



END MALE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

A session for young people aged 13-19

**What forms of behaviour
are included under the term
Gender-Based Violence?**

X% of boys aged 13-19 said that it included eg. PHYSICAL and SEXUAL violence* such as...(provide examples eg hitting, kicking, forced sex / rape)

X% of girls aged 13-19 said that it included eg. PHYSICAL, SEXUAL and emotional violence* such as...(provide examples eg beating, forced sex / rape, unwanted touching, insults, shouting)

*adjust where appropriate to reflect survey data

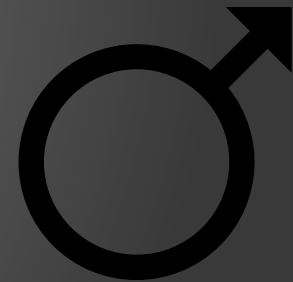
Contrast boys and girls responses where there are gendered differences

Gender-Based Violence

Violence against women means “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women”.



Gender-Based Violence and Violence Against Women are the SAME ISSUE. These two terms are interchangeable.



Gender-Based Violence includes:

Physical violence eg. Pushing, hitting, kicking

Sexual violence eg. Forced sex/rape, unwanted touching

Psychological violence

- **Verbal** eg. Shouting, swearing, insults

- **Emotional** eg. Threatening violence or abandonment, humiliating

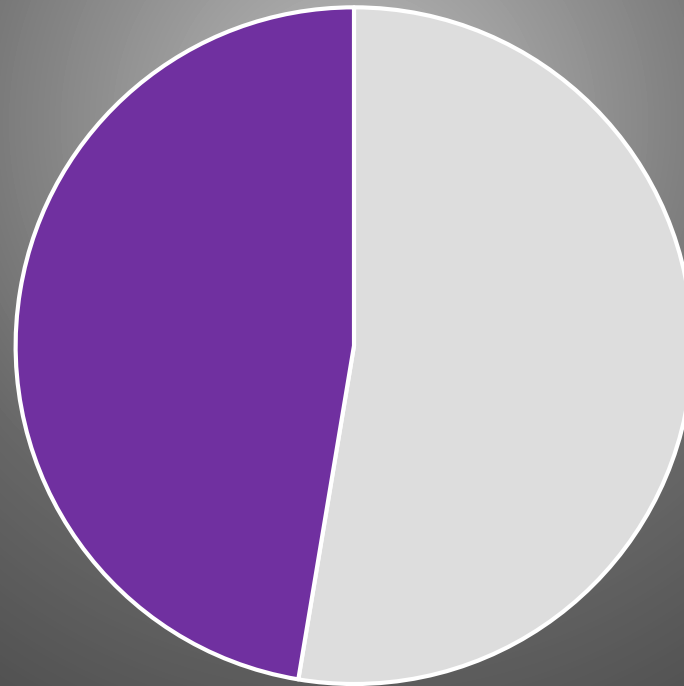
Economic violence eg. Not allowing someone to have money, denial of opportunities (such as education)



