



Welens

EDUCATIONAL
PRACTICES THROUGH
A GENDER LENS

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION & VIOLENCE TOOLKIT

MODULE 1

Feminism, intersectional approach, gender exploitation

Collaborative document



Co-funded by
the European Union

Project number 2023-1-FR01-KA220-ADU-000165625



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While the terminology used in the English, Spanish, Estonian, Russian and French version of this toolkit refer to Prostitution as lacking of agency and harmful in any of its forms, this Toolkit in its Italian and Greek versions have been developed in the recognition of an ongoing debate about prostitution, sex work and sexual exploitation which better reflect the official position of CESIE ETS and that of Greece's legal framework and of the Center for security Studies' researchers.

Specifically in the Italian and Greek toolkit the term "sexual exploitation in prostitution" is used, which refers to a form of sexual violence that involves a person profiting from the use of another person's body in a sexual manner, whether financially or through other means and which is nonconsensual and harmful.

Both CESIE ETS and researchers of the Center for Security Studies recognise the importance of distinguishing what is mentioned above, from sex work meant as the consensual provision of sexual services between adults, which takes many forms and varies between and within countries and communities for money, goods or reward recognizing the agency of individual engaged.

As a result, "prostitution", even if valid in legal frameworks, will not be used as it is an umbrella term which does not take into consideration above mentioned nuances.

GLOSSARY

Age of consent: Legal age to consent to sex. Below this, sexual activity is criminal. Varies by region.

Consent: A fundamental principle in sexual relations, emphasising that all parties must agree freely and willingly to engage in any sexual activity. Affirmative consent is a knowing, voluntary and mutual decision among all participants to engage in sexual activity.

Clients or sex buyers: People who pay for sexual services, fuelling demand for exploitation of prostitution.

Cyber violence: Abuse through digital platforms, including harassment, non-consensual content sharing, hacking, and controlling online or personal accounts.

Cybersex trafficking: Cybercrime involving live-streamed coerced sexual acts, often through webcams, exploiting victims via internet-connected devices.

Feminism: is about all genders having equal rights and opportunities. It's about respecting diverse women's experiences, identities, knowledge and strengths, and striving to empower all women to realise their full rights. It's about levelling the playing field between genders and ensuring the same opportunities for all genders equally and equitably (IWDA, 2023).

Gender-Based Violence (GBV): any type of harm that is perpetrated against a person or group of people because of their factual or perceived sex, gender, sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

Gender equality: a situation in which access to rights or opportunities is unaffected by gender.

Grooming: A manipulative process where pimps build trust and false romance to often lure young people into prostitution and exploitation.

Healthy relationships: involve honesty, trust, respect and open communication between partners and they take effort and compromise from both people. There is no imbalance of power. Partners respect each other's independence, can make their own decisions without fear of retribution or retaliation, and share decisions.

Human smuggling: Illegal transportation of people across borders, evading customs controls often for purposes such as unauthorised immigration or trafficking.

Intersectionality: A sociological framework that examines how various aspects of a person's identity—such as race, gender, class, sexuality, and ability—intersect and interact to create unique experiences of discrimination and privilege. The term was coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw in 1989 to highlight the complexities of social identities and the ways in which they overlap, particularly in the context of systemic oppression (AAUP, 2018).

Objectification: The process of treating a person as an object rather than a person with feelings, thoughts and rights. This often involves reducing an individual to their physical appearance or specific attributes while ignoring their agency.

Pandering: To recruit persons to engage in prostitution by exploiting the desires, prejudices, or weaknesses of others for personal gain.

Patriarchy: it both refers to the greater aggregate power that men have over women and further genders—social, political, economic—as well as power hierarchies between individual men and groups of men, including trans men.

Pimping/procuring: The facilitation or provision of a prostitute in the arrangement of a sex act with a customer and receiving either directly or indirectly the prostitute's earnings.

Rape culture: Societal environment normalising and trivialising rape, perpetuating sexual violence and hindering survivors' access to justice and support.

Re-victimisation: Refers to the experience or phenomenon when someone is a victim of a crime and then is made a victim again, often through processes of access to justice and other essential services which may call upon the victim to relive their trauma or blame them for instigating the crime.

Secondary victimisation: Additional trauma or harm experienced by a victim of a crime or harmful event by the response they receive from institutions, individuals or society after the initial victimisation. Those supposed to provide support, justice or assistance make it worse.

Sexism: A belief system based on the alleged superiority of men over women because of biological reasons and influences the roles women and men might play in our society.

Sexual harassment: Unwelcomed sexual advances, demand for sexual favours, or any other verbal or physical behaviour of a sexual nature.

Sexual violence: Any sexual act or attempt involving force or coercion, violating autonomy and dignity, including rape, harassment, and exploitation.

Toxic Masculinity: it is an attitude or set of social guidelines stereotypically associated with manliness that often have a negative impact on men, women, and society in general.

Human Trafficking: Recruitment, transport, or receipt of people through force or deception for exploitation, affecting individuals globally across all backgrounds. The traffickers often use violence or fraudulent employment agencies and fake promises of education and job opportunities to trick and coerce their victims.

Victim blaming: An attitude that shifts the responsibility for violence from the perpetrator to the victim, often questioning their behaviour, clothing, or choices. Such narratives not only marginalise survivors but also discourage them from reporting incidents, as they fear judgement and disbelief.

Violence against women (VAW) and girls (VAWG): Any gender-based violence causing physical, sexual, or psychological harm to women, encompassing violence in families, communities, and state-perpetrated violence. Includes various forms such as domestic violence, sexual abuse, and trafficking.



INTRODUCTION

1. INTRODUCTION

The present document is part of the Violence and Sexual Exploitation Toolkit. The Module will focus on feminism, intersectional approach and gender exploitation. Specifically, this Module seeks to:

- Develop **theoretical understanding**: Equip educators with a solid foundation in the basic concepts of Gender Based Violence (GBV), including its causes, various forms, and broad-ranging impacts.
- Enhance **practical skills**: Strengthen the ability of educators to prevent GBV in all its forms, effectively recognize and address cases, and provide support to victims and survivors.
- Provide comprehensive educational **resources**: Offer professional tools and activities focused on tackling GBV and sexual exploitation.
- Incorporate **diverse perspectives**: Offer Interdisciplinary and global insights integrating viewpoints from various countries, enriching the understanding of the GBV and sexual exploitation phenomenon.

The Module is structured with an initial conceptual framework on the approaches adopted, which are gender, child, survivor, rights and trauma centred, followed by core concepts and it ends with details on the role of educators in the matter providing different practical tools to strengthen skills of educators, whether they are seeking capacity-building opportunities for themselves, engaging in self-learning, or aiming to raise awareness within their communities by training others.



CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

2. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

2.1. Approach

Rights-based & intersectional feminism

The foundation of this approach is a rights-based perspective, which frames GBV and sexual exploitation as violations of fundamental human rights. This perspective asserts that all individuals have inherent rights that must be upheld by educators, policymakers, and community leaders. In tandem, intersectional feminism recognises that experiences of discrimination and violence are not uniform but are influenced by intersecting factors such as race, class, sexual orientation, and disability (AAUP, 2018). This framework challenges the oversimplification of "rape culture" by emphasising that sexual violence must be understood within the broader contexts of racism, homophobia, and other forms of oppression. By integrating these perspectives, the toolkit ensures that all forms of discrimination are addressed, and no group's experiences are marginalised.

Survivor-centred & trauma-informed

Central to the toolkit is the commitment to a survivor-centred approach, which prioritises the rights, dignity, and needs of victims and survivors of GBV. This approach is grounded in principles of confidentiality, safety, respect, and non-discrimination, ensuring that survivors receive support that is sensitive to their individual experiences. Complementing this is a trauma-informed approach, which acknowledges the profound impact of trauma on survivors and underlines the importance of creating environments that avoid re-traumatisation. This dual focus ensures that interventions are not only respectful of survivors' experiences but also actively contribute to their healing process (IOM UN Migration, n.d.).

Child-centred & gender-sensitive

When working with young survivors of GBV, a child-centred approach is critical. This methodology ensures that the specific needs of children are met and that their voices are given priority in decision-making processes. Additionally, gender-sensitive practices are essential in addressing the diverse identities and experiences of all individuals affected by GBV.

Do No Harm & leave no one behind

It means that partners, and all professionals involved through the actions and activities, should anticipate ways that their work might result in security, emotional or social risk to the survivors and safeguard against these negative impacts (IOM UN Migration, n.d.).

Some examples of general strategies to avoid harm are:

- Provide appropriate attention and support, considering the specific needs and demands of women survivors.
- Give clear information about the opportunities and limitations of the actions to all the beneficiaries involved. For example, by highlighting that the duration of the project is limited, and some services could not be guaranteed after the end of the intervention.
- Involve trained professional staff with the skills and tools to properly understand how trauma and other consequences of violence and trafficking could affect the recovery and integration processes of women survivors.

Transformative approach

The goal is to foster a transformative approach to GBV and sexual exploitation. The transformative approach involves actively challenging and changing harmful social norms, attitudes, and behaviours that perpetuate violence and discrimination (*Design an EVAWG Campaign | Spotlight Initiative*, n.d.). The toolkit encourages educators to work towards redistributing power, resources, and opportunities more equitably, addressing the root causes of GBV and contributing to the creation of a more just and equitable society.

