



Change

Empowerment & Restoration

**Covid-19
Quarantine
Aftermath:
Domestic and
Gender Based
Violence have
increased
dramatically**



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www.achance4change.eu

Together, we can prevent this health pandemic from becoming a human rights epidemic!



Many countries are reporting a surge in cases of domestic and sexual violence, also known as gender-based violence (GBV), as well as violence against children. Moreover, there is evidence of perpetrators using lockdown measures to exploit and abuse child contact arrangements.

How can a virus spread violence?
The increase in reported cases of GBV

and violence against children since the start of the COVID-19 crisis is driven by several factors. Financial hardship due to restriction of movement and curfew affects livelihoods, especially for those working in the informal sector. Confinement at home under heightened levels of stress, uncertainty and fear, can produce stressful environments that precipitate violence.

At this time, children are at heightened risk of all forms of violence, including neglect, violent discipline by family members and emotional abuse. Removing children from a protective environment such as school, exacerbates these risks.



The Partnership



When gender-based violence colonizes digital spaces.

Where do we go from here? Mental health and psychosocial support services, including safe spaces and online counseling services have been established but they remain insufficient. Healthcare service providers require orientation and equipment for survivor-centered support that does not increase risk of infection.

In response to this, RJ4All opened a campaign where we are providing:

- [Free food and PPE](#)
- We are giving free food and PPE to vulnerable young people and their families

- Covid-19 Helpline - 0333 332 4050
- Our helpline is open 10am-10pm Monday to Sunday.

Our team of young volunteers are here to speak with you about any concerns or difficulties you have and to offer mental health support and practical advice.

- Online bank of free resources and activities

- They include free classes, games, competitions and much more!
- A secure chat room & Facebook Where you can share your concerns, thoughts and fears with others, build safe relationships and stop feeling lonely. You can also join us on Facebook for regular updates on freebies and much more <https://www.facebook.com/groups/fredandyou>
- [Online competitions and awards](#)



When gender-based violence colonizes digital spaces.

Gender cyberviolence is a phenomenon of interest that emerges with new implications and needs for prevention and intervention —especially in educational contexts— by professionals working with young people. This phenomenon, made possible by new technologies, eliminates the spatial and



Other C4C News: The Partnership met online to discuss the progress of IO1 and IO2. (photo credits to Corinna :))

temporal limits of violence to enter the most intimate spaces and moments of the victim. The scope of the aggressor is expanded through the use of text messaging, social networks and the difficulty of maintaining privacy in digital contexts.

In the age of technology, its nature facilitates the development of violent interactions. The disinhibition and sense of anonymity that characterize many networks, as well as the risk behaviors that are part of adolescent development, create a breeding ground for problematic use of these networks. The graph shows the different strategies used by aggressors in digital contexts, reflecting the ways in which classic behaviours related to gender violence have found a space and have adapted to the functionalities offered by new technologies with some native behaviours in the networks such as doxing or pornographic revenge.



Sources: Created by the author from information available at the Women's Media Center Speech Project <https://bit.ly/3b18TBO>

Daniela Jaramillo-Dent,
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Domestic Violence has dramatically increased...



Increase in domestic violence against women in lockdown conditions

An increase in domestic violence against women of the order of 30% is observed after the first case in our country on March 9.

According to data released by the Association for the Prevention and Treatment of Domestic Violence from March 9 to March 17:

- 750 calls for domestic violence were recorded
- five new applications for admission to accommodation
- four new requests for individual

counseling.

The Commissioner for Gender Equality, Iosifina Antoniou, also issued a statement on the above statistics, calling on women victims of violence to report the perpetrator, either to the police or to SPAVO's 1440 immediately.

SPAVO is the Association for Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family and collaborates with OTI in various matters within the Cyprus Youth Council.

According to the author, in order to maintain our health, self-restraint, new working conditions, economic insecurity, the reduction of social contacts, the stay of children at home, give the perpetrators the "opportunity" to impose the authoritarian role, she

Finally, in case of domestic violence, Cypriots should call 1440, which operates 24 hours a day and provides support and counseling to victims.

Q&A: Violence against women during COVID-19

The World Health Organisation has issued a Q&A about Violence against women during COVID-19, you may find it [here](#).



Guidance Note On Gender-Based Violence Service Provision by the United Nations Population Fund

There is increasing preliminary evidence from the countries most affected by the virus that indicates a negative impact on the trends, prevalence and intensity of GBV. For example, organizations have observed that extended quarantine and other social distancing measures have resulted in an increase in the number of domestic violence reports, driven by added household stress over health and economic risks, combined with forced coexistence in small living spaces.¹

There are also reports of a growing number of attacks on female healthcare workers, which in turn have the potential for increase as health facilities struggle to provide adequate care to everyone who requires medical assistance (VAWG Helpdesk report, March 2020).

Read More [Here](#)

Gender-based violence (GBV) increases during every type of emergency –

whether economic crises, conflict or disease outbreaks. Pre-existing toxic social norms and gender inequalities, economic and social stress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with restricted movement and social isolation measures, have led to an exponential increase in GBV. Many women are in 'lockdown' at home with their abusers while being cut off from normal support services.

This briefing note provides concrete actions and strategies that UNDP, UN agencies and other development partners can take to prevent and address GBV in the context of COVID-19. It includes recommendations for adapting dedicated GBV services and support to the crisis context, and for mainstreaming GBV prevention and response in 'non-GBV specific' interventions.

More Information [Here](#).

Other C4C News:

Following the digital transitions of face to face meetings to online platforms, the partnership met online on the 5th of June 2020 to discuss the progress of IO1 and IO2.

Details about the Youth Advisory Board and the modules for the upcoming e-courses design and self-assessment tools were elaborated.



A Chance for Change: Empowerment & Restoration

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