



NEPALI NATIONAL CONVENTION 2018

UNITY FOR NEPALESE COMMUNITY



Nepali Women Global Network (NWGN)

Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Empowerment : Community and Institutional Response to Address GBV

**NEPALI NATIONAL CONVENTION
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Nepali Women's Global Network (NWGN) Est. 2002



NWGN- Short Introduction

- ▶ NWGN is a Member Based Organization started in 2002 by a group of like minded women in United States that aims in promoting networking, support, and self-reliance among Nepali women.
- ▶ Provide advocacy on Women's Issues such as domestic violence, sexual abuse, and women's health issues (physical and mental)
- ▶ Assist with skill development for employment, Educate on immigration issues
- ▶ Provide Scholarship/school supply's to girls in Nepal who cannot afford to school/college.
- ▶ Referrals to various service organizations and Encourage to establish new Chapters/Expand Membership

LET'S UNDERSTAND ABUSE

- ▶ Abuse is a pattern of behavior used by one person to maintain power and control over another person

Some kinds of abuse are:

- ▶ Domestic Violence or Intimate Partner Violence
- ▶ Gender Based Violence (GBV)
- ▶ Child Abuse
- ▶ Teen Dating Abuse
- ▶ Sexual Harassment

What is Gender Based Violence (GBV)

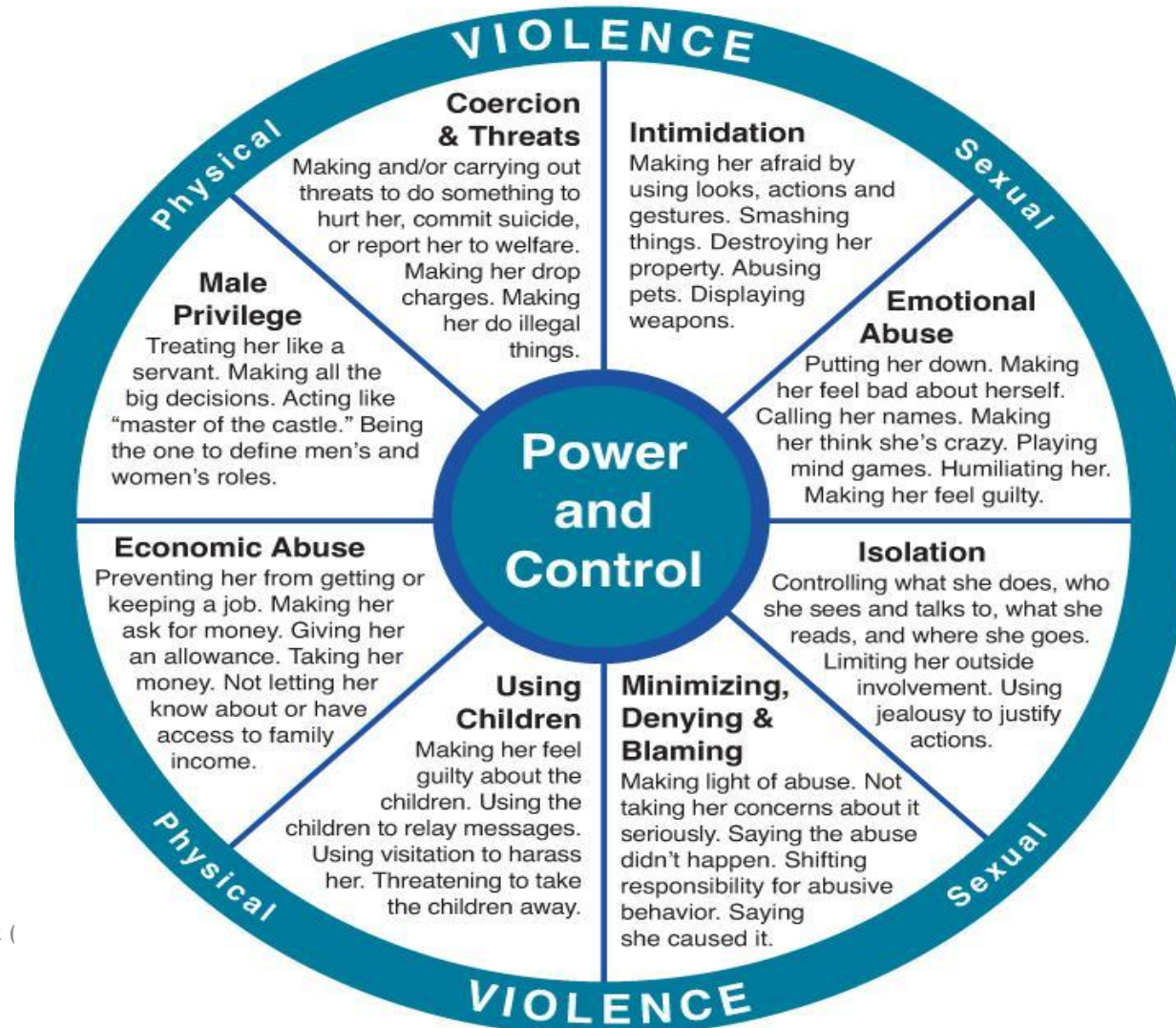
- ▶ Gender-based violence is violence against women based on women's subordinate status in society.
- ▶ It includes any act or threat by men or male dominated institutions that inflict physical, sexual, or psychological harm on a woman or girl because of their gender.
- ▶ In most cultures, traditional beliefs, norms and social institutions legitimize and therefore perpetuate violence against women.

