

FACT SHEET

GBV AND LGBTIQ+

#3

DEFINITIONS

WHAT IS GENDER?

Gender is a social and cultural construct that highlights the differences in men and women, girls and boys, and based on this differentiation, allocates expected roles and responsibilities to each. Gender-based roles, therefore, change over time and will vary across different cultural contexts. The concept of gender refers to the behaviours, activities, and opportunities that society considers appropriate for girls and boys, as well as for women and men.

WHAT IS PHYSICAL VIOLENCE?

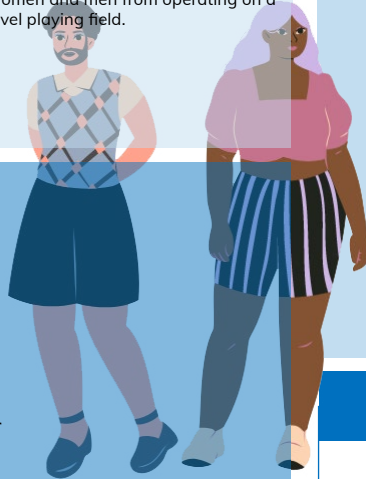
Physical violence happens when physical force is used in a way that is harmful, leads to injuries and in some cases, even death. Scratching, pushing, shoving, throwing, grabbing, biting, choking, shaking, poking, hair pulling, slapping, punching, hitting and burning are all forms of physical violence. Using a weapon, restraint or bodily force to detain another is also a form of physical violence.

WHAT IS SEXUAL VIOLENCE?

Sexual violence is any act that is sexual in nature that is obtained using force, or seeking to obtain sexual engagement, by force. Rape is one form of sexual violence. Rape is defined by physically forced or non-consensual penetration of the vagina or anus, with a penis, other body part or any other object, even if the penetration is only slight. Other forms of sexual violence include unwanted sexual comments and advances related to someone's sexuality or desire for sex.

WHAT IS GENDER EQUITY?

It is the process of being fair to men and women. To ensure fairness, measures must often be put in place to compensate for the historical and social disadvantages that prevent women and men from operating on a level playing field.



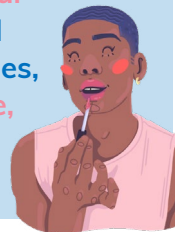
While it is possible for people of all genders to be subject to GBV. Often it is people who are seen as not conforming to their assigned gender roles, such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and/or intersex people who experience gender based violence more often.

DRIVERS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

- Inequality rooted in patriarchy
- Societies where male superiority is the norm
- Societies where violence and violent behaviour is the norm
- Societies with low levels of women's empowerment
- Societies with lack of social support, socio-economic inequality

LGBTIQ+ = lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or intersex people

In South Africa in particular, GBV "pervades the political, economic and social structures of society and is driven by strongly patriarchal social norms and complex and intersectional power inequalities, including those of gender, race, class and sexuality."



DID YOU KNOW?



1 in 3 LGBTQ youth reported that they had been physically threatened or harmed in their lifetime due to their LGBTQ identity

IMPACT OF GBV ON LGBTIQ+ YOUTH

ON AN INDIVIDUAL LEVEL

Psychological trauma, and can have psychological, behavioural and physical consequences for survivors.

In many parts of the country, there is poor access to formal psychosocial or even medical support, which means that many survivors are unable to access the help they need.

Families and loved ones of survivors can also experience indirect trauma, and many do not know how to provide effective support.



There is limited research into rape targeting women who have sex with women. One study across four Southern African countries, including South Africa, found that 31.1% of women reported having experienced forced sex.



RESOURCES

- Sisonke Safer Spaces: www.saferspaces.org.za
- SAIIAA: [Article](#)
- The Trevor Project: thetrevorproject.org