**So, is Gender-Based Violence
an issue in Fiji?**

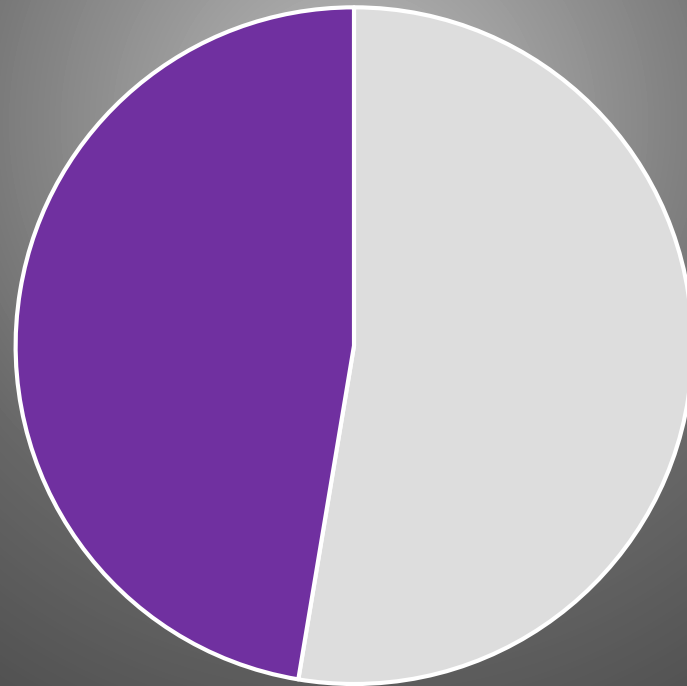


x% of boys aged 13-19 thought Gender-Based Violence was either a small issue or that it was not an issue at all in Fiji*



*adjust where appropriate to reflect survey data

x% of girls aged 13-19 thought Gender-Based Violence was a big issue in Fiji*



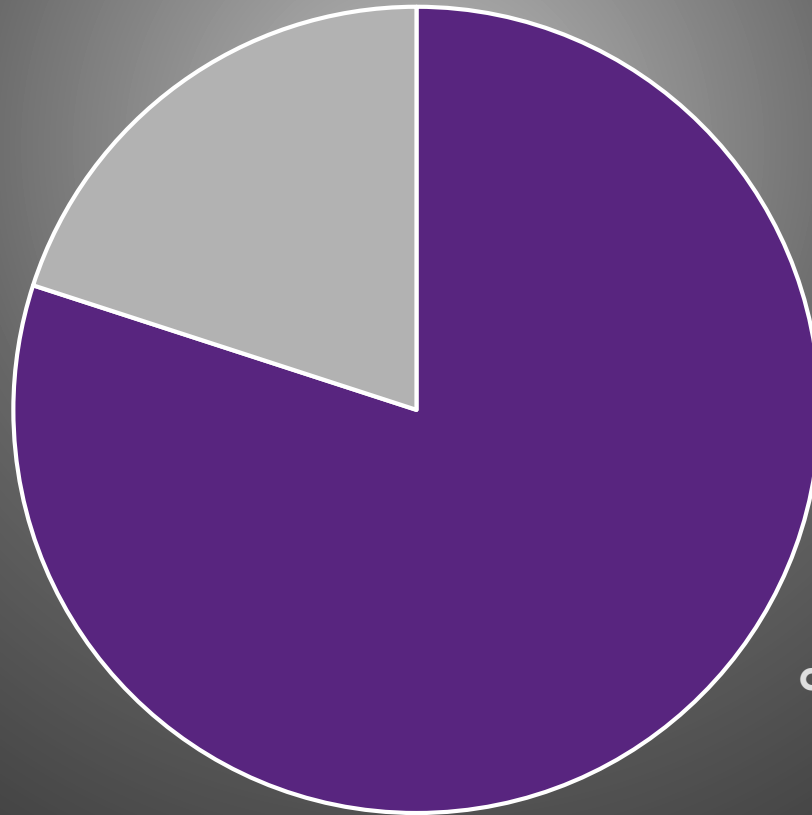
*adjust where appropriate to reflect survey data
Compare and contrast differences between boys and girls responses

X% of boys believed that only x%* of women in Fiji experience gender-based violence*

