

Violence Against Women



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Karishma's Tale



- Forced to go through female

What is Violence Against Women?

- ▶ The United Nations defines violence against women as any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.
- ▶ Simple Definition: Any type of physical, mental, or sexual violence that harms a woman or takes away her freedom



Violence Against Women is a major Problem

- ▶ “Up to one in three women around the world has been abused in some way – most often by someone she knows,” according to UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund)
- ▶ It is a widespread public health problem and a major human rights violation
- ▶ brings with it a wide range of physical and mental health consequences, including injuries, sexually transmitted infections such as HIV/AIDS and unwanted pregnancies.
- ▶ Survivors of sexual violence often experience social consequences such as stigmatization and social exclusion
- ▶ A lot of victims remain silent about it.



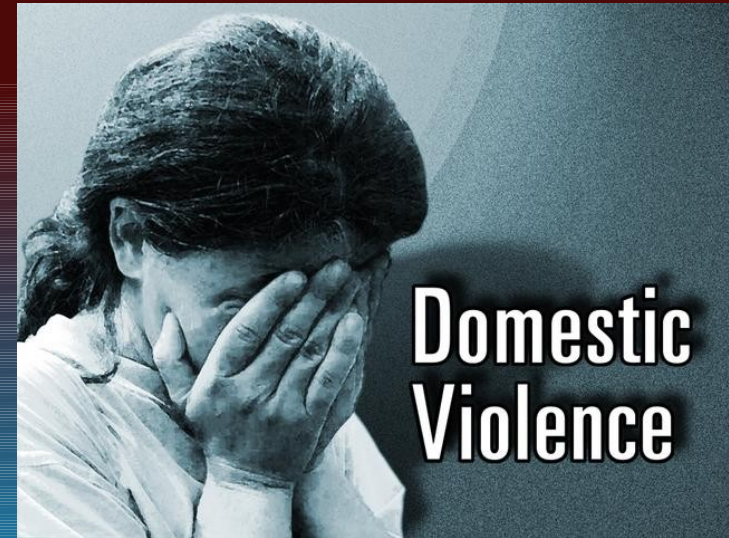
Violence in the USA

- ▶ **In 2005, 1,181 women were murdered by an intimate partner. That's an average of three women every day. Of all the women murdered in the U.S., about one-third were killed by an intimate partner.**
- ▶ **According to the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, women experience about 4.8 million intimate partner-related physical assaults and rapes every year**
- ▶ **Young women, low-income women and some minorities are disproportionately victims of domestic violence and rape.**
- ▶ **The Centers for Disease Control estimates that the cost of domestic violence in 2003 was more than \$8.3 billion. This cost includes medical care, mental health services, and lost productivity**



Domestic Violence

- ▶ **This is intimate partner abuse that can take many forms such as physical abuse, stalking, dating violence etc.**
- ▶ Domestic violence is a major public-health problem in that it affects millions of people and often results in physical and emotional injuries and even deaths. Media reporting of celebrities like Rihanna's domestic abuse victimization demonstrates that even the most accomplished individual can fall victim to this problem.



Rape

- ▶ 1 out of every 6 American women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime (14.8% completed rape; 2.8% attempted rape).
- ▶ 17.7 million American women have been victims of attempted or completed rape

Rape may result in:

- ▶ Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- ▶ Substance Abuse
- ▶ Self Harm/Self Injury
- ▶ Depression
- ▶ STD's
- ▶ Pregnancy
- ▶ Eating Disorders



Female Genital Mutilation

- ▶ **comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons**
- ▶ **The practice causes severe pain and has several immediate and long-term health consequences, including difficulties in childbirth also causing dangers to the child.**
- ▶ **An estimated 100 to 140 million girls and women worldwide are currently living with the consequences of FGM.**
- ▶ **It is mostly carried out on young girls sometime between infancy and age 15 years.**

