Glossary

Gender Violence Database Glossary

This glossary defines terms used in the schema which guides the tagging process. The glossary functions as a way to define terms outside of where they fall in the organizational structure of the schema as well as to provide more information about what topics specific terms are encompassing.

I. POPULATION

1. **Geography**: Used to note when geographical places have an influence on the research, or place is a feature of analysis. The specificity of geography tagged based on how the researchers define their scope of inquiry, (i.e. country vs. state vs. city). The United States is tagged only when in comparison to other areas in an effort to avoid overuse of geographical tags.

2. **Demographics**

    1. **Class**: social class and socioeconomic status (SES) as a category of analysis

        1. **Low income**: a specific class category that refers to individuals or communities living in poverty; can differ from the formal metrics used to determine if individuals or families, whose annual income falls under the federally/politically/governmentally determined poverty line, can be considered "poor".

        2. **Middle-income / middle class**: a specific class category that refers to individuals, families, and/or communities whose wealth and resources are great enough to not be living in poverty but limited enough to not be considered wealthy. The class category is heavily reliant on geographical places and economies.

        3. **High-income / upper class**: individuals, families, and/or communities whose wealth and resources are significantly more than the middle class.

    2. **Population density**: population density as a category of analysis

        1. **Urban**: land areas that are densely populated.

        2. **Suburban**: mainly residential land areas that are not densely populated compared to urban living and are a considerable distance from city living.

        3. **Rural**: land areas with very low population density with few buildings, homes, and infrastructure.

3. **Gender**: a socially constructed system that gives meaning to masculinity and femininity which unevenly distributes power and opportunity according to cultural interpretations of sex. As an element of personal identity, a gender is developed through the interaction of social roles and expectations, one's response to those expectations, one's physiology, and one's internal sense of self. Gender is culturally and temporally specific, meaning that different cultures and historical moments have different understandings of what gender means and how many genders should be recognized.

   1. **Man**: an individual who self-identifies as a man understands their gender in terms of Western conceptions of manliness, maleness, and/or masculinity. The term has typically been used for male humans, though not all men identify with the term "male" depending on the context in which it is used.

   2. **Woman**: an individual who self-identifies as a woman understands their gender in terms of Western conceptions of womanness, femaleness, and/or femininity. The term has typically been used for female humans, though not all women identify with the term "female" depending on the context in which it is used.

   3. **Transgender**: an umbrella term for people whose gender identity, expression, or behavior differs from what is typically associated with their assigned sex at birth.

   4. **Intersex**: an umbrella term used to refer to people born with variations in their physical sex characteristics--including genitals, gonads, chromosomes, and hormonal factors--that do not fit typical definitions of male or female bodies. (*homosaurus.org)

4. **Educational level**: educational level as a category of analysis in the article and / or addresses related issues in the article. For issues of educational structures as limiting or sites of oppression, see "**Systems of oppression**".

   1. **Primary education**: people who have limited formal education; in the U.S., a primary (elementary school) education or to issues focused on this population.

   2. **Secondary education**: people who have (at least) some high school education, or who have earned a high school diploma or its equivalent (e.g., in the U.S., high school but no advanced work) or to issues focused on this population.

   3. **Higher education**: people who have (at least) some college education or have earned a college degree or to issues focused on this population.

5. **Age**: age as a category of analysis

   1. **Child**: people who are roughly between the ages of 0-11.

   2. **Teen**: an adolescent stage where there are psychological and physical developments, roughly between the ages of 11 and 18. Also look under issues if searching for articles connected to child abuse.

   3. **Young adults**: people that are in a transitional period in their life (adolescent to adult), roughly between the ages of 18 and 25.

   4. **Senior**: older adults, roughly above the age of 65.

6. **Relationship / marital status**: relationship / marital status as a category of analysis (see also "**Polygamy / polyamory**" under "**Sexual practices**" for polygamous marriage)

   1. **Married**: a legally-binding state of matrimony between two individuals.

2. **Divorce**: a decree by a court that a valid marriage no longer exists; term includes individuals going through the process of becoming divorced.

3. **Separation**: individuals who have separated from their significant other/partner but who have not gone through the legal process of divorce.

4. **Cohabitation**: Individuals living with a significant other(s) in a domestic partnership but not legally married.

5. **Single**: Individuals not married, cohabitating, or in a romantic relationship with a significant other(s).

6. **Widow**: an individual of any gender who has outlived their legal spouse.

7. **Parent**: individuals who nurture and raise a child / children; parents can be biologically related to their children, related by marriage, determined via a court or political system, or through choice. Includes issues related to parenting and the choices that parents make for and about their children.

7. Immigration as legal and / or social status

1. **Immigrant**: people who have left their country of origin and relocated elsewhere, not including refugees or asylum seekers.

   1. **Alien**: A foreign-born person who has temporary or long-term residence in a host country.

   2. **Undocumented**: An immigrant without the necessary legal status/identification of the country they are in.

2. **Refugee**: people who have left their community or country of residence as a result of persecution, war, violence, disaster, poverty, or lack of basic necessities (famine, drought etc.)

3. **Asylum**: a legal form of protection that allows people to stay in a country instead of being forcibly relocated to a place where they fear persecution or harm.

8. Legal statuses

1. **Minor**: a legal classification for individuals under the age of 18 or an other specified age, who are not considered to have legal responsibility (not legally emancipated)

2. **People who qualify for government assistance**: people who qualify for government assistance, including but not limited to Medicare, Medicaid, and welfare (in the U.S.), or people who have access to universal healthcare.

3. **Convicted criminal**: someone who is convicted for one or more crimes.

4. **Incarcerated**: people that are or have been under correctional control (incarcerated people may not be convicted criminals and vice versa e.g. someone incarcerated before conviction) includes those on probation, parole or house arrest.

5. **Sex offender**: an individual who is currently legally registered as a sex offender or who has been at some point in time.