2.2 GBV & Trafficking Worldwide: State of play

Human trafficking for sexual exploitation is a pervasive global issue affecting millions of people, mostly women and girls. GBV can take many forms, among which physical violence, sexual assault, emotional and psychological violence, intimate partner violence. The data displayed in this section is the portion of information that was available through different sources, attempting to give a picture as wide as possible.

These crimes are not limited to specific countries or regions but are interconnected across borders. Worldwide:

1 in 3

Worldwide, 1 in 3 women have experienced physical or sexual violence — mostly by an intimate partner. When accounting for sexual harassment, this figure is even higher.

<https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/violence-against-women>

3 in 5

Worldwide, almost 3 in 5 women were killed by their partners or family in 2017.
(UNODC, 2019; WHO, 2013)

15 million

Approximately 15 million adolescent girls (aged 15 to 19) worldwide have experienced forced sex at some
(UNICEF, 2017)

45% to 55%
of women have experienced sexual harassment since the age of 15 in the European Union.

(European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, 2014)

**72% of all
trafficking victims
worldwide are
women and girls.**

4 out of 5 trafficked women
are trafficked for sexual
exploitation.

(UNODC, 2019b)

**In 2022, around
48,800 women and
girls worldwide
were killed by their
intimate partners or
other family
members.**

**While 55% of all female homicides are
committed by intimate partners or other family
members, only 12% of all male homicides are
perpetrated in the private sphere**

(UN Women, 2024a)

**Less than 40% of the women who experience
violence seek help of any sort**

In the majority of countries with available data on this issue, among women
who do seek help, most look to family and friends and very few look to formal
institutions, such as police and health services.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures>

**Fewer than 10 percent of those seeking help
reported to the police**

(United Nation Statistics Division, 2015)

2.2.1 Estonia

- **Victim Identification:** In 2022, only 4 victims of trafficking were identified, all related to sex trafficking—a sharp decline from 417 in 2021 and 34 in 2020. This drop raises concerns about the effectiveness of current identification methods (U.S. Department of State, 2023).
- **Prosecutions:** Only 1 trafficker was prosecuted in 2022, the lowest number since 2015. Courts convicted 4 traffickers, with sentences ranging from 2 to 11 years.
- **Data Collection Issues:** Frequent changes in the government's data collection methodology have complicated year-to-year comparisons, making it difficult to accurately assess trends.

Intimate Partner Violence

According to a 2023 survey by Statistics Estonia, intimate partner violence remains a significant issue:

- 41% of women have experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime.
 - ⇒ Psychological Violence: 39%
 - ⇒ Physical Violence: 13% (including threats)
 - ⇒ Sexual Violence: 9%
- **High-Risk Groups:** Young women (18-29 years) and women with basic education or health limitations are most at risk.

Sexual Harassment in the Workplace

- 33% of women have experienced sexual harassment at work.
 - ⇒ High-Risk Group: 52% of women aged 18-29.
 - ⇒ Perpetrators: Male colleagues (11%) and male clients (10%).

2.2.2 France

- In France in 2022, of the 244,301 victims of domestic violence, 86% were women.
- 87% of the respondents are men and of those 83% of French nationality.
- Of the 118 women killed, 31% had already suffered violence at the hands of their partner; 65% had reported this previous violence to the internal security forces, and, of these, 79% had lodged a previous complaint (Improdova, 2024).
- In 2023, 94,000 women were victims of rape or attempted rape, while 210,000 experienced sexual harassment. Most victims were under 30, and a substantial number of incidents occurred in private spaces.

Prostitution and trafficking in France

In France, 94% of victims of pimping or prostitution recorded by the police and gendarmerie in 2023 are women.

- According to the security forces, between 30,000 and 40,000 people are currently involved in prostitution in France. 85% are women, 53% are French, and of these 60% are minors.
- It is estimated that there are between 15,000 and 20,000 under-age prostitutes in France today, a figure that has risen by more than 70% in five years.
- In 2022, 2,027 victims of human trafficking or exploitation were recorded by police and gendarmerie services, an increase of 12% compared to 2021.
- 67% of registered victims of trafficking or human exploitation are women. This proportion is higher for pimping offenses, where 97% of registered victims are women. More than half of all pimping victims recorded in 2022 are aged between 15 and 24.
- The majority of victims of human trafficking come from either an African country or Europe (Vie Publique, 2024).

2.2.3. The Guyana context

Guyana has one of the highest rates of domestic violence in the Commonwealth Caribbean, as 40% of women have experienced domestic abuse. Patterns of family violence and sexual violence are deeply rooted in the social fabric of Guyana, enabled by a culture of tolerance and reluctance to report. In 2019 Guyana Women's health and Life Experiences Survey (UN Women, 2019) indicates that:

- more than half (55%) of all women aged 15 - 64 have experienced at least one form of violence.
- 4 in 10 have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from a partner in their lifetime.
- 1 in 10 women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner in the past 12 months. 3 in 5 Guyanese women and girls have experienced some form of violence by an intimate partner.

2.2.4 The Italian Context

In Italy, approximately 7 million women aged 16 to 70 have experienced physical or sexual violence at least once in their lives: 20.2% experienced physical violence, 21% experienced sexual violence and 5.4% were victims of rape or attempted rape (ISTAT, 2016).

1/5 women (18.9%) has been a victim of sexual harassment (compared to 3.4% of men). Between January 1, 2023, and November 5, 2023, 101 female victims were recorded, of which 53 were raped and/or killed by their partner or ex-partner and 82 were killed in a family setting (+1% compared to 2022).

- 2023 Statistics for Women exiting violence (Battisti & ISTAT, 2022):
 - ⇒ 67% faced physical violence
 - ⇒ 90% faced psychological, economic violence, or stalking
 - ⇒ 50% were threatened
 - ⇒ 12% experienced rape or attempted rape
 - ⇒ 14% other forms of sexual violence
- Perpetrators:
 - ⇒ 34.2% Acquaintances/Friends
 - ⇒ 25.4% Cohabiting relatives
 - ⇒ 25.1% Partners



Only 5% of incidents are reported to the police

Support systems

- 117 Registered anti-violence centres provide:
 - ⇒ 24/7 helplines
 - ⇒ Legal aid
 - ⇒ Psychological counselling and job orientation
- 60,751 Women assisted by anti-violence centres in 2022.
- 1,772 Women sheltered in secret houses due to life-threatening situations.

2.2.5 Greece

According to the General Secretariat for Family Policy and Gender Equality's 2021 report, **domestic violence accounts for 83% of the total gender-based violence (GBV)** cases reported in Counselling Centres throughout Greece (General Secretariat for Family Policy and Gender Equality, 2020).

Forms of Violence

The most common forms of GBV that were identified in the report include physical, sexual, and psychological violence. Physical violence is often reported as aggressive behaviour, such as beating, while psychological violence includes emotional bullying and humiliation. A survey by the European Institute for Gender Equality found that 21.3% of Greek women and 13.2% of Greek men believe domestic violence against women is common in Greece. Additionally, 5.1% of women aged 15-49 reported experiencing physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months.

2.3. Legal policy framework of GBV

Based on the focus of the project and the participation of countries from different areas of the world, this toolkit will provide some general and specific legal frameworks to contextualize partners' contribution to the project.

2.3.1 United Nations (UN)

The UN has established a comprehensive legal framework to combat GBV through various international treaties, conventions, and resolutions.

- **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW):** Adopted in **1979**, it is often described as an **international bill of rights for women**. Although it does not explicitly mention violence against women, General Recommendations 12 & 19 clarify that GBV is a form of discrimination that states must report on (United Nations, 1979).
- **Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVAW):** Adopted by the UN General Assembly in **1993**, defines violence against women and outlines **states' responsibilities to prevent, investigate, and punish acts of GBV (United Nations, 1993)**.
- **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: Emerging from the Fourth World Conference on Women** in **1995**, sets strategic objectives and actions for advancing gender equality and eliminating GBV (United Nations, 1995; UN Women & WHO, 2020).
- **UN Security Council Resolutions:** The UN Security Council has adopted several resolutions that address GBV, particularly in conflict settings, such as **Resolution 1325** on women, peace, and security, **and subsequent resolutions that focus on sexual violence in conflict** (UN OSAGI, 1998).
- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** SDGs, particularly **Goal 5, aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**, including the elimination of all forms of violence against them (UN Women, n.d.; UN Women & WHO, 2020).
- **UNFPA Strategy and Framework for Action:** The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) focuses on **prevention, response, and data collection to inform policies and programs** (UNFPA, 2011).