Female Infanticide and Child Marriages

India kills 10 million girls in 20 years



274 GIRLS DIE IN PUNJAB EVERYDAY BEFORE THEY ARE BORN



Sikhtoons.com

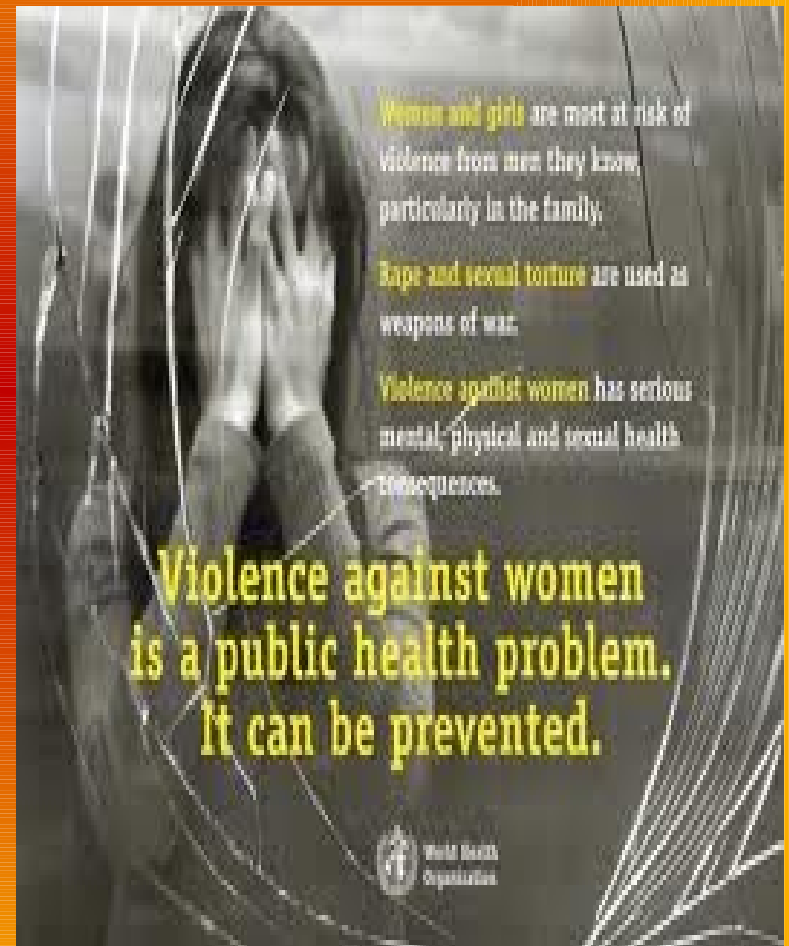


- ▶ Female infanticide is the intentional killing of baby girls due to the preference for male babies and from the low value associated with the birth of females. Sons are believed to secure the family's economic future. Women who fail to produce a son are often subject to ridicule and abuse, or are cast out of their husband's home to return to their family in shame.
- ▶ Child Marriages are prevalent in Egypt, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Pakistan, India, and the Middle East: In the rural villages of these countries many young girls are rarely allowed out of their homes

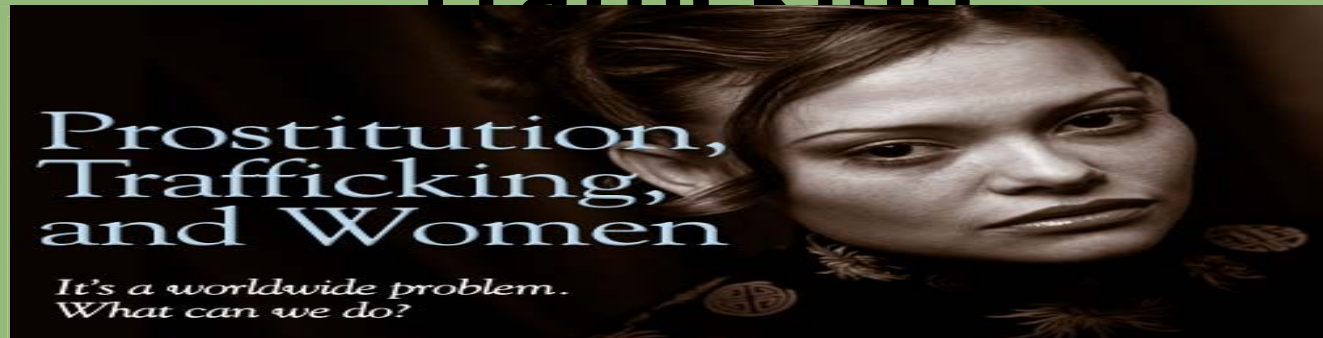
What causes violence against women?

