

Violence Against Women and Girls

from the Perspective of

Human Rights in Development

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Summer School on Human Rights & Development

Why are we talking about

VAWG
Violence Against Women and Girls

?

India the most dangerous country to be a woman, US ranks 10th in survey



By **Angela Dewan**, CNN

🕒 Updated 6:51 AM ET, Tue June 26, 2018



IN FOCUS

Why India Is 'Not' The Most Dangerous Country In the World For Women



Published on July 2, 2018

By **Shibul Pavithran** [Twitter](#)



Outline

- Definitions
- VAWG as a
 - Human Rights Violation
 - Development Concern:
 - A Health Perspective
 - UN documents Concern
 - Men's Issue
- Your Role

Fear in a Hat

Scenario:

The decision on whether to criminalize marital rape in India is up to you.

+ Motivator	- Fear
One reason you support it.	One reason you hesitate to do it.



Vote with Your Feet

Tea and Consent

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZwvrxVavnQ>

Definitions

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Violence Against Women

“any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, **physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering** to women”



Different Forms of VAWG



Intimate Partner Violence

- Ongoing or past violence and abuse by an intimate partner or ex-partner
- May be physical, emotional/psychological, or sexual



Psychological



Physical



Sexual

Two Most Common Forms of VAW

- Intimate partner violence
- Non-partner sexual violence

VAWG

...

as a Human Rights Violation

VAWG: Violation of Human Rights

- Why? It violates the right to...
 - life;
 - equality;
 - liberty and security of person;
 - equal protection under the law;
 - be free from all forms of discrimination;
 - the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;
 - just and favorable conditions of work;
 - not to be subjected to torture, or other cruel, in human or degrading treatment or punishment.
 - (Article 3, UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women)



Evolution as a Human Rights Concern

- 1946: UN Commission on the Status of Women
- 1979:
 - Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- 1992:
 - CEDAW Committee General Recommendation No 19
- 1993:
 - Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action
 - Declaration on the Elimination of VAW

Evolution as a Human Rights Concern

- 1994:
 - Special Rapporteur on VAW, its causes and consequences
 - International Conference on Population and Development
- 1995: Beijing Platform for Action
 - VAW recognized as a critical area of concern
- 1996: World Health Assembly
 - Recognized prevention of violence as a public health priority and called for urgent measures to eliminate VAW
- 2006: Secretary-General's In-Depth Study on all forms of VAW released



VAWG

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A Development Concern:
A Health Perspective



Violence Against Women

“any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, **physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering** to women”

VAW is a health problem

Physical	Reproductive / Sexual	Mental
Traumatic brain injury Death ... and more...	Unwanted pregnancy Miscarriage ... and more...	Depression Substance abuse ... and more...

Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (1993)

- Article 3. Women are entitled to:
 - (e) The right to the highest standard attainable of physical and mental health
- Article 4. States should:
 - (g) Work to ensure... that women subjected to violence... have specialized assistance, such as... treatment, counselling and health and social services
 - (h) Include in government budgets adequate resources for their activities related to the elimination of VAW
 - (k) Promote research, collect data and compile statistics... .. and encourage research on the causes, nature, seriousness and consequences of VAW

Beijing Platform for Action (1995)

- 124d. Take measures to ensure the protection of women subjected to violence, access to just and effective remedies, including... healing of victims
- 124n. Create, improve or develop as appropriate, and fund the training programmes for... medical... personnel... so that fair treatment of female victims can be assured
- 125f. Recognize, support and promote the fundamental role of intermediate institutions, such as primary health-care centres... in the field of information and education related to abuses.





Health Effects of VAWG

Women	Pregnancy	Fetal
Depression Alcohol dependence STIs (including HIV) Traumatic brain injury Femicide ... and more	Abdominal trauma Miscarriage Hemorrhage Premature birth ... and more	Low birth weight Fetal injury Fetal death ... and more

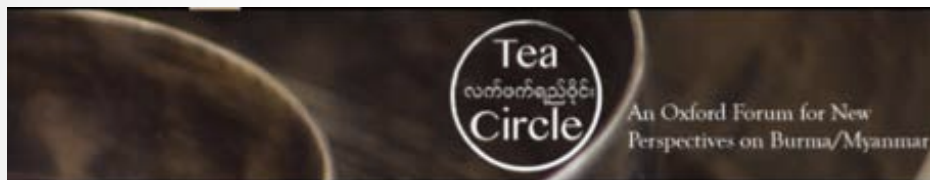
STAPLES



Save every

Violence against women 'pandemic' in Mexico

March 07, 2014 | Anahi Rama and Lizbeth Diaz | Reuters



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Violence against women: a hidden public health crisis in Myanmar

BY TEACIRCLE@OXFORD | FEBRUARY 5, 2013



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VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: GLOBAL PHENOMENON OR GLOBAL PANDEMIC?

