with experiencing violence and some are associated with both.

Risk factors for both intimate partner and sexual violence include:

1. Lower levels of education (perpetration of sexual violence and experience of sexual violence)
2. Exposure to child maltreatment (perpetration and experience);
3. Witnessing family violence (perpetration and experience);
4. Antisocial personality disorder (perpetration);
5. Harmful use of alcohol (perpetration and experience);
6. Having multiple partners or suspected by their partners of infidelity (perpetration)
7. Attitudes that are accepting of violence and gender inequality (perpetration and experience).

Risk Factors

The unequal position of women relative to men and the normative use of violence to resolve conflict are strongly associated with both intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence.

Health Consequences

Intimate partner violence and sexual violence have serious short- and long-term **physical, mental, sexual and reproductive** health problems for survivors and for their children, and lead to high social and economic costs.

- Violence against women can have fatal results like **homicide or suicide**.
- It can lead to **injuries**, with 42% of women who experience intimate partner violence reporting an injury as a consequences of this violence.
- Intimate partner violence and sexual violence can lead to **unintended pregnancies, induced abortions, gynecological problems, and sexually transmitted infections**, including HIV. Intimate partner violence in pregnancy also increases the likelihood of miscarriage, stillbirth, pre-term delivery and low birth weight babies.

Health Consequences, cont.

- These forms of violence can lead to depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, sleep difficulties, eating disorders, emotional distress and suicide attempts. A study in 2013 found that women who have experienced intimate partner violence were almost twice as likely to experience depression and problem drinking. The rate was even higher for women who had experienced non partner sexual violence.
- Health effects can also include headaches, back pain, abdominal pain, gastrointestinal disorders, limited mobility and poor overall health.
- Sexual violence, particularly during childhood, can lead to increased smoking, drug and alcohol misuse, and risky sexual behaviours in later life.
- It is also associated with perpetration of violence (for males) and being a victim of violence (for females).

Impact on the Children

Children who grow up in families where there is violence may suffer a range of behavioural and emotional disturbances.

- These can also be associated with perpetrating or experiencing violence later in life.
- Intimate partner violence has also been associated with higher rates of infant and child mortality and morbidity (e.g. diarrheal disease, malnutrition).

Social and Economic Costs

The social and economic costs of intimate partner violence and sexual violence are enormous and have ripple effects throughout society.

Women may suffer isolation, inability to work, loss of wages, lack of participation in regular activities and limited ability to care for themselves and their children.

Prevention and Response

To achieve lasting change, it is important to enact legislation and develop policies that:

- 1) address discrimination against women;
- 2) promote gender equality;
- 3) support women; and
- 4) help to move towards more peaceful cultural norms.

Jordan Population and Family Health Survey, 2012

- One-third (34 percent) of ever-married women age 15-49 reported that they had been hit, slapped, kicked, or subjected to some other form of physical violence at some point after their fifteenth birthday (Table 14-1)
- Thirteen percent (13%) of women reported that they had been subjected to some form of physical violence at least once within the 12-month period before the interview.
- **Urban women, women living in the Central region, and women in the non Badia areas** are more likely to have experienced physical violence since age 15 than women in other areas and regions.

Jordan Population and Family Health Survey, 2012

- In terms of employment, women who are **not employed** are more likely than employed women to have experienced physical violence since age 15 (35 percent and 13 percent, respectively).
- Women with higher education (26 percent) are less likely than women with **lower educational** attainment (35-46 percent) to have experienced physical violence since age 15.
- Similarly, only 8 percent of women with higher education reported experiencing physical violence in the 12 months preceding the survey, compared to 13-15 percent of women with lower levels of education.
- Women living in the **poorest** households are more likely than other women to report physical violence since age 15 as well as during the 12 months preceding the survey.....see Table 14-1

Women's Experience of physical violence JPFHS 2012

Table 14.1 Experience of physical violence

Percentage of ever-married women age 15-49 who have ever experienced physical violence since age 15 and percentage who have experienced violence during the 12 months preceding the survey, by background characteristics, Jordan 2012