9. People impacted by social and environmental conflict and displacement

1. **Disaster**: serious disruptions to the functioning of a community that exceed its capacity to cope using its own resources. Disasters can be caused by natural, man-made and technological hazards (i.e. terrorist

attacks, water crisis, hurricane etc), as well as various factors (i.e. drought, famine) that increase the exposure and vulnerability of a people / community to harm. Includes people / communities experiencing a disaster or who have experienced a disaster.

2. **War**: conflict generally characterized by extreme violence, destruction, and mortality, via regular or irregular military forces. The tag is not dependent on political, governmental, or international official definitions of conflict.

3. **Pandemic**: people affected by pandemic (e.g. Covid-19) and its aftermath or issues that foreground the impact of pandemic.

4. **Homeless**: people who are unhoused or experiencing homelessness, lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, such as those living in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or places not meant for habitation, **or** individuals who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence (within 14 days), provided that no subsequent housing has been identified/funded. Tag includes the vulnerabilities and risks associated with homelessness and the politicization of "homeless" as a category of policing or "solving".

10. Race and ethnicity

Ethnicity: a designation of belonging or identity that an individual holds that often shares a distinctive and common language, religion, culture, heritage, and/or national origin. Articles under this tag address racial and / or ethnic background as a category of analysis (typically in an American context). Note that we only specify the ethnicity of a person living outside of the US if that ethnicity is a minority or non-dominant group or is an explicit category of research investigation.

1. **Black / African American**: individuals and communities of African descent with shared history, cultural heritage, and experiences, including ones of systemic and racial discrimination. There is a wide range of ethnic cultures and backgrounds across the world that encompasses this identity.

2. **Hispanic**: individuals and communities that come from Spanish-speaking countries (Latin American, Caribbean, Spain), cultures, and/or backgrounds.

3. **Latino/a/e/x**: a gender-neutral term used to describe or refer to people of Latin American descent or origin. It is an alternative term used to encompass the terms Latino, Latina, Latine, or Latinx, with the aim of being inclusive. Latinx includes a range of languages, cultures, and experiences of people from Latin countries.

4. **South Asian**: people who are from or identify with various cultures of the southern region of Asia. South Asian countries include Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Pakistan, the Maldives, India, Bangladesh and Pakistan. South Asian identity includes a range of languages, cultures, traditions, and experiences of people from South Asian countries.

5. **Asian / Asian American**: people from the continent of Asia, which encompasses a wide range of countries, languages, cultures, and ethnic groups from Southeast, East, Central, and Western Asia.

6. **White / Caucasian**: a term used to describe individuals characterized by lighter skin tones and European descent. In various societies, this identity is associated with social, historical, and cultural experiences, including power dynamics and systemic privileges.

7. **Indigenous populations**: refers to the original inhabitants of a specific country or region, often with specific cultural, historical, and social identity. Indigenous peoples are known to have their traditions

and languages while being deeply connected to their ancestral lands. Indigenous people often face a history of colonization and issues of their right to sovereignty and cultural preservation.

8. **Middle Eastern**: used to describe people who identify as Middle Eastern and / or Arab, or from countries in North Africa and some parts of Western Asia. This region includes countries like Egypt, Syria, Turkey, Israel, Iran, and others. Middle Eastern identity encompasses a wide range of cultures, religions, and historical experiences.

11. **Religion and religious affiliation**: members of a religious group, including religious officials or research that focuses its analysis on one or more religion, religious belonging, or religious community; also applies to articles that refer to survivors' relationship to faith, spirituality, or religion.

    1. **Christian**: people who identify as Christian or research that centers Christian faith, doctrine, belonging, or community.

        1. **Catholic**: people who identify as Catholic or research that foregrounds questions of Catholic faith or community.

    2. **Muslim**: people who identify as muslim or research that foregrounds questions of Islamic faith, doctrine, or community.

    3. **Jewish**: people who identify as Jewish or research that foregrounds questions of Jewish faith, doctrine, or community.

    4. **Hindu**: people who identify as Hindu or research that foregrounds questions of Hindu faith, doctrine, or community.

    5. **Buddhist**: people who identify as Buddhist or research that foregrounds questions of Buddhist faith, doctrine, or community.

    6. **Confucian**: people who identify as Confucian or research that foregrounds questions of Confucian thought, belief, or tradition.

12. Occupational and institutional roles and vulnerabilities (for victimization and perpetration)

    1. **College student, staff, or faculty**: students, staff, or faculty of college, universities, trade schools, or other institutions of higher education; includes discussions of gender violence that occur on college campuses.

    2. **Social worker**: people in professional or paraprofessional roles who support and/or advocate for vulnerable populations. Includes discussions of the field of social work.

    3. **Government**: people employed by a government (local, state, or federal), including politicians/policy makers.

    4. **Military personnel**: current or past (veteran) members of the armed forces and/or their intimate partners, includes gender violence that occurs on military bases/military academies.

    5. **Law enforcement personnel**: current or past members of (local, state, federal) law enforcement agencies (i.e. police) and/or their intimate partners.

    6. **Domestic worker and caregiver**: a broad occupational term that includes domestic workers, in-home nurses, and child care workers.

7. **Sex worker**: people who sell sexual services in person or online, including starring in pornography (film, audio, photo), camming, escort services, and working in a brothel/bath house/massage parlor. Sex work can be both consensual and nonconsensual; while nonconsensual sexwork is considered sex trafficking, there are debates if sex work can ever be 100% consensual. Sex work by those under 18 is considered child sex trafficking.

13. Group and social affiliations

1. **Athletes**: an individual who is a member of an athletic or sports team or who coaches/trains athletes; includes both individual or team sports, amateur or professional.

2. **Fraternities**: a male social club, most often collegiate, includes those in fraternities, those victimized by fraternities and all other related issues.

3. **Sororities**: a female collegiate social club, includes those in sororities, those victimized by sororities and all other related issues.

4. **Gang**: refers to street gangs and other similar organizations (e.g. cartels). "Gang" can loosely be defined as an organized group of individuals who share an identity typically linked to a name, and often other symbols; the group has some permanence and a degree of organization and the group is involved in an elevated level of criminal activity.

