

Gender-based violence is any violence inflicted on women because of their sex.

Violence Against Women takes many forms, from sex-selective abortion to female infanticide, from rape to female genital mutilation. It includes physical, sexual, and psychological violence such as *domestic violence*, *sexual abuse*, and *sexual violence*.

The **Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women** (1993) defines violence against women as "*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.*"

Elaborating case: Gender-based violence

Female infanticide and abortion of female fetuses in societies that have a strong preference for male children have an impact on population ratios, causing an imbalance between males and females. Nobel Prize-winner Amartya Sen's work "Missing Women" concluded that if these regions (East Asia, South Asia, and North Africa) had normal sex ratios, there would be over 60 million more females alive today.

Domestic violence includes physical, psychological, or economic abuse of a woman by her partner or ex-partner or by another person within the home or family. Domestic violence interferes with women's participation in developing economic growth, building democracies, protecting the environment, educating children, and determining family size.

The **UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women** defines domestic violence as "violence that occurs within the private sphere, generally between individuals who are related through intimacy, blood or law."

Elaboration: Domestic violence

Physical violence: punching, mutilation, burns, use of weapons.

Emotional or psychological violence: humiliation, exploitation, intimidation, psychological degradation, verbal aggression, deprivation of freedom or rights.

Economic violence: economic blackmail, control over money a woman earns.

Sexual violence is defined in the World Report on Violence and Health as “any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic a person’s sexuality, using coercion, threats of harm or physical force, by any person regardless of relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work”. Sexual violence includes physically forced or otherwise coerced sex; attempts at coerced sex; assault with a sexual organ; sexual harassment, including sexual humiliation; forced marriage or cohabitation, including marriage of children; forced pregnancy; forced prostitution and trafficking in women; forced abortion; denial of the right to use contraception or protect oneself from disease; and acts of violence against women’s sexuality, such as female genital mutilation and forced virginity tests.

Sexual abuse, a form of sexual violence, includes all forms of sexual coercion – physical, emotional, and economic – against a woman’s or child’s wishes, such as physical contact, masturbation, sexual intercourse, oral or anal contact, exhibitionism, voyeurism, pornography, and infant prostitution.