Background characteristic	Percentage who have ever experienced physical violence since age 15 ¹	Percentage who have experienced physical violence in the past 12 months			Number of women
		Often	Sometimes	Often or sometimes ²	
Age					
15-19	31.1	3.5	10.6	14.1	166
20-24	31.0	3.1	10.7	13.7	744
25-29	37.1	5.4	9.7	15.1	1,215
30-39	36.9	4.2	10.0	14.3	2,684
40-49	31.0	3.3	5.5	8.8	2,219
Residence					
Urban	35.3	4.3	9.0	13.3	5,814
Rural	29.5	2.6	6.7	9.3	1,213
Region					
Central	36.4	4.1	9.7	13.9	4,356
North	32.4	4.0	7.2	11.2	1,989
South	26.3	2.9	5.7	8.7	681
Governorate					
Amman	37.0	4.2	10.5	14.7	2,604
Balqa	31.2	3.3	6.8	10.1	480
Zarqa	38.0	4.8	9.2	14.1	1,083
Madaba	32.7	1.8	10.7	12.6	190
Irbid	34.5	4.6	7.6	12.2	1,245
Mafrq	27.9	2.2	5.1	7.3	364
Jarash	36.5	6.4	8.8	15.2	216
Ajloun	21.2	0.0	6.4	6.4	164
Karak	23.3	1.9	4.3	6.2	288
Tafila	32.6	5.6	7.7	13.4	109
Ma'an	25.2	1.7	5.5	7.3	114
Aqaba	28.1	3.7	6.7	10.7	171

Jordan Population and Family Health Survey, 2012

Women's attitudes towards beating in Jordan:

Table 13.8 Attitude toward wife beating

Percentage of ever-married women age 15-49 who agree that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife for specific reasons, by background characteristics, Jordan 2012

Background characteristic	Husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife if she:							Percentage who agree with at least one specified reason	Number of women
	Burns the food	Argues with him	Goes out without telling him	Neglects the children	Insults him	Does not feed him	Has relations with other men		
Age									
15-19	3.0	12.0	24.2	25.1	53.4	44.3	77.3	84.1	278
20-24	1.2	5.2	12.0	16.9	38.1	26.8	70.2	74.2	1,207
25-29	2.0	6.1	13.3	18.5	38.0	26.3	67.4	71.7	2,006
30-34	2.0	6.7	10.8	15.6	37.0	23.2	65.6	68.8	2,136
35-39	1.5	6.6	11.9	17.2	39.8	26.2	65.8	71.1	2,098
40-44	1.4	5.5	12.2	16.5	37.4	22.6	62.4	66.7	2,055
45-49	2.6	6.2	11.9	15.9	35.5	22.5	60.1	65.9	1,571
Employment (last 7 days)									
Employed	0.6	3.1	7.5	11.5	26.9	18.3	53.9	56.7	1,854
Not employed	2.0	6.9	13.3	18.1	40.3	26.3	67.6	72.5	9,498
Number of living children									
0	0.9	5.6	15.1	17.2	34.7	27.5	62.3	67.2	1,107
1-2	1.6	5.4	11.8	15.9	34.7	23.6	65.9	69.8	3,031
3-4	1.5	6.1	10.7	15.7	36.0	22.1	64.8	68.5	3,795
5+	2.6	7.4	13.8	19.4	44.5	28.6	66.6	72.5	3,419
Marital status									
Married	1.8	6.2	12.1	16.6	38.2	24.8	65.8	70.4	10,801
Divorced/separated/ widowed	2.1	7.3	17.5	24.4	36.3	28.4	56.6	61.6	551

JPFHS 2012

Who is the perpetrator?

The most commonly reported perpetrator of physical violence is the current husband (57 percent).

More than one in four (27 percent) women report physical violence by a brother, one in five (21 percent) women report physical violence by their father.