Cause of Violence Include:

- Patriarchal customs
- Learned Gender Roles and Culture
- Childhood Trauma
- Pornography
- Alcohol and substance abuse
- Need for power and control
- Growing up in a cycle of violence and abuse
- Distorted concept of manhood
- Poverty, race and ethnicity



Forced Prostitution and Sex Trafficking



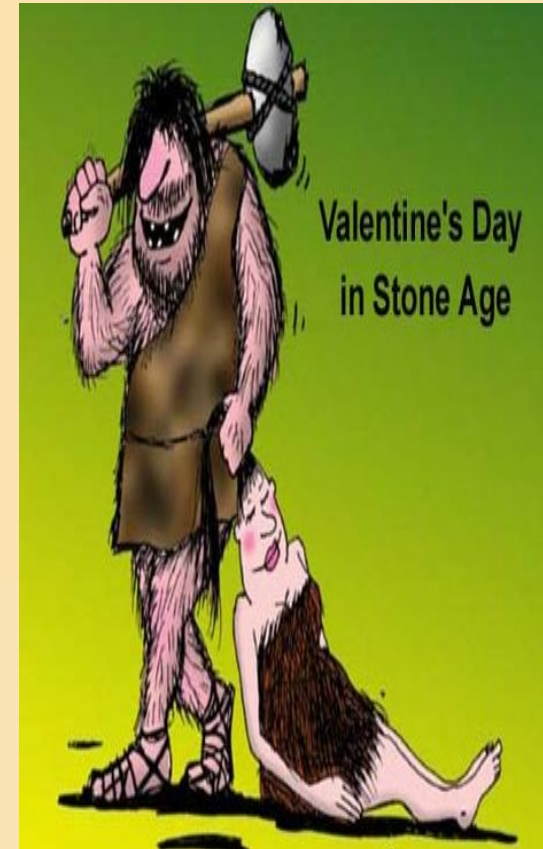
- ▶ **"It is a violation of human rights when women are trafficked, bought and sold as prostitutes." (Hillary Clinton)**
- ▶ **Southeast Asia is thought to be the hotbed of child prostitution. According to UNICEF, more than one million children in Asia including Thailand, Philippines, and India, have been sold to brothels or street pimps for sexual exploitation.**
- ▶ **Generating an estimated \$32 billion dollars annually, human trafficking is the fastest-growing criminal activity in the world today. It is also the most lucrative. According to a 2005 International Labor Office (ILO) report, just a single female held for sexual exploitation yields an average of \$67,200 annually in Western Europe and North America.**

Patriarchal Customs Influence Violence Against Women

Definition: characteristic of a form of social organization in which the male is the family head and title is traced through the male line

Influences Violence Against Women because:

- Starting from the Stone Age Most agricultural civilizations downgraded the status and potential of women, at least according to modern Western standards and to the implicit standards of hunting-and-gathering societies.
- Patriarchal family structure rested on men's control of most or all property
- Many women internalized the patriarchal culture, holding that it was their job to obey and to serve men and accepting arguments that their aptitudes were inferior to those of men.



Pornography Causes violence against Women

▶ Porn is creative activity

(writing or pictures or

Porn influences violence against women because according to American Family Association

Journal :