3. **Sexual practices**

1. **Queer sexual identities and practices**: individuals who identify with non-normative gender and/or sexual identities, typically people who are not heterosexual and/or are not cisgender.

1. **Gay**: a sexuality / identity term predominately used to describe men who are exclusively or primarily romantically and/or sexually attracted to other men. While "gay" is often used as an identifier by people of all genders, this term specifically refers to gay men.

2. **Lesbian**: a sexuality / identity term predominately used to describe women who are exclusively or primarily romantically and/or sexually attracted to other women. However, not all lesbians are women, and gender non-conforming people who belong to lesbian communities have often identified as lesbian.

3. **Bisexual**: sexual identity that is defined as attraction to more than one gender; follow the individual's preference for bisexuality, pansexuality, or polysexuality whenever possible.

4. **Asexual**: a sexuality identity that predominantly describes individuals who generally do not experience sexual attraction or desire; not used to describe individuals practicing celibacy or abstinence for religious or cultural reasons.

5. **Men who have sex with men**: men who have sex with other men, regardless of whether or not they identify as other than straight.

6. **Women who have sex with women**: people who have sex with women, regardless of whether or not they identify as other than straight.

2. **Heterosexual / straight**: also known as heterosexual, people who experience romantic attraction, sexual attraction or who engage in sexual behavior with those of the opposite sex or gender.

3. **Polygamy / polyamory**: people who engage in romantic, sexual, or play relationships with more than one person simultaneously, with the knowledge and consent of all parties involved. For polygamous marriage, also see "**Marital / relationship status**". Sources related to polygamous marriage are usually also tagged along with "**marital status**" or "**married**" tag(s).

4. **Risky sex**: people who engage in sexual practices characterized as risky by researchers such as unprotected or substance-facilitated sex.

5. **BD / SM**: BDSM is a type of sexual practice (though some BDSM isn't inherently sexual) where people engage in bondage, discipline, and sadism/masochism with consent of both parties. Included in the BDSM category are sexual practices that engage consensual force. While not all kink is considered a part of BDSM it is grouped together under this tag. Kink is much broader and is defined as sexual or erotic acts, objects, and situations that are considered to be unusual within a given society. This tag includes all issues related to the larger kink and BDSM communities.

6. **Inter-generational**: people who engage in sexual activity with an individual from another generation not including a child with an adult.

4. **Health**

1. **People with illness**: used to tag when a person has an illness or disease, including chronic pain. The illness can be a risk factor for violence or be a result of violence.

2. **People with physical disability**: a disability is any condition of the body or mind (impairment) that makes it more difficult for the person with the condition to do certain activities (activity limitation) and interact with the world around them (participation restrictions). The term disability is used to tag individuals with physical disabilities such as blindness, deafness, cerebral palsy or any kind of physical handicap.

3. **People with cognitive impairment**: cognitive disabilities are a broad range of conditions that affect a person's intellectual functions and ability to think, learn, remember, and make decisions. Examples include down syndrome, autism, dementia. One can develop cognitive disabilities as the result of trauma (ie. shaken baby syndrome) or medical events such as strokes.

4. **People with mental illness**: mental illnesses are a wide range of health conditions that can cause significant changes in thinking, emotion and/or behavior, and/or cause stress and/or problems functioning in social, work or family activities. Includes mood disorders, psychotic disorders and more. Used to tag mental illness as a risk factor (before violence) or as a result of violence.

5. **People with trauma, including PTSD**: psychological trauma is a person's experience of emotional distress resulting from an event that overwhelms the capacity to emotionally digest it. The precipitating event may be a one-time occurrence or a series of occurrences. What one person experiences as trauma may not cause distress for another. This tag also includes post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which is a specific anxiety disorder that is the result of trauma that is intrusive in everyday life, and causes disruption to multiple facets of life; PTSD is diagnosis based on a specific criteria listed in the DSM-V. This tag is used to describe individuals who have experienced trauma and/or PTSD as a risk factor for violence or as the result of violence.

6. **People with eating disorder**: eating disorders are a group of behavioral disorders that are characterized by severe and persistent disturbance in eating behaviors and associated distressing thoughts and emotions. They can be very serious conditions affecting physical, psychological and social function.

7. **People who self-harms**: self-harm refers to when a person hurts their own body on purpose. Tag refers to those who self-harm as a risk factor for violence or as a result of violence.

8. **People with HIV / AIDS**: HIV is a virus that attacks the body's immune system. AIDS is the later, more chronic "stage" of HIV. This tag includes people who have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDs and/or otherwise affected by HIV/AIDS.

9. **People with Sexually Transmitted Infections (not including HIV / AIDS)**: infections transmitted through sexual contact and caused by bacteria, viruses, or parasites. This tag includes people directly or indirectly affected by STIs.

10. **People who abuse drugs**: excessive use of psychoactive drugs, such as pain medications, or illegal drugs. Drug addiction is a chronic disease characterized by drug seeking and use that is compulsive, or difficult to control, despite harmful consequences. This tag is used for when drug abuse is a risk factor for experiencing violence, for when drug abuse occurs as the result of or after violence/trauma, and/or when drug abuse plays a role in the perpetration of harmful and violent behavior.

11. **People who abuse alcohol**: also known colloquially as alcoholism, alcohol abuse is when an individual has an impaired ability to stop or control alcohol use despite adverse social, occupational, or health consequences. This tag is used for when alcohol abuse is a risk factor for experiencing violence, for when alcohol abuse occurs as the result of or after violence/trauma, and/or when alcohol abuse plays a role in the perpetration of harmful and violent behavior.

12. **Pregnant people / pregnancy**: Pregnancy is the term used to describe the period in which a fetus develops inside an individual's uterus. This tag is used for people who are pregnant or who have been pregnant; includes any issues related to the postpartum period.

