

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

A. International:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW - 1979)
- Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, General Recommendations
- Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984)
- UN General Assembly, Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993)
- Beijing Platform for Action (1995)
- UN General Assembly Resolution 52/86 on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Measures to Eliminate Violence against Women (1998)
- UNSC Resolution 1325 (2000)
- Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court
- UNSC Resolution 1820 (2008)
- UNGA, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons especially Women and Children (2000/2004)
- UNSC Resolution 1888 (2009)
- UNSC 1889 on Women, Peace and Security (2009)
- UNSC Resolution 1960 (2010)

B. Regional:

- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003)
- African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Resolution on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Women and Girls Victims of Sexual Violence, (2007)

C. National:

- Law N° 2011/024 of 14 December 2011 relating to the fight against Trafficking in Persons and Slavery
- Penal Code, Article 132 Section 5

CONCEIVED BY:



CONTACT US:

ARCHDIOCESE OF BAMENDA
Justice & Peace Service

P. O. Box. 82, Mankon
Tel.: (+237) 243 027 937/ 233 363 413/ 677 677 407
Email: jpcbda_2002@yahoo.co.uk
Facebook.com/jpc.bda **Twitter:** @jps.bda
www.justiceandpeacebamenda.org

SUPPORTED BY:



SEXUAL & GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN TIME OF COVID-19



Justice now:

Ending impunity for sexual
and gender-based violence
as international crimes

Vicious and unacceptable, Sexual Gender Based
Violence (SGBV) is a reality of everyday life for those affected by conflict,
disasters and *pandemics*.

We have an obligation to act—to take all possible measures to keep people
safe and to help survivors of SGBV rebuild their lives.

UNHCR



Sexual & Gender Based Violence (SGBV), What is it ?

SGBV refers to any act that is committed against a person's will and is based on gender norms or rules, and unequal power relationships.

It includes threats of violence and coercion or intimidation. It can be physical, emotional, psychological, or sexual in nature, and can take the form of a denial of resources or access to services. It inflicts harm on women, girls, men and boys.

Therefore, it is a Human Rights Violation, and is mostly perpetrated by men against women, girls or other vulnerable people; however, men can also be victims of SGBV.

What is Sex, Gender & Violence ?

Sex In general terms, refers to the biological differences between males and females, such as their internal and external sex organs and their inborn differences (hormones).

Gender can refer to the social and cultural constructed roles of a male or female in society, known as a gender role, or how an individual sees him or herself. It varies from society to society and can be changed.

Violence is the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high chance of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation.

Types of SGBV

- **Sexual Violence:** Rape, Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment, Incest
- **Physical Violence:** Hitting, Slapping, Beating
- **Emotional Violence:** Undermining another person's feelings of self-worth and independence
- **Economic Violence:** Denial of Resources (money, economic activity), Trafficking, Prostitution
- **Harmful Traditional Practices:** Forced Marriages, Female Genital Mutilation, Breast Ironing)

Forms of SGBV

Non-Partner Violence: This is violence perpetrated by someone you do not know well, like strangers, acquaintances etc. However, violence is generally perpetrated by someone you are close to.

Inter-Personal Violence: This is violence which is perpetrated by either a friend or a family member or someone you are very familiar with.

Intimate Partner Violence: This is violence perpetrated by someone you are in an intimate partner relationship with (a lover, spouse or an Ex-partner)

Who are those Committing these acts?

Mothers, Fathers, Aunts, Uncles, Grandmothers, Grandfathers, Sisters, Brothers, Wives, intimate partners, Humanitarian Workers, Government and other institutions, etc.

From this list, it can clearly be noticed that SGBV is not limited to any specific group of people, region or culture. However, there is a greater chance for this violation to increase during times of conflict, disasters, and pandemics such as **COVID-19**.

Why Stress on SGBV during COVID-19?

Pre-existing toxic social norms and gender inequalities, economic and social stress caused by the pandemic, coupled with restricted movement and social isolation measures, have led to a rapid increase in SGBV.

Many people, especially women are in 'lockdown' at home or quarantined in public and private facilities with their abusers while being cut off from normal support services.

Furthermore, Economic Impacts of COVID-19 will be severely felt by women and girls, particularly survivors of SGBV, who may already be economically disadvantaged or economically dependent on their abusers.

More so, those living in conflict-affected areas; displaced, refugees, older persons and those with disabilities are particularly at risk of violence.

It is therefore very important that SGBV Preventions and Response is taken into consideration in COVID-19 interventions.

What Must We DO ?

RECOGNITION: We must recognize and accept the fact that SGBV is a life threatening issue and assume that it is happening whether it has been reported, verified or not.

VIGILANCE:

We must be watchful, to observe the prevalence of SGBV around us so as to be able to contribute towards ending it.

SPEAK UP:

We must not be silent if we are victims, or observers of SGBV. Speaking up is the first solution to the problem. Contact available services to report all cases of GBV you encounter

STOP IT:

If you are a perpetrator, **STOP IT**, because, it is a human rights violation and you can be prosecuted for your acts.

What Possible Actions Can You Take ?

Make a safety plan in case the violence against you or someone escalates. This includes:

- Identifying a neighbour, friend, relative, colleague, or shelter to go to in case you need to leave the house or quarantine immediately for safety.
- Have a plan on how you will exit the house safely and how you will reach there (e.g. transport).
- Keep a few essential items available (e.g. identification documents, phone, money, medicines, clothes) and a list of telephone numbers in case of an emergency.
- If possible, develop a code with a trusted neighbour so they can come to your aid in case of an emergency.
- If you or someone you know needs urgent help for whatever reason, be prepared to call emergency health services, the police, or the Justice & Peace Service.