

Overcoming sexual violence in the context of HIV

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Salamander Trust

AIDSFocus Meeting
10 April 2014
Bern



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introducing myself....

- Diagnosed with HIV 1992
- Medical termination
-



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Some definitions.....

- Violence against women
- Intimate partner violence
- Violence against women living with HIV



What is violence against women?

'any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life'

UN General Assembly resolution 48/104

- Includes sexual abuse of children, rape, intimate partner violence, sexual assault and harassment, trafficking & harmful traditional practices



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What is intimate partner violence?

“ actual or threatened physical or sexual violence or psychological and emotional abuse directed towards a spouse, ex-spouse, current or former boyfriend or girlfriend, or current or former dating partner.”

Examples

Physical

slapping, kicking, burning, strangulation

Sexual

coerced sex through force, threats, intimidation etc.

Psychological

isolation, verbal aggression, humiliation, stalking, withholding funds, controlling victim's access to health care or employment

Saltzman, et al. 1999



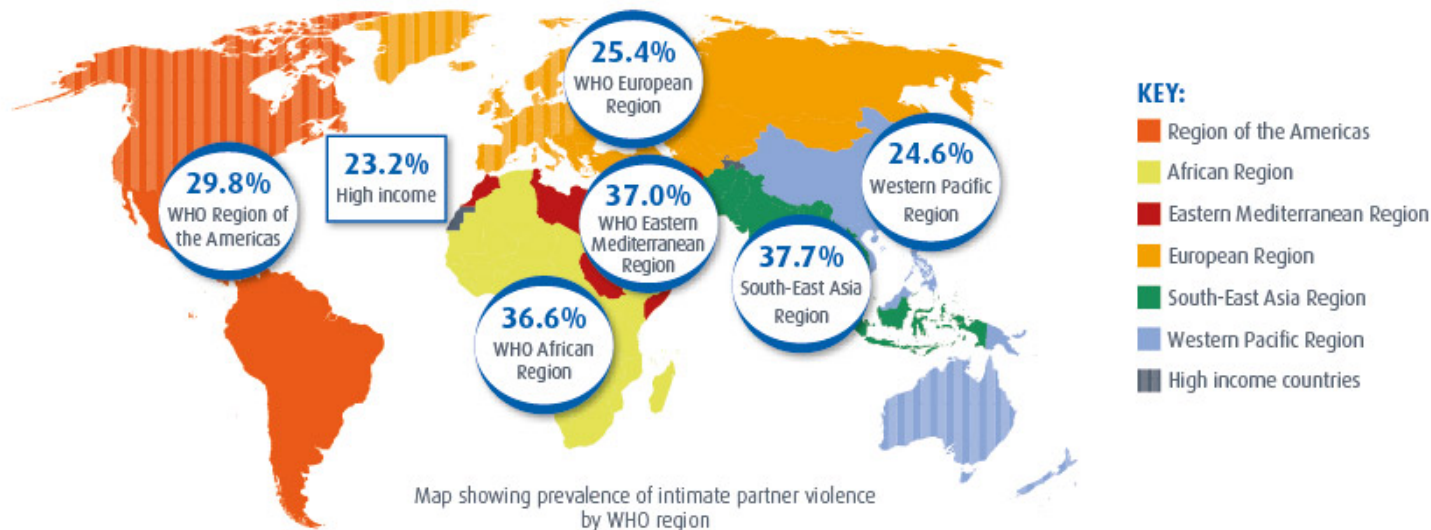
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VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: PREVALENCE

1 in 3 women throughout the world will experience physical and/or sexual violence by a partner or sexual violence by a non-partner




HEALTH IMPACT: Women exposed to intimate partner violence are →

Mental Health

TWICE 
as likely to experience depression

ALMOST TWICE 
as likely to have alcohol use disorders

Sexual and Reproductive Health

16% 
more likely to have a low birth-weight baby

1.5 TIMES 
more likely to acquire HIV and 1.5 times more likely to contract syphilis infection, chlamydia or gonorrhoea

Death and Injury

42% 
of women who have experienced physical or sexual violence at the hands of a partner have experienced injuries as a result

