



Gender Based Violence

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT GBV

GBV IN SOUTH AFRICA

Sexual gender-based violence is usually committed by men against women. However, men can also be survivors of sexual violence. In one study in South Africa, 3.4% of men reported having been raped. Child sexual abuse affects both boys and girls.

In 2015-16, 51,895 sexual offences (rape and sexual assault) were reported to the South African Police Service with the highest numbers in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, and Eastern Cape provinces²⁰. This is estimated to be 9 times lower than the actual number of sexual offences that occur in the country. It is suspected that 1 in 4 women in South Africa will experience sexual assault or rape during their lifetime.

According to the University of Pretoria, "IPV is the most common form of violence experienced by South African women, and is the leading cause of death among South African women. On average, a woman dies every eight hours at the hands of an intimate partner in South Africa. More women are killed by their current or former intimate male partner in South Africa than in any other country in the world." [http://www.up.ac.za/en/news/post_2584284-myths-and-facts-about-gender-based-violence-]

Every year in South Africa, between 18,000 and 20,000 child sexual abuse (CSA) cases are reported to the police. In 2013/2014 police statistics documented 18,524 cases of reported CSA: 51 cases every day (Optimus study, 2016).

In South Africa, the total number of sexual offences cases (including adults and children) reported in the same year was 62,649, with 46,253 of these specifically recorded as rape (Optimus study, 2016).

WHAT CAUSES GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE?

Some of the causes and contributing factors of gender-based violence are:

- Unequal position of men and women in society
- Attitudes about masculinity that value toughness, bravery, power and using violence to resolve conflicts
- Cultural belief in the importance of sexual purity, especially for women
- Conditions of conflict and war
- Poverty or lack of resources
- Alcohol dependence or other substance abuse
- Feelings of powerlessness
- History of abuse, as a survivor or a witness
- Views of women as property

It is common in South Africa to believe in ideas of masculinity that say that men have control over women and that men are entitled to sex. Rape or physical violence are used as a tool for punishment for going against a man's wishes, including infidelity, ending a relationship, refusing sexual advances, or not showing respect. Women may also be blamed for not leaving a physically abusive relationship.



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WHAT ARE THE TYPES OF GBV?

Gender-based violence can be physical, sexual, psychological, economic, or socio-cultural.

Below are some examples of each type of GBV

- Physical GBV: hitting, kicking, or pushing
- Sexual GBV: rape, molestation
- Psychological GBV: coercion, harassment
- Economic GBV: limiting access to finances, education, or employment, exclusion from decision making in these areas
- Socio-cultural GBV: poverty, lack of resources, forced prostitution/trafficking