

THE STOCKHOLM FORUM ON GENDER EQUALITY

# GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND HOW WE COUNTER IT

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## OVERVIEW

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a global pandemic and one of the ultimate expressions of inequality between women and men. This violence must stop, and all nations need to work to tackle all its root causes, symptoms and forms.

Putting an end to GBV has over time been recognised as a priority on national and international agendas. Today more countries than ever have legislation and policies in place. Still, huge challenges remain.

The round table focused on three main areas where more work needs to be done – legal protection and support services for women and children; violence-prevention measures including work on changing gender stereotypes; and men's role in the work to end GBV.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

### Where are we?

The #Metoo movement showed that GBV is present in every country including Sweden. The movement has shaken societies and gained huge support from individuals, civil society, institutions and governments alike. #Metoo has made men reflect upon men's behaviours, actions and GBV – both on an individual and a structural level.

Even in contexts where it's possible for women (and men) to report on GBV, many still hesitate due to stigma, stereotyping, cultural codes and fear. The rate of unreported cases is high worldwide.

In many countries, despite positive results in legislation, there are still big challenges regarding implementation of laws related to GBV.

Due to armed conflicts or displacement, sexual violence increases as does insecurity and social inequality between women and men in these contexts.

**What are we doing?**

Working in different fields, levels and dimensions in parallel and connecting them to each other: such as legislation, the implementation of laws, collaborations between actors, data collection and support systems.

Including men through workshops and discussions, and engage boys through education.

Implementing special policies regarding GBV in post-conflict zones and refugee camps: for example, solutions with access to justice for refugees through mobile courts and using community-based approach for refugee camps.

Improving help systems (response mechanisms) for victims on GBV – including women belonging to marginalised groups. Increasing the number of shelters, setting up national helplines for victims of violence, offering support in different languages, establishing help lines providing information to survivors about local services, offering rehabilitation centres.

Improving data collection and creating data bases and on-line data.

Raising awareness among the general public about GBV: spreading information that GBV isn't a private issue: awareness-raising campaigns, hashtags, etc.

Adopting new legislation and amendments of current laws in order to support more successful ratification. In Albania, amendments to certain legislation was made with a clearer definition of violence, inclusion of emotional violence, facilitation of the way police works on cases of GBV.

Encourage the ratification of international conventions.

Furthering efforts on advocacy and accountability.

**RECOMMENDATIONS****Where do we go from here?**

We need efforts to improve data collection.

It's important to create methods focusing on behavioural changes. Motivate women to speak up – changing of attitudes and challenging stereotypes.

Cooperation is needed between different stakeholders: government, civil society, international organisations and other countries.

Importance of strong legal protection, consent-based regulations.

Importance of implementation of the laws.

It's vital to conduct training of people working with GBV – also focusing on preventative measures.

Need to have multi-sectoral approaches.

Need to include men and boys in discussion.

There needs to be access to justice for everyone, including marginalised groups.

We need to put GBV as a priority for governments and the agenda.

Women and men need to raise their voices together against GBV for a transformative change. ■

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