5. Role

   1. **Perpetrator**: an individual(s) who has committed abuse or violence of any kind.

   2. **Bystander**: people who are bystanders in violence, whether or not they took action to prevent, diffuse, or deflect violence, as well as programs aimed at training bystanders to take such action.

II. ISSUES

1. **Intimate partner violence**: any behavior within an intimate relationship (regardless of gender or sexual orientation) that causes sexual, psychological, or physical harm to those in the relationship. This includes acts of sexual coercion, controlling behavior and physical aggression. IPV often involves power and control dynamics, leading to a cycle of manipulation and abuse. IPV can happen between former or current partners and spouses, regardless of whether they live with each other.

   1. **Domestic violence**: a form of IPV that centers around physical harm (or threats of physical harm) which is described as a pattern of behavior in any intimate relationship (regardless of gender or sexual orientation) that is used to maintain or gain power over an intimate partner. This can include behaviors that intimidate, frighten, blame, humiliate, terrorize, hurt, or injure someone. Domestic violence can happen to anyone,

regardless of age, race, religion etc., and can happen within relationships where the abusers and victims live together, are separated, dating, or married.

2. **Intimate partner murder**: homicide (murder) committed by a perpetrator against a current or former intimate partner.

3. **Battered persons who kill**: a tag used to note the murder/homicide of abusive current or former partners by their victims/survivors.

2. **Stalking**: repeated and unwanted contact directed at a specific person that causes fear or emotional distress.

1. **Cyber stalking and other electronic aggressions**: a tag used to describe stalking, abuse, harassment, and/or harm in which technology and/or social media plays a significant role. Includes sharing sexually explicit material without consent, revenge porn, AI deep fakes, sexually explicit comments/engagement on social media, secret camera porn etc.

3. **Children**

1. **Child abduction**: the unauthorized removal or retention of a minor from a parent, caregiver, or anyone with legal responsibility for the child. Child abduction can be committed by parents or other family members; by people known but not related to the victim, such as neighbors, friends and acquaintances; and by strangers.

2. **Child abuse (not including child sexual abuse)**: physical or emotional abuse committed against children. Child abuse can be committed by family, guardians, other minors, people in authority, and/or strangers.

3. **Child sexual abuse**: child sexual abuse (CSA) is a form of child abuse that includes non-developmentally appropriate sexual activity with a child by an adult, adolescent or other child. A child cannot consent to any form of sexual activity. Child sexual abuse does not need to include physical contact between a perpetrator and a child.

4. **Child custody issue**: refers to child custody and visitation issues

5. **Child exposure to abuse**: when children are exposed (ie. see, hear, know of) to abuse (emotional, physical, verbal, etc.) perpetrated against a parent, guardian, or household member often by the other parent, guardian/caretaker, household member, significant other.

6. **Child neglect**: when a parent, guardian, or caretaker neglects to provide needed food, clothing, shelter, medical care, supervision, emotional connection, socialization and more to the degree that the child's health, safety, and well-being are threatened with harm. *Note excludes cases labeled by researchers as corporal punishment

7. **Spanking and corporal punishment**: physical punishment, enacted by a supervising adult, that is done to cause pain or discomfort in response to a child's behaviors; the most common example is spanking. *Note exclude cases labeled by researchers as physical abuse.

8. **Separation from parents / guardian**: when a child has lost or been separated from their original parents/guardians as a result of death, war, natural disaster, immigration processes, legal custody battle, or removal by a social welfare agency.

4. **Trafficking & prostitution**: the recruiting, harboring, moving, or obtaining of a person by force, fraud, or coercion, for the purpose of involuntary servitude, debt bondage, slavery, or sexual exploitation. Trafficking also includes child marriage / child brides, forced marriages, domestic servitude, organ harvesting/trade, child soldiers, and child laundering (illegal, fraudulent adoptions).

5. **Sexual violence**

   1. **Incest**: sexual violence perpetrated by a family member of the victim/survivor, including both intergenerational and intragenerational incest.

   2. **Non-acquaintance rape**: non-consensual sex perpetrated by someone the victim/survivor does not know.

   3. **Acquaintance rape**: described as non-consensual sexual acts between people who know each other. This includes friends, coworkers, classmates, teammates and people that are on dates (date rape).

   4. **Sexual assault**: any attempted or completed non-consensual sexual act. Sexual acts can include: groping, oral sex, touching, masturbation, molestation, flashing, and more not listed.

   5. **Gang rape**: sexual assault, attempted rape, or rape perpetrated by a group of people (multiple perpetrators) against an individual.

   6. **Drug and alcohol facilitated sexual violence**: sexual violence that is facilitated using drugs and/or alcohol. The consumption of the substances can be taken willingly by the victim/survivor, or it could be against their will/knowledge. The perpetrator may also be under the influence or not.

   7. **Sexual violence in facilities, including detention, prisons, and healthcare centers**: sexual violence that is committed in facilities and institutions. Includes: detention centers, prisons, health care centers, nursing homes, rehab centers, "troubled teen" camps, mental institutions, conversion camps, group homes, boarding schools, and religious institutions such as convents or monasteries.

6. **Harassment**: sexual harassment is any unwanted sexual behavior that makes someone feel upset, scared, offended, or humiliated. It can include verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct, and can happen in many forms and places. Examples include: unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and cat calls.

   1. **Workplace harassment**: a tag used to describe sexual harassment that occurs in the workplace specifically. Sexual harassment can occur between employees, between employee and boss, and/or between employee and customer/client.

   2. **K-12 bully / harassment in schools**: violence and/or harassment perpetuated by and against students in K-12 or primary and secondary schools.

7. **Coercion and / or non-physical violence**: an act or a pattern of acts of non-physical violence that includes threats, humiliation, intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, frighten or control. Threats can be both explicitly conveyed or implied. Coercion is a broad category that occurs in many instances of IPV and can be broken down into specific types such as reproductive coercion.