38% 
of all murders of women globally were reported as being committed by their intimate partners



Violence Against
Women Living
with HIV/AIDS:
A Background Paper

Fiona Hale and
Marijo Vazquez



DEVELOPMENT CONNECTIONS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF WOMEN
LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS (ICW GLOBAL) WITH THE SUPPORT OF UN WOMEN

“Violence against positive women is: any act, structure or process in which power is exerted in such a way as to cause physical, sexual, psychological, financial or legal harm to women living with HIV.” 2011



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SEXUAL VIOLENCE

- *So who experiences this?*
- *Here are some examples – but they don't cover everyone....*

Stepping Stones with Children workshop, Dar es Salaam Tanzania, Dec 2013

orphaned and/or vulnerable 5-8 year olds

*Why might children **not want to talk** about being abused?*

- Boy – one day I was hungry and asked my sister for food. She refused. So I told my mother but **she said I was lying**. So now I'm **afraid** of telling her anything.
- Boy – I was **beaten** at home with a belt.
- Girl – when I told my mum, I was **beaten**. Now I'm afraid of saying anything.
- We are afraid of being **beaten** if we report sexual abuse.
- We feel **shy**.
- We fear we will stop being **loved** by our carers.



In gangs...

“**Rape** has become a weapon of choice because it is the only **weapon** that can't be detected when the police stop and search us”

Young female survivor of a gang, London



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In families...

“When I was raped by my uncle when I was 17, my father said it was **my fault** because I was wearing ‘provocative’ shorts”

Young woman with HIV, Latin America



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By partners who use drugs...

“A study in Georgia found that **42%** of women living with men who inject drugs had been **physically abused** by their partners”

UNAIDS 2014



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By clients...

“Sex workers usually try to use condoms, but many customers do not want to use them; they offer to increase the price and beat you up if you refuse.

What do you do when you are HIV-positive?

I was **beaten** up because I refused to not use a **condom**, but I did not want to pass on HIV.”

N.D.S. (Senegal)

UNAIDS 2014



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Against transgender women...

“**Rape** is also commonly reported by transgender women..... an estimated **19%** of transgender women globally were living with HIV”

UNAIDS 2014



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Against lesbian and/or bisexual women...

“In particular, HIV policy and programming often neglect the documented area of targeted gender-based and **homophobic** violence against women who identify as lesbians, including so-called “corrective” or “curative” rape.

UNAIDS and ATHENA 2011



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In institutions...

“In Asia-Pacific region... **228** of the (>750 women living with HIV) surveyed were encouraged to consider **sterilization**, with **86** of them indicating that they did not have the option to decline.”

UNAIDS 2014



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In conflict...

“Conflict does not *cause* sexual and other forms of gender-based violence (GBV), although it may manifest new forms of GBV in those settings.

Sexual violence takes on **new forms** as a consequence of conflict and is often times used as a **tactic** of warfare, whether randomly, opportunistically or systematically.”

Men-Engage /UNFPA 2012



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In “peaceful” rural communities...

"I used to **abuse** my wife when she went to the hospital to collect her **ARV** treatment. because she used to come back late at night and I didn't like it. ”

Village headman, Malawi, 2013



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COWLHA IPV Baseline study 2012...



Coalition of Women Living with HIV and AIDS (COWLHA)

**BASELINE REPORT ON
INTIMATE PARTNER
VIOLENCE AMONGST
PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV**

Made possible with financial assistance from



CONSEQUENCES OF IPV ON COUPLES, HOUSEHOLDS AND OVERALL HIV/ AIDS MANAGEMENT:

1. REFUSAL TO CONTINUE ART
2. INCONSISTENCY IN FOLLOWING ART GUIDELINES



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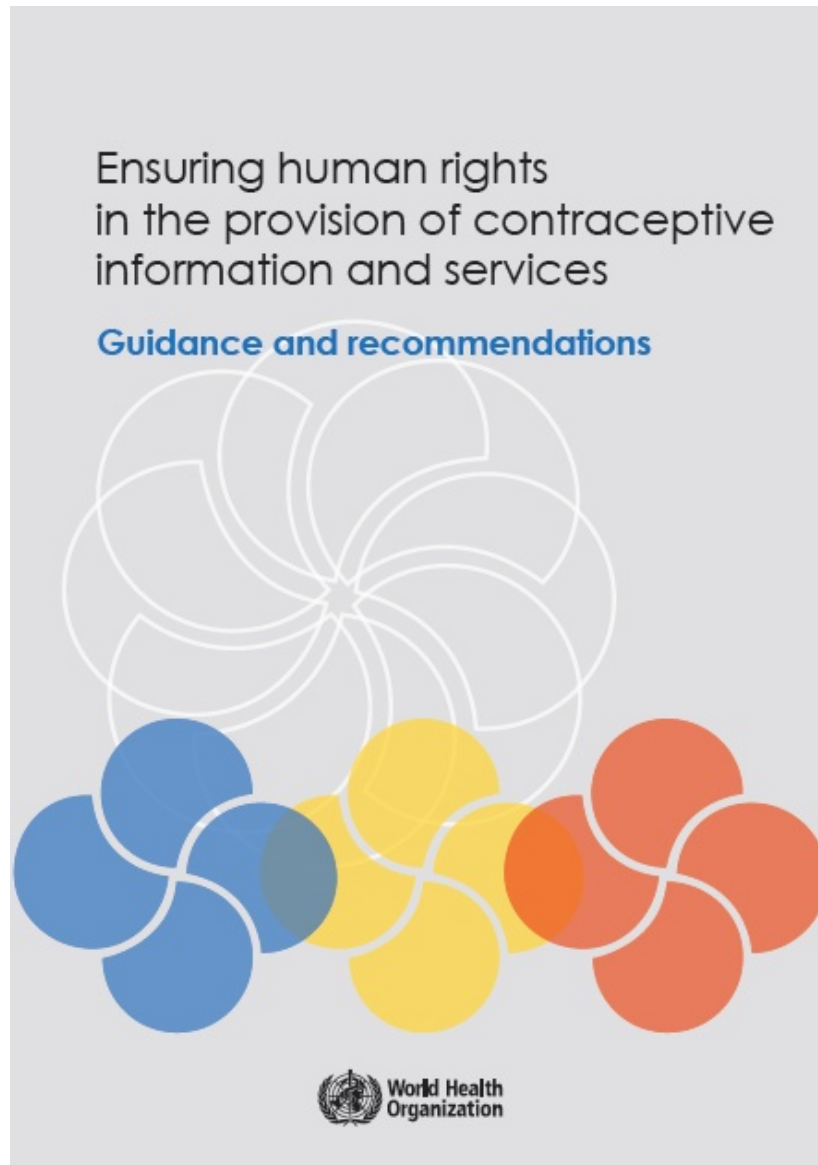
“Seeking Safety: Stepping Stones in Malawi”

<https://vimeo.com/69251113>



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WHO and Human Rights...



“Given that the realization of human rights within contraceptive information and services is not a research area that lends itself to randomized controlled trials or comparative observational studies, much of the evidence available for the priority topics could not be readily synthesized using the GRADE approach.”

WHO, 2014

AWID CSW 58 Round-up...

- ✓ Gender equality as stand-alone goal & integrated
- ✓ Violence against women and girls
- ✓ Key role of women's rights & community organisations
- ✓ Some SRHR, legal abortion, CSE

X Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity

X Vienna Declaration on Human Rights

X Sex workers

X No links between SRHR & sustainable development

X Funding & accountability for women's rights

Anand Grover, Human Rights Lawyer and UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health.....

“Are positive people there as tokens or are they effectively making decisions? Are affected persons involved from A to Z? Democratic and inclusive processes are essential to achieving human rights, and are at the core of better governance and better health outcomes.”



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Thankyou!

www.salamandertrust.net
www.stepsstonesfeedback.org

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