



## The *Nabilan* Prevention Toolkit

# FACT SHEET 8. GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS ON THE PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Updated October 2016

**Attitude change:** Changes in what people think.

**Behaviour change:** Changes in how people act.

**Behaviour change communications:** Any form of communications materials (posters, TV programs, banners, etc.) that aim to change the way people act.

**Community:** A group of people with many different characteristics who are linked by social ties, share common perspectives, and engage in joint [activities] in geographical locations or settings.<sup>1</sup>

**Community-led approach:** An approach in which the target community itself decides how it wants to address an issue affecting it.

**Community mobilisation:** An approach in which the target community itself takes action to address an issue affecting it. An external organisation might provide the community with tools and skills to achieve this but the action is done by the community members.

**Consent:** Free and voluntary agreement between individuals, with no coercion, force, or intimidation of any kind, where the individuals actively show their willingness to participate in an activity. In a sexual context, there is no consent if one person submits to the activity but does not actively demonstrate willingness. Consenting to one sexual act does not signify consent to the same act on another occasion, or to other sexual acts.

**Culture:** A set of norms, behaviours, attitudes, values, language, and practices that characterise a group of people, institutions, and organisations. In our lives, we belong to many groups (country, village, family, political group, religious group, peer group) and each of these will have a different culture.

**Deficit-based approach to violence prevention:** An approach which focuses on the negative outcomes of using violence, and uses strategies of shame, blame, and punishment. A strength-based approach (see below) is recommended instead.

**Domestic violence:** Any act committed within a family context that results or could result in physical, sexual, economic, or psychological injuries or suffering.<sup>2</sup>

**Ecological Model:** A theoretical framework that allows us to analyse the causes of – and the solutions to – violence at the individual, family, community, and societal levels.<sup>3</sup>

**Evidence-based programs:** Programs designed and implemented using relevant and recent research.

**Feminism:** The belief that all people should have equal rights and opportunities, regardless of their sex or gender.

**Femininities:** The different notions of what it means to be a woman (in terms of