1. **Emotional abuse / control**: a pattern of behavior in which the perpetrator insults, humiliates, and generally instills [fear](#) in an individual to control them. Emotional abuse can include: blaming, shaming, degrading comments, gaslighting, isolation/overprotection, guilt-tripping, ignoring, and much more.

2. **Economic abuse / control**: abuse, control, and/or monitoring of an individual's finances and economic resources by an intimate partner. Economic abuse can include: exerting control over income, spending, bank accounts, bills, and borrowing, attempting to prevent a victim or survivor from working and/or attending school in an effort to create financial dependence as a means of control, controlling property and daily essentials like food and clothing and/or destroying items and refusing to contribute to household costs.

8. **Issue of consent**: at the very foundation consent is an agreement between all participants to engage in sexual activity. Consent is: freely given absent of coercion; reversible, consent can be taken away or changed at any time; informed, each participant knows what they consent too; enthusiastic; and specific. Legal definitions of consent can vary quite widely as well as the "age of consent" or the age that a child/teen is to be able to consent to sexual activity.

9. **Witnessing violence**: exposure to violent acts, including acts of war, terrorism, and gun violence. Does not include child exposure to domestic violence perpetrated by a member of the household.

10. **Structural violence**: violence built into social and institutional structures that cause people distress, pain, or suffering and/or prevent them from accessing systems and resources to which they have a right.

    1. **Political system**: structural violence in political systems, including voter suppression practices.

    2. **Legal system**: structural violence in legal systems, including marginalizing laws and barriers to access to legal services.

    3. **Workplace policies and system**: structural violence in workplace policies and systems, including barriers to access to employment or abortion/birth control through employer health insurance.

    4. **Healthcare system**: structural violence in health care policies and systems, including barriers to access to abortion and/or birth control.

    5. **Educational system**: structural violence in educational systems including barriers to education for women or low-income people.

    6. **Religious or ritualized structure**: structural violence in religious or ritualized beliefs, practices, and organizations. Includes childhood sexual abuse by clergy / priests.

       1. **Female genital cutting and circumcision**: female genital cutting, and/or female circumcision is a practice that can be seen in many cultures and/or can be used as a power and control mechanism. This practice can be done as young as infancy and can cause lasting emotional, physical, and mental distress after it occurs.

11. **Systems of oppression**: socially and culturally constructed ideologies and patterns of behavior that oppress historically and institutionally disempowered groups, verbally and physically.

    1. **Racism**: negative attitudes, stereotypes, violence, and/or discriminatory action based on ethnicity/race.

    2. **Sexism**: negative attitudes, stereotypes, violence, and/or discriminatory action based on sex/gender.

    3. **Heteronormativity**: refers to interventions and responses that reinforce that structural primacy and normalcy of heterosexuality in society

    4. **Classism**: negative attitudes, stereotypes, violence, and/or discriminatory action based on class (social/economic status).

    5. **Xenophobia**: negative attitudes, stereotypes, violence, and/or discriminatory action toward immigrants or foreigners.

    6. **Colonialism**: refers to policy or practice of acquiring or exerting full or part political control over another country.

    7. **Ableism**: refers to discriminatory practices that favor able-bodied people

    8. **Homophobia**: negative attitudes, stereotypes, violence, and/or discriminatory action based on sexual orientation, including both polysexualities and nonosexualities.

    9. **Transphobia**: refers to negative attitudes, stereotypes, violence and / or discriminatory action based on trans, gender variant, or non-binary gender identity.

    10. **Antisemitism**: negative attitudes, stereotypes, violence, and/or discriminatory action toward Jews.

    11. **Islamophobia**: negative attitudes, stereotypes, violence, and/or discriminatory action toward Muslims.

12. **Suicide**: attempted or completed self-inflicted injury with the intent to die.

13. **Use of weapons**: devices used to inflict harm, death, or intimidation. Common types of weapons include blunt objects, guns, knives etc.

14. **General criminal activity**: an action or activity that is punishable by law and seen as a public offense

15. **Non-sexual violence**, which may or may not be committed alongside sexual violence

    1. **Murder**: unlawfully killing a person. In terms of the gender violence database, this term is specifically tagged when a homicide is committed by a perpetrator against anyone other than a current or former intimate partner.

    2. **Physical violence**: when an individual or group of people attack someone physically causing bodily harm. In terms of the gender violence database, this term is specifically tagged when physical violence is committed by a perpetrator against anyone other than a current or former intimate partner.

    3. **Animal abuse**: physical abuse of animals, often committed alongside spousal abuse

4. **Gender-based violence (including "femicide")**: actions or behavior that inflict emotional or physical distress/pain to another individual causing injury and death. This term is specifically used in the database when violence is committed specifically based on gender, including honor killings and femicide.

5. **Lynching**: a form of racial terrorism via public, premeditated, extrajudicial killings, historically known to be performed by unlawful mobs

16. **Forced labor**: all types of coerced work that an individual must do against their will, including prison labor.

    1. **Chattel slavery**: forced labor wherein race is constructed to create a class of laborers who are under the complete domination of owners who have power of life and death over them, can sell and transfer them at will, and have full control over their daily and domestic life including their offspring.

17. **Indentured servitude**: a mutual agreement wherein a laborer is compelled to work in order to repay a debt (contract conditions may be illegal and/or vastly more beneficial to the employer than the laborer).

18. **Masculinity**: a social construct affecting men, boys, and/or male behavior.

19. **Rape myths**: popularly held false beliefs or ideas. There are myths about rape and other forms of sexual assault, upheld by cultural norms and sometimes social structures.

20. **Revictimization**: multiple victimizations of one person by the same or a different perpetrator over the course of the victim/survivor's lifetime.

21. **Retraumatization**: multiple experiences of trauma over a lifetime, often completed by governmental, legal, and/or healthcare systems.

22. **Recidivism**: the repetition of criminal behavior, often after the perpetrator receives sanctions or undergoes intervention for a previous crime(s).