2.3.2 European Union (EU)

EU institutions and Member States have been committed to eradicating gender-based violence, with initiatives gathering momentum over the past fifty years. The Lisbon Treaty, which came into force in December 2009, extended the EU's competence for the harmonisation of criminal law, allowing for the development of instruments to combat violence against women and compel Member States to take concrete measures against violence towards women. These include:

- **Directive 2010/41/EU on the application of the principle of equal treatment between men and women engaged in an activity in a self-employed capacity**

This directive aims to eliminate discrimination based on gender, particularly in self-employment and entrepreneurship. It covers aspects such as social security schemes and the protection of self-employed women during maternity. While the directive does not directly address gender-based violence, its emphasis on equal treatment and non-discrimination can indirectly contribute to combating gender-based violence by promoting a more equitable and respectful environment for self-employed women. This can reduce the power imbalances that often lead to such violence and ensure that women in self-employed capacities are not subjected to gender-based discrimination or harassment (European Union, 2010).

- **Directive 2011/99/EU on the European Protection Order**

This directive ensures that victims of gender-based violence, domestic violence, stalking, and other forms of violence can maintain their protection across EU borders, thereby preventing offenders from exploiting jurisdictional gaps to harm the victim. It does so by establishing a mechanism allowing for protection measures, such as restraining orders issued in one EU member state, to be recognised and enforced in any other EU state where the protected person chooses to reside or stay (European Union, 2011).

- **Directive 2012/29/EU, known as the Victims' Rights Directive, establishes EU-wide minimum standards on the rights, support, and protection of victims of crime**

It ensures that victims are recognised and treated with respect and receive proper protection, support, and access to justice, regardless of their nationality or residence status. Key provisions include the right to understand and be understood in interactions with authorities, receive information from the first contact with an authority, make a formal complaint, provide interpretation and translation services, and be informed about the case's progress. The directive also emphasises the need for victims to participate in criminal proceedings and for member states to minimise difficulties for victims residing in a different EU country from where the crime occurred (European Union, 2012).

- **Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention, 2023**

The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, also known as the Istanbul Convention, is a benchmark for international

legislation on tackling gender-based violence (Council of Europe, 2011). It frames such violence as a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women. The EU's accession to the Convention in June 2023, with its enforcement starting on October 1, 2023, binds the EU to international standards in combating violence against women and domestic violence. The European Commission will oversee the implementation of the Convention in the areas of EU accession.

- **EU Directive 2024/1385 and Recent Developments**

On March 8, 2022, the European Commission proposed a new directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence. This directive, adopted on May 7, 2024, represents a milestone in the EU's efforts (European Commission, 2024).

- It criminalises various forms of violence, both offline (such as female genital mutilation and forced marriage) and online (including non-consensual sharing of intimate images and cyber harassment).
- It mandates member states to implement robust measures for prevention, victim protection, and support, establishing a comprehensive framework to address and combat these issues across the Union effectively. It sets a uniform standard across the EU, although the effectiveness of implementation may vary by country.
- Key provisions include criminalising specific acts, imposing prison sentences, and providing extensive victim assistance and protection measures. The directive also emphasises the importance of non-discrimination and equality between women and men as core values of the Union.

2.3.3 CARICOM

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has established a comprehensive legal and policy framework to combat GBV across its member states. This framework includes model legislation, national laws, and collaborative initiatives aimed at addressing the pervasive issue of GBV in the region.

- **CARICOM Model Legislation:** Developed in the late 1990s to address rising violence against women and children, CARICOM's model legislation guides member states in creating laws on domestic violence, sexual offences, and sexual harassment. It is gender-neutral and includes provisions for protection orders, counselling, and victim privacy protections (UN Women Caribbean, n.d.).
- **Second Generation Laws:** Building on the initial model, many CARICOM countries have updated or enacted domestic violence laws with clearer definitions and expanded protections. For example, Trinidad and Tobago's Domestic Violence Act (1999) and Belize's Domestic Violence Act (2007) now offer broader protective measures across various relationship types (UN Women Caribbean, n.d.).



CORE QUESTIONS

3. CORE QUESTIONS

3.1. What do we mean with gender-based violence and sexual exploitation?

The term "gender-based violence" (GBV) refers to any type of harm that is perpetrated against a person or group of people because of their **factual or perceived sex, gender, sexual orientation and/or gender identity** (The Gender Talk, n.d.). Is rooted in power imbalances and is carried out with the intention to humiliate and make a person or group of people feel inferior and/or subordinate. It is based on harmful norms, power abuse, and gender inequity. Additionally, GBV can occur in any setting, including home, work, and school. The UN declares GBV to be a **worldwide public health emergency** (The Gender Talk, n.d.).

Types of GBV include:

- Psychological violence, which causes psychological harm. It includes bullying, harassment, stalking, control, coercion, isolation, verbal insult and more.
- Physical violence, which causes harm and uses physical force. it includes beating, kicking, punching and more.
- Sexual violence, which refers to sexual acts performed without the other persons' consent. It includes rape, assault, trafficking of human beings, unwanted sexual verbal conduct and more.
- Economic violence, which refers to acts that cause economic harm. It includes restricting financial resources, property damage, deprivation, limitation to employment and more.

In brief, GBV:

- ⇒ is **discrimination**: It is deeply rooted in harmful stereotypes and prejudices against women or other people who do not fit into a traditional gender binary or heteronormative society.
- ⇒ is an **obstacle to Gender Equality**: gender equality is central to safeguarding human rights, upholding democracy and preserving the rule of law. GBV contributes to cultivating a heteronormative society and perpetuates the power of men.
- ⇒ is **under-reported**, and there is often impunity for perpetrators: when the violence happens in the family it is more difficult for victims to report.
- ⇒ **affects everyone**: Children raised in families where a member is abused are also victims of violence indirectly and psychologically. Children witness violence and normalise the behaviour and assimilate violent norms.
- ⇒ has a very **high economic cost**: It requires the involvement of different services, including medical, psychological, the police or the justice system. It makes people underachieve at work and in education, and it negatively affects their productivity.

3.1.1 Sexual exploitation, a form of sexual violence

Among the types of GBV, sexual violence is one of the most visible forms and which WeLens project addresses. It encompasses any sexual act or attempt to obtain a sexual act through force, coercion, or manipulation without the individual's consent, including rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and **sexual exploitation**, as well as practices like sexual slavery and forced prostitution. It can occur in various settings, including intimate relationships, workplaces, schools, conflict zones, and public spaces (MORAY Rape Crisis, n.d.).

Sexual exploitation is a form of sexual violence that involves a person profiting from the use of another person's body in a sexual manner, whether financially or through other means (Gouvernement du Québec, 2023).

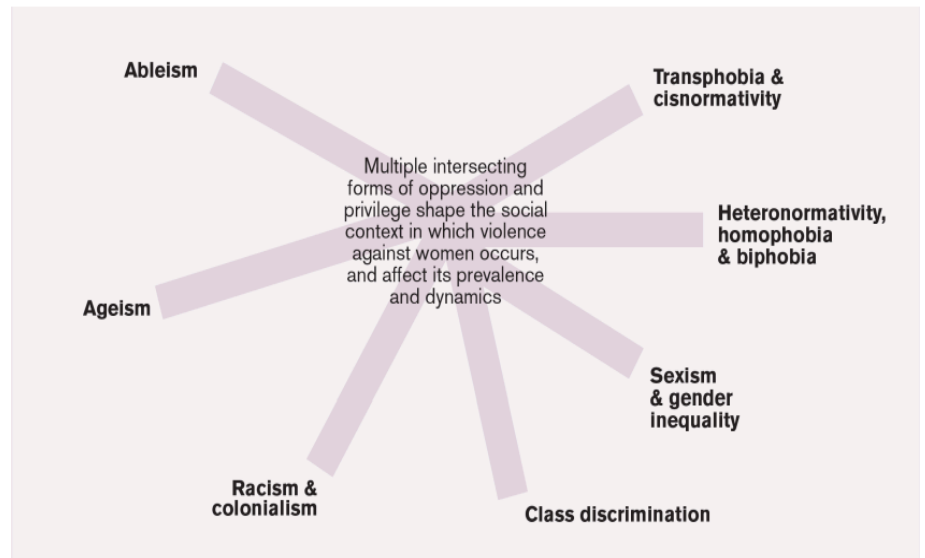
Typically, the perpetrator of sexual exploitation takes advantage of their victim's vulnerable or dependent state, including addictions to drugs or alcohol. The perpetrator can be women or men, an adult or a minor, and may exploit others for personal gain or as part of a criminal operation, such as a street gang or organized crime.



The forms of sexual exploitation vary widely and are named differently based on the age of those involved, the context or type of contact, and legal definitions for various exploitation scenarios. Some examples include child pornography, sex tourism, and pimping/procuring.

3.2. What does intersectionality have to do with GBV?

Intersectionality is a framework for understanding how various **social identities—such as ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, and disability—intersect and impact experiences of oppression and privilege.**



In the context of GBV, it highlights how individuals experience violence differently based on their multiple identities. Different groups of women - such as women of colour, LGBTQIA+ individuals, women with disabilities, and those living in economic and social marginalisation - face distinct forms and levels of violence at the same time.

Intersectionality reveals how societal factors compound the risks of violence and affect access to resources and support. Moreover, understanding intersectionality helps to reveal the power dynamics at play. For instance, systemic racism or economic inequality can exacerbate vulnerabilities, making certain groups more susceptible to GBV.