**X% of girls believed that x%* of women
in Fiji experience gender-based
violence***

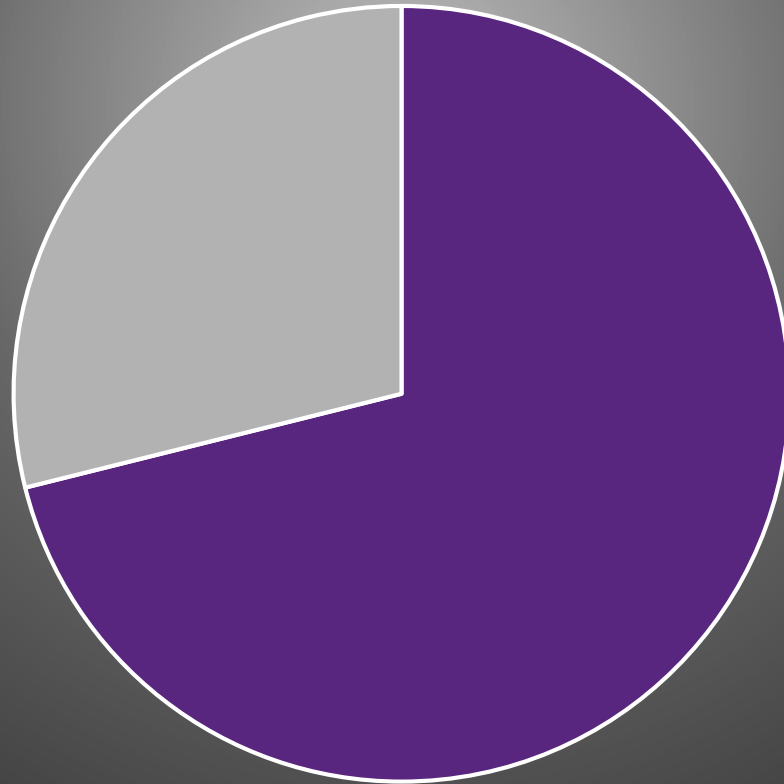
...but what is the reality?

72% of women in Fiji experience physical, sexual or emotional violence from their husband/partner in their lifetime – and often they will experience all 3.

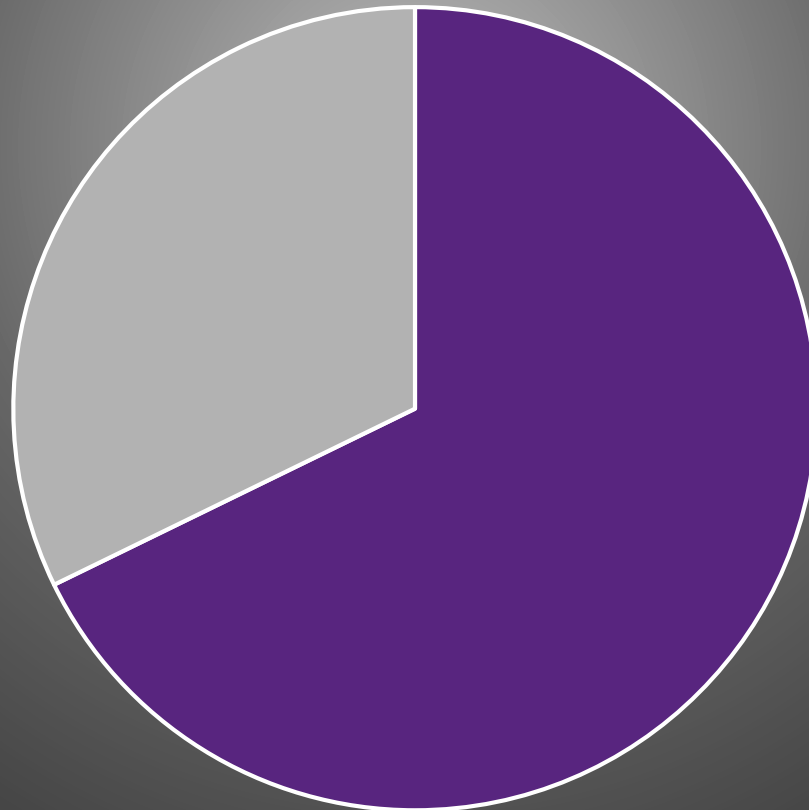


Compared to a global average of 35% (World Health Organization. Violence Against Women – Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Against Women – Fact Sheet.)
FWCC. 2013. *Somebody's Life, Everybody's Business!*
National Research on Women's Health and Life Experiences in Fiji (2010/2011) p142.

64% of women have experienced physical or sexual violence from a husband or partner in an intimate relationship



61% of women have been physically attacked by a husband or partner in an intimate relationship



**Do girls and boys aged 13-19
have any personal
experiences of Gender-Based
Violence in their communities?**

Boys' personal experiences of Gender-Based Violence

X% of boys reported that they know someone who has acted in a violent way towards a girl or woman*

X% of boys reported that they have acted in a violent way towards a girl or woman*

X% reported that they have no personal experience of gender-based violence*

Girls' personal experiences of Gender-Based Violence

X% of girls know someone who has experienced a form of gender-based violence*

X% of girls know someone who has acted in a violent way towards women*

X% of girls have directly experienced some form of gender-based violence*

*edit to reflect key findings from survey responses

The issue of Gender-Based Violence in Fiji

Gender-Based Violence is still a serious and widespread issue in Fiji, with one of the highest rates of violence committed against women and girls in the Pacific.

