



FORUM: Commission on the Status of Women

QUESTION OF: Discussing measurements to support women affected by domestic violence and sexual assault

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INTRODUCTION:

Domestic violence and sexual assault are deeply concerning issues that affect countless women globally, often leaving long-lasting physical, emotional, and psychological damage. As a society, it is crucial that we stand together to support and empower women of these traumatic experiences. One aspect that plays an important role in this support is measuring the frequency and impact of domestic violence and sexual assault decently. These measurements help us understand the magnitude of the problem, design effective interventions, and inform policy decisions to create safer environments for all women. Therefore, it is vital to debate about the importance of discussing measurements in addressing domestic violence and sexual assault, highlighting the potential ways in which data and statistics can shape the efforts to support and protect women affected by these devastating crimes.

BACKGROUND:

Domestic violence and sexual assault are prevalent issues that goes beyond geographical, cultural, and socio-economic boundaries. According to an analysis, conducted by the World Health Organization (WHO),

from 2000-2018 across 161 countries and areas, it has been found that worldwide, nearly 1 in 3 women have been subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner or non-partner in their lifetime.

Furthermore, various organizations and research studies provide data that reveals the magnitude of domestic violence and sexual assault. For instance, the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the United States estimates that one in four women have experienced severe physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime.

Additionally, statistics reveal different impacts based on various social factors. For instance, women of lower socio-economic status or belonging to marginalized communities may face heightened risks of domestic violence and sexual assault. Ethnicity, race, age, and disability can also influence the prevalence and frequency of these crimes.

These staggering statistics shed light on the urgent need to address and combat these forms of violence. Discussing measurements is crucial in understanding the scope of domestic violence and sexual assault. Accurate data allows us to identify patterns and risk factors associated with these acts of violence. It helps us recognize the affected populations, including oppressed and vulnerable individuals, and enables us to develop targeted interventions and support services for these specific groups.

Furthermore, measurements provide a means of raising awareness, breaking societal taboos, and challenging the narratives surrounding domestic violence and sexual assault. By presenting reliable statistics, we can reach greater understanding, empathy, and action, encouraging communities to take a stand against these brutalities.

In conclusion, discussing measurements is crucial in addressing the pressing issue of domestic violence and sexual assault. By examining statistics and gathering data, we can strengthen our efforts to support, protect, and empower women affected by these dreadful crimes. It is through understanding the magnitude of the problem that we can encourage real change, advocate for policy reforms, and work towards building a society free from violence and fear for all women around the world.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS:

abuse: the improper or excessive use of something or someone, ranging from disrespect to causing someone physical or mental pain

(physical) violence: an act of physical force or power that causes or is intended to cause harm, often resulting in physical and/or psychological damage, death, injury, maldevelopment or deprivation

domestic violence = also known as “domestic abuse” is violence or abuse that usually occurs in a domestic setting, such as marriage or between intimate relationships, also used as synonym for “intimate partner violence”

sexual assault = intentionally sexually touching a person without their consent, physically forcing a person to engage in a sexual act against their will, forced sexual penetration or torture of the person in a sexual manner

perpetrator: used as synonym for “offender”, a person who carries out a harmful, illegal, or immoral act

victim: a person harmed, injured, or killed as a result of a crime, accident, other event or action

intervention: the action of intentionally interfere in a difficult situation, in order to improve it or prevent it from getting worse

empowerment: self determination in people and in their community, acting in their own authority and having control as well as power in their own lives

victim support : the act of providing emotional and practical help for people who suffer because of a crime

POTENTIAL ISSUES:

- Adequacy of current support systems
- Funding and resource allocation
- Awareness and Education
- Legal frameworks and justice
- Intersectionality and marginalized groups
- Prevention vs. Response
- Collaboration among stakeholders
- Long-term support and rehabilitation
- Data collection and research
- Societal attitudes and cultural change

MAIN COUNTRIES INVOLVED:

Several countries are actively involved in the debate and implementation of measurements to support women affected by domestic violence and sexual assault.

Some of the main countries include:

1. United States of America
2. United Kingdom
3. Canada
4. Australia
5. Sweden
6. India
7. South Africa
8. France
9. New Zealand
10. Brazil

QUESTIONS FOR DELEGATES:

1. How sufficient are existing support systems in your country? Do they need an improvement?

What's the accessibility for victims? And what's the availability of resources such as shelters, counseling services, and legal support?

2. Is your country an advocate for increased funding (for example for prevention programs or victim support system) or a skeptic, questioning the prioritization of resources?

In both cases, how would your country substantiate its position?

3. How important is it for your country to raise awareness and provide education about domestic violence and sexual assault in e.g. schools, communities, and workplaces?

4. What's the view of your country to legal frameworks and their effectiveness in addressing domestic violence and sexual assault?

5. The debate may touch upon the intersectionality of domestic violence and sexual assault, considering how race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, age, disability, and other factors impact both the likelihood of experiencing violence and accessing appropriate support services.

Does your country take interest in the need for inclusive interventions?

6. According to your position, would your country rather lay greater focus on preventative measures (such as education or awareness campaigns), prioritize immediate support and services for survivors or take a different approach?

7. Would your country be up for collaboration and effective coordination among stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, healthcare providers, law enforcement and community organizations?

8. What's the importance of the need for long-term support and rehabilitation services for survivors, including mental health support, economic empowerment programs, and strategies to help survivors rebuild their lives, in the eyes of your country?

9. Does your country conduct researches and/or collect accurate data in the field of domestic violence and sexual assault?

10. What are the societal attitudes, cultural norms, and how necessary is a fundamental shift in perspectives regarding violence against women to challenge harmful stereotypes and promote a culture of gender equality and respect?

USEFUL SOURCES:

World Health Organization (WHO) - Violence against women:

https://www.who.int/health-topics/violence-against-women#tab=tab_1

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) - Ending Violence against Women:

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women>

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV):

<https://ncadv.org>

Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN):

<https://www.rainn.org>

European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) - Violence against Women:

https://eige.europa.eu/gender-based-violence?language_content_entity=en

National Domestic Violence Hotline (U.S.):

<https://www.thehotline.org>

Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS):

<https://bjs.ojp.gov>

The Guardian's Global Development section:

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development>

National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV):

<https://nnedv.org>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - Preventing Intimate Partner Violence:

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/index.html>

Remember to critically evaluate the sources and verify the credibility and relevance of the information for your position.