

What Do We Mean By Gender-Based Violence

Time: 30 minutes

Activity Objective: Define gender-based violence

Materials:

- Flipcharts, markers, and tape
- Flipchart: Definition of GBV

Activity:

1. Divide participants into three small groups. Distribute three pieces of flipchart paper. Tell the groups to discuss the definition of GBV, come to a consensus, write the definition on the paper, and post it on the wall.
2. Review each definition and ask all participants whether they believe that all of the elements of GBV have been covered. Facilitate the discussion.
3. Share the following definition of GBV on a flipchart:

Gender-Based Violence is violence involving men and women, in which the woman is usually the victim; and which is derived from gender norms and roles as well as from unequal power relations between women and men. Violence is specifically targeted against a person because of his or her gender, and it affects women disproportionately. It includes, but is not limited to, physical, sexual, and psychological harm (including intimidation, suffering, coercion, and/or deprivation of liberty within the family or within the general community). It includes violence perpetuated by the state.

4. Compare this definition with those written by the participants. Without drawing attention to individuals in the groups, point out elements in their definitions that are not part of the definition of GBV and why. Ask the participants if they have any questions. Explain to the group that gender-based violence is defined in many different ways, but for our purposes today, we are going to use an adapted definition originally provided by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Also explain that the focus will be on intimate partner and sexual violence, with limited attention to other areas of GBV, such as trafficking, harmful traditional practices, etc.

Facilitator Note: Key elements that should be included in all definitions of GBV are power/power imbalance, and the subordinate status of women, as well as the various types of violence (e.g., physical, sexual, and psychological).