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Gender Affairs

*Reducing gender based violence and
enhancing the impact of public
shelters*

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Forum: Gender Affairs

Issue: Reducing gender based violence and enhancing the impact of public shelters

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Introduction

Physical, psychological, or sexual violence perpetrated against an individual or group on the basis of gender or gender norms is known as gender-based violence. Gender-based violence is a phenomena that stems from gender inequality and remains one of the most serious human rights violations in all nations. Gender-based violence is when someone is victimized because of their gender. Gender-based violence affects both men and women, but women and girls represent the majority of victims. It is protected by international human rights legislation under the right to adequate housing, which includes adequate space and protection, as well as proper settlement location and service availability. People regard shelter to be their most valuable asset or their highest living cost in the majority of cases, implying that shelter is also critical in promoting economic well-being and ensuring livelihoods. It's also worth noting that in many cases, the bulk of shelter solutions are provided by the afflicted families themselves.

Definition of Key Terms

Rehabilitation: To help someone live a ordinary life again after they have had a serious illness or been in prison

Humanitarian: Connected with improving people's lives and reducing suffering.

Fundamental: Relating to the most important or main part of something.

Urbanization: The process by which more and more people leave the countryside to live in cities.

Mobility: The ability to move freely or be easily moved

Gender bias: Unfair difference in the way women and men are treated.

Domestic violence: The situation in which someone you live with attacks you and tries to hurt you.

Non-partner violence: a person has been forced to have sex or to perform a sexual act when she did not want to, by anyone other than an intimate partner including acquaintances, colleagues, family members, and military personnel and police

General Overview

Gender and violence have a difficult relationship. Verbal violence, psychological violence, sexual violence, socio-economic violence are the four types of gender violence. Gender inequalities appear to raise the probability of violence by men against women and limit the ability of those affected to seek help. Lower rates of education and employment, lower compensation for identical job, higher stress levels, and higher rates of unpaid work, such as caring for sick relatives, sexual assault, intimate partner abuse, gender-based violence, and a lack of representation in government are all factors that effect gender equality. There are various sorts of violence against women; this briefing focuses on the most common, intimate relationship violence. Though more study is needed, evidence suggests that by addressing beliefs that give men authority over women, school, community, and media initiatives can promote gender equality and decrease violence against women. The effectiveness of these interventions appears to be boosted by well-trained facilitators and community ownership. Sheltering catastrophe victims and providing immediate rehabilitation is frequently a primary humanitarian action aimed at reducing mortality. Shelter is required for more than just survival; it must also give security, assure personal safety and protection, and enhance resistance to illness and disease. It is also necessary for human dignity, the continuation of family and community life, and the recovery of disaster-affected populations. Because of their economic, social, and cultural value, shelter and related support services are important elements of settlements, and they often take up the majority of the area in larger urban settlements. Since the central importance of housing and settlements in terms of protection, health, and livelihoods, as well as the rising and complicated demands, humanitarian efforts are frequently inadequate. The main goal of DG ECHO-funded humanitarian S&S assistance is to save lives and relieve suffering for disaster-affected people in need of basic shelter in safe and appropriate settlements, where conditions have significantly deteriorated and fallen below internationally accepted minimum humanitarian standards, or are expected to do so soon. This is taken into consideration bearing in mind that women and men of all ages affected by humanitarian disasters should have access to a safe, secure, and dignified environment with suitable living spaces, as well as essential services and socioeconomic opportunities. One other objective that is to be achieved is to encourage those impacted by humanitarian crises to have access to adequate, safe, and dignified shelter, with integrated protection from the weather and the environment, while taking into account the particular vulnerabilities and needs of women, girls, boys, and men.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

UNHCR- Gender-based violence prevention and response programming, as well as risk mitigation across all sectors, are life-saving and institutional priorities for us. We collaborate with partners, governments, and communities to address GBV and deliver high-quality prevention, mitigation, and response activities.

Switzerland- Switzerland rose eight places to tenth place in the newest edition of the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap study, which compares the possibilities available to men and women in society. The increase in the number of women elected to Switzerland's parliament in 2019 was a major factor in the improvement.

Norway- Norway is placed second in the gender parity table, according to the 2020 Global Gender Gap Index Rating Report. This is the 14th year of the index. Economic engagement and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment are all assessed.

Switzerland- In 2020, Switzerland was the world's most gender-equal country. The Gender Inequality Index tracks accomplishment disparities between men and women across three dimensions: reproductive health, empowerment, and the job market.