Forms of GBV

- ▶ Verbal Abuse
- ▶ Psychological Abuse
- ▶ Physical Abuse
- ▶ Sexual Abuse
- ▶ Economic Abuse
- ▶ Abuse of children
- ▶ Forced Pregnancy
- ▶ Sexual Slavery
- ▶ Traditional Practices that harm women
- ▶ Driving Restricted



Examples of Abuse in Immigrant Communities



Effect of Gender Based Violence

- ▶ Culture of silence
- ▶ Health,
- ▶ Dignity,
- ▶ Security
- ▶ Autonomy of its victims,
- ▶ Sexual and reproductive health consequences,
- ▶ Unwanted pregnancies,
- ▶ Unsafe abortions,
- ▶ Sexually transmitted infections including HIV,
- ▶ Family separation (Divorce),
- ▶ Death.

Facts About GVB Worldwide

- ▶ At least one in every three women has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused by a man in her lifetime.
- ▶ More than 20 % of women are reported to have been abused by men with whom they live.
- ▶ Approximately 60 million women, mostly in Asia, are “missing” - killed by infanticide, selective abortion, deliberate under-nutrition or lack of access to health care. ,
- ▶ Among women aged 15-44 years, gender-based violence accounts for more death and disability than the combined effects of cancer, malaria, traffic-related injuries and war.
- ▶ Each year, 2 million girls between ages 5 and 15 are introduced into the commercial sex industry.
- ▶ Women who are victims of GVP are 12 times more likely to attempt suicide than those who do not experience such violence.

Immigrant Victims of GBV

- ▶ Immigrant victims of domestic violence often face additional barriers to obtaining safety. Language and cultural barriers make it difficult for some immigrant victims to understand their rights, access services, and work with law enforcement.
- ▶ Furthermore, abusers of immigrant victims often have additional power over their victims through deliberate attempts to misrepresent the law and by controlling immigration documents and threatening deportation or losing custody of their children if they report violence.



Immigration Options for Victims

- ▶ **T Visa** - for Victims of Human Trafficking
- ▶ **U Visa** - for Victims of crime such as DV, Sexual Assault, Rape, ...Non-immigrant visa designed to provide immigration status for non-citizens who are assisting or willing to assist authorities investigating crimes.
- ▶ **VAWA/Battered Spouse Waiver** - Immigration Relief for Abused Immigrants who were married to their U.S. Citizen or Legal Permanent Resident Abusers
- ▶ **Cancellation of Removal** - Immigration Relief for Abused Immigrants who already have conditional Resident card or Green card.

