GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN CONTEXT
Introduction

What is SGBV?

Legal frameworks

Multi-sector approaches

Prevention

Responses

Resources
Purpose of this presentation

- Revisit key notions related to GBV
- Highlight international, regional and national frameworks relevant to GBV
- Examine key approaches / principles for addressing GBV
- Identify advocacy opportunities with specific emphasis on churches / faith communities and religious leaders
What is SGBV?
(Sexual &) Gender-based Violence

(Sexual and) Gender-based Violence SGBV is an overall term for “harmful acts directed at an individual based on their gender. It is rooted in gender inequality, the abuse of power and harmful norms”. (UNHCR)

A serious, life-threatening, global problem affecting women, girls, boys and men. It can include sexual, physical, mental and economic harm inflicted in public or in private. It also includes threats of violence, coercion and manipulation.

This can take many forms such as intimate partner violence, sexual violence, child marriage, female genital mutilation and so-called ‘honour crimes’. One in three women experience GBV during her lifetime -> Silent or Shadow Global pandemic
Factors increasing the risk of GBV

- Conflict/war
- Poverty
- Cultural/religious beliefs and practices
- Displacement & Disasters
- Uncertainty
Power and Control Wheel

- Intimidation
- Emotional abuse
- Isolation
- Minimizing, denying, blaming
- Ab/Using children
- Male privilege
- Economic abuse
- Coercion and threats

"Churches Say No to Violence Against Women", published in 2002
International law, instruments, agreements

(see presentation D)

• CEDAW (1979)
• Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993)
• The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)
• The UN Commission on the Status of Women (One of several priorities for 2021: Elimination of Violence)
Key Approaches for Addressing GBV

- Rights-based
- Survivor-centred
- Community-based
- Age, gender and diversity: intersectionality important!
- Multi-sectoral model

- Help put individuals and communities at the centre
- Ensures that all persons of concern are able to fulfil their rights on an equal basis.
**Laws & policies**
Sanctions – against accomplices and/or perpetrators  
Strengthen rights re marriage, divorce, remarriage, widowhood, property and child custody/rights  
Improve Institutional Response by working with police, judiciary, forensic medical system (training, technology support, address corruption);  
Regularize Judicial Reform and Legal Aid

**Community mobilization**
Raise Awareness – Knowledge, Attitudes & Practices of KEY community stakeholders: CHANGE a Culture (e.g. Kenya laws changed after # of children impregnated skyrocketed  
Community policing – increase involvement of community to be open to report changes/suspicions  
Support (usually survivor-based) – Trauma transformation; Advocacy training; Safe houses; economic support; recovery programmes/rehab etc  
Survivor support – in addition to the abovementioned, witness support, self defence (for prevention); Legal Aid etc.

**Key Learning**: multi-sector approaches are intersectional, affecting different stakeholders responses in different ways. Faith based organizations can respond in all of the above at the national regional and international levels also.
Multi-sectoral framework

- Regional – e.g. Maputo Protocol; Istanbul Convention; Belem do Pará;

- National Laws – consider national Laws & policies

Sanctions

- Strengthening of women’s/children’s rights

- Upgrade institutional response (judiciary, police, forensic-medical system) to address and give redress

- Knowledge, attitudes, practices of key groups

N.b. - NOT All countries have ratified the international or regional protocols – in March 2021, Turkey pulled out of the Istanbul Convention
GBV & PSEA Prevention

Key principle:
GBV prevention must target and engage everyone in the community, including participation at various levels of the society.

Engaging Men and boys in GBV prevention work is key - “men can be allies”

Key prevention areas

- Influence gender norms and power relationships
- Help secure safe access to basic needs
- Raise awareness of the problem, and offers ways to address same
- Ensure physical safety, especially for vulnerable groups
- Reinforce legal framework and access to justice
- Create economic, educational and social opportunities
SGBV Response

✔ Supportive community environment
✔ Socio-economic empowerment
✔ Psychosocial support / trauma counselling
✔ Health care
✔ Legal aid
✔ Awareness and Advocacy

Key Principle
Stigma and fear of rejection major cause for not reporting GBV + obstacles to trauma healing and re-integration of survivors

How do you respond in your context?
Churches and faith communities engaging

- Thursdays in Black Campaign
  https://youtu.be/KJ5wK_TYIcs
- I Walk With … campaign
- “Tamar Campaign”, Contextual Bible Study Manual on Gender-Based Violence
- 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence
How Religious Leaders and Communities Can Help

- **Prepare to Be a Resource**
- **Educate Community** Members on GBV.
- **Speak Out**: Speak out about domestic violence and sexual assault.
- **Offer Space**: Offer meeting space for educational seminars or weekly support groups, or serve as a supervised visitation site when parents need to safely visit their children.
How Religious Leaders and Communities Can Help

• **Become a Safe Place**: Make your place of worship a safe place where victims of domestic violence can come for help.

• **Lead by Example**: Volunteer to serve on the board of directors at the local domestic violence/sexual assault program

**Partner with Existing Resources**

• **Use Offerings to Help**: Earmark a percentage of offerings or church funds to specifically help victims of domestic violence.

• **Support Professional Training** to increase awareness about sexual and domestic violence among clergy / imams etc.

• **Address Internal Issues**: Encourage continued efforts to address allegations of abuse by leaders

• **Intervene**: If you suspect violence is occurring in a family, help the victim plan for safety and encourage accountability of the abuser. Let each know of the community resources available.

*Do not attempt couples counselling unless you have been trained in domestic violence counselling, and only after the safety of the victim has been ensured.*
Resources: Books and Manuals

- Created in God's Image: From Patriarchy to Partnership
- Churches Say “NO to Violence Against Women”
- A Guide to Gender Mainstreaming in Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation: A Faith Perspective
- Tamar Campaign: Contextual bible Study Manual & Sermon Outlines on Gender based Violence and Peace
- Healing Together
- Addressing Gender-based Violence in the Latin American and Caribbean Region ...
Resources: Websites

- https://www.unhcr.org/575a83dd5.pdf
- http://sidebysidegender.org/tools-resources/
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