23. **Cycle of violence**: a cycle where individuals are abused, especially as children, and then later in life becomes abusers/perpetrators of violence themselves. This is a debated topic in the scholarship.

24. **Intergenerational trauma**: the apparent transmission of trauma between generations of a family. Traumas can be cultural, historical,or familial experiences including examples such as: witnessing violence or living in environments where violence is a constant threat, adverse childhood effects (ACES), abuse/neglect, natural disasters, sexual violence, and/or trauma caused by oppression/poverty/structural violence. Individuals who

experience these traumas can pass the effects on to their children or grandchildren, through their [genes](#), their behavior or both.

25. **Stigma**: shame or disgrace felt or assigned to a characteristic, circumstance, or experience of an individual or group.

26. **Guilt**: internalized feelings of self-blame or shame discussed either as a risk factor for victimization or as a result of having witnessed and/or experienced abuse or assault.

27. **Memory**: refers to the memory of victims/survivors or witnesses of sexual assault, IPV, or sexual violence in general. Memories may be fully integrated and processed in a healthy way or they can be intrusive, disruptive, and unprocessed. Tag may also refer to those who lack memory of sexually violent experiences.

28. **Genetic determinants**: genetic determinants and/or hereditary links as an influential factor in the perpetration of or exposure to gender violence.

29. **Media and visual culture**: refers to representations of violence in media and visual culture. Subtags of media representations include representations of violence in: tv series, news media, porn, non-scholarly fiction literature, non-scholarly nonfiction literature, comic books, film, music, video games, stand-up comedy, and theatrical productions.

    1. **Social media**: representations of violence, rhetoric that enforces violence, and resistance against violence on social media platforms.

    2. **Television**: refers to representations of violence on television

    3. **Violence against and by celebrities**: a subset of media representations of violence. Tag refers to violence perpetrated by and/or against celebrities and/or the representation of that violence in the media.

    4. **News media**: refers to representations of violence in news media

    5. **Pornography**: material (such as books, photography, and/or video) that depicts erotic or sexually explicit behavior and is intended to cause sexual excitement in the viewer or creator. Tag refers to representations of violence in pornography, the effects of pornography, and/or its underlying messages.

    6. **Fiction**: refers to representations of violence in non-scholarly fictional literature

    7. **Non-fiction**: refers to representations of violence in non-scholarly nonfictional literature

    8. **Comic books**: refers to representations of violence in comic books

    9. **Film**: refers to representations of violence in film

    10. **Music**: refers to representations of violence in music and music videos

    11. **Video games**: refers to representations of violence in video games

12. **Stand-up comedy**: refers to representations of violence in stand-up comedy

13. **Theater**: refers to representations of violence in theatrical productions

III. RESPONSES

1. **International governing bodies and NGOs**: international responses from various governing bodies in response to structural and gender violence, including human rights violations and natural disasters. This includes governing bodies like the United Nations (UN) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

2. **Judicial proceedings**: judicial Proceedings conducted by a court of law, focused on enforcing laws, administering justice, and resolving disputes. Judicial proceedings within the realm of gender violence encompass various legal activities like filling complaints, trials, investigations, and sentencing.

   1. **College judiciary**: judicial proceedings for sexual assault carried out by a college judiciary board or similar governing body. This includes Title IX, sorority and fraternity governments, and various college administration boards. College judiciaries are meant to be a reporting mechanism, conduct investigations, offer support services, and conduct hearing panels surrounding issues like sexual harassment, IPV, assault, stalking, dating violence, and other forms of gender-based offenses within the college campus community.

   2. **Domestic violence and family courts**: refers to a specialized court that handles cases surrounding domestic violence, focusing on the improvement of judicial response to domestic violence cases, strengthening offender accountability and victim safety. Some key operations of domestic violence courts include collaboration with law enforcement, child custody and recommend and offer resources like housing, counseling and legal services to victims and their families.

   3. **Orders of protection**: a legal document issued by a court with legal consequences if violated, also known as a protective order or restraining order that is meant to safeguard an individual from further abuse or harassment. Protective orders are often issued in cases of stalking, threats, and domestic violence.

   4. **Criminal proceedings**: a government institution that is responsible for adjudicating legal disputes, including civil and criminal matters as required by law. This tag is used in situations involving one or more criminal charges.

   5. **Criminal proceedings**: judicial proceedings involving the custody of children and dependents, whoever is given legal custody of the child has the right to make decisions for the child in terms of education, healthcare etc. This can involve sole legal custody (one parent/guardian having responsibility for the child) or joint legal custody (both parents/guardians having responsibility for the child). Physical custody also refers to where and with whom the child resides and who is responsible for their needs daily. With sole physical custody a parent / guardian has primary responsibility and mainly lives with that parent and in some cases occasionally visits the other parent/guardian . With joint physical custody the child lives with both parents/ guardians for significant periods of time regularly.

      1. **Supervised visitation**: court ruling and regulations for the supervised visitation of children.

6. **Restorative justice**: judicial system that prioritizes victims/survivor agency, the role of the community, harm reparation through reconciliation, and rehabilitation instead of punishment

7. **Expert testimony in trial proceedings**: someone who specializes in a field of work that testifies or offers advice to prosecutor in trial proceedings

3. **Law enforcement**: action taken by law enforcement agencies and/or employees such as police, detectives, and/or prosecutors. Enforcement responses include investigative processes such as interviews / contact with victim / survivor.

   1. **Mandatory arrest**: a broad category of policies that mandate that police take certain action, such as mandating an arrest, when responding to domestic violence calls. Policies can vary depending on the department.

   2. **Intra-state**: a tag used to specify law enforcement policies about gender violence that are enacted by a specific US state or international equivalent.

   3. **Inter-state and / or federal**: a tag used to specify law enforcement policies of the US federal government as well as any other inter-state legal cooperation, or international equivalent.

   4. **Sex offender registries**: refers to US state or federal registries for convicted sex offenders. Tag is used to specify when the sex offender registry is utilized as a response tool to violence (compared to the sexoffender tag which describes perpetrator characteristics).