Table 14.2. Persons committing physical violence

Among ever-married women age 15-49 who have experienced physical violence since age 15, percentage who report specific persons who committed the violence, according to the respondent's current marital status, Jordan 2012

Person	Percentage of ever-married women
Current husband	56.9
Former husband	9.7
Father	21.2
Mother	14.3
Brother	27.0
Sister	2.8
Stepfather/stepmother	0.7
Other relative	1.0
Teacher	4.0
Other male	0.3
Other	0.6
Number of women who have experienced physical violence since age 15	2,410

JPFHS 2012

- ✓ The results show that 9 percent of women have ever experienced sexual violence from a current or former husband.
- ✓ Women who are **not employed**, women with higher **education**, and women in the **highest wealth** quintile are less likely to report sexual violence than their counterparts in the other categories.
- ✓ 21 percent of ever-married women report ever experiencing physical violence from their current or most recent husband, 9 percent report sexual violence, and 25 percent report emotional violence

JPFHS 2012, Forms of spousal violence

Table 14.7 Forms of spousal violence

Percentage of ever-married women age 15-49 who have experienced various forms of violence ever or in the 12 months preceding the survey, committed by their husband or former husband, Jordan 2012

Type of violence	Ever	In the past 12 months		
		Often	Sometimes	Often or sometimes
SPOUSAL VIOLENCE COMMITTED BY CURRENT OR MOST RECENT HUSBAND				
Physical violence				
Any physical violence	21.1	3.6	7.6	11.2
Pushed her, shook her, or threw something at her	15.9	2.8	6.5	9.3
Slapped her	15.2	2.3	4.6	6.9
Twisted her arm or pulled her hair	8.8	1.5	3.4	5.0
Punched her with his fist or with something that could hurt her	8.9	1.6	3.6	5.2
Kicked her, dragged her, or beat her up	5.2	1.2	1.9	3.1
Tried to choke her or burn her on purpose	2.3	0.3	0.8	1.1
Threatened her or attacked her with a knife, gun, or other weapon	1.3	0.1	0.6	0.7
Sexual violence				
Any sexual violence	8.6	1.6	4.4	6.0
Physically forced her to have sexual intercourse with him when she did not want to	8.6	1.6	4.4	6.0
Emotional violence				
Any emotional violence	24.6	6.7	10.8	17.4
Said or did something to humiliate her in front of others	17.2	4.5	7.3	11.8
Threatened to hurt or harm her or someone she cared about	6.0	1.6	2.2	3.8
Insulted her or made her feel bad about herself	19.1	5.4	8.6	14.0
Any form of physical and/or sexual violence	23.6	4.4	9.7	14.1
Any form of emotional and/or physical and/or sexual violence	31.7	8.2	13.8	22.0

HELP-SEEKING BEHAVIOR BY ABUSED WOMEN

JPFHS 2012

- ✓ Women who have experienced only sexual violence are much less likely (5 percent) than women who have experienced physical violence (38 percent) to seek help; help seeking is most common among women who have experienced both physical and sexual violence (61 percent).

Table 14.13 Sources for help to stop violence

Percentage of ever-married women age 15-49 who have experienced physical or sexual violence and sought help by sources from which they sought help, according to the type of violence that women reported, Jordan 2012

Source	Type of violence experienced		Total
	Physical only	Physical and sexual	
Own family	86.3	78.6	83.9
Husband's family	15.5	25.8	18.5
Friend	2.2	9.3	4.5
Neighbor	1.8	7.6	3.5
Religious leader	0.0	0.5	0.1
Doctor/medical personnel	0.0	0.0	0.0
Police	0.7	3.3	1.5
Lawyer	0.0	0.7	0.2
Social service organization	2.8	7.4	4.1
Other	4.2	6.1	4.8
Number of women who have experienced violence and sought help	725	306	1,038

Note: Total includes 7 women who reported seeking help for sexual violence only.

References

- The World Health Organization (WHO). Violence against women, Intimate partner and sexual violence against women, Fact sheet N°239 <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs239/en/>.
- Jordan Population and Health Survey, 2012. Department of Statistics, Amman.
<http://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR282/FR282.pdf>