Many women and girls directly experience the harmful impact of Gender-Based Violence, with men making up over 90% of the perpetrators of violence against women.

From a young age, girls can experience Gender-Based Violence

- Police statistics from 2003-2007 show that of all sexual offences committed in Fiji, the number of cases of defilement of girls aged between 13-16 years is the third highest group of victims to experience this form of Gender-Based Violence**
- Police statistics also show that sexual assault and harassment is prevalent across all age groups, with the largest group of victims falling between 11 and 15 years of age**



Gender-Based Violence can have harmful consequences for all of us

In addition to having negative impacts on girls' and women's physical, emotional and social wellbeing, it can also impact the wider society

- GBV can have negative impacts on women's ability to work, both physically and mentally, meaning that they earn less as a result.**
- GBV in the home can also negatively impact children who witness or experience it, meaning they may perform poorly in school, potentially affecting their future career progression.**
- GBV can have serious psychological and emotional consequences too, which can lead to mental ill-health among both victims and children who may witness it in the home**

GBV impacts us all and can prevent communities from achieving their full potential. This can mean that development progress is restricted, preventing everyone from a happier, healthier and better life.



**So what causes Gender-Based
Violence?**



The root cause of GBV is gender inequality

- In the Pacific, and in Fiji, we are a patriarchal and religious population.
- Both culture and religion traditionally afford men certain privileges, which can lead them to develop a sense of entitlement.
- Women are not afforded these same privileges, but instead are given low status and value, meaning that girls grow up thinking they are less important than boys and that they are there to cater to men's needs.
- The result of this disparity between boys and girls is the belief that men are better and are worth more than women.
- Combined with structural discrimination —girls and women are denied education, lack ownership of land and assets, and are therefore poorer— the perfect conditions for violence against women have been created.
- This culture normalises the abuse and violence that men inflict on women and is used to excuse and condone punishing women who do not follow strict social norms.

Gender-Based Violence:

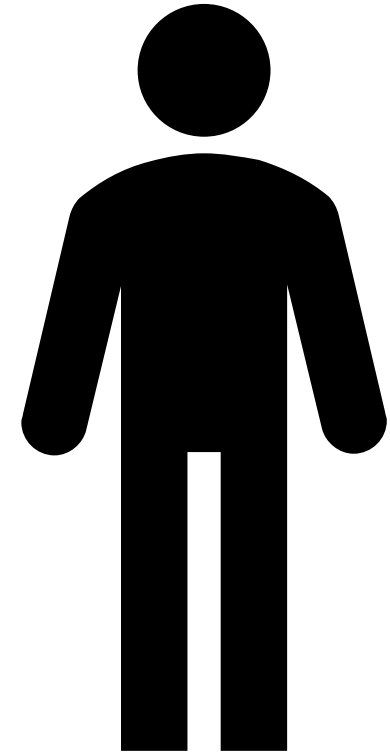
- **Results from historically unequal power relations between men and women**
- **Is a social mechanism that forces women into a subordinate position compared to men**
- **Is pervasive in the family and society and cuts across lines of income, class and culture**
- **Limits women's opportunities to achieve legal, social, political and economic equality**

Being 'Masculine' and what it can mean for women

In every society, a socially constructed and idealised form of 'masculinity' is defined in relation to 'femininity'.

These gender assumptions dictate how men and women should behave.

BUT it is often ignored how these social constructs guarantee and reinforce the dominant position of men and the subordination of women.





THE "MAN BOX"

What does it mean to be a real man'?

Think of all the stereotypes of what it means to 'BE A REAL MAN'. What do you consider to be 'masculine' or 'manly' characteristics?