4. **Policy and legislation**: policies and legislation that are responses to gender violence. These policies may or may not be passed into law.

   1. **National**: a tag used to specify policies and legislation responses that are enacted on a national / federal level.

   2. **State**: a tag used to specify policies and legislation responses that are enacted on a state level or international equivalent.

   3. **Municipal**: a tag used to specify policies and legislation responses that are enacted in a specific district or municipality, such as a city, school district, or Indian reservation.

5. **Education, training, and intervention programs**: programs for education, training, rehabilitation, and/or prevention in response to specific and/or structural violence.

   1. **Batterer intervention**: intervention programs for perpetrators aimed at stopping the abusive behavior and reducing their risk of recidivism (becoming repeat offenders).

      1. **Group programs**: a specific batterer intervention program that is a group intervention for perpetrators.

      2. **Individual counseling**: individual intervention programs for perpetrators.

   2. **Male consciousness raising**: groups, organizations, campaigns, and/or nonprofits for consciousness-raising among men including fathering and boys' groups. Possible topics of discussion include: masculinity, patriarchy, harm/abuse, power, and more.

3. **School and campus education programs**: intervention programs in K-12 or primary/secondary schools and on college campuses to educate students, faculty, staff, and/or administration. Could also include intervention programs for fraternities, sororities, and sport teams on college campuses.

4. **Workplace education programs**: Educational workplace programs, including diversity training and anti-harassment programs.

5. **Intervention by / for medical professionals**: medical care given to victims/survivors after violence. Also refers to programs conducted either by or for the medical community for prevention/intervention of gender violence.

6. **Public health outreach programs**: interventions and outreach programs based on a public health model and framework.

7. **Trauma-informed approaches and interventions**: used to tag explicitly trauma-informed approaches and interventions. Trauma informed care is a specific set of guidelines and practices that recognize that traumatic experiences can profoundly alter an individual's physical, emotional, and psychological well-being and that systems and individual behavior need to better promote environments of healing and recovery rather than practices and services that may inadvertently re-traumatize.

6. **Community initiatives**: initiatives, programs, and interventions that are developed by communities rather than a legal or governmental body (e.g. non-profits).

1. **Grassroots activism**: non-hierarchical, community-based activism and aid systems.

2. **Community notification**: community notification of the presence of sex offenders or other violence in the community.

3. **Safety planning**: the creation of a plan for the safety of victims/survivors; often created in partnership with a therapist.social workers and used by those living with abuse, those looking to leave an abusive partner, or those actively in the process of leaving an abusive partner/situation. Safety plans include options for income, shelter, and legal redress.

4. **Risk factors and assessment**: characteristics at the biological, psychological, family, community, or cultural level that precede and are associated with a higher likelihood of negative outcomes. Tag also includes the official or unofficial assessment of an individual's or community's risk factors.

5. **Shelters for IPV survivors**: shelters for victims/survivors of intimate partner violence and their children. "Shelters" includes emergency housing and long-term housing.

6. **Crisis hotlines**: hotlines for victims/survivors of sexual and/or intimate partner violence. Hotlines could also be emergency text lines, chat lines, or other methods of communicating with crisis services.

7. **Centers that offer walk-in resources**: centers that offer walk-in resources including health screenings, counseling, counseling groups, education programs, and more.

8. **SART, SANE, ER and other team responses**: sexual assault response team (SART), sexual assault nurse examiners (SANE), doctors, nurses, and ER professionals, attending to victims/survivors of sexual or intimate partner violence in hospital/medical center/dr. office settings.

9. **Faith-based initiatives**: initiatives and interventions implemented by religious organizations and/or according to faith-based goals and/or values.

10. **Survivor's social supports**: victims/survivor's social support system, including friends, family, and coworkers. Tag includes analysis of these social support systems or a victim/survivor's lack of social support.

11. **Volunteer management and preparation**: strategies for volunteer management and preparation and the analysis of volunteer work in the intervention/social work space.

12. **Coordinated community response**: set of strategies to combat gender violence on the community level that involves cooperation between multiple institutions/organizations.

13. **Community advocacy**: programs, initiatives, and other outreach methods that organizations / nonprofits / institutions / individuals create and/or run to advocate and create lasting change for the communities they serve. This can include activities like lobbying for legal change, nonpartisan voter education, and public education.

    1. **Court**: advocacy programs within domestic violence courts, family courts and/or support for victims moving through the court / legal system.

    2. **Survivor-centered**: advocacy programs and/or response systems that prioritize the needs of the victim/survivor.

    3. **Family-centered**: advocacy programs and/or response systems designed to keep the family intact.

    4. **Child-centered**: advocacy programs and/or response systems that prioritize the needs of the child of survivor/victim.

7. Psychological interventions

    1. **Psychiatric treatment**: medical treatment for mental illness and associated issues. Includes prescription treatment, hospitalization, long-term treatment facility stays and more.

    2. **Individual therapy:** A range of treatment methods that involves a person speaking with a trained therapist who can help them understand certain feelings and behaviors. There are many different types of therapy that victims/survivors can utilize such as CBT, DBT, EMDR, exposure therapy, play therapy, somatic therapy, and much more. Tag refers to individual therapy and counseling for victims/survivors, witnesses, family, and other individuals with experience or exposure to gender violence.

    3. **Couples therapy**: therapy in which both partners in a committed relationship are treated at the same time by the same therapist or therapists. Couples therapy is concerned with problems within and between the individuals that affect the relationship. Tag refers specifically to couples therapy concerning intimate partner violence in relationships.

    4. **Family therapy**: a form of group talk therapy that focuses on the improvement of relationships among family members. Tag specifically refers to family therapy concerning domestic violence.

    5. **Third party mediation**: solution-focused, third-party intervention in an interpersonal dispute. This type of intervention is often seen on college campuses during the college judicial process, or during restorative justice interventions.

