

Violence Against Women Worldwide

- in the US ten women are killed every day by their partners
- around the world at least 1 in every 3 women have suffered domestic abuse
- in Zimbabwe 59% of murders of women were committed by the victim's intimate partner
- in Russia nearly half of all murder victims were women murdered by male partners
- in the UK two women are killed every week by their partners or ex-partners
- in Canada 62% of women murdered were killed by an intimate male partner
- in South Africa a woman is raped every 26 seconds
- between 1 in 5 and 1 in 7 will be victims of rape in their lifetime
- out of every 10 women murdered in India, 9 are murdered by their husbands
- each year about 2 million girls between the ages of 5 and 15 are trafficked, sold or coerced into prostitution
- "honour" killings of women account for one quarter of the murder rate in Jordan
- in the US one woman is physically abused every 8 seconds and one is raped every 6 minutes
- in the US a woman is battered, usually by her intimate partner, every 15 seconds
- in a maternity hospital in Lima, Peru, 90% of mothers aged 12 to 16 had been raped by their fathers, stepfathers or close male relatives

Impact on Children

Many children and young people in the UK are experiencing or witnessing domestic abuse. This can be extremely traumatizing for them causing both short and long term effects. Children who witness violence at home display emotional and behavioural disturbances as diverse as withdrawal, low self-esteem, nightmares, self-blame and aggression against peers, family members and property.

Children sometimes feel guilty if they do not come to the aid of their mother. This "guilt" is often accompanied by self-blame and feelings that they have in some way "caused" their father to be violent. Studies in India and Nicaragua have shown that children of women who are abused by male partners are far more likely than other children to die before they are 5 and are more likely to be malnourished.

- in the US, one in two rape victims is under 12
- in 90% of incidents involving domestic violence in the UK, the children are in the same or the next room.
- Studies show that child abuse and woman abuse occur together in 40-60% of cases. In 30-40% of families where the man is perpetrating violence against his partner, the children are also being physically or sexually abused. Childline found that 38% of a sample of 116 children who talked about domestic violence also talked about themselves or their siblings being physically abused.
- 33% of all children present at domestic violence incidents are injured trying to protect their mother