



THEME OF THE MONTH
JUNE 2021

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS



WHAT IS GENDER BASED VIOLENCE?

Gender-based violence affects girls and women, particularly through specific forms of violence such as child marriage, intimate partner violence, female genital mutilation, 'honour' killings or trafficking.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE CAN BE IN THE FORM OF:

- Child marriage
- Female genital mutilation
- Honour killings
- Intimate partner violence
- Trafficking for sex or slavery
- Physical punishment
- Sexual, emotional or psychological violence

WHERE DOES GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE HAPPEN?

Women and girls often experience violence at home. From physical punishment to emotional, psychological or sexual violence.

It can also occur at school and the journey to school where girls experience violence, from sexual harassment, bullying and intimidation. This can have a huge impact on girl's ability to complete their education especially when committed by those in position of care or authority.

Violence against women and girls in public spaces and on public transport is common. Fear and threats of violence and harassment limit girls' capacity to lead a free and full life.

Gender-based violence is also very popular online, with girls and young women reporting harassment and abuse.



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE FACTS

- Half of all sexual assaults are committed against girls younger than 16 years of age.
- There are an estimated 5,000 'honour' killings each year.
- Two women are killed by their partner every week in England and Wales. Of all female homicides, 40% are killed by gendered violence.
- The UK Police receive a call every minute about domestic abuse, 89% of which are about a woman being abused by a man.
- Only 24% cases of domestic violence are actually reported.

UK FACTS AND FIGURES

SEXUAL ASSAULT

- 85-90% of sexual assault victims are women.
- There are 1,070 rape convictions each year in England and Wales.
- 90% of rape victims know the perpetrator.
- Over 400,000 women are sexually assaulted in England and Wales every year.
- An estimated 85,000 women are raped in England and Wales every year.



DOMESTIC ABUSE

- In 2011/12, Police reported nearly 800,000 incidents of domestic violence.
- 31% of women have experienced one or more instances of domestic abuse since the age of 16.
- On average, 2 women are killed every week by a current or former partner.

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

- 23,000 girls under 15 are at risk of FGM every year in the UK.
- An estimated 66,000 women living in England and Wales have been subject to FGM.
- FGM was made illegal in 1985, but so far there have been no convictions.

FORCED MARRIAGE

- In 2012, 1,485 cases of forced marriage were dealt with by the Forced Marriage Unit.
- 82% involved female victims.
- The oldest victim was 71.
- The youngest victim was 2.

GLOBAL FIGURES

- Globally, an estimated 736 million women - almost one in three - have been subjected to intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, or both at least once in their life (30% of women aged 15 and older).
- Globally, 6% of women report they have been subjected to sexual violence from someone other than their husband or partner.
- Adult women account for nearly half (49%) of all human trafficking victims detected globally.



DOMESTIC ABUSE DURING COVID-19

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, data and reports have shown that all types of violence against women and girls, particularly domestic violence, have intensified.

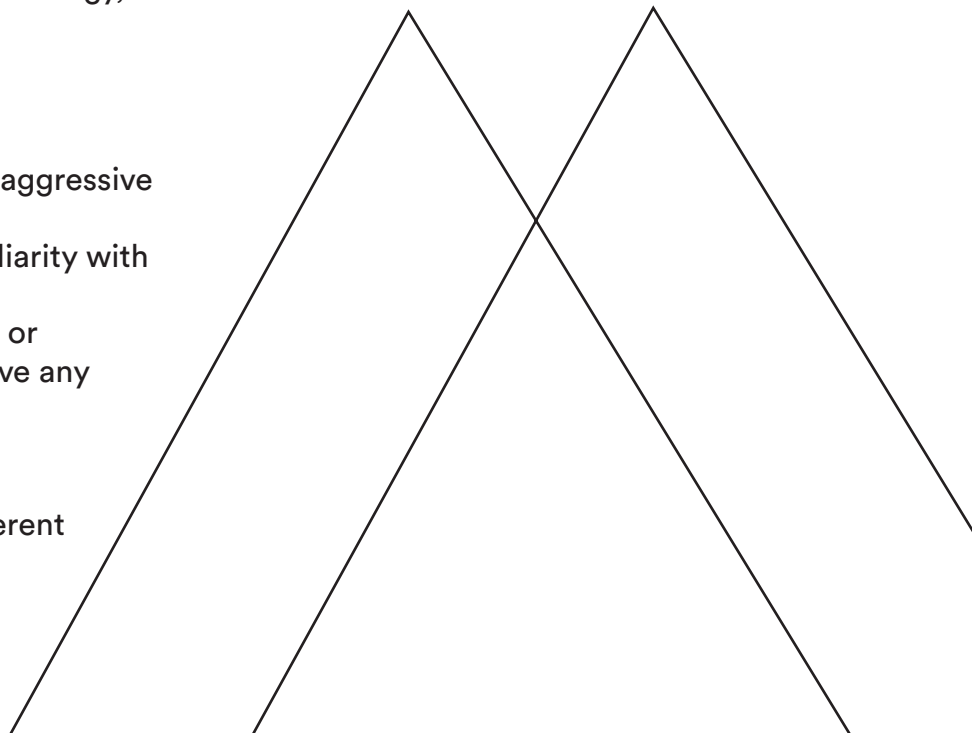
Emerging data shows an increase in calls to domestic violence helplines in many countries since the outbreak of COVID-19.

