



# Stopping violence against women

Violence against women and girls is one of the **most common human rights violations in the world** – and that includes Germany. One in three women is affected at least once in her life; in some regions as many as 70 per cent of all women experience such assaults.

There are **various forms of gender-based violence**:

- The most dangerous place for women and girls is their own home. Some 120 million underage girls have experienced **sexual violence at the hands of an intimate partner or family member**. 250 million girls were **married before they were 15**.
- Worldwide roughly **70 per cent of the victims of human trafficking** are girls and women; in Germany this figure is as high as 87 per cent, with one in six of the victims being underage. Many of them are from Eastern Europe and West Africa.
- Sexual violence continues to be used as a **weapon of war** (for instance in Syria, northern Iraq, Congo). Displaced women and children often face a high risk of serious assault by traffickers and security forces.
- 200 million girls and women have to live with the consequences of **genital mutilation**.

In actual fact, violence towards women and girls is above all a social phenomenon and is **caused by inequalities of power, absent legislation and/or inadequate prosecution, discriminatory gender stereotypes** and the **indifference of society**.

## 1. We will not leave the victims to fend for themselves

In conflict, post-conflict and displacement settings, women and girls are especially exposed to sexualised violence. That is why we are adding a gender-related protection component to all our programmes concerned with protecting refugees. In addition, we are financing service points offering assistance for the victims of violence, for instance trauma counselling and medical, legal and psycho-social care.

- In **northern Iraq** we are offering some 16,700 women trauma-informed counselling and in cooperation with the Jiyān Foundation we have established a centre to provide residential treatment for severely traumatised survivors of sexualised violence.
- In **Kosovo**, more than 1,500 victims of sexualised violence have already benefited from gynaecological and psychological care.
- In **Liberia**, affected women and girls in 70 villages have received medical and psychological support as well as legal counselling. In addition, more than 50 training courses have been organised for police officers and judicial officials.

## 2. We want to bring the perpetrators to justice

Measures documenting and dealing with crimes against humanity and providing legal support to victims underpin the state's responsibility of enforcement. By strengthening lawful state institutions both in our partner countries and at the international level (for instance the International Criminal Tribunal), we put a stop to perpetrators acting with impunity.

- In **Iraq**, we are working with the Civil Peace Service to help draw up legally admissible documentation of the crimes committed against the Yazidis and of human rights violations against other minorities.
- In **Cambodia**, we are supporting processes to deal with war crimes. Survivors of sexualised and gender-based violence are offered legal counselling and psychosocial care. Thanks to this support they are able to appear as co-plaintiffs in the proceedings.

### 3. We are championing equal opportunities and equal rights

Young women need to have equal access to education, vocational training and work from the outset. In order to ensure that girls can attend school regularly and for longer, we are, for example, financing safe and hygienic sanitation facilities at schools.

- In **Kenya**, we are supporting the “Wings to fly” scholarship programme. To date, the programme has reached more than 500 girls from poor urban communities. In addition, 29 new schools are being built which will include gender-sensitive facilities (e.g. hygienic sanitation facilities and safe school yards). This will enable 25,000 girls to attend primary and secondary school regularly and for longer.
- In **Pakistan**, information campaigns are focusing on addressing male family members, especially fathers and husbands, in an effort to convince them of the added value that an education can bring to their daughters and wives. Roughly 15,000 women and girls are to benefit from improved vocational and educational training by 2019.
- Under Germany’s G20 Presidency we launched the **#eSkills4Girls** initiative to promote digital education for girls and women. We are supporting computer programming workshops for girls and women in 17 African countries.

### 4. We want to prevent violence before it happens

Information is the best form of prevention. Together with civil society we are working in schools and communities in many countries to fight genital mutilation. We are lobbying for gender equality and equal opportunities, encouraging people to take a critical look at traditional role models and showing them ways to resolve conflicts peacefully. In addition, we provide information about legal migration options and warn people about the consequences of illegal migration and the dangers of human trafficking and forced prostitution.

- In **Egypt**, we will offer self-defence courses for women and girls in 40 youth centres. At the same time, awareness raising measures will be provided for nearly 40,000 young men with a view to teaching them about treating women and girls with respect.
- In **Niger**, we are building the capacities of selected political actors in the context of human trafficking, displacement and migration. We are thus making a contribution towards the creation of migration policies that also strengthen the rights of the survivors of human trafficking and pay special attention to the needs of women and girls.
- In **Sierra Leone**, we are helping local organisations implement projects on preventing child marriage and female genital mutilation. Since 2004, we have worked with more than 100 civil society organisations, reaching more than 17,000 women and men.
- In **South Africa**, rape is a particularly widespread problem. Police records show that 150 rapes are reported by women and girls every day. That is why we are making available 10 million euros for a new regional project on preventing violence against women and girls in southern Africa (South Africa, Lesotho and Zambia).

## 5. National and international action, local impact

We want to strengthen the institutional structures in our partner countries so that international, regional and national agreements for the protection of women and girls can be implemented and enforced. The situation of women and girls is on the agenda at all government negotiations.

- Together with other ministries, we are implementing the German government's **second national action plan for the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325** on women and peace and security (2017 until 2020) by, for instance, working with UN Women to strengthen the political participation and influence of women in high-level peace and transition processes in the Middle East.
  
- Germany is providing substantial funding of 100 million euros for the new EU/UN gender initiative to **eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls**. The initiative has a total volume of 500 euros and is aimed at ending sexualised and gender-based violence as well as harmful practices such as genital mutilation and child marriage.