VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

A HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION OF PANDEMIC PROPORTIONS

Whether at home, on the streets or during war, violence against women is a HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION that takes place in PUBLIC and PRIVATE spaces.

FORMS OF VIOLENCE

Physical   Psychological

Sexual

Psychological

Sexual

 physical or sexual violence — mostly by an intimate partner.

Two-thirds of all countries have outlawed domestic violence.

1 in 3 women worldwide have experienced physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, mostly by an intimate partner.

In 2012, 1 in 2 women killed worldwide were killed by their partners or family. Only 1 out of 20 of all men killed were killed in such circumstances.

Are there laws to protect women?

Two-thirds of all countries have outlawed domestic violence. 32 countries exempt rape perpetrators from prosecution when they are married to or subsequently marry the victim.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Sexually violent acts can take place in different circumstances and settings. These include, for example:

- Rape (within marriage and relationships, by strangers, and during armed conflict)
- Unwanted sexual advances or sexual harassment, including demanding sex in return for favours
- Sexual abuse of children
- Forced marriage or cohabitation, including child marriage

In some countries, up to one-third of adolescent girls report their first sexual experience as being forced.

In Maputo city, approximately 7 out of 10 girls experienced a form of violence in the public space.

WHAT IS FGM/C?

FGM/C includes procedures that intentionally alter or cause injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. Beyond extreme physical and psychological pain, the practice carries many health risks, including death.

At least 200 million women and girls alive today have undergone FGM/C in 30 countries where representative data is available.

Age 5

In most of these countries, the majority of girls were cut before age 5.

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF CHILD MARRIAGE?

Child marriage usually means an end to girl’s education, occupation and her right to make life choices. Research indicates that girls who marry in childhood are at greater risk for intimate partner violence than girls of the same age who marry later.

CHILD MARRIAGE

700 million women alive today were married before 18 — more than one-third were married before 15.

Children’s bodies remain immature before the age of 18 and 14 before the age of 15.

4.5 million of the estimated 21 million people in forced labour are victims of sexual exploitation.

98% of them are women and girls.

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human trafficking is the acquisition and exploitation of people, through means, such as force, fraud or deception. The practice ensures millions of women and girls into modern-day slavery, many of whom are sexually exploited.

WHAT IS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION

OF PANDEMIC PROPORTIONS

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HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

“I wasn’t even allowed to cry. If even one tear fell they beat me. I used to think it was better to die than to live like this.”

— Meena Harris, a survivor of sex slavery, India

Note: UN Women in Mozambique also recognizes other forms of violence such as economic and patrimonial violence.

unwomen.org