

FACT SHEET: HOW DO WE STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN OCCURRING?

We can take action to stop violence against women before it occurs in the first place. This is known as primary prevention.

We must first understand why violence against women occurs.

So what are the key factors that cause violence against women?

- Unequal power between men and women.
- Rigid gender roles and stereotypes.
- Social attitudes that excuse violence by men.

UNEQUAL POWER BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN

The power and influence that men and women have is not equal. Often, men have greater power in public and private life. For example, men most often have leadership positions in politics, business and religion. They may also have greater power in their relationships and at home.

SOCIAL ATTITUDES THAT EXCUSE VIOLENCE BY MEN

These social norms are beliefs in our society that feel it is acceptable for men to be violent. These kinds of social norms can be seen across our society such as in sport, in the media and in the way men are described as 'tough' and 'strong'.

RIGID GENDER ROLES AND STEREOTYPES

Gender roles and stereotypes are beliefs about what it means to be a 'man' and a 'woman'. This includes what is appropriate behaviour for men and women in regards to, for example, work, domestic roles, parenting, leisure and dress.

These key factors support beliefs and actions that lead to women being treated with less respect and dignity in their relationships.

Other factors such as poverty, alcohol, seeing violence as a child or having violent friends are factors in violence against women. These factors can contribute to violence against women, but do not cause it.

TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, WE MUST ADDRESS GENDER INEQUALITY.

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