

# Preventing violence against women: A framework for action

## Addressing the social and economic determinants of violence against women

### Key social and economic determinants of violence

#### Theme for action: promoting equal and respectful relationships between men and women

Individual and relationship	Community and organisational	Societal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Belief in rigid gender roles and identities and/or weak support for gender equality</li> <li>• Masculine orientation or sense of entitlement</li> <li>• Male dominance and control of wealth in relationships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Culturally-specific norms regarding gender and sexuality</li> <li>• Masculine peer and organisational cultures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Institutional and cultural support for, or weak sanctions against, gender inequality and rigid gender roles</li> </ul>

### Key contributing factors

#### Theme for action: promoting non-violent norms and reducing the effects of prior exposure to violence

Individual and relationship	Community and organisational	Societal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attitudinal support for violence against women</li> <li>• Witnessing or experiencing family violence as a child</li> <li>• Exposure to other forms of interpersonal or collective violence</li> <li>• Use and acceptance of violence as a means of resolving interpersonal disputes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neighbourhood, peer and organisational cultures that are violence-supportive or have weak sanctions against violence</li> <li>• Community or peer violence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval of, or weak sanctions against, violence and/or violence against women</li> <li>• Ethos condoning violence as a means of settling interpersonal, civic or political disputes</li> <li>• Colonisation</li> </ul>

#### Theme for action: improving access to resources and systems of support

Individual and relationship	Community and organisational	Societal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social isolation and limited access to systems of support</li> <li>• Income, education or employment</li> <li>• Relative labour force status</li> <li>• Alcohol and illicit drug use*</li> <li>• Poor parenting</li> <li>• Personality characteristics and poor mental health*</li> <li>• Relationship and marital conflict</li> <li>• Divorce or separation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weak social connections and social cohesion and limited collective activity among women</li> <li>• Strong support for the privacy of the family</li> <li>• Neighbourhood characteristics (e.g. service infrastructure, unemployment, poverty, collective efficacy)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for the privacy and autonomy of the family</li> <li>• Unequal distribution of material resources (e.g. employment, education)</li> </ul>

\* Denotes increased risk of perpetration only.

## Priority populations and preventative actions

Priority populations	Preventative actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children</li> <li>• Young people</li> <li>• Women and men</li> <li>• Indigenous communities</li> <li>• Culturally and linguistically diverse communities</li> <li>• Rural communities</li> <li>• Neighbourhoods affected by disadvantage</li> <li>• Women with disabilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research, monitoring and evaluation</li> <li>• Direct participation programs</li> <li>• Organisational and workforce development</li> <li>• Community strengthening</li> <li>• Communications and social marketing</li> <li>• Advocacy</li> <li>• Legislative and policy reform</li> </ul>

## Priority settings for action

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community services</li> <li>• Local government</li> <li>• Corporate</li> <li>• Faith communities</li> <li>• Education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workplace</li> <li>• Cultural institutions and networks</li> <li>• Arts</li> <li>• Sports and recreation</li> <li>• Media and popular culture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health</li> <li>• Cyberspace and new technologies</li> <li>• Justice</li> <li>• Academic</li> <li>• Military and like institutions</li> </ul>
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## Intermediate outcomes

Individual and relationship	Organisational	Community	Societal
Individuals and relationships with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improved connections to resources and support;</li> <li>• respectful and equitable gender relations;</li> <li>• improved attitudes toward gender equity, gender roles and violence and/or violence against women;</li> <li>• improved skills in non-violent means of resolving interpersonal conflict; and</li> <li>• responsible alcohol use.</li> </ul>	Organisations that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• model, promote and facilitate equal, respectful and non-violent gender relations;</li> <li>• work in partnerships across sectors to address violence;</li> <li>• implement evidence-based violence prevention activities; and</li> <li>• are accessible to and safe and supportive for women.</li> </ul>	Environments that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• value and support norms that are non-violent and build respectful and equitable gender relations;</li> <li>• build connections between people and sources of formal and informal support; and</li> <li>• take action to address violence.</li> </ul>	A society in which there are strong legislative and regulatory frameworks and appropriate resource allocation for supporting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• gender equity;</li> <li>• the prevention and prohibition of violence;</li> <li>• the positive portrayal of women (e.g. in advertising); and</li> <li>• the development of healthy relationships between men and women.</li> </ul>

## Long-term benefits

Individual and relationship	Organisational	Community	Societal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction in violence-related health problems and mortality</li> <li>• Improved interpersonal skills and family and gender relations</li> <li>• Reduced intergenerational transmission of violence and its impacts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Violence prevention resources and activities integrated across sectors and settings</li> <li>• Organisations that value and promote respectful gender relations</li> <li>• Improved access to resources and systems of support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communities that value gender equity and respectful relationships between men and women</li> <li>• Reduced social isolation and improved community connections</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced gender inequality</li> <li>• Improved quality of life for men and women</li> <li>• Reduced levels of violence and/or violence against women</li> <li>• Improved productivity</li> </ul>