This can be all the things that you think society expects of men and boys.

It may include being...

Strong



Wealthy



Competitive

Unemotional



Aggressive

Powerful

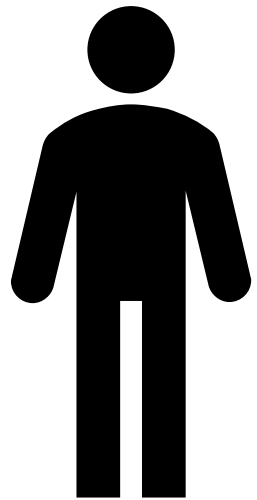


Athletic



Assertive

**What do each of
these characteristics
mean?**



Are they...
Positive?
Negative?
Both?

**What can the outcome
be of men living up to
these expectations?**

Some outcomes of living up to 'masculine' stereotypes

Aggression	Control	Sexism	Homophobia
Risk Taking	Pursuit of Status	Violence	Power over Women
Dominance	Self-Reliance	Transphobia	Player



Being 'Masculine' and what it can mean for women

The practice of masculinity legitimises and helps maintain men's dominant social roles over women, reinforcing gender inequality.

This idealised form of masculinity can be used to justify and normalise certain behaviours of men, such as violence against women.

For example, 'Machismo' is a form of 'strong' or 'aggressive' masculinity that emphasises power. However, it is often associated with a disregard for consequences and responsibility for one's actions.

**There are close links
between what we're
told it means to be a
man, and Gender-
Based Violence.**





**Would you consider speaking
out or taking action against
Gender-Based Violence?**

X% of boys aged 13-19 stated that they would not consider speaking out or taking action against Gender-Based Violence because...

It's not my problem, as I don't have a personal experience of it

Nobody asked me to

I'm scared of the consequences

I don't know where to start

It isn't an issue, so I don't need to

My friends won't like me for it

I'm afraid of being labelled or called names for it

Other (please specify)

**** pick out common reasons why from survey responses**

X% of girls aged 13-19 stated that they would consider speaking out or taking action against gender-based violence but haven't previously done so because...

I'm scared of the consequences

I don't know where to start

My friends won't like me for it

I'm afraid of being labelled or called names for it

Other (please specify)

**** pick out key reasons why from survey responses**



Deep-rooted social norms and mind-sets about women's roles and status need to be challenged and changed to prevent violence.

Changes in attitudes, behaviours and everyday practices are also essential – and something we can all do.



Men and boys can and must make a difference - we need to challenge the idea that 'violence against women is caused by some bad men'. Most men might not use violence, but all boys and men have a responsibility to help prevent it.

Destructive and violent masculinity norms also harm men and by challenging those norms, the lives of boys and men will get better.



**Silence enables
Violence.**

**If we speak out when we see
sexist and harassing behaviour
amongst our friends, we can
stop violence against women
from being seen as acceptable.**

**Together, we can stop
violence escalating and
create a better society for
everyone.**

Here is what some young girls and boys are already doing to help...

- ***edit to reflect survey responses, if any participants already are/do speak out or take action against gender-based violence in their communities, what have they done/are they doing?**
- **Offer examples shared, to demonstrate small and simple ways for young people to get involved in advocating for gender equality and non-violence**



What next?

We need you to make the pledge to never commit, excuse or remain silent about male violence against women, and share this message with your friends.

Where do I start?

- **Think carefully and make the pledge if this is something you want to do**
- **Talk to your friends about ways you can be a NEW kind of man (eg. the Protector: defender, courageous, problem solver, loving, caring, helping)**
- **Think about how you can be a positive role model to other boys in your community**
- **Follow and engage with people who speak out against violence on social media**
- **Reflect on your own behaviour and make changes**
- **Challenge sexist comments and attitudes**
- **Visit the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre website and find out more...**



If you have any questions regarding this presentation or any of the issues discussed within, you may contact us on:

**Domestic Violence Helpline Number: 1560 Phone (24 hours) :
3313300**

Mobile (24 hours) : 920947 Website: www.fijiwomen.com

Facebook: Fiji Women's Crisis Centre Twitter: @CommsFWCC