Violence against Women and Girls in Asia and the Pacific: A Regional Overview

Anna-Karin Jatfors, Regional Programme Manager, Ending Violence against Women, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
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1 in 3 women and girls will suffer violence in their lifetime
“Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”

1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women
Gender discrimination
Unequal power between women and men
Low value of women and girls
Intersects with other forms of discrimination
“Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”

1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women
• States have an obligation by international law to exercise due diligence to prevent, protect and punish VAW/G

(CEDAW General Recommendation No 19, 1992)

• States to ‘refrain from invoking any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations’

(Beijing Platform for Action 1995)
More than half of victims of sexual assault are girls under the age of 16
In Asia, nearly 4 in 10 women aged 20-24 were married before the age of 18
Violence against the girl child

- Sexual exploitation
- Sexual harassment
- Trafficking
- Harmful practices
  - Early marriage
  - Son preference
  - FGM/C

Sexual abuse
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Violence against women and girls in Asia-Pacific
Areas of achievement

Data & evidence

Legal & policy reform

Campaigns & awareness-raising
Violence against Women Laws & Policies

- VAW/DV laws: 23
- Marital rape criminalized: 10
- Active National Action Plan: 6
Prevalence high but varies across sites

Prevalence of IPV perpetration ranges from 26-80%

- Physical only
- Both Physical & Sexual
- Sexual only

% of men reporting
Campaigns & awareness-raising
“I wear orange because I want to teach young boys & men to respect and protect women & girls in their school, college and community.”
Sangeet Gopal Kayastha, Member of the UNITE Global Youth Network, Nepal
#orangeurworld

“I wear orange because I refuse to keep silent in a patriarchal culture that condones and normalizes violence.”
Dhruv Arora, Member of the UNITE Global Youth Network, India
#orangeurworld
Remaining gaps

Service provision

Budgets

Justice
Priorities for Action

1. Prevent violence against men and girls before it occurs
   - Address root causes and promote gender equitable norms
   - Prevent child abuse and promote violence-free homes and schools
   - Teach non-violent and healthy ways of being a man
     - Help young men and women to break the cycle of violence
1. Prevent violence against women and girls before it occurs

Address root causes and promote gender equitable norms

Prevent child abuse and promote violence-free homes and schools

Promote non-violent and healthy ways of being a man

Focus on young men and women to break the cycle of violence and create equitable gender relations for future generations

- School-, sports- or peer-based education to promote knowledge and life skills
2. Respond to VAW/G after it happens

- Adopt, implement and enforce laws that criminalize VAW
- Prosecute perpetrators and ensure victims have access to justice
- Ensure coordinated multi-sectoral services for victims/survivors
  - Shelters, hotlines, legal aid, healthcare, counseling, employment, sexual and reproductive health...
“A systematic and holistic approach...”
The Role of the State in enhancing accountability

Monitor and evaluate the implementation - and impact - of policies.

Ensure a strong and transformative stance alone gender equality in the post 2015 agenda, with VAW policies.
Create an ‘enabling environment’ to transform norms

Education, family policies, media campaigns...
Collect data on the prevalence, causes and consequences of VAW/G
Monitor and evaluate the implementation - and impact - of policies and programmes
Allocate and track budgets and resources
Support coordination across all sectors
Ensure a strong and transformative stand-alone gender equality goal in the post 2015 agenda, with VAW as a key component ("missing target" of the MDGs)
The Role of the State in enhancing accountability

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Allocate and track budgets and resources
THANK YOU!

strong hands
stop violence
against women and girls