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Health

Violence against women worldwide is 'epidemic'

© 20 June 2013

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The pandemic that threatens women globally

By Alice Han

🕒 Updated 5:54 PM ET, Thu March 22, 2018

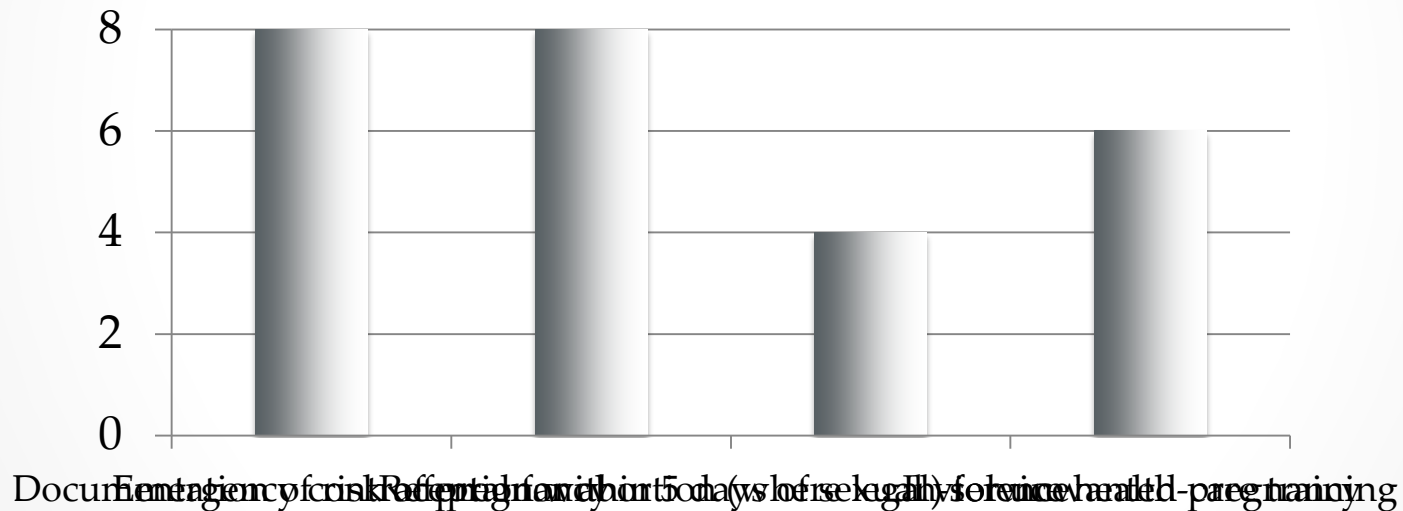
“ There is a disturbing pattern here. Health systems around the world are often not recognizing VAWG as a health problem. ”

WHO Video

- World Health Organization
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qc_GHITvTml

VAW Not Recognized As a Health Problem

- Underfunded in health budgets worldwide
- Countries no/slow implementation of guidelines



- Lack of formal VAW training for health professionals

Han A, Aviles R, MacMillan H, Guedes A, Stewart DE. National Clinical Guidelines (Protocols) for the Health Sector on Sexually Transmitted Infections Associated with Violence Against Women in Latin America and Caribbean PAHO Member Countries. *Int J Gynecol Obstet*. E-supplement. Available on www.figo2015.org.

Why is this a problem?

- Many women experiencing violence consider health services as a first contact
- MC: “They ignored it all”
- Increased risk for serious health problems
- Lost opportunity
 - to coordinate with legal services
 - to increase conviction rates



Health Response to VAW as a Human Rights Concern

- Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women
 - Physical and mental health is a women's human right (Article 3f)
 - States should work to ensure health services (Article 4g)

International Response to VAWG

...

Within a Human Rights
Framework

Methods

	CEDAW	SR-VAW
Documents	Concluding Observations on Country Reports	Country Visit reports
Author	23 experts on women's rights	Dubravka Simonovic (June 2015-)
Mandate	Monitor Progress for women in CEDAW countries	Recommend measures to eliminate VAW and its causes and remedy its consequences
# Reports	8 reports from 2018	5



Committee on the
Elimination of
Discrimination
against
Women



CEDAW

Country	Gaps	Recommendations
Suriname		?
Chile		Yes (?)
Fiji	Yes	Yes (?)
Luxembourg	Yes	Yes
Malaysia		
Marshall Islands		
Republic of Korea		
Saudi Arabia		?