films etc.) of

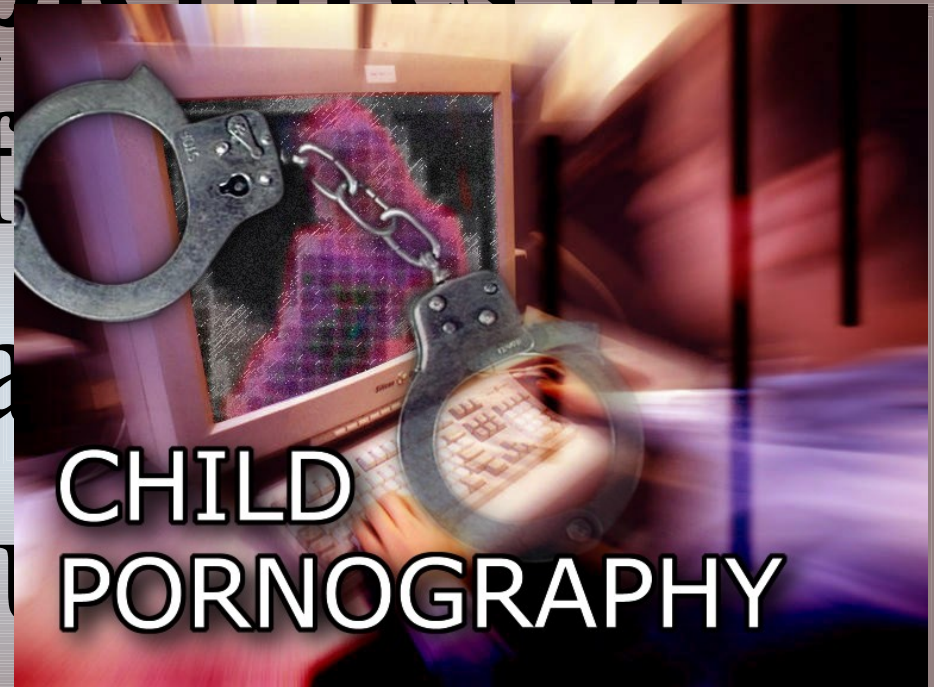
"Ninety percent of porn is violent," and fuels "violent sexual crime."

or artistic va

"Hard core porn users are six times more likely to rape"

than to stimulate

"Eighty-three percent of rapists and sixty-seven percent of child molesters consume hard-core pornography at high rates."



**CHILD
PORNOGRAPHY**

Learned Gender Roles and Culture as an Influence



- ▶ Gender roles vary within different cultures. They are most impacted by your parents when you are younger, but as you get older, television and your social life also have a huge impact on how you identify yourself
- ▶ traditional gender roles: boys are active and adventurous, while girls are passive and mothering.
- ▶ Influences violence against women because:
 1. Research on gender roles has indicated that men who strongly adhere to traditional masculine norms are more aggressive than their less adherent counterparts.
 2. these men are particularly aggressive toward

Violence Against Women Act and Intl. Day of Elimination of Violence Against Women

- ▶ November 25th: In December 1999, the 54th session of the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 54/134 declaring November 25th the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- ▶ goes back to 1960, when the three Mirabal sisters from the Dominican Republic were violently assassinated for their political activism.

- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was passed in USA in 1994
- Changed the way victims have been treated ever since
- Victims have been able to access services, and a new generation of families and justice system professionals has come to understand that domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking are crimes that our society will not tolerate.



What the UN has done

1. **Passed The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women**
2. **Held several group meetings to draw attention to the severity of the problem**
3. **In September 1992, the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women established a special Working Group and gave it a mandate to draw up a draft declaration on violence against women.**
4. **Condemned all forms of violence and violations of human rights directed specifically against women.**
5. **Encouraged countries to enforce laws which eliminate violence against women**

What the UN is currently doing

- ▶ Launched “SAY NO: Unite to End Violence Against Women”
- ▶ Reaching out to students in school
- ▶ People from the UN are volunteering at local shelters
- ▶ Donating funds to programs that protect women and girls from violence
- ▶ Uniting countries/working together to end violence against women



