

WHAT IS GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE?

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is violence that is committed against someone based on their gender, gender identity, gender expression or perceived gender. GBV is experienced around the globe and is one of the most prevalent and normalized human rights abuses. The resulting trauma of Gender-Based Violence rips through families and creates a ripple effect that is felt by entire communities and countries.

Gender-Based Violence isn't just physical. It can be any word, action, or attempt to degrade, control, humiliate, intimidate, coerce, deprive, threaten, or harm someone. It is intended to control and harm the individual; and it takes many forms: **physical, sexual, cyber, societal, psychological, emotional, and economic.**

Most Gender-Based Violence is perpetrated by men against women, known as **Violence Against Women (VAW).**

Violence Against Women is defined by the UN as "any act of GBV 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."

The UN Definition of VAW includes coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty - but what does this mean? Coercion is the act of forcing and manipulating someone to do something against their will. Arbitrary deprivation of liberty, in this definition, alludes to a power imbalance that occurs when the abuse translates as a loss of freedom for women and girls. This definition specifically highlights how VAW is a violation of women's rights and fundamental freedoms. It is a public health issue that affects all levels of life.

Some types of Gender-Based Violence are:

- Intimate Partner Violence
- Femicide
- Sexual Violence
- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women/Girls/2Spirit
- Human Trafficking
- Forced/Child Marriage
- Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting
- Wartime Sexual Violence

For more info, resources, and survivor support available in Canada, visit the **Relentless Resilience Hub to End Gender-Based Violence at: aurafreedom.org/RelentlessResilience**

ROOT CAUSES OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



INTERSECTIONALITY & GBV

Gender-Based Violence inhibits the ability of women, girls, trans and gender diverse peoples to enjoy their inherent rights and freedoms. **It thrives in situations of inequity.**

Gender-Based Violence affects women everywhere, but different marginalized groups are affected differently by Gender-Based Violence. Women and girls living at the intersections of gender, race, ability, sexual orientation, socio-economic status and other factors experience the highest rates of violence. They also experience systemic barriers when accessing services.

Being **intersectional** means that when addressing Gender-Based Violence, we must recognize the most marginalized women, including Indigenous women, other women of colour, immigrant/refugee women, women living with disabilities, trans and gender diverse people, the Girl Child and more.

For more info on root causes of Gender-Based Violence, intersectionality and more, visit the **Relentless Resilience Hub to End Gender-Based Violence at: aurafreedom.org/RelentlessResilience**

WE'RE NOT WAITING ANYMORE.

Sources: Aura Freedom International - Relentless Resilience: https://aurafreedom.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/AF_RelentlessResilience_Beijing25_Cdn_ParallelRpt_Feb2020.pdf
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Women/WRGS/Pages/VAW.aspx>
UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)