

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

A GLOBAL CRIME

WHAT IS GBV?

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a shameful human rights violation, and it is perhaps the most pervasive. It knows no boundaries of geography, culture, or wealth. As long as it continues, we cannot claim to be making real progress toward equality, development, and peace.

GBV is any harmful act directed against an individual or group on the basis of gender. It includes physical, sexual, psychological, and economic harm, as well as threats of violence and deprivation of liberty in the private or public sphere.

It can take many forms, including intimate partner violence, sexual violence, child marriage, female genital mutilation and so-called „honor crimes“. Note that it is a serious violation of human rights, it is also a life-threatening health and protection issue.

Source: [UNHCR](#)



90% of rape victims are women*



Over 90% of offenders* never see justice

*in the EU



In some countries, violence against women is estimated to cost countries up to 3.7% of their GDP – more than twice what most governments spend on education.
(Worldbank)

13% of women were subjected to **CYBER HARASSMENT** in the past five years, and 8 % in the past 12 months. *(EU)*



Women and girls with disabilities are 2 to 4 times more likely to experience domestic violence than women without disabilities.
(UN Woman)

48% of women with **DISABILITIES** experienced harassment in the past five years. *(EU)*



Gender-based violence is incredibly costly. The cost of health care, mental health counseling, legal services, and lost wages due to time spent in recovery total trillions of dollars each year. This is comparable to the total annual military expenditure of all countries.
(UNFPA)

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE MORE COMMON THAN YOU THINK

MORE THAN 5 women or girls **are killed every hour** by someone in their own family
(UN Women)

In the last 12 months **MORE THAN 1 in every 10** women and girls aged 15-49 were **subjected to sexual and/or physical violence** by an intimate partner
(UN Women)



31 % of women have experienced **one or more** acts of physical violence **since the age of 15***

43 % of women in the EU have experienced some form of psychological violence by an **intimate partner***

1 in 20 (5 %) has been raped in EU countries **since the age of 15***

**European Commission: Forms of gender-based violence*

WHY IS GBV IMPORTANT IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION?

GBV is a major obstacle to development. It has a devastating impact on individuals, families and communities (see graphic). GBV is a cross-cutting issue in the SDGs and is directly mentioned in Target 5.2: **Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other forms of exploitation.**



Reduced economic productivity



Increased poverty and inequality



Increased risk of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases



Increased maternal mortality and morbidity rates



Poor mental and physical health outcomes



Social exclusion and marginalization

Specifically, GFA has experience providing following services in the field of GBV:



- Support the empowerment and respect of the women and girls' rights by promoting gender equality and combating discrimination
- Address the root causes of GBV by challenging harmful social norms and practices
- Provide services to survivors of GBV, including medical care, psychosocial support, and legal assistance
- Integrate GBV prevention and response into various programs and policies.
- GFA also recognizes that GBV manifests itself in different ways and contexts, and that survivors require a multi-sectoral and survivor-centered response; that's why GFA works with a variety of partners, including government agencies, civil society organizations, and the private sector, to provide comprehensive services to people affected by GBV.

GFA CONCEPT AND SERVICES

In the projects that GFA implements, the project teams address sexism and GBV for what it is: structural violence. GFA formulates projects to be at least gender responsive, and whenever possible in the project setting, we work in a gender transformative way, tackling cultural norms and gender stereotypes, the issue of participation, decision-making, access and distribution of resources, safety and health concerns.

Concretely, this means that in projects aimed at the elimination of GBV, GFA strengthens legislation and capacity building against GBV and its application, and promotes a change in attitudes, institutions and health services. This approach is in line with German feminist development policy, which takes an intersectional view of all areas of development cooperation, recognizing that GBV can be exacerbated by other forms of discrimination, such as racism, ableism, and homo- and transphobia, and manifests itself in different contexts.

GBV intersects with all areas of sustainable development. This means that every development initiative is an opportunity to address the root causes of violence and change harmful social norms that not only disproportionately expose women to violence, but also limit progress. This understanding informs our work to build knowledge, create willingness to act, and accelerate capacity by supporting the development and implementation of effective policies and programs.

GFA is committed to working for a more just and equitable world where all people live free from violence and discrimination.



Did you know that girls are also affected by Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in EU countries?

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) „estimates the number of girls at risk in different EU countries and provides tailor-made recommendations to help countries eradicate the practice.“

[∞ LINK TO STUDY](#)



Each year on **25 November** is the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**