Case Study: Fiji

- 5th periodic report by Fiji: received 29 June 2016
 - “appreciates that violence against women is a major health and development issue” (Executive summary 1.5)
 - Family Health Unit within Public Health Division deals VAW (2.51)
 - “ack of confidentiality may deter women from seeking medical care... where they have suffered sexual or physical violence.” (Article 12, 2.31)
- List of Issues (31 July 2017)
 - Please provide information on any measures taken to train relevant professionals, in particular, health and law enforcement professionals, to identify victims of gender-based VAW and on the guidelines for responding to IPV and sexual VAW. (Para 7)
- Reply to List of Issues (18 Jan 2018)
 - The MOH developed and launched in 2016, the ‘Health Guideline for the Comprehensive Case Management – Responding to IPV and Sexual VAWG. The ministry is now in the process of developing a training manual” (Para 7.22)



Case Study: Luxembourg

Report constituting the 6th & 7th reports (2 Nov 2017)

- Violence Against women (Para 137-171)
 - Para 158-171: investment in National Reference Centre for promotion of emotional and sexual health, a component of preventing violence
- No other mention of VAW as a health problem

Additional written information by Luxembourg following consideration of 6th and 7th reports (6 March 2018):

- More information about National Reference Centre

Concluding Observations on 6th and 7th reports (12 March 2018)

- The committee welcomes promotion of emotional health BUT
 - Committee was concerned relating to GBV on lack of capacity building for medical professionals and recommended capacity building
- -

SR-VAW Country Visits

- All visits: met with Ministry of Health

Country	Gaps				Recommendations			
	Data	Access	DISC	Other	↑data	↑access	training	Other
Argentina (2016)		x	x		x		x	x
Palestine (2016)		x					x	
Israel (2016)		x	x		x	x		
Georgia (2016)		x	x		x		x	
South Africa (2015)	x			x	x			

* DISC = discrimination

The Consequences of SR-VAW Country Reports

- South Africa and Femicide
 - Femicide rate is 5x higher than global average
 - Nov 2015: Recommended Femicide Watch: release report yearly on November 25
- In 2017
 - 3 high profile femicide convictions
 - No Government action
 - Action by Masimanyane (women's rights organization)

Recommendations

- Greater attention to VAW as a health problem by CEDAW
- Consistent and systematic assessment of health system response by CEDAW and SR-VAW:
 - VAW in health budgets
 - National clinical guidelines
 - Capacity building of health providers (both pre- and in-service)
- Mobilize and strengthen partnerships with networks of activists
- All of us today: consider VAW as a health problem



VAWG

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A Men's Issue

TEDx Talk

- Jackson Katz “Violence Against Women – It’s a Men’s Issue”
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvhCKw6V7n8>

Fear in a Hat

Prevention of VAWG

Resource:

Strengthening the Medico-Legal Response to Sexual
Violence

Prevention of VAWG

- 3 levels of intervention
 - Primary:
 - target root causes
 - e.g. inequality between men and women, social norms, parenting practices, substance misuse
 - Secondary:
 - immediate response to survivors through services
 - e.g. medical treatment, counselling, protection, legal assistance
 - Tertiary:
 - long term response
 - E.g. rehabilitation and reintegration of survivors and perpetrators

Your Role

Develop and enforce laws, implement policies and strengthen capacities of institutions

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Addressing violence against women: a call to action

Dr Claudia García-Moreno, MD, Cathy Zimmerman, PhD, Alison Morris-Gehring, PhD, Lori Heise, PhD, Avni Amin, PhD, Naeemah Abrahams, PhD, Oswaldo Montoya, MA, Padma Bhate-Deosthali, MSW, Nduku Kilonzo, PhD, Prof Charlotte Watts, PhD

Published: 20 November 2014

Strengthen and enforce laws and policies to prohibit all forms of VAWG, including those that prohibit IPV, sexual violence, sexual harassment, early and forced marriage, FGM, and trafficking

Your Role

Develop and enforce laws, implement policies and strengthen capacities of institutions



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Published: 20 November 2014

Ensure national laws, policies and institutions in all sectors promote equality for women and men and eliminate all forms of discrimination against women (e.g. ownership and inheritance of assets, freedom to enter and leave marriage and access divorce, and address other forms of discrimination such as by class, caste, disability)

Your Role

Develop and enforce laws, implement policies and strengthen capacities of institutions



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Published: 20 November 2014

Support women's equal access to education, income and safe job opportunities through legislation

Your Role

Develop and enforce laws, implement policies and strengthen capacities of institutions



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Published: 20 November 2014

Support social policies that promote equality in relationships (e.g. in child care and parental leave)

Your Role

- Video: UN Women
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W_ZPHPutN-c