

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women:

'Violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of the full advancement of women, and that violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men ...'

GLOBALLY

- Statistics indicate that **violence against women and girls is a universal phenomenon, irrespective of income, class or culture.**¹
- Such violence cannot be attributed solely to individual factors, socioeconomic conditions or relationship factors without considering that it is a **manifestation of the historically unequal power relations between women and men** and systemic gender-based discrimination.²
- As many as **7 in 10** women in the world report having experienced physical and/or sexual violence at some point in their lifetime.³
- The impact of residing in an environment of continuing and cumulative abuse leads to **serious mental health issues** for women and children.⁴
- **Forms and manifestations** of violence against women and girls include intimate partner violence, early and forced marriage, forced pregnancy, honour crimes, female genital mutilation, femicide, non-partner sexual violence, sexual harassment in the workplace, other institutions and in public spaces, trafficking, violence condoned by the State and violence against women in conflict situations.⁵
- The **annual cost** of such violence may vary from US\$1.16 billion to \$32.9 billion, covering a variety of costs, ranging from responses to survivors to those related to lost productivity.⁶

¹ United Nations *Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls: Report of the Secretary General (2013)* http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2013/4 Accessed on 12 March 2014

² United Nations *Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls: Report of the Secretary General (2013)* http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2013/4 Accessed on 12 March 2014

³ United Nations *Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls: Report of the Secretary General (2013)* http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2013/4 Accessed on 12 March 2014

⁴ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare *Specialist homelessness services: 2012-13* <https://www.aihw.gov.au/media-release-detail/?id=60129545721> Canberra, 17 December 2013

⁵ United Nations *Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls: Report of the Secretary General (2013)* http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2013/4 Accessed on 12 March 2014

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- There are correlations between domestic and family violence and child rearing, with 17% of Australian women who experience violence reporting that it started **while they were pregnant**, and the overwhelming majority of Australian women with children in their care reporting that the violence has been witnessed by their children.⁷

IN AUSTRALIA

- In Australia, approximately 30% of women return to the perpetrator, with a higher percentage in rural areas. The reasons they gave include schools, agency supports, finances, wanting children to be with their father, loneliness, Centrelink crisis payments, possessions, escalated risks, isolation, to protect the children, pets, shame, hope, love and **nowhere else to go** after their time in a refuge has come to an end.⁸
- Almost **49,000** adult females were assisted as a result of domestic violence last year in Australia, with these cases involving around 24,000 children.⁹
- Intimate partner violence is the **leading contributor to death**, disability and illness in Australian women aged 15-44.¹⁰
- 35% of Australians surveyed in 2009 believed with rape is the result of the male perpetrator being incapable of controlling his need for sex. This number **increased to 43%** in 2013.¹¹

^{7,8} Spinney, Angela. Australian Government: Homeless Clearing House *Reducing the Need for Women and Girls to make Repeated use of Refuge and other Crisis Accommodation (2012)* <http://homelessnessclearinghouse.govspace.gov.au/about-homelessness/agreements-and-initiatives/commonwealth-initiatives/national-homelessness-research/research-release-reducing-the-need-for-women-and-children-to-make-repeated-use-of-refuge-and-other-crisis-accommodation-2012/>

^{8,7,8} Spinney, Angela. Australian Government: Homeless Clearing House *Reducing the Need for Women and Girls to make Repeated use of Refuge and other Crisis Accommodation (2012)* <http://homelessnessclearinghouse.govspace.gov.au/about-homelessness/agreements-and-initiatives/commonwealth-initiatives/national-homelessness-research/research-release-reducing-the-need-for-women-and-children-to-make-repeated-use-of-refuge-and-other-crisis-accommodation-2012/>

⁹ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare *Specialist homelessness services: 2012-13* <https://www.aihw.gov.au/media-release-detail/?id=60129545721> Canberra, 17 December 2013

^{10,10} Women's Property Initiatives *Fact Sheet 2012* http://www.wpi.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=20&Itemid=21
¹¹ <https://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/media-and-resources/publications/2013-national-community-attitudes-towards-violence-against-women-survey-2013>