

Disability-Inclusive Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response



Leaving No One Behind

Info sheet

Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

What does GBV mean?

Gender-based violence is a big term that covers any **harmful action** done against someone without their consent.

It is based on the differences people assign to men and women in society.

These actions can **hurt a person** physically, sexually, or mentally, or make them feel threatened or controlled.

It is a **major violation of a person's basic rights** and stops them from taking part in society, like socially and economically.

These actions can happen in public or in private.



GBV goes against many human rights that are protected internationally.

However, in some countries, some GBV acts are not considered crimes.

Different countries have different laws and ways of enforcing them.



What are the different kinds of GBV?

Sexual Violence



This is when someone forces another person to do sexual things they do not want to do (rape, sexual abuse).

Physical Violence



It means physically hurting someone, like hitting or beating them.

Emotional/Psychological Violence



This is hurting someone emotionally or mentally, like making them feel bad, stalking them, or threatening them.

Harmful Traditional Practices



These are customs that hurt people. They harm everybody but are often particularly unfair to women. Getting married too young is bad for girls and boys, but happens mostly to girls. Another example is female genital mutilation.

Economic Abuse and Violence



This is when someone takes away money or resources that another person needs, like not letting them have food, medical care, or education.

Violence against Women in Politics



Women in politics often face violence or intimidation, including unfair stereotypes, pressure to quit, threats and harassment.

—> **All of these forms of gender-based violence are wrong and go against the idea of treating everyone equally and with respect.**

What are the key principles for GBV Programmes?

Principle 1: The Right to Be Safe



This means that everyone deserves to be physically and emotionally safe. It is crucial to think about the safety of survivors and of the people helping them. Sometimes, in situations involving violence, the risks can be even higher for those who report it.

Principle 2: The Right to Privacy



This means respecting a person's right to keep their information private. It helps build trust and makes people feel more in control. We should never share someone's information without their permission because it can put them in danger and discourage others from seeking help.

Principle 3: The Right to Dignity and Choice



GBV is a terrible thing that can harm a person's dignity and rights. Everyone involved in helping survivors should respect their dignity and allow them to make their own decisions. Survivors can choose to accept or decline services and decide whether to access legal and support services without justifying themselves.

Principle 4: The Right to Fair Treatment



Everyone has the right to receive support without being treated unfairly because of gender, age, disability, ethnicity, language, religion, beliefs, social class, level of income or any aspect of who they are.

→ Remember, these principles go hand in hand. For example, keeping information private is important for safety, dignity and choice.

What are the key considerations for supporting people with disabilities in GBV cases?

GBV Response



When dealing with gender-based violence, it is essential to follow key principles like informed consent, keeping information private, treating everyone fairly, and showing respect. Consider involving all the necessary service providers.

GBV-Response Approaches



There are different approaches to GBV response, including community-based, rights-based, best-interest-of-the-child, and survivor-centered. However, it is best to use a survivor-centered approach because it aligns with the key principles and focuses on the survivor's best interests.

Barriers for People with Disabilities



Persons with disabilities often face barriers when accessing GBV services, like communication problems, stigma and discrimination, difficulties with caregivers, fear of not being believed, physical barriers, issues with keeping information private, and lack of awareness. Individual duty bearers and institutions can contribute to smoothing the way to their services.

Every step counts!

Abuse Dynamics for Persons with Disabilities



Abuse against persons with disabilities can involve negative beliefs about their abilities, social isolation, losing support from family and the community, and issues of power and control. Abuse and violence against persons with disabilities may go unchallenged for a long time. This is unfair and requires your particular attention and support.



What are the key considerations for supporting people with disabilities in GBV cases?

Support Considerations



When supporting persons with disabilities, especially in communication, it is important to avoid pressuring them, take your time, pay attention to their preferred way to communicate, and always address them directly, even when caregivers are present.

Working with Caregivers/Family



When working with the caregivers or family members of a survivor with disabilities, focus on the survivor's requirements, assess their safety, keep information confidential, and provide support to the caregiver or family member.

Safety Plans



Safety plans for survivors with disabilities should be personalised to their specific disability and living situation. Consider how an abuser might exploit the disability, and how the disability might affect the safety plan's execution. Include disability-specific items like medication, assistive devices, or legal documents.

—> **These points stress the importance of respecting the rights and needs of survivors with disabilities and tailoring support to their individual circumstances.**

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