

Biases in the context of domestic violence and their consequences

*e.g., nationality, ethnic background, migration history, skin colour, cultural identity, language

Category	Biases	Possible consequences		
		Access	Interactions	Support
Ethnicity and racism*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stereotyping of certain ethnic groups as more prone to domestic violence • Focus on domestic violence incidents within certain ethnic communities (e.g., racial profiling of individuals from certain ethnic backgrounds as potential perpetrators) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of culturally appropriate support services for victims from specific ethnic communities • Asylum seekers: Limited access to services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victims feeling disregarded or not taken seriously • Biased behaviour in interactions, interventions, and investigations • Confrontation with stereotypes and prejudices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoidance of services due to fear of discrimination • Language barriers, for example, due to lack or inadequate use of professional interpreters • Lack of intercultural competence
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Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stereotyping of gender roles and expectations, which can perpetuate the belief that men are always the perpetrators and women are always the victims • Biased assumptions that men are physically stronger and therefore incapable of being victims of domestic violence • Gender bias in legal and judicial systems • Lack of recognition and understanding of violence against LGBTIQ+ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate resources and support services specifically tailored to the needs of male victims and LGBTIQ+ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victim-blaming and disbelief towards victims; particularly female victims • Minimisation or trivialisation of violence against male victims 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unequal protection, support, and access to justice for male and female victims • Biases based on sexual orientation and gender identity can further marginalise victims

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Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Underestimation or dismissal of the impact of domestic violence on disabled individuals, including the unique challenges they may face Assumptions that disabled individuals are incapable of being perpetrators of domestic violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of accessible support services and accommodations for disabled victims, such as lack of good accessibility for physically disabled, communication aids, or assistance animals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disbelief or invalidation of the experiences of disabled individuals who report domestic violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inadequate training for professionals and service providers on addressing the specific needs and experiences of disabled victims Limited recognition and understanding of the intersectionality between disability and other factors, such as race, gender, or sexual orientation, which can compound the biases and barriers faced by disabled victims
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Elderly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of recognition and understanding of violence against elderly (e.g., by family members, caregivers, or other professionals) Cultural beliefs or norms, internalisation of gender roles as well as generational differences can impact how domestic violence is perceived and addressed within older populations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Normalisation of the violence Not identifying themselves as victims Less likely to report domestic violence due to factors such as fear, dependency, or societal expectations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dismissal or trivialisation of domestic violence experienced by older individuals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services and resources are not tailored to the specific needs of older victims (e.g., mobility limitations, cognitive impairments, social isolation)
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Socioeconomic background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assuming that domestic violence primarily affects individuals from lower socioeconomic backgrounds and that victims from lower socioeconomic backgrounds are more likely to stay in abusive relationships Belief that lower-income individuals are more likely to be abusive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victims from lower socioeconomic backgrounds may face barriers in accessing legal aid, counselling, and shelters due to financial constraints 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victim-blaming or inadequate support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cases in higher-income households are overlooked, leaving victims without appropriate support Fewer available support services for victims with lower socioeconomic backgrounds
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Educational background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assumption that individuals with higher education are immune to domestic violence and that individuals with lower levels of education are more prone to being victims Belief that individuals with higher education are less likely to be abusive 	Access	Interactions	Support
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victims with lower levels of education may struggle to access information about available support services, legal options, or educational materials related to domestic violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victim-blaming or disbelief Experiences of highly educated victims are being downplayed or overlooked Abusive behaviours in more educated individuals are being overlooked 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fewer resources for victims, making it difficult for them to seek help or support