Violence against Girls in Home Settings in Asia-Pacific

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Deputy Regional Director
UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia
• Handbooks for Parliamentarians
• Regional Parliamentary Workshops
• Child-focused activities during bi-annual IPU assemblies
Defining Violence

• Physical Violence
• Sexual Violence
• Mental Violence
• Neglect or Negligent Treatment
Fact no. 1

The most common forms of violence against girls and boys occur at home.
> 70% of girls and boys age 2-14 regularly receive some form of violent discipline in Asia-Pacific

(7 out of 8 countries with data)

Afghanistan  Kiribati
Lao PDR       Solomon Islands
Vanuatu       Viet Nam
Fiji
Fact no. 2

Perpetrators are known and near
Perpetrators of forced sexual intercourse or other sexual acts against girls 15-19 years old

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Current husband/partner</th>
<th>Current/former boyfriend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phillipines</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fact no. 3

Most victims never disclose their experiences
% of girls aged 15-19 who experienced physical and/or sexual violence and never told anyone.

% who never sought help

- Nepal: 69%
- Pakistan: 68%
- 18 Countries: 68%
Fact no. 4

Social norms and attitudes that condone violence place girls at risk
In many countries in Asia-Pacific girls today often think wife beating is justifiable

50% +
Bhutan
India
Kiribati
Marshall Islands
Tuvalu
Solomon Islands
Vanuatu

80% +
Afghanistan
Timor-Leste
Violence against girls

short-term and long-term consequences
Child Developmental Cost
Intergenerational consequences
Economic Cost

$150 billion/year, or about 2% of GDP, in East Asia and the Pacific
Six Strategies for those with the power to act

**Six strategies to prevent and respond to violence against children**

1. **Supporting parents, caregivers and families**
   Educating families, caregivers and parents on their child’s early development increases the likelihood that they will use positive disciplining methods. This reduces the risk of violence within the home.

2. **Helping children and adolescents manage risks and challenges**
   Giving children and adolescents the skills to cope and manage risks and challenges without the use of violence and to seek appropriate support when violence does occur is crucial for reducing violence in schools and communities.

3. **Changing attitudes and social norms that encourage violence and discrimination**
   Changing the attitudes and social norms that hide violence in plain sight is the surest way to prevent violence from occurring in the first place.

4. **Promoting and providing support services for children**
   Encouraging children to seek quality professional support and report incidents of violence helps them to better cope with and resolve experiences of violence.

5. **Implementing laws and policies that protect children**
   Implementing and enforcing laws and policies that protect children sends a strong message to society that violence is unacceptable and will be punished.

6. **Carrying out data collection and research**
   Knowing about violence – where it occurs, in what forms, and which age groups and communities of children are most affected – is essential to planning and designing intervention strategies, and setting numerical and time-bound targets to monitor progress and end violence.
What can parliamentarians do?
1. Develop and promote a national strategy to address violence against children within a set, achievable timeframe.
2. Enact explicit legal bans on violence against children
3. Accompany policy initiatives and legal measures with greater efforts to discourage the social acceptance of child violence.
Some Resources to Help Take Action

Hidden in Plain Sight – A statistical analysis of violence against children, UNICEF, 2014
Violence against Children in East Asia and the Pacific

Regional Review and Synthesis of Findings
Ending violence against girls is in our hands