    6. **Group therapy**: a form of psychotherapy in which a group of patients meet to describe and discuss their problems together under the supervision of a therapist(s). Tag refers to groups specifically for victims/survivors, and/or family/friends of survivors.

8. **Regulations for and obligations of professionals employed by the state**: regulations for and obligations of professionals employed by the state.

   1. **Regulations for social workers**: regulations for and obligations of social workers regarding mandatory reporting and other boundaries.

   2. **Regulations for teachers**: regulations for and obligations of teachers regarding mandatory reporting.

9. **Reporting**: self-reporting or disclosure by victims/survivors of experiences of assault, violence, and/or abuse. Also includes the self-disclosure of harm committed by perpetrators.

   1. **Self reporting**: refers to self-reporting or disclosure by victims / survivors and / or perpetrators

   2. **Mandatory reporting**: the legal obligation to report suspected abuse to local authorities. Individuals can have different degrees of mandatory reporting responsibility and those working with specific vulnerable populations such as children or elders have a larger responsibility to report many different types of neglect / abuse / harm.

10. **Coping mechanisms**: behaviors, actions, and thought processes, healthy or unhealthy, that are intended to reduce stress and/or distress as a result of trauma. Tag includes self-care practices (i.e. self-care for providers).

    1. **Coping (family)**: coping mechanisms utilized by many members of the family or mechanisms on the family level.

    2. **Coping (individual)**: refers to behaviors and actions, healthy or unhealthy, intended to reduce stress and / or distress, including self-care practices

11. **Self-defense / resistance**: self-defense, including formal training and training programs, and/or informal actions taken by individuals to avoid or resist violence.

12. **Bidirectional intimate partner violence**: used to tag articles specifically describing intimate partner violence that is bidirectional, committed by both partners against each other.

13. **Resilience**: the characteristic of victims/survivors to overcome trauma and adversity, including post-traumatic growth.

IV. SOURCE TYPE AND METHODOLOGY

1. Source type

1. **Scholarly article in a peer-reviewed journal or publication**: a tag used to note scholarly articles that appear in a peer-reviewed journal. Note that most scholarly articles are peer reviewed, but some are not.

2. **Non-scholarly article**: a tag used to note any piece of writing / research / literature that is not a scholarly article, whether or not it appears in a peer-reviewed journal.

3. **Law review article**: a tag used to signal a source that is published / appears in a law review.

4. **Studies on the economic effects of abuse on society**: a tag used to note sources that examine the macroeconomic effects of gender violence in society.

5. **Statistical**: a tag used to note sources that are primarily statistical in nature, rather than an article containing statistics.

6. **Profile**: a tag used to note sources that develop a profile–personality and behavioral characteristics– for rapists, abusers, batterers, survivors/victims, etc.

7. **Autobiographical (memoir / personal narrative)**: a tag used to note sources that are autobiographical in nature (the retelling of one's own story / experiences), such as a memoir or an individual story, told by one or more victims/survivors, field practitioners, or researchers.

8. **Anecdotal report by practitioner**: a tag used to note sources that consist of or include anecdotal report(s) of observations of study subjects / victims / survivors by one or more field practitioners. Anecdotal testimony is the relaying of personal experiences data points for research / analysis.

9. **Needs assessment**: needs assessment is a systematic process for determining and addressing needs, or "gaps", between current conditions and desired conditions or "wants". This tag is used to note needs assessment of a population or institution.

10. **Handbook or practitioner guide**: a tag used to note sources that are handbooks or practitioner guides for workers in the field of gender violence.

11. **Film review**: a tag used to note sources that review, comment on, and/or critique video, and film; includes the review of those who write/produce/participate in the creation of the film.

12. **Documentary film**: a tag used to note sources that review, comment on, and/or critique documentary film, miniseries, or any other nonfiction media that is based in fact.

13. **Book review**: a tag used to note sources that review, comment on, and/or critique a published book(s).

14. **Poem**: a tag used to note sources that review, comment on, and/or critique poems.

15. **Critique**: a tag used to note sources that critique and/or review of scholarship and developments in specific reference to a previous study.

16. **Respond to a critique of a previous study**: a tag used to note sources that specifically respond to a critique of a previous study.

17. Funding sources

    1. **U.S. government**: a tag used to note studies or sources that are funded partially or fully by the U.S. government.

    2. **Non-profit / NGO**: a tag used to note studies or sources that are funded partially or fully funded by a non-governmental organization.

3. **Sponsored by an agency of a sovereign nation**: a tag used to note studies or sources that are funded by a government of a sovereign nation other than the U.S., excluding the UN.

2. Methodology

1. **Social science article**: a tag used to note studies that take a social science approach / methodology, including adherence to the scientific method.

2. **Systematic review of statistical data**: a tag used to note studies that perform a statistical analysis of all the data available on a given topic, i.e. a meta-analysis.

3. **Meta studies**: a tag used to note sources that provide an overview of past research and scholarly developments on a given topic.

4. **Randomized control trial**: a tag used to note studies that utilize a randomized control trial, i.e blind or double-blind study using randomized selection of participants, experimental conditions, and a control group for comparison.

5. **Experimental study**: a tag used to note sources that explicitly identifies its design/methodology as experimental, usually including a control group.

6. **Single group design**: a tag used to note sources that explicitly identifies its design as experimental but does not include a control group.

7. **Quasi-experimental design**: a tag used to note sources that utilize a quasi-experimental design lacking randomized selection of participants.

8. **Longitudinal study**: a tag used to note studies that have a research design involving repeated observations of the same variables over a period of time.

9. **Qualitative study**: a tag used to note primarily qualitative methods; i.e. research that collects and analyzes non-numerical data to understand concepts, opinions, or experiences.

10. **Exploratory study**: a tag used to note studies that are designed to provide the foundation for further in-depth research.

11. **Design / methodology as a category of analysis**: a tag that refers to scholarship that examines research design and/or methodology as a category of analysis.

12. **Ethics of research as a category of analysis**: a tag that refers to scholarship that examines the ethics of research as a category of analysis.

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