The police recorded 206,492 violence against the person offences flagged as domestic abuse-related between March and June 2020, a 9% increase compared with the same period in 2019. The number of offences flagged as domestic abuse-related in this period increased for all offence groups compared with the previous year, with the exception of sexual offences and other offences, which decreased by 3% and 6% respectively.

RECOGNISING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

It can be extremely hard for some women and girls to share that they have experienced some form of violence. Here are some symptoms to look out for to help identify someone who is being abused.

- Unexplained, vague or suspicious medical complaints
- Visible bruises, scratches or marks
- Inability to concentrate or focus on a specific task
- Depression, withdrawal or suicidal thoughts
- Self destructive behaviours such as cutting
- Sudden or extreme shifts of moods or emotions
- Fear of a particular caregiver or parent
- Fear of going home after school
- Pain or itching in the genital area
- Signs of pregnancy, nausea, lack of energy, increased appetite, protruding stomach
- Fearfulness
- Excessive crying
- Broken bones
- A sudden acting out of feelings or aggressive or rebellious behaviour
- Lack of trust in adults or over familiarity with adults, fear of a particular adult
- Social isolation – being withdrawn or introverted, does not appear to have any friends
- Running away from home
- Overly-sexualized behaviour
- Multiple bruises that are all in different stages of healing
- Fear of medical examinations



WAYS TO END VIOLENCE TOWARDS GIRLS

- Raise awareness of the dangers of harmful traditions
- Challenge and speak out about violence in the home
- Listen to girls' experiences of violence and their solutions
- Engage boys and young men to become agents of change
- Encourage girls to speak out



HOW GIRLS ARE TACKLING STREET HARASSMENT

Catcalling is not a compliment and girls shouldn't accept it as normal. Here are two examples of the many creative ways girls across the globe are finding to tackle street harassment.

CHALK BACKS

Chalk Back is a girl and youth-led movement that uses chalk art to publicly raise awareness of gender-based street harassment.

The movement started in New York City in March 2016, when university student Sophie Sandberg set up the instagram account @CatcallsofNYC to share her own, and other girls' experiences of street harassment. This has since inspired 150 young activists to start their own accounts.

Stories of harassment and their locations are gathered through direct messages on instagram, then chalked word-for-word with the hashtag #StopStreetHarassment - at the same location the abuse occurred.

DEAR CATCALLERS

Noa from the Netherlands decided to ask catcallers to take selfies with her.

"They're not at all suspicious because they find what they do completely normal," she says.

On the @DearCatcallers instagram she recorded a month's worth of catcalling experiences - 21 incidents in total - along with quotes of what the perpetrators said, or her feelings about what she heard.

Now, Noa hopes to take the message worldwide by encouraging others to join in.



USEFUL HELPLINES

It is vital that we all play a role in putting a stop to gender-based violence. As a training provider LSP have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people under the age of 18. You can download the 'Keeping children safe in education' document [here](#).

WHO TO CALL:

Rape Crisis Freephone Helpline

0808 802 9999
www.rapecrisis.org.uk

National Domestic Violence Freephone Helpline

0808 2000 247
www.refuge.org.uk / www.womensaid.org.uk

NSPCC FGM Helpline

0800 028 3550
www.nspcc.org.uk

Forced Marriage Helpline

0800 5999 247
www.karmanirvana.org.uk

LSP'S SAFEGUARDING AND PREVENT TEAM

If you have any concerns at all, please don't hesitate to contact a member of our Safeguarding and Prevent team or our Mental Health First Aider:



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MORE INFORMATION

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