Role of Individual/ Community Response

- ▶ Things to Do
 - ▶ Listen
 - ▶ Believe
 - ▶ Emphasize it's not her fault and no one deserves to be abused
 - ▶ Respect confidentiality
 - ▶ Support her decisions
- ▶ Things to Avoid
 - ▶ Don't rush into giving opinions
 - ▶ Don't feel you need to give a "solution"
 - ▶ Don't judge the decisions she makes
 - ▶ Don't intervene without considering safety first as well as her wishes
 - ▶ Organize people, educate and gather support
 - ▶ Refer, find resources

MOBILIZING COMMUNITIES TO PREVENT GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

- ▶ The Level of Domestic Violence Surprisingly remains high even today.
- ▶ Various research says that - Domestic violence / GBV can occur among all types of families regardless of income, profession, educational level, religion, communities etc.
- ▶ Since most domestic violence/GBV is committed in private and can be of non-physical in nature , an individual can be abused for many years before anyone becomes aware of the need of the intervention.
- ▶ Community Members can play very crucial role in minimizing or eliminating GBV from communities.

CASES OF GBV IN COMMUNITY

- ▶ WE HAVE BEEN ALWAYS DISCUSING ABOUT INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AND THE WAYS TO PREVENT IT
- ▶ HOWEVER THESE DAYS, INCIDENTS OF SEXUAL HARRASMENT ARE INCREASING IN NEPALESE COMMUNITY WHICH WE KEEP SEEING AND HEARING VIA SOCIAL MEDIA
- ▶ A SERIES OF INCIDENT OCCURRED IN TEXAS , UNFORTUNATELY INCIDENT OF SEXUAL HARRASMENT OCCURRED IN 2017 IN CONVENTION HELD IN NORTH CAROLINA AND MANY MORE
- ▶ WHAT IS OUR ROLE AS A COMMUNITY???????????

ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY IN ELIMINATING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

- ▶ Mobilizing communities to prevent GBV involves engaging communities in
 - supporting
 - developing and
 - implementing prevention strategies

That target each individual as well as in the community and society to minimize or eliminate violence from our community

- Please note, victim of GBV can be both male or female; however the ratio of female being victim is higher than male.

POTENTIAL STRATEGIES IN ELIMINATING GBV FROM COMMUNITY

- ▶ Potential strategies can be :
- ▶ Build “A national task force for Action on violence within families in our communities” that includes bringing community member who works in this sector (Social worker, Lawyers, counsellors , doctors etc) to work together and provide leadership to end violence and promote stable and healthy families.
- ▶ Developing a workbook with help of organization working in GBV sector and those task force members that can have : integrated, multi-faceted community approach to prevent the occurrence and reoccurrence of violence in families in our community”. This will be a resource book.

- ▶ Educating the community / Raising Awareness by organizing community events in religious temples, other small gathering and in universities targeting youths raising awareness about Sexual harassment. The resource book can guide to organize such events.
- ▶ Building support among key stakeholders for prevention efforts that includes document local crisis lines, emergency numbers, shelter homes, free legal counsel numbers - which can be done by the task force or while developing a workbook and can be shared in websites for easy access and to reach wider community. Each state organizations can provide further support.
- ▶ The most important is, **Advocating for community accountability**.

WAYS TO REACH AMONG WIDER COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO ELIMINATE GBV

A. WITH HELP OF FAITH LEADERS

- ▶ Leaders of the faith communities have an important role to play in ending domestic violence in all forms.
- ▶ Faith leaders can help bring attention to the issue of domestic violence in a variety of ways, which helps to enhance the environment of zero tolerance within their faith community and help victims or community members feel that they are safer coming and seeking support with the faith community and leaders.

▶ B. INFORMAL SOCIAL GATHERINGS

C. COMMUNITY ENAGEMENT INITIATVE

- ▶ Raise awareness of family violence and establish social norms that make violence unacceptable to your community or community organization we are representing.
- ▶ Develop network of leaders within the community that includes youth leaders, men leaders who discuss about the issue and provide training to these leaders so as to help victim get rescued
- ▶ Connect community resident to services and informal supports when they need help by creating stronger connection to formal services in your county and state. Work with them to translate the resources in Nepali language they made to help survivors. Resources like safety kit, resource book etc.