Addressing GBV through an intersectional lens allows for more effective and inclusive interventions. Programs and policies that consider diverse experiences can better meet the needs of marginalised groups. This means considering ethnical background, socioeconomic situation and sexuality for example.

In this backdrop, **feminism** can be seen as a socio-political movement dedicated to ending all types of GBV and achieving full gender equality in law and in practice. It challenges systemic inequalities, discrimination, and stereotypes that reinforce GBV, actively working to dismantle the structures and norms that perpetuate oppression. Feminism approaches this issue through an intersectional lens, recognising that women's experiences of violence are influenced by various identity factors. This inclusive framework ensures that marginalised voices are heard and

Empowerment Through Choice:
Supporting victims of gender-based violence involves restoring their ability to make choices. This includes decisions about seeking help, pressing charges, and rebuilding their lives. Empowerment comes from ensuring that victims have access to resources, protection, and support systems that enhance their sense of control over their lives.

considered, acknowledging the unique forms of oppression faced by individuals who are vulnerable at multiple intersections of identity. Empowerment and support are also central to feminist principles, with a strong emphasis on providing survivors with resources, support networks, and safe spaces, encouraging individuals to speak out against violence, seek justice, and reclaim agency over their lives.

Central to this effort is advocacy for rights; challenging societal norms that uphold violence and discrimination, raising awareness of the prevalence and impact of GBV. In its commitment to structural change, feminism advocates for policy reforms and often pushes for effective measures to combat GBV, such as comprehensive sexuality education, prevention programs, stronger legal protections, and more accessible and effective support services for individuals affected by violence.

Finally, feminism seeks cultural change by challenging harmful norms that condone or trivialise GBV. By promoting values of respect, consent, and equality, feminism actively works to reshape cultural attitudes and foster a climate where violence is universally condemned and no longer normalised.

GBV is fundamentally a feminist issue because it is a direct manifestation of the gendered inequalities that feminism opposes, directly relating to its core principles of advocating for the rights, equality, and dignity of all genders. Addressing GBV is not only about stopping individual acts of violence but also about confronting and transforming the societal structures and norms that uphold gender inequality and discrimination.

3.3. What are the root causes of GBV?

GBV arises from societal attitudes and practices of **gender discrimination**. Typically, rigid genders roles power structures place women and other genders in a subordinate position in relation to men. These “accepted” gender roles reinforce the assumption that men have decision-making power and control over the rest of people. By committing acts of GBV, perpetrators seek to maintain privileges, power and control (The Gender Talk, n.d.).

Additionally, a **lack of awareness about human rights, gender equality, democracy and non-violent means of resolving problems**, can reinforce conditions that allow GBV to persist.

Root causes include:

- Abuse of power is a form of systematic wrongdoing in a professional context, which affects the performance of professional duties negatively. Abuse of power can also mean a person using the power they have for their own personal gain (IPPF, 2021).
- Gender inequality: gender inequality is the condition in which access to rights, resources, and opportunities is unequally distributed between genders, including men, women, boys, girls, and individuals of other gender identities (PLAN International, 2024).
- Patriarchy (see the glossary)
- Heteronormativity: is what makes heterosexuality seem coherent, natural and privileged. It involves the assumption that everyone is ‘naturally’ heterosexual, and that heterosexuality is an ideal, superior to homosexuality or bisexuality.
- Gender binary and cisnormativity: refers to the societal or cultural belief that there are only two categories of gender, namely men and women and the idea that cisgender people (= people whose gender matches the body they were born with) are normal or right and all other people are not (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.).

While gender inequality and abuse of power are fundamental causes of all forms of GBV, other factors may influence the type and extent of it, increasing individual vulnerability to GBV. **These contributing factors** are often mistaken as root causes, yet distinguishing between them is essential to effectively fight against GBV.

Contributing factors include:

- ⇒ abuse of substances.
- ⇒ economic inequalities
- ⇒ lack of education.
- ⇒ lack of social support, from institutions, families for example.
- ⇒ impunity

3.4 What is the difference between CONSENT CULTURE & RAPE CULTURE?

Rape culture characterises a culture that, rather than seeing sexual violence and GBV as structurally and culturally produced and sustained, views them as inevitable and a component of “natural” human behavior. Gendered violence can result from societal issues such as gender stereotypes and discriminatory attitudes (The Gender Talk, n.d.).

The rape culture's persistent existence acts as a barrier to the spread of the consent culture in our society.

Consent culture, on the other hand, promotes a societal framework where **respect for personal boundaries and informed agreement is central to all interactions**, particularly in the context of sexual relationships. It's a response to and a rejection of rape culture.

Consent is the voluntary and informed agreement given by all parties involved in a sexual activity. It should be continuous, enthusiastic, and can be withdrawn at any time without consequences.

In practice, consent is about shared desires, personal boundaries, and mutual respect; it involves understanding one's own wishes, communicating them openly; and taking responsibility for obtaining or providing clear consent.

Key principles.

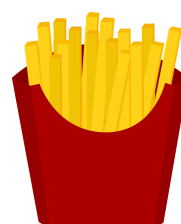
- Consent can be given by words or actions if those words or actions create explicit permission regarding willingness to engage in sexual activity.
- Silence or lack of resistance, in and of itself, does not demonstrate consent.
- The definition of consent does not vary based on a participant's sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression

Consent is also about laws: there are laws, in every country, defining who can consent and who can't: people who are drunk, high or passed out cannot consent to sex. Also, there are laws that protect minors (people under the age of 18) from being pressured into sex with someone much older than them. We talk about “**age of sexual consent**” to indicate how old a person needs to be to be considered legally capable of consenting to sex – under this age, adults involved in sexual activities can face serious legal consequences including jail time and being registered as a sex offender.

Age of consents in partners' countries (World Population Review, 2024):

Italy	Greece	France	Estonia	Mexico	Argentina	Guyana	Martinique
14	15	15	15	18	18	16	16

CONSENT IS




Freely given
Reversible
Informed
Enthusiastic
Specific

In many societies, the practice of consent is not very “natural”, due to underlying patriarchal values and gender imbalances: accepting a “no” is not always encouraged or normalised.


Examples of Rape Culture

- Blaming the victim (“She asked for it!”)
- Trivialising sexual assault (“Boys will be boys!”)
- Sexually explicit jokes
- Tolerance of sexual harassment
- Inflating false rape report statistics
- Publicly scrutinising a victim’s dress, mental state, motives, and history
- Gratuitous gendered violence in movies and television
- Defining “manhood” as dominant and sexually aggressive
- Defining “womanhood” as submissive and sexually passive
- Pressure on men to “score”
- Pressure on women to not appear “cold”
- Assuming only promiscuous women get raped
- Assuming that men do not get raped, or that only “weak” men get raped
- Refusing to take rape accusations seriously
- Teaching women to avoid getting raped
- Romanticising stalking-like behaviours and other signs of relationship violence
- Attacking the character and the validity of a survivor/victim who reports their assault
- Advertisements, music and media that objectify women or view them as sexual objects
- Street harassment or “catcalling”
- Utilising derogatory terms
- Social sexual expectations/scripts being gendered, such as the expectation that men should always want sexual interactions and do not have that choice not to be interested


6 RAPE CULTURE MYTHS... BUSTED!




Myth #1
 "Rape/sexual violence is something only done by a stranger in a dark alley."
 Busted! We know that almost all (92%) of survivors know or can identify the perpetrator(s) (Kingi & Jordan, 2009).




Myth #4
 "False complaints are common."
 Busted! The majority of sexual violence claims are true. Research has shown that approximately only 8% of rape allegations are false (Ministry of Women's Affairs, 2009). This is why it is incredibly important to believe someone if they tell you they have been sexually assaulted.



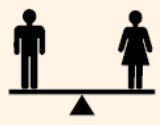
Myth #5
 "Being intoxicated, flirting, wearing a short skirt or dress, and/or walking alone at night is an invitation to be sexually assaulted."
 Busted! **Nothing** is an invitation to be sexually assaulted. People have the right to drink alcohol, be flirty, wear whatever they want, walk alone at night—and still be safe.



Myth #2
 "Rape/sexual violence is a one-off traumatic event."
 Busted! Kingi & Jordan (2009) found in their study that only 11 out of 75 survivors had experienced a single incident of sexual violence as an adult, whereas 85% of survivors reported being sexually assaulted more than once.



Myth #3
 "Survivors will always report sexual violence to the police."
 Busted! The majority of the victims do not report to the authorities because of fear of judgement, repercussions and feelings of mistrust and shame.



Myth #6
 "Sexual violence only happens to women."
 Busted! Although most sexual violence happens to women (one in five by the age of 16), one in ten males will also be sexually assaulted by their 16th birthday (Clark, 2015), and one in two transgender individuals will be sexually assaulted at some point in their lives (Forge, 2005).

3.5. What are the effects of GBV?

GBV can lead to debilitating and long-term trauma, which in turn effects the person's physical and psychological health, often leads to psycho-social problems and greatly impacts the person's feeling of security and safety.

Physical injuries, chronic pain, somatic complaints, paralysis, disability, eating disorders, sleep disorders, infections (including STIs and HIV), unwanted pregnancies, pregnancy complications, menstrual and gynaecological disorders and substance abuse are amongst the most common effects of GBV in physical health. The most extreme consequences in this respect include death (either by femicide or suicide), maternal mortality, infant mortality and AIDS-related mortality.