What the UN needs to implement

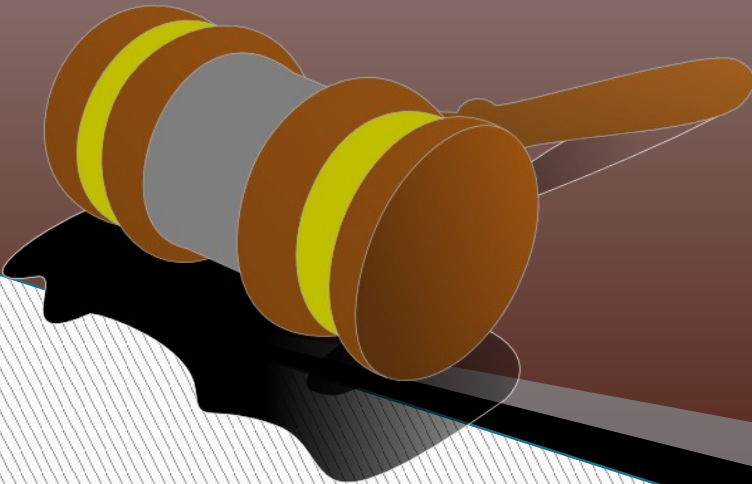
- ▶ **International Violence Against Women Act:** work on enforcing this Act across the world...there are many obstacles in the way
- ▶ **Promote public awareness**
- ▶ **Target our culture change efforts towards bystanders. This puts both men and women together standing towards a common goal. Also, there are more non violent than violent individuals so if bystanders are able to intervene then we can create a massive social change.**
- ▶ **Understand and adapt to different cultures so when it intervenes, the UN understands the common goal of people and can unite them to work together to eliminate violence.**



Preventing Violence through the Criminal Justice System

- ▶ **The criminal justice system alone is invested with the power and authority to enforce the laws against violence, to carry out a criminal investigation, to arrest and detain a perpetrator, and to provide justice for criminal offenses.**
- ▶ **Enforce Organizations like The Chapel Hill Police Department which created a structure borrowed from the emergency mental health field that lend specialization to its response to sexual assault.**
- ▶ **Strengthen the collaboration between public health and the criminal justice system**

Laws must be enforced so that the criminal is given the fair amount of punishment for committing the crime. A sloppy criminal justice system in many countries gives the criminal initiative to carry out more crime.



Promoting Public Awareness can Reduce Violence

There is a need to raise awareness concerning violence against women by:

- ▶ **educating boys and men**
- ▶ **punishing perpetrators by raising the costs**
- ▶ **changing the attitudes and beliefs of the society in regard to women.**
- ▶ **Creating a violence intolerant environment**
- ▶ **Understanding that this type of behavior shouldn't be condoned**



Church can reduce Violence Against Women



- ▶ Help someone understand that violence against women isn't only a criminal act or social ill but also a sin
- ▶ Provide a supportive environment for victims of abuse
- ▶ Help the abuser understand their role as a husband, brother and father
- ▶ Explain that violence against women is never fundamentally justified

Physicians can Reduce Violence Against Women

Physicians could see themselves as “first responders” who:

- ▶ Listen and believe the victim’s story
- ▶ Help her assess the danger to herself and her children
- ▶ Refer her to counseling and other specialized services
- ▶ Write clear medical records to help the criminal justice system and provide them with solid evidence
- ▶ Ensure safety for the victim and children

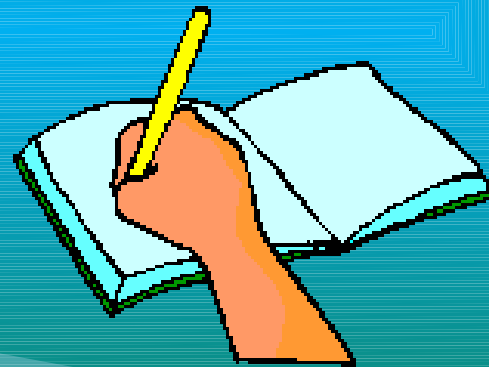


Doctor

Therapy can Reduce Violence Against Women

It can reduce violence through:

- ▶ Reducing psychological distress in patients
- ▶ Help with women's self esteem and autonomy
- ▶ Helping victims cope with their problems
- ▶ Helping the abuser cope with emotional challenges
- ▶ Helping the abuser acknowledge that they are abusive, and that it is their responsibility, and not the fault of anyone else that they are they way they are.



Think About it...

- 1. Work together to eradicate this devastating societal norm**
- 2. Violence prevention should be manageable in your daily life.**
- 3. Take small steps such as:**
 - Participating in charities**
 - Speaking out against any workplace violence**
 - If you see anyone suffering domestic abuse, seek for help. There are many support programs available**
 - Globally make a difference...by taking one step at a time**

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