Timeline of Events

<p>4 March 1994</p>	<p>UN Human Rights Council: Special Rapporteur on violence against women</p>
<p>7 April 2011</p>	<p>Istanbul Convention - A European landmark treaty to end violence against women</p>
<p>(November 25, December 10)</p>	<p><i>16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence</i></p>

Treaties and Events

UN Human Rights Council: Special Rapporteur on violence against women: As violence against women continues to have an impact on the lives of women and girls around the world, the mandate of the Special

Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes, and consequences, as the first independent human rights mechanism dedicated to ending violence against women, was a significant milestone in the global women's rights movement. It not only recognized violence against women as a human rights violation, but it also charged the Special Rapporteur with ensuring that violence against women was included in the UN human rights framework and mechanisms.

Istanbul Convention-A European landmark treaty to end violence against women:

The Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence towards Women and Domestic Violence is a key human rights convention that establishes broad legal requirements to protect women's right to be free of violence. This European legal instrument was negotiated by the Council of Europe's 47 member states and accepted by its Committee of Ministers on 7 April 2011. It is the result of the Council of Europe's continuing efforts during the 1990s to combat violence against women and domestic abuse. The Istanbul Convention is named after the city in which it was signed on May 11, 2011. It came into force three years later, on August 1, 2014, after the tenth ratification. All governments that have ratified the pact have been bound by its obligations since then.

Haiti was devastated by a 7.0 magnitude earthquake on January 12, 2010, which rocked the country's capital, Port-au-Prince. Around 220,000 people were killed, according to reports, including 102 United Nations personnel who died when the building holding the mission, known as MINUSTAH, collapsed.

Nepal earthquake, the earthquake and its aftershocks wreaked havoc over Nepal's central and eastern regions. According to official records (NDRRIP, 2015), there were 8856 people killed, 22,309 people injured, 2673 fully damaged government buildings, 3757 partially damaged government buildings, 602,257 fully damaged private houses, 285,099 partially damaged private houses, 8038 schools affected, 19,708 fully damaged classrooms, and 11,046 partially damaged classrooms. The number of deaths and injuries was far lower than one might expect for an event of this magnitude.

The 16 Days Against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international campaign that starts out with November 25th, International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and runs through December 10th, Human Rights Day. The World Council of Churches is raising awareness about the awful reality of Missing and Murdered Women this year, as well as boosting voices of faith and justice and fostering Biblical study on the core causes of sexual and gender-based violence.

Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

Gender norms and attitudes can be addressed in communities through a combination of microfinance schemes for women and approaches that empower males as participants in the fight against gender-based violence, for example. The world has seen inconsistent progress since the signing of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995 - the most detailed policy agenda for gender equality.

Girls are attending and completing school in greater numbers, and fewer are marrying or becoming moms while still children. Discrimination and stereotypes persist, however. Girls face new problems as a result

of technological advancements and humanitarian crises, while old ones — violence, entrenched biases, and limited learning and life chances – endure.

The IMAGE finance and gender equity effort in South Africa, as well as the Stepping Stones program in Africa and Asia, provide the most compelling evidence. Male peer groups in community programs show potential in shifting attitudes toward traditional gender norms and violent behavior, but more comprehensive evaluations are needed. There is some evidence that microfinance schemes that empower women (without involving males) might produce friction and conflict between partners, particularly in communities where gender norms are inflexible. More research is needed to see how such potential harmful consequences might be mitigated.

Possible Solutions

Public awareness campaigns and other interventions given through television, radio, newspapers, and other forms of mass media have the potential to change people's minds on gender standards. Those who endeavor to understand their target audience and engage with its members to produce content are the most successful. However, we do not yet know if they actually reduce violence. Providing easy-to-understand information about gender-based violence, its various forms, potential treatments, and available assistance options. Producing booklets or websites, working on social media campaigns, generating TV commercials, or making information available in youth centers and schools are all examples of this. Professionals are being trained to recognize, address, and respond to gender-based violence. This could involve training for teachers, youth workers, social workers, trainers, the police, the court system, and health care providers, among others; Gender-based violence is rarely mentioned, and data at the local or regional level is sometimes unavailable or inadequate. Many victims opt not to report occurrences, and some forms of violence (such as sexist hate speech) may be legal. Some possible ways to decrease this gender based violence and inequality are as listed ; Reduce the conditioning of girls and boys into traditional gender roles by parents and other adults, confront the popular and news media's gender stereotypes, raising public awareness about the causes, scope, and repercussions of rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment increase the enforcement of existing rules prohibiting gender-based discrimination in the workplace and sexual harassment, increase financing for rape crisis centers and other services for raped and/or sexually attacked women, increase government support for high-quality day-care choices so that parents, particularly moms, can work outside the house if they want to, without worry of jeopardizing their income or their children's well-being, providing mentorship and other measures to increase the number of women should be increased.

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