The invisible wounds of GBV refer to its profound impacts on **psychological health**, which is often as severe - if not worse - than physical injuries. These consequences may include chronic anxiety,

Revictimization: Revictimization occurs when survivors of gender-based violence are subjected to further trauma, often through the very systems designed to help them. This can happen during interactions with law enforcement, legal processes, or social services, where victims may face disbelief, blame, or insensitivity. Revictimization also includes exposing survivors to repeated questioning, invasive procedures, or forcing them to confront their abusers without adequate support.

depression, mental illness, post-traumatic stress, self-hate, self-blame, disempowerment, feelings of loss of control over their own life, low self-esteem and suicidal thoughts and behaviour. Because of the impact on their self-esteem, people who experience GBV may end up replicating patterns of victimisation in future relationships, which condemns them to a recurrent cycle of violence. Perhaps the most prominent impact of GBV on psychological health is on the feeling of safety and security. People who experience GBV report feeling insecure, unsafe, afraid and unprotected.

Lastly, the **socio-economic consequences**, such as victim-blaming, isolation, rejection, stigmatisation, are significant effects for victims and survivors of GBV. As a result of the fear of social stigma, many people who experience GBV avoid reporting it or are resistant to ask for help. Social stigma/rejection not only results in further emotional damage (including shame, self-hate and depression) but it increases survivors' vulnerability to further abuse and exploitation. This in turn, increases the risk to poverty which again acts as an extra layer of vulnerability for abuse (IPPF, 2021).

Victim-blaming attitudes are also reflected in institutions (such as the police, judicial systems, the health and education sectors) which may refuse to provide services, or which may fail to protect the people who are experiencing GBV. If institutions are not sensitive to the needs for immediate care, protection, dignity and respect, further harm and trauma may result because of delayed assistance or insensitive behaviour. Community attitudes of blaming the person who experiences the violence are also reflected in the courts. Many sexual and gender-based crimes are dismissed or punished with light sentences. In some countries, the punishment meted out to people exercising the violence constitutes another violation of the survivor's rights and freedoms, such as in cases of forced marriage. The emotional damage to people experiencing violence is compounded by the implication that their abuser is not at fault (IPPF, 2021).

3.6. How can GBV be deconstructed?

At the heart of unlearning harmful behaviours and beliefs is the deconstruction of deeply ingrained social structures that perpetuate gender-based violence. This means challenging and deconstructing things embedded in one's way of thinking that must be eradicated before new ideas or beliefs can be applied. For instance, patriarchy, toxic masculinity, and rigid gender stereotypes are not just abstract concepts; they are powerful forces that shape our attitudes, behaviours, and societal norms.

Examples of exercises:

https://www.strath.ac.uk/media/1newwebsite/departmentsubject/socialwork/documents/eshe/7-Scripted_Roleplays.pdf

<https://esther-company.com/a-role-play-exercise-in-gaslighting-a-psychological-abuse-tactic>

Steps to Unlearn Harmful Norms

- ⇒ **Recognise your social constructs:** Understanding that many beliefs about gender roles, consent, and sexual violence are socially constructed is crucial. Rape culture is sustained by societal norms that eroticise male dominance and female subordination.
- ⇒ **Educate yourself and gain awareness:** Understanding the origins and impacts of these sexist practices is the first step toward change. Comprehensive sexuality education on concepts such as gender equality, consent, and respect, among others, can challenge ingrained beliefs. Schools, workplaces, and community organisations should provide resources and training to foster awareness.
- ⇒ **Critical Media Consumption:** Media plays a significant role in shaping societal attitudes. Developing critical media literacy helps individuals recognise and challenge sexist portrayals and narratives.
- ⇒ **Challenge the stereotypes you know:** Actively questioning and confronting gender stereotypes in everyday life, whether in conversation, media, or workplace policies, can help dismantle harmful norms. Encouraging diverse and nuanced portrayals of all genders fosters a more inclusive understanding of human identity and potential.
- ⇒ **Promote Consent and Healthy Relationships:** Teaching and practising the principles of consent, communication, and mutual respect in relationships are vital. This includes understanding that consent must be ongoing and can be withdrawn at any time.
- ⇒ **Support Victims and Survivors and Advocate for Change:** Supporting victims and survivors of GBV and sexual violence and advocating for systemic changes, such as comprehensive sexuality education, robust legal protections, and accessible support services.
- ⇒ **Engaging Perpetrators:** It is crucial to engage perpetrators in conversations about sexism, toxic masculinity and gender equality. Encouraging them to reflect on their behaviours and become allies in promoting gender equality.



ROLE OF EDUCATORS & PRACTICAL TOOLS

4. ROLE OF EDUCATORS & PRACTICAL TOOLS

4.1. The role of educators – a comprehensive approach to GBV prevention

Educators play a crucial role in addressing GBV by creating a **safe and supportive environment that fosters respect, equality, and awareness**. In this context, educators are understood as all figures that are in contact with women and girls in situations of vulnerability, especially regarding GBV and sexual exploitation (Flood & Rowe, 2021).

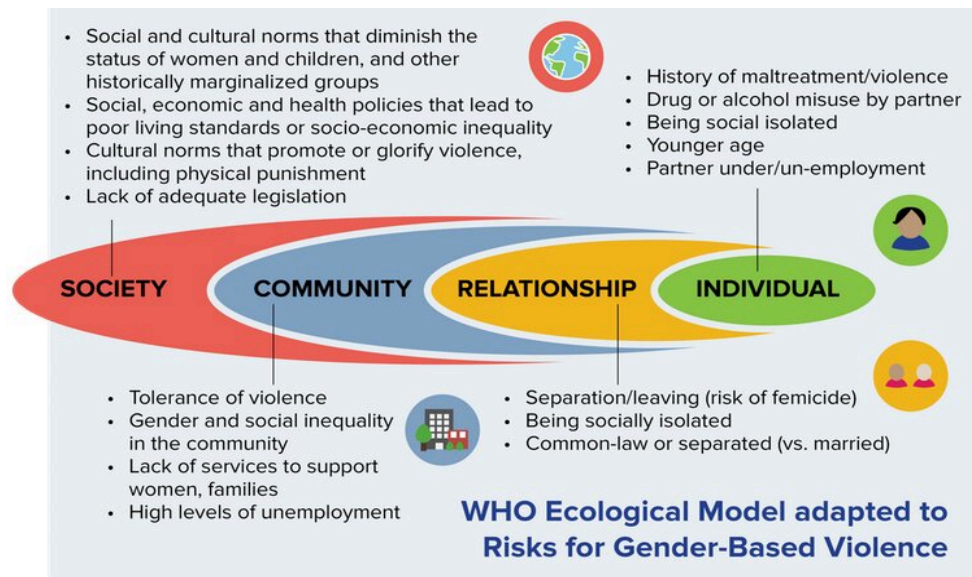
The **socio-ecological model** illustrates how multiple levels of influence interact to affect individual behaviour and societal norms (UN Women, 2010). It shows the relationships between structures, norms, and practices at the societal, system and institutional, organisational and community, and individual and relationship levels. This model underscores the fact that to develop strategies for reducing and/or eliminating risk through broad-based prevention programming, it is critical to develop an **understanding of the complex interplay of biological, psychological, social, cultural, economic and political factors** that increase women's and girl's likelihood for experiencing violence as well as men's likelihood for perpetrating violence (ibidem).

The person who experiences GBV represents a whole system and intersection of contexts that require a multifaceted attention, therefore there are several levels of interactions that need to be reached or avoided.

