



IMPRODOVA

Factsheet Gender-based violence

Definitions

Sex is associated with biological factors such as chromosomes, reproductive organs and sexual hormones which affect the expression of phenotypic traits generally associated with female or male species.

Gender includes the roles, behaviours, activities, and attributes that a given society at a given time considers appropriate for men and women. “Masculine” and “Feminine” are gender categories.

Gender norms refer to the accepted attributes and characteristics associated with each sex at a particular point in time for a specific society or community.

Gender roles refer to the different socially ascribed attitudes, behaviors, work or responsibilities assigned to men and women, boys and girls, and third gender or transgender persons.

Gender relations are social relations between women and men, including how power, access to and control over resources are distributed between the sexes.

Gender equality means that women and men have equal conditions, treatment, and opportunities for realizing their full potential, human rights and dignity, and for contributing to (and benefiting from), economic, social, cultural, and political development. Gender equity ensures this process. Unequal gender relations and power balances between men and women can result in gender inequality.

Gender identity refers to a person's psychological identification as man, woman, or

other which may or may not correspond to the person's physiology or designated sex at birth.

Gender diversity recognizes that peoples' preferences and self-expression can fall outside commonly understood gender norms.

Gender stereotypes are simplistic generalizations about the gender attributes, differences, and roles of women and men.

Gender-based violence

Gender-based violence is a phenomenon deeply rooted in gender inequality and continues to be one of the most notable human rights violations within all societies. Gender-based violence is violence directed against a person because of their sex. Both women and men experience gender-based violence but most victims are women and girls.

Gender-based violence and violence against women are terms that are often used interchangeably as it has been widely acknowledged that most gender-based violence is inflicted on women and girls by men.

The Istanbul Convention (Council of Europe, Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence), as the benchmark for international legislation on tackling gender-based violence, frames gender-based violence and violence against women as a gendered act which is ‘a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women’. Under the Istanbul Convention acts of gender-based violence are emphasised as resulting in ‘physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats

of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”

More information can be found here: <https://training.improdova.eu/international-frameworks/>.

What is the current situation in regarding gender-based violence in Europe?

- One in three women has experienced physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15.
- Violence against women threatens the security of half of the population in the EU, affecting over 250 million women and girls, having life-long implications for their physical and mental health.
- 96% of EU citizens consider that violence against women is unacceptable. 84% consider that it should be always punished by law.
- 50 women die every week from male domestic violence.
- More than one in two women (55%) have experienced sexual harassment and 20 % of women have experienced online harassment.
- 75 % of women in top management positions have experienced sexual harassment at work.
- One in four women experience physical and/or sexual violence during pregnancy.
- 60% of homeless women cite domestic violence as one of the causes of their homelessness.
- 28% of older women had experienced some kind of violence and abuse at home in the previous 12 months.
- Women with disabilities are 2 to 5 times more likely to be victims of violence than non-disabled women, including sexual and reproductive abuse, such as forced sterilisation.
- At least 500,000 women and girls live with the lifelong consequences of female genital mutilation (FGM).

- Certain group of women e.g. migrants face a greater risk of violence because of sexism as well as racism, xenophobia and other forms of discrimination. This can limit access to justice and support and protection services.
- Even if more women experience violence by men, one must not lose sight of the fact that 1 in 5 victims of domestic violence are male.

Sources

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<https://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/preventing-vaw-framework-policymakers/en/>