

Working at the intersections of violence against children and violence against women

Violence against children and violence against women coexist and intersect in multiple ways. To keep children safe, we must acknowledge and address this reality. ■ UNICEF's Child Protection Strategy 2021-2030 recognises that gender equality and women's empowerment have a major influence on children's protection. UNICEF's Gender Action Plan 2022-2025 complements this Strategy: It places a priority on adolescent girls in recognition of the elevated risks and lack of attention to this group to date, and on addressing gender-based violence as a cross-cutting issue.

UNICEF Innocenti - Global Office of Research and Foresight is supporting the operationalisation of these priorities by generating evidence that recognises the gendered nature of violence and the links between the violation of the rights of children and the status of women. The evidence focuses on: ■ **1) How, when, and why violence against children and violence against women intersect**; and on: ■ **2) How to improve outcomes for children and women through gender-transformative interventions**.

By thoughtfully integrating and building on these findings, we can keep even more children, and women, safe.

UNICEF's Child Protection Strategy 2021-2030: A fundamental shift in approach to violence prevention



UNICEF's Child Protection Strategy 2021-2030 proposes a paradigm shift in its approach to violence prevention comprised of three interlinking elements: 1) increased investment in violence prevention; 2) greater focus on the social and behavioural drivers of violence, including the adoption of gender transformative approaches; and 3) addressing the intersections of violence against children and violence against women.

UNICEF's Gender Action Plan 2022-2025



UNICEF's Gender Action Plan, 2022-2025, operationalises the UNICEF Gender Policy, 2021-2030, by outlining how UNICEF will promote gender equality across its programmes. Importantly, it establishes gender-based violence as a cross-cutting priority and calls for a greater focus on adolescent girls.

1. How, when and why violence against children and violence against women intersect

UNICEF discussion paper: Gender dimensions of violence against children and adolescents



This paper examines how and why UNICEF and international partners should place greater emphasis on the gender dimensions of violence against children and adolescents, including a focus on the underlying drivers of violence and the intersections between violence against children and violence against women.

The co-occurrence of intimate partner violence and violence against children: A systematic review on associated factors in low- and middle-income countries



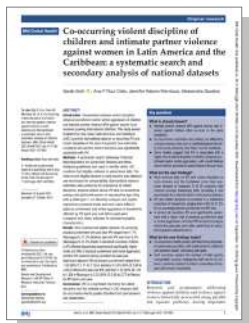
with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of Edinburgh, and Ludwig-Maximilians University of Munich

Journal: Trauma, Violence & Abuse

This systematic literature review identified 33 studies that provided findings for co-occurring intimate partner violence and violence against children in 24 low- and middle-income countries. Results show that these forms of violence co-occur in low- and middle-income countries, in line with the existing evidence from high-income countries. Findings also reveal important biases in current study designs, as few studies (5/33 in this review) examined men's abusive behaviours towards their children, even when men were known to be perpetrating violence against their female partners.

1. How, when and why violence against children and violence against women intersect

Co-occurring violent discipline of children and intimate partner violence against women in Latin America and the Caribbean: A systematic search and secondary analysis of national datasets



Journal: BMJ Global Health

This study aimed to determine how many Latin American and Caribbean countries had national data on co-occurring intimate partner violence (IPV) and violent discipline in the same household, as well as, how estimates compared, and whether violent discipline was significantly associated with IPV. Across almost all countries, in households where women suffered partner violence, children experienced significantly higher levels of physical punishment and verbal aggression, whether intimate partner violence occurred during or before the past year.

Correlates of co-occurring physical child punishment and physical intimate partner violence in Colombia, Mexico and Peru



Journal: BMC Public Health

This study aimed to expand knowledge about correlates of physical child punishment, physical intimate partner violence against women, and their co-occurrence in the same household using national, population-based survey datasets from Colombia, Mexico and Peru. Findings were consistent with several theories relevant for violence prevention: 1) more collaborative, gender equitable partnerships may protect both children and women from violence; 2) violence between intimate partners may 'spill over' into violence against children (as correlations could not be explained by shared risk factors alone); and 3) there appears to be strong evidence of intergenerational transmission of violence.