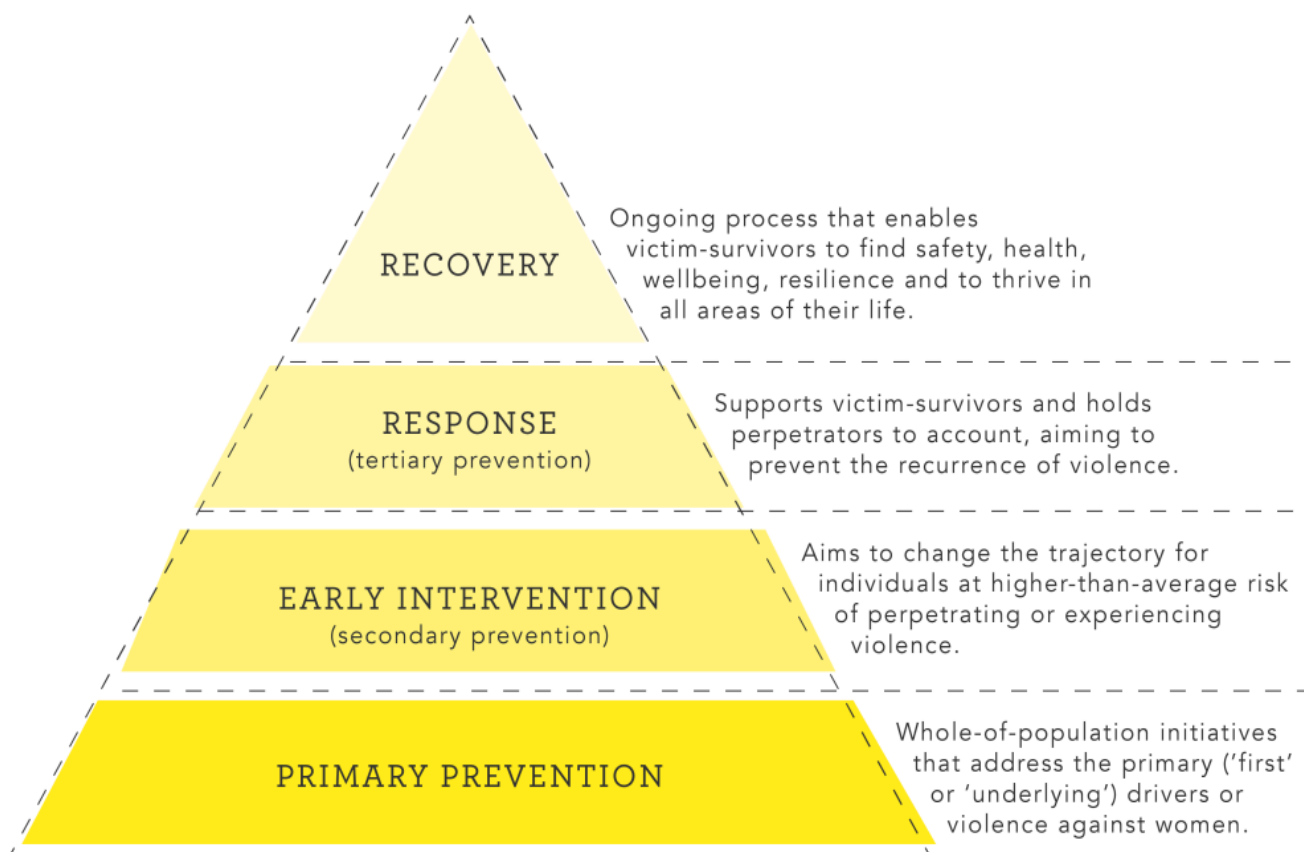
Applied to GBV, educators can have a pivotal role, as they might enhance their prevention efforts by examining their work at each level of this model.

Victim-Centred Approach:

A victim-centred approach prioritises the needs, rights, and experiences of survivors of GBV. It involves treating survivors with dignity and allowing them to make informed choices about their own recovery process. This approach emphasises confidentiality, trauma-informed care, and non-judgemental support.



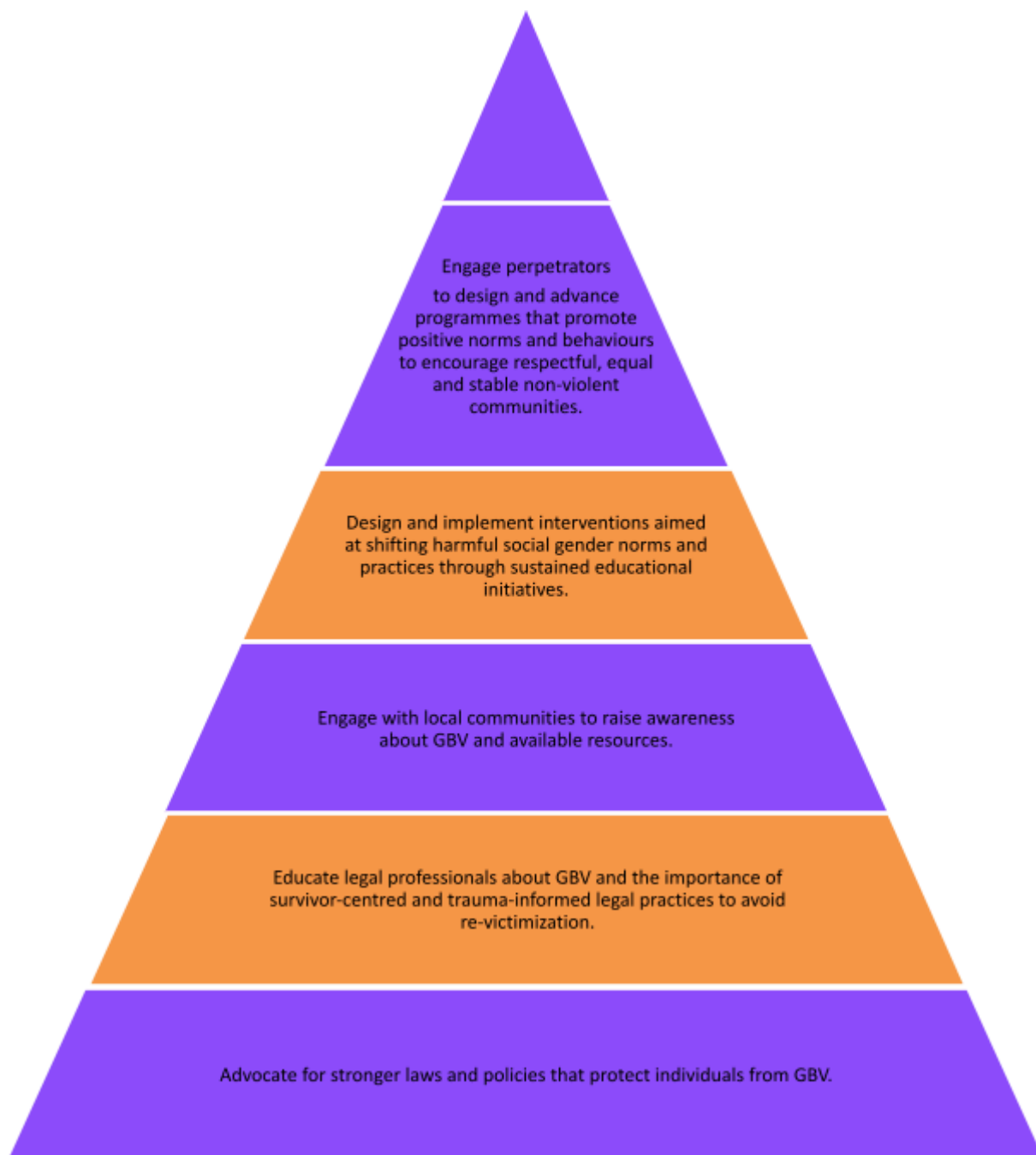
To effectively address GBV, a comprehensive approach is needed that includes prevention, support and recovery while also fostering a systemic change. This entails structuring the response to GBV into different stages, tailored to the goal and the specific circumstances of the (potential) victim. The pyramid below illustrates how addressing GBV involves different approaches according to the situation (Haven Horizons, 2020).



4.2 Levels of Intervention

4.2.1 Primary prevention

Interventions to stop GBV from occurring in the first place. Primary intervention should address root causes by transforming the conditions that perpetuate GBV. It requires addressing unequal power dynamics, promoting gender equality, and advocating for human rights (Youth Department of the Council of Europe, 2022). Community programs should focus on educating individuals about gender norms, empowering all genders, and promoting healthy relationships. For instance, educators could:



4.2.2 Secondary prevention

Also known as early intervention are interventions to reduce the risk of GBV exposure. Secondary prevention is aimed at mitigating risks by implementing measures to prevent GBV in communities. It involves raising awareness, educating the public about gender equality, and creating safe spaces for vulnerable individuals. This approach focuses on taking immediate actions to reduce the likelihood and impact of GBV, carrying out preventive measures and creating safer environments to protect individuals from becoming victims. For instance, educators could:

- Organise workshops and seminars to educate young people about GBV and its impact.
- Incorporate lessons on gender equality, healthy relationships, and consent into the school curriculum.
- Conduct specialised training for law enforcement officers on handling GBV cases with sensitivity and professionalism avoiding secondary victimisation.
- Educate healthcare providers on identifying and responding to GBV in a sensitive manner.

4.2.3 Tertiary prevention or response

Interventions to address the consequences of GBV after it has occurred. Tertiary prevention means supporting victims & survivors by ensuring access to survivor-centred, trauma-informed, multi sectoral services. This includes medical care, psychological support, legal assistance, and social services. For instance, educators could:

- Engage with communities to develop outreach approaches and context-appropriate messages
- Inform communities about available specialised services in a safe and context-appropriate manner and establish confidential systems for victims/survivors to report GBV incidents.
- Create peer support groups and counselling services for people affected by GBV.
- Establish dedicated units within the law enforcement to provide support and guidance to GBV victim/survivors.
- Ensure timely and effective response to GBV incidents, prioritising the safety and well-being of victims/survivors.
- Offer counselling and psychological support to help victims/ survivors cope with trauma.
- Provide comprehensive support services, including sustaining local networks that provide, among others, shelter or financial aid for GBV survivors.

4.2.4 Recovery

When pursuing recovery and following a survivor-centred approach, educators must always be aware of the social and cultural context the survivors come from. In other words, it is crucial to follow a holistic method in dealing with survivors and victims, and not separating the aspects that have characterised not only their trauma but their overall life experiences (Sinko et al., 2021). From the survivors' perspective, healing is not a linear process, and it requires an active approach and engagement combined with the integration of the trauma and selfhood while achieving and visualising future goals. Therefore, healing after GBV can be defined as a process in which one actively applies to find

Experiential Learning Approach is about

Experiencing

(Concrete Experience): Learning begins when a learner uses senses and perceptions to engage in what is happening now.

