

UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF GENDER INEQUALITY IN MEN'S VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN – A CONCEPTUAL MODEL

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

THE CHOICE TO USE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

As a means to maintain control over women

As an expression of male power over women

ENABLED BY:

An environment where women and men are unequal in value and this inequality is seen as excusable, justified and normal

EVIDENT IN: (MEN RELATIVE TO WOMEN)

- Increased decision making power
- Greater value and esteem granted to masculine traits/roles
- More economic resources and security
- Higher status
- Entitled dominance and authority

ESTABLISHED THROUGH:

- Higher value given to masculine traits over feminine traits
- Gender pay gap
- Reduced economic security and superannuation for women
- Women undertake the majority of unpaid caring work (children, elderly, disability)
- Male leadership and authority are considered normal
- Supporting roles are accepted as normal for women
- Men hold greater positions of power
- Lack of female participation in decision making
- Culture of male dominance and female submission
- Sexualisation of women in media, advertising, film and popular culture
- Male dominance of public space
- Negative peer relationships among men
- Control over women's bodies, choices and sexuality
- Greater visibility and prestige granted to men's roles in all spheres of public life, including politics, corporate life and sports

ENVIRONMENT

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DRIVEN BY GENDER INEQUALITY:

Unequal power and resources between men and women

Rigid gender roles and stereotypes between and among men and women

GENDERED POWER AND RESOURCES

- Less female government ministers, cabinet ministers, and parliamentarians
- Less women on boards
- Less women in CEO, chair and management positions
- More men than women in public leadership positions, including in religious, government, military, media, arts, corporate, justice and sports organisations
- Gender segregated occupations

FEMALE ROLES AND STEREOTYPES

Nurturing, caring, submissive, weak, powerless, fragile, sexy, cooperative, subjective, amiable, illogical, emotional, passive, frivolous

MALE ROLES AND STEREOTYPES

Strong, powerful, authoritative, aggressive, logical, invincible, heterosexual conquest over women, economic providers, decision makers, competitive, guardians, stoic

HISTORICAL TRADITION OF MEN'S DOMINANCE OVER WOMEN (PATRIARCHY)

- Notes:
1. The examples in the conceptual model are intended to be a guide only to illustrate how the key drivers create an environment that enables a violence supportive culture and the perpetration of men's violence against women.
 2. The above conceptual model does not attempt to capture compounding factors (intersectionality) such as race, class, age, religion, ability/disability, oppression/marginalisation, and culture, which interact with the privileging of men over women.
 3. The term 'violence' is inclusive of physical, emotional, economic, sexual and spiritual violence.
 4. The concepts depicted in this model occur at the individual, community and institutional/societal levels (an ecological understanding of men's violence against women).
 5. The conceptual model is designed to be read with its accompanying text, and was developed for a training program dedicated to exploring the drivers of men's violence against women.