2. How to improve outcomes for children and women through gender-transformative interventions

Interventions that prevent or respond to intimate partner violence against women and violence against children: A systematic review



Journal: Lancet Public Health

This systematic review included studies that reported on both intimate partner violence and violent discipline outcomes across various settings, including: early childhood interventions, health care settings, home visitation programmes, community- and school-based programmes, and parenting programmes. Key components of programmes that addressed intimate partner violence and violence against children by parents or caregivers were identified. Findings emphasised the potential for community-based and parenting interventions to address both intimate partner violence and violence against children, and highlighted the importance of coordinated interventions to stop intergenerational cycles of violence.

with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine



Brief 1. Parenting programmes to reduce violence against women and children. Why it is important



This brief summarises existing research on how these two forms of violence intersect, their consequences, and emerging evidence of effective programmes. It also describes the role of unequal gender norms in perpetuating violence, shaping parenting practices, and on influencing children's opportunities — and why this, too, matters for parenting programmes.

with The Prevention Collaborative and Equimundo

Brief 2. Parenting programmes to reduce violence against women and children. What gender-transformative programmes look like



This brief explores what gender-transformative parenting programmes to reduce family violence look like in practice based on the evidence. It unpacks the common principles, delivery characteristics, and content of these programmes and how they work with parents to challenge unequal gender norms and power dynamics, reduce violence, and promote nurturing environments for children.

with The Prevention Collaborative and Equimundo

Brief 3. Parenting programmes to reduce violence against women and children. How to adapt programmes to address both types of violence



This brief is organised around five stages of adaptation, with each stage broken down into specific steps and actions for practitioners to take when adapting their programme.

with The Prevention Collaborative and Equimundo

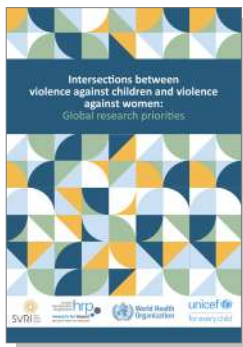
Brief 4. Parenting programmes to reduce violence against children and women: How can change be measured?



This brief will explore how change can be measured in parenting programmes that seek to reduce both violence against children and violence against women.

with The Prevention Collaborative and Equimundo

Intersections between violence against children and violence against women: Global research priorities



This report describes the participatory methodology used to determine the priorities for research on the intersections between violence against children and violence against women. A total of 153 respondents from over 50 countries jointly identified key knowledge gaps that, if filled, could help advance the field forward.

with the World Health Organization and the Sexual Violence Research Initiative

Ending violence against women and children in Asia and the Pacific: Opportunities and challenges for collaborative and integrative approaches



This report provides a synthesis of findings from four country studies (Cambodia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and Viet Nam) exploring opportunities to bridge policies, programmes and services addressing violence against women and violence against children.

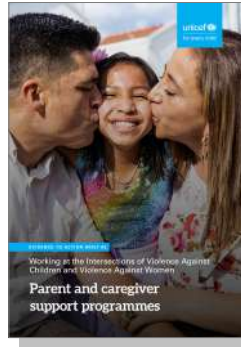
with UNFPA, UN Women and Australian Aid

Working at the intersections of violence against children and violence against women: Why it matters for children's protection and well-being



This brief summarises what we currently know about the ways violence against children and violence against women intersect and what this means for UNICEF and for other organisations working to end violence against children. It is part of a series designed to support efforts to respond to the intersections of violence against children and violence against women.

Working at the intersections of violence against children and violence against women: Parent and caregiver support programmes



This brief summarises what is known about the potential for parent and caregiver support programmes to reduce both violence against children and violence against women, and what this means for UNICEF and other organisations implementing such programmes. It is part of a series designed to support efforts to respond to the intersections of violence against children and violence against women.

Working at the intersections of violence against children and violence against women: Adolescent programming to prevent violence



This brief summarises what is known about adolescent programming to prevent violence. It is part of a series designed to support efforts to respond to the intersections of violence against children and violence against women.

Working at the intersections of violence against children and violence against women: Improving coordination of response and support services for victim-survivors of violence



This brief focuses on what we know about how coordination of response and support services for victim-survivors of violence can be improved. It is part of a series designed to support efforts to respond to the intersections of violence against children and violence against women.

What are gender-transformative interventions?

Gender-transformative interventions intentionally seek to address the root causes of gender-based inequalities and to challenge or transform harmful gender roles, norms, and power imbalances between men and women, boys and girls. Gender-transformative approaches are essential to preventing multiple forms of violence.

Generating evidence on online violence



Online grooming, sharing of child sexual abuse material and sexual extortion are crimes against children that need urgent, multi-sectoral and coordinated action.

UNICEF, ECPAT and INTERPOL are doing cutting-edge research to help governments around the world improve prevention and response to online sexual exploitation and abuse, supported by the Safe Online initiative.

There are many connections between children's online and offline experiences of violence. This research is our contribution to situating online sexual violence within the broader violence prevention agenda.

Read more about the Disrupting Harm project, here: <https://safeonline.global/disrupting-harm/>