Reflecting

(Reflective Observation): After the experience, a learner reflects on what happened and connects feelings with ideas about the experience.

Thinking

(Abstract Conceptualization): The learner engages in thinking to reach conclusions and form theories, concepts, or general principles that can be tested

Acting

(Active Experimentation): The learner tests the theory and applies what was learned to get feedback and create the next experience (Institute for Experiential Learning, 2023).

Avoiding Revictimization: To prevent re-victimisation,

institutions and service providers must adopt a trauma-informed approach, ensuring that survivors are not re-traumatised during their interactions with the system. This includes training staff on how to handle cases sensitively, providing clear information, and respecting the survivor's autonomy at every stage. While pursuing justice is important, it should not come at the cost of the survivor's mental and emotional health.

wellbeing, integrating their GBV experience into their identity, and move toward a future where their trauma does not limit their ability to connect with others and pursue their goals and aspirations (ibidem). In this way, by promoting self-awareness and meaning-making through empowerment and narrative self-disclosure, participants can gain insight to enable self-mastery and help-seeking decision-making (Sinko & Arnault, 2019).

4.3. Methodologies used for GBV prevention

Victim-blaming attitudes are also reflected in institutions (such as the police, judicial systems, the health and education sectors) which may refuse to provide services, or which may fail to protect the people who are experiencing GBV. If institutions are not sensitive to the needs for immediate care, protection, dignity and respect, further harm and trauma may result because of delayed assistance or insensitive behaviour. Community attitudes of blaming the person who experiences the violence are also reflected in the courts. Many sexual and gender-based crimes are dismissed or punished with light sentences. In some countries, the punishment meted out to people exercising the violence constitutes another violation of the survivor's rights and freedoms, such as in cases of forced marriage. The emotional damage to people experiencing violence is compounded by the implication that their abuser is not at fault (IPPF, 2021).

When designing prevention interventions, educators are encouraged to employ a variety of non-formal and informal educational methods, adopting an [experiential learning approach](#) (Institute for Experiential Learning, 2023; Flood & Rowe, 2021; Youth Department of the Council of Europe, 2022) to understand the impact of GBV while developing empathy and critical thinking skills.

- **Case studies & real-life scenarios:** Analysing case studies and real-life scenarios helps participants understand the complexity of GBV and the various factors involved.
- **Art-based methods:** Art, drama, and storytelling can be powerful tools for exploring issues related to GBV. These methods encourage creativity and self-expression, making it easier to discuss sensitive topics.
- **Role-playing:** Role-playing activities can help beneficiaries develop empathy and understand different perspectives. This method is particularly effective in teaching conflict resolution and communication skills.
- **Group discussions and debates:** Facilitating open discussions or structured debates encourages participants to express their views, challenge assumptions, and consider multiple perspectives on GBV issues.
- **Interactive storytelling:** Using stories, either real or fictional, to engage participants in exploring the emotional and psychological impacts of GBV. This can be combined with discussion to unpack themes and lessons.
- **Mind mapping and brainstorming sessions:** These activities help participants visually organise ideas and explore connections between different aspects of GBV.
- **Journaling and reflective writing:** Encouraging participants to write about their thoughts, feelings, and experiences related to GBV can foster personal reflection and growth, helping them process complex emotions.
- **Film screenings and media analysis:** Using documentaries, films, or media clips related to GBV to spark discussions and critical thinking about the portrayal and impact of gender-based violence in society.
- **Panel discussions with experts:** Inviting experts from various fields (e.g., psychology, law, social work) to discuss GBV topics with participants, providing diverse insights and fostering informed dialogue.

- **Field visits and community engagement:** Organising visits to shelters, counselling centres, or community organisations working on GBV issues, allowing participants to observe and engage with real-world efforts to combat GBV.
- **Playback theatre:** Participants share stories of personal experiences related to GBV, which are then enacted by others in the group. This method can help process emotions and foster empathy.

4.4. Dos/Donts

Educators should be equipped to respond to GBV disclosures in a safe and appropriate manner. This involves reacting immediately, appropriately, and empathetically when someone reports that they have experienced GBV.

How to respond if someone tells you they have experienced GBV? (CARE, 2022; UNHCR, n.d.)

DOS	DON'Ts
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Express appropriate acknowledgement of their disclosure• Be aware of any mandatory reporting requirements in your country• Ask if they would like information: If they say yes, give them information about appropriate referral services. If they say no, respect their decision.• Respect the person's privacy and confidentiality Try to find a private place to talk where the person cannot be seen or heard. Reassure them that you will respect their privacy and confidentiality.• Having private spaces to talk• Ask if they would like information. Make sure this is done discreetly and respectfully.<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Provide verbal and/or written information about legal and human rights.- Give explanations of what services can and cannot do and what options are available to victims/survivors.• Be clear that help is also an option in the future• Respect people's right to make their own decisions• Be aware of and set aside your own biases and prejudices• Be culture, age and gender sensitive as well as aware of disability and mental health conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Judge the people for their actions or feelings• Offer your advice, make comparisons with others, or assume you know what is best.• Try to mediate, take sides or find a solution with the person who caused harm.• Exploit your relationship as a helper.• Ask for any money or favour for helping them.• Make false promises or give false information.• Force help on people.• Pressure people to tell you their stories or ask probing questions.• Share the person's story with others and share any information about the incident or about the person to anyone, except if you have the survivor's consent.

What considerations should you consider when working on prevention programs with communities?

DOs

- **Involve perpetrators in GBV prevention efforts** to challenge harmful gender norms and behaviours.
- **Encourage community members to participate** in developing and implementing GBV prevention programs.
- **Offer regular training** to community leaders, educators, and service providers on GBV issues and response.
- Adopt a **human rights education (HRE) foundation** [29]: recognizing GBV as a human rights violation, the educator emphasises the importance of Human Rights Education (HRE) as a vehicle for fostering personal and societal change.
- Adopt an **inclusive & participatory approach** ensuring that all voices are heard and valued. Educators are encouraged to build on participants' existing knowledge, opinions, and experiences, facilitating a collective exploration of new ideas and contextualising these within universal human rights.

DON'Ts

- **Reinforcing** gender stereotypes and harmful norms in programs.
- **Exclude key groups**; ensure programs are inclusive and consider the needs of marginalised populations and take intersectionality into account.
- **Ignore community feedback** and fail to involve community members in refining initiatives.
- **Assume a one-size-fits-all approach.**

4.5 Tools for Educators

There are numerous tools and resources available, covering a wide range from materials for educators to those designed for intervention and support stages, all aimed at enhancing educators' skills. The table below serves as a quick reference guide, providing the description target audience, language, source and year of publication for each resource, making it easier for educators to select tools that best meet the needs of their participants. The cells in pink are the ones containing information on intervention and prevention, while the green ones talk about the recovery and support to victims.

Gender Matters - A Manual on addressing Gender-Based Violence affecting young people	
<p>The manual offers activities focused on understanding gender roles, power dynamics, and the impact of GBV. It includes workshops, discussions, and interactive exercises.</p> <p>See Chapter 2 Activities to address gender and gender-based violence with young people.</p>	<p><i>Target group:</i> youth workers, educators and teachers.</p> <p><i>Language</i> EN, FR, HU</p> <p><i>Source:</i> Council of Europe Link</p> <p><i>Year</i> 2019</p>
LOVE ACT educational guides	
<p>The LoveAct project developed the following Guides with the aim of reducing the risk of gender-based violence and teen-dating violence by equipping teenagers, parents and educational staff with knowledge and competencies in Comprehensive Sexual Education (CSE).</p> <p>The Guides focus on the following thematic modules: relationships, gender, GBV, sexual health, culture and disability.</p> <p>See the Activity Sheet document.</p>	<p><i>Target group:</i> youth workers, educators, teachers and young people (12-18y)</p> <p><i>Language:</i> EN, IT, FR, LT, EL, ES</p> <p><i>Source:</i> LOVE ACT EU-funded project Link</p> <p>The Gender Talk EU: The Gender Talk EU</p> <p><i>Year:</i> 2024</p>
Gender Competencies for Service Providers Addressing Violence Against Women and Girls in the Caribbean	
<p>A practical 12-page guide on the gender competencies that frontline health providers, police, educators, and social workers need to strengthen to address VAWG.</p> <p>No activities provided.</p>	<p><i>Target group:</i> Educators, Health Workers, Police and Social Workers</p> <p><i>Language:</i> EN</p> <p><i>Source:</i> UNICEF Link</p> <p><i>Year:</i> 2023</p>
The Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls	

