

Haileybury MUN

Research report



Human Rights Council: Committee 1

The question of domestic violence against men

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Introduction

In a system predominantly tailored to the violence against women, men are seemingly overlooked, the UN wish to promote the importance for men to speak out to develop schemes and systems to deal with and prevent male victims of domestic violence. This is an issue that needs developments and solutions with an issue which its extent is uncertain and therefore more challenging to determine for actions of the UN. A leading charity in the UK 'Men's Rights Campaign Group Parity' recently stated in its report: *Domestic Violence: the male perspective*;

"domestic violence is often seen as a female victim/ male perpetrator problem, but the evidence demonstrates that this is a false picture".

Data from the Home Office falls under scrutiny alongside all other data collection/ analysis systems, where cases of male domestic violence are concerned. Seeing as data is limited dealing with the issue/ stereotype that women find it easier to share/ report more cases, then men. Therefore leaving room for finding a solution regarding getting men to overcome the stereotype to work towards resolving this issue.

To eliminate domestic violence against men, it's important to look at solutions implemented by the UN to deal with the more prominent issue discussed of domestic violence against women. Many systems/ schemes put forward in regard to female victims are plausible solutions for male victims as well:

UN bodies such as; UNESCO and UNICEF have implemented schemes on behalf of violence in adolescents and continue to work towards intensifying Global Efforts for the elimination of Female domestic violence. Therefore it's a good place to start by looking at the actions put in place for women, to then establish what's suitable for dealing with the Question of Domestic Violence against Men.

Definition

Domestic violence: Domestic violence experienced by men or boys in a domestic setting, such as in a marriage or cohabitation

IPV: stands for the intimate partner violence, less recognised in legal data due to the lack of men reporting cases of IPV to officials

Gender symmetry: the theory that women's IPV rates are roughly similar rates as men has been termed Gender symmetry.

CTS: conflict tactical scale is the measure of domestic violence

Battered Husband Syndrome - details the theory about IPV levels being roughly similar between men and women.

Education

Looking towards dealing with a Human Rights issue education is a great place to start, when adapting current curriculum levels in your delegations country. One of the largest problems with this issue is the stereotype for men

not being able to come forward and report cases of domestic violence against them. When looking at clauses to write for the prevention of this issue, education is a great place to start. Training schemes for teachers to reduce gender-bias in the topic of domestic violence have been implemented by numerous Scandinavian countries. Therefore it's prevalent to look at your country's current education system: teacher training, domestic violence on the curriculum and the extent of data given to teach with this on the topic in schools.

Legislation

Numerous UN bodies, have worked towards dealing with the Question of domestic violence to work alongside the Human Rights legislation predominantly The International Bill of Human Rights. Now the UN manual on dealing with this issue is being pulled together by The Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1986/10, called for the convening of a round-table meeting on domestic violence to promote research and formulate strategies. The expert group meeting on violence in the family, was held, accordingly, at Vienna in December 1986.

When talking about sanctions/ punishment portion of a resolution the role the UN has taken in safeguarding Human Rights through tightening up the legal system: the 1990 Eighth Congress, the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/114 in which it urged Member States to develop and implement policies, measures and strategies, within and outside the criminal justice systems.

Criminalisation of domestic violence has only recently become illegal. Some member nations still see Domestic Violence as an issue dealt with outside the law. In Poland under the article 184 and the Penal Code 1969 domestic violence is crime and the punishment includes paying damages. However, other member nations take more drastic punishments to the crime of domestic violence.

Possible solutions

- Educational reforms (manipulate/ destroy damaging stereotypes)
- Economic reforms (more shelters)
- Hotlines/ support schemes (counselling/ therapy)
- Training (teachers/ police/ community members)
- Raise awareness of the extent of situation
- Media/ political campaigns to change legislation
- Harsher punishment for those convicted

Statistics

- . one in six men have experienced violence since the age of 16 (16%)
- . only 4% of men have reported experiencing domestic violence in the past year= equivalent to 600,000 men
- . there are currently 7,500 places of refuge for female victims of domestic violence compared with only 60 shelters for men
- .15% of men aged between 16-59 have experienced domestic violence.
- . for every three victims of partner abuse, two will be female and one will be male
- .men who are separated or divorced are more likely to suffer abuse than those who are married
- . **male victims (39%) are over 3x as likely as women (12%) not to tell about the partner abuse they are suffering**

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