- ▶ **Create a community based advocacy network .**
- ▶ **Community Accountability-** that will develop the capacity of community members to support survivors and hold abusers accountable for their violence. Disqualify the abusers from any position they are holding in community organization.
- ▶ Community organization lead my Male members can work with male members of the community and educate and ask them to organize event to prevent violence in their communities. These are the issues only hold my women forum or women committee of the organization.
- ▶ Working with Immigrant Populations - Should create or have networks with a free legal service program to help victim get immediate legal counseling in regards to their immigration status.

SUMMARY OF THE THINGS THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY

- ▶ - DEVELOP A NATIONAL TASK FORCE IN A COMMUNITY THAT CAN WORK IN THIS ISSUES
- ▶ DEVELOP A WORKBOOK/RESOURCE GUIDE WITH HELP OF TASK FORCE FOR PREVETING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN COMMUNITY THAT INCLUDES ALL RESOURCES NEEDED AND ALSO GUIDLEINES TO ORGANIZE TRAININGS AND SAFETY PLANNIGS FOR VICTIMS
- ▶ DEVELOP A AWARENESS POSTERS OF GBV WITH PHONE NUMBERS TO GET HELP, AND OTHER RELATIVE INFORMATION FOR EACH STATE WHICH CAN BE POSTED IN THE SOCIAL MEDIA, IN BUSINESSESS OWN BY NEPALI COMMUNITIES, IN OUR COMMUNITY CENTERS, IN OUR RELIGIOUS TEMPLES, OR EVENT LIKE THIS ETC

- ▶ ASK AS MUCH MALE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY TO SPEAK ABOUT THE ISSUE AND ALSO MAKE THEM PART OF PANEL DISCUSISON TO HEAR THEIR PERSPECTIVE AND GET THEM INVOLVED.
- ▶ WE HAVE TO INVOLVE MALE MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY BECAUSE 98% OF THE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS LEADERS ARE MALE MEMBERS . ISSUES OF GBV IS A MATTER FOR BOTH MAN AND WOMAN AS MAN CAN ALSO BE VICTIM, ONLY RATIO IS LESSER COMPARING TO WOMAN.
- ▶ DISQUALIFY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PERPETRATORS FROM COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, TO HOLD A MAJOR POSITIONS ETC AND PLEASE DOCUMENT THAT IN YOUR BYLAWS WHICH WILL MAKE IT EFFECTIVE.

**“WE SHOULD STOP SAYING THAT THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
PROBLEM FACED BY COMMUNITY MEMBER IS NOT OUR
PROBLEM”**

ALSO

“WE SHOULD STOP SAYING THAT’S NOT MY FAMILY”

INSTEAD

WE HAVE TO SAY

**“CAN I HELP YOU WITH ANYTHING? AND
BE READY TO PROVIDE HELP OR BE A BRIDGE TO RESCUE?”**

National Resources

In an Emergency Situation, Dial 911

- ▶ **ATASK- CALL OUR 24-HOUR HOTLINE 617.338.2355**
- ▶ **ASISTA-** offers technical assistance to attorneys/others on immigration relief available
www.asistaonline.org
- ▶ **Family Violence Prevention Fund 415.252.8900-** resources for domestic violence/family violence survivors
www.endabuse.org
- ▶ **Legal Momentum/Immigrant Women Program 202.326.0040-** offers technical assistance to attorneys/others on immigration relief and family law
www.legalmomentum.org/legalmomentum
- ▶ **National Center for Missing and Exploited Children: 1.800.THE.LOST (843.5678)**
www.missingkids.com
Can assist if there is a fear of child abduction and provide steps necessary to prevent kidnapping, both interstate or outside United States
- ▶ **National Domestic Violence Hotline 1.800.799.SAFE (7233)**
www.ndvh.org
- ▶ **National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild 617.227.9727**
www.nationalimmigrationproject.org

Violence does not mean love in any language!!



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