<p>An initiative focused on eliminating violence against women and girls globally, offering resources and tools to support education and advocacy efforts.</p> <p>See the Learning Centre for various resources.</p>	<p><i>Target group:</i> Educators, policymakers, and activists</p> <p><i>Language:</i> EN</p> <p><i>Source:</i> Link</p> <p><i>Year:</i> On-going</p>
Gender-Based Violence Visual Pocket Guide Facilitator's Manual. A resource for master trainers. (2023)	
<p>A manual to provide facilitators with an instructional tool to deliver a training to non-GBV specialised actors on how to use the GBV Visual Pocket Guide and appropriately respond to GBV disclosures in areas where GBV support is not available.</p>	<p><i>Target group:</i> Master trainers, educators, non-GBV specialised actors</p> <p><i>Language:</i> EN</p> <p><i>Source:</i> Link</p> <p><i>Year:</i> 2023</p>
Compass – Manual for Human Rights Education with young people (2012)	
<p>This manual includes activities that foster awareness and action on various human rights issues, including gender equality and GBV. Activities range from role-plays to debates and group discussions.</p>	<p><i>Target group:</i> Youth workers, educators, and human rights educators</p> <p><i>Language:</i> EN, FR, ES, RU</p> <p><i>Source:</i> Council of Europe</p> <p><i>Year:</i> 2012</p>
Ending violence against women: UN Women's Teaching Toolkit	
<p>The toolkit includes lesson plans, case studies, and discussion guides. Activities focus on understanding the roots of GBV, promoting gender equality, and empowering students to take action.</p>	<p><i>Target group:</i> Educators, teachers, and youth leaders</p> <p><i>Language:</i> EN, ES, FR</p> <p><i>Source:</i> UN Women</p> <p><i>Year:</i> 2021</p>
Stand up: A Guide for educators to address Gender-Based Violence	
<p>This guide offers practical activities, including workshops, group discussions, and projects that promote gender equality and provide support to survivors of GBV.</p>	<p><i>Target group:</i> Educators, teachers, and school administrators</p> <p><i>Language:</i> EN, ES</p> <p><i>Source:</i> Plan International</p> <p><i>Year:</i> 2020</p>
BOÎTE À OUTILS POUR LA RÉVÉLATION DE LA VIOLENCE BASÉE SUR LE GENRE: Répondre à la révélation de la violence basée sur le genre dans les situations de crise humanitaire	

<p>This guide offers different modules for educators to prepare women for the revelation of GBV and to offer the support needed for the GBV survivors during and after the GBV. The guide also focuses on the aftercare of the GBV survivors and on how to raise awareness.</p>	<p><i>Target group:</i> Educators, health workers</p> <p><i>Language:</i> FR, EN</p> <p><i>Source:</i> Center for Human Rights, Gender & Migration Institute for Public Health at Washington University Link</p> <p><i>Year:</i> 2023</p>
Un guide d'action pour la prévention de la violence basée sur le genre chez les jeunes	
<p>This guide is made of various activities to raise awareness and prevent GBV through the explanation of gender roles in the domestic sphere, the workplace and school, and the influence of patriarchy on individuals and behaviours.</p>	<p><i>Target group:</i> Young people, educators, teachers</p> <p><i>Language:</i> FR, EN, ES</p> <p><i>Source:</i> Breaking the cycle project</p> <p>Link</p> <p><i>Year:</i> 2018</p>
Sexual and Gender-based Violence in a Context of Migration: MIGRANT WOMEN AND GIRLS TOOLBOX	
<p>This toolbox aims to teach professionals how to react when faced with migrant women who have experienced or are at risk of GBV. This manual explores the different types of Sexual GBV and explains in the context of migration mentioning the vulnerability related to gender and migration.</p>	<p><i>Target group:</i> Frontline workers: educators, health workers etc</p> <p><i>Language:</i> EN, FR, DE, POR, GR</p> <p><i>Source:</i> International Organization for Migration (IOM), Project Equality Link</p> <p><i>Year:</i> 2021</p>
In her shoe	
<p>This project is built on 10 true stories of women in vulnerable situations who have experienced GBV. This is designed to make the participants realise the consequences and obstacles women are faced with when and after experiencing GBV. It is meant to develop empathy towards GBV survivors.</p>	<p><i>Target group:</i> Educators, teachers, young people</p> <p><i>Language:</i> EN</p> <p><i>Source:</i> GBV Prevention Network</p> <p>Link</p> <p><i>Year:</i> 2011</p>
PROSTITUTION DES MINEURES Un guide pour aider les personnels travaillant auprès des jeunes à comprendre et prévenir le phénomène et à protéger ses victimes	

<p>This guide explores how to prevent and react in the event of child prostitution. It explains the interaction between prostitution, sexual exploitation and GBV. It also gives concrete advice to professionals on how to help the victims of this prostitution system.</p>	<p><i>Target group:</i> Frontline workers: educators, health workers, psychologists</p> <p><i>Language:</i> FR</p> <p><i>Source:</i> Mouvement du nid Link</p> <p><i>Year:</i> 2022</p>
Boîte à outils TRACKS France	
<p>This guide is made for professionals working with asylum-seekers who are victims of human trafficking to detect and identify their specific needs and to give them the appropriate support and help they need.</p>	<p><i>Target group:</i> Frontline workers: educators, health workers, psychologists etc</p> <p><i>Language:</i> FR</p> <p><i>Source:</i> Projet TRACKS France, Forum réfugiés-Cosi Link</p> <p><i>Year:</i> 2017</p>
Counseling Centers for Gender Equality	
<p>The General Secretariat for Gender Equality operates several Counseling Centers across Greece, to support victims and serve as resources for police training and collaboration</p>	<p><i>Target group:</i> Educators, Health Workers, Police and Social Workers</p> <p><i>Language:</i> GR</p> <p><i>Source:</i> Link</p> <p><i>Year:</i> 2019</p>
Specialised Police Units	
<p>74 specialised police units in Greece dedicated to improving law enforcement responses to violence against women. These units are trained specifically to handle GBV cases.</p> <p>2023</p>	<p><i>Target group:</i> Police Officers</p> <p><i>Language:</i> GR</p> <p><i>Source:</i> Link</p> <p><i>Year:</i> 2023</p>
"Talking about gender-based violence" Guide	

Concise and essential information about GBV, including definitions of relevant terms and explanations of actions that can be taken by both victims and witnesses. It also presents details of available governmental and non-governmental support services.	<i>Target group:</i> Social Workers, LEAs <i>Language:</i> GR, EN, FR, AR, UK, TUR <i>Source:</i> Link <i>Year:</i> 2023
Helpline 15900	
Dedicated 24-hour phone line for women who are victims of violence	<i>Target group:</i> Social workers, Psychologists <i>Language:</i> GR, EN <i>Source:</i> Link <i>Year:</i> 2010
19 shelters for women	
Shelters where women can stay (also with their children) and receive legal, psychological, financial help and guidance, as well as protection.	<i>Target group:</i> Social workers, Psychologists <i>Language:</i> GR, EN <i>Source:</i> Link <i>Year:</i> 2011
Scripted Roleplays	
The Scottish Intervention Initiative developed a script to practise intervention behaviours and skills.	<i>Target group:</i> Social Workers, Students <i>Language:</i> GR, EN <i>Source:</i> Link <i>Year:</i> 2020
A Role Play Exercise in Gaslighting, a Psychological Abuse Tactic	
A Role Play Exercise in Gaslighting, a Psychological Abuse Tactic — Written by Elle Renee Arters	<i>Target group:</i> Social Workers, Students <i>Language:</i> EN <i>Source:</i> Link <i>Year:</i> 2021

CAP International's EXIT guide	
A handbook gathering the best practices of grassroots and survivor-led organisations providing direct assistance to persons in prostitution around the world.	<p><i>Target group:</i> Professionals wishing to develop their activity with and for persons in prostitution</p> <p><i>Language:</i> EN, FR</p> <p><i>Source:</i> CAP INTERNATIONAL Link</p> <p><i>Year:</i> 2024</p>
International Medical Corps: A Toolkit for GBV Programs to Engage Community Leaders in Humanitarian Settings	
The <i>Traditions and Opportunities Toolkit</i> is designed for GBV programs, including programs implemented by local, national and international organisations, to serve as a resource in their work to address GBV in humanitarian settings.	<p><i>Target group</i> Organisations wishing to engage community leaders in addressing GBV issues</p> <p><i>Language:</i> EN, FR, AR</p> <p><i>Source:</i> Link</p> <p><i>Year:</i> 2024</p>
MARIPOSA	
Online interactive tools based on Symbolwork, a methodology that uses symbols to support and enable women affected by gender-based violence to set objectives and develop a future life plan. Empower ME MARIPOSA	<p><i>Target group:</i></p> <p>Victims or potential victims of GBV</p> <p><i>Language:</i> EN, DE, ITA, FR, GR, RO, ES</p> <p><i>Source:</i> Mariposa project</p> <p><i>Year:</i> 2024</p>
The Gender Talk EU	
The Gender Talk is an online platform aimed at opening a discussion with and for young people on issues such as mental wellbeing, affectivity and sexuality, gender roles and stereotypes. Educational Resources the Gender Talk	<p><i>Target group:</i> Operators, youth, victims, potential victims</p> <p><i>Language:</i> EN, ITA, SLO, GR, FRA, LIT, ES, NL, BUL</p> <p><i>Source:</i> About the Gender Talk</p>



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