

Breakthrough Cultural Barriers- *Recognize, Intervene and Prevent Domestic Violence*

Mahnaz M. Harrison

President & CEO Last Mile4D

Domestic Violence: A Public Health Challenge

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Outline

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- *Recognize and define domestic violence (DV), gender based violence (GBV), and intimate partner violence (IPV)*
- *Cultural barriers through the lens of Ecological Model*
- *Intervene and Prevent*
 - *Communication*
 - *Advocacy and role of public/civil society*
 - *Policy change and implementation*
 - *Laws and role of the government*

Defining DV, GBV or IPV

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U.S. Department of Justice defines DV as a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. DV can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This includes any behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure, or wound someone.

DV, GBV or IPV a global problem

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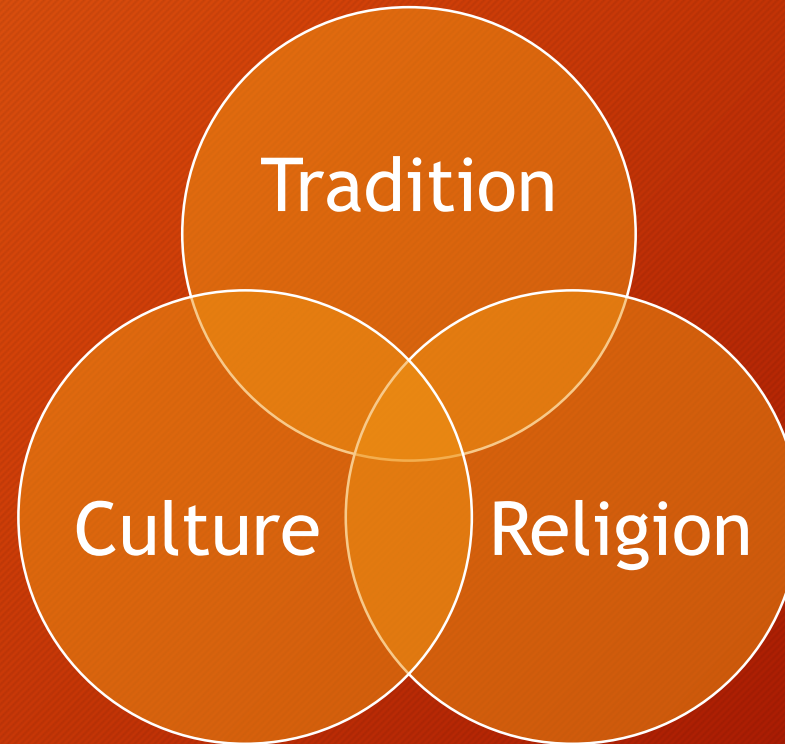
Violence against women and girls (VAWG) happens everywhere, not only in situations of conflict or crisis, but in contexts others call peaceful, and in both public and private spaces. Some figures:

- 35% of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime.
- 47% of murders of women are committed by an intimate partner or family member, only less than 6% of murders are men.
- Women represent 55% of victims of forced labor and 98% of the victims of sexual exploitation.
- 200 million women and girls have undergone FGM in 30 countries and 700 million were married as children (250 million before the age of 15).

Cultural barriers

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“First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win.” - Mahatma Gandhi



Cultural barriers through the lens of Ecological Model

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The most widely used model for understanding violence is the ecological model, which proposes that violence is a result of factors operating at four levels:

- Individual
- Relationship
- Community
- Societal

Cultural barriers - *Individual*

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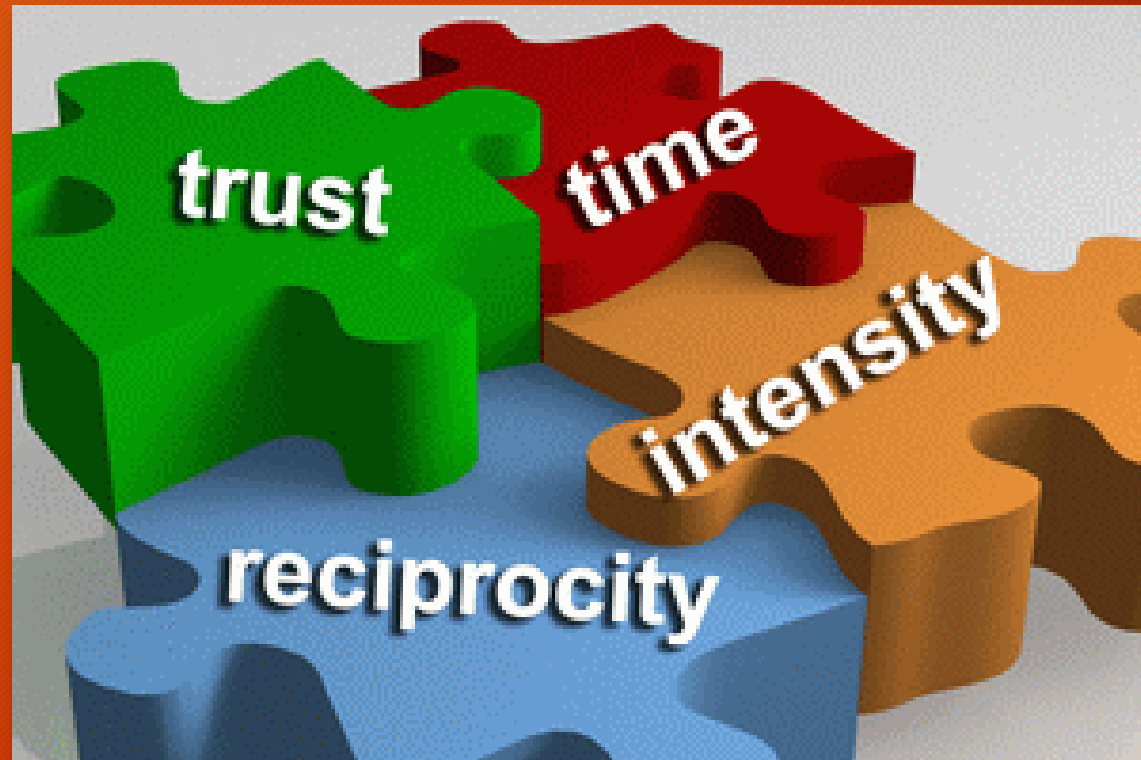
- How does an individual learn?
- Who is responsible?
- Why has it lasted for centuries?
- Could we change this pattern?
- Who will lead the change?
- What else needs to happen?



Cultural barriers - *Relationship*

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- Between individuals
- Between individual and community
- Between individual and society:
 - Norms
 - Laws
 - Policies
 - Punishments



Cultural barriers - *Community*

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Duluth: A coordinated community response to domestic violence

These objectives are to create a coherent philosophical approach that centralizes victim safety; to develop "best practice" policies and protocols for intervention agencies; to reduce fragmentation in the system's response; to build monitoring and tracking into the system; to ensure a supportive community infrastructure; to intervene directly with abusers to deter violence; to undo the harm violence to women does to children; and to evaluate the system's response from the standpoint of the victim.

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/App/publications/abstract.aspx?ID=187551>

Cultural barriers - *Community*

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- Elders
- Religious figures
- Teachers
- Parents
- Neighbors
- Grandparents
- Poets
- Writers
- Filmmakers
- Communal institutions

Cultural barriers - *Society*

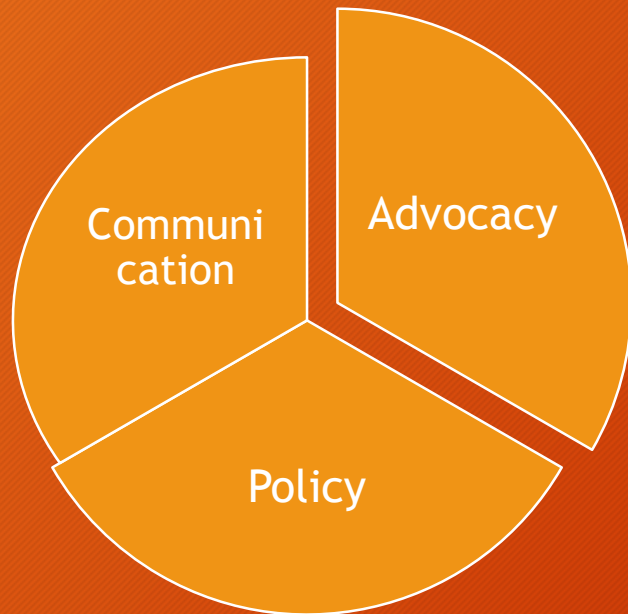
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- Denial vs. recognition
- Societal norms or barriers
- Society and victims
- Society and perpetrators
- Societal enablers
- Societal champions
- How could the society breakthrough?

From 1970s to 1990s social workers were considered uninformed, uncaring and unhelpful to battered women by blaming the victims and not recognizing DV as a public health issue as well as a crime! Failing to recognize abuse as a problem, and not appropriately intervene or/and make referrals (Bass & Rice, 1979 and 1981; Davis, 1984; Ross & Glisson, 1991).

Intervene and prevent

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"Break the silence.
When you witness
violence against
women and girls, do
not sit back. Act."
*Ban Ki-moon,
former Secretary-
General*

Intervene and prevent - *Communication*

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- Develop communication strategies:
 - Communication plan
 - Communication tools
- Develop close relationship with:
 - Stakeholders
 - Media and celebrities
 - Health practitioners
- Roll out the plan and outreach



Role for health practitioners?

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- Look for signs
- Ask directly
- Build trust
- Look for safe intervention
- Take action
- Record
- Stay connected to victims



Intervening at the community level—*Communication*

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- Neighborhood watch
- Informational gatherings
- Posters and outreach campaigns
- Sisterhood
- Risk assessment and management for victim/intervener
- Direct referral

Acknowledging

Validating

Listening

Supporting

Confidence

Intervene and prevent - *Advocacy and role of public/civil society organizations (CSOs)*

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It is a complicated health problem that must be addressed through a collaborative effort involving religious leaders, law enforcement, employers, health professionals, policy makers, legal professionals, educators, advocates, and friends of the abused.

- Learn how to be a good advocate
- Advocate for policy change
- Collaborate with CSOs
- Collectively champion policy change
- Engage policymakers
- Engage health practitioners

Intervene and prevent - *Policy change and implementation*

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- State harms of the current laws
- Simplify the law and educate everyone
- Direct communication with government officials
- Understand how new policies become new laws
- Include law-enforcement
- Action by NGO-CSOs



Intervene and prevent - *laws and role of the government*

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- Advocates collect and present facts
- Civil society can influence policymakers
- Public can demand policy change
- Government can enact laws and enforce them
- Civil society can assure implementation of the laws
- Advocates build trust between victims and institutions



Q & A

THANK YOU!

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Resources

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- <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/9/speech-by-lakshmi-puri-on-economic-costs-of-violence-against-women>Brigham and Women's Hospital "Domestic Violence a Guide to Screening and Intervention"
- http://www.stopvaw.org/domestic_violence_law_and_policy.html
- <https://www.thenation.com/article/the-economic-costs-of-domestic-violence/>
- Breaking Silence a Training Manual for Activists and Advocates, Family Violence Prevention Fund
- A Guide to Domestic Violence: Risk Assessment, Risk Reduction, and Safety Plan
- <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/global-norms-and-standards>
- <http://www.domesticviolenceroundtable.org/domestic-violence.html>
- A compiled and comprehensive list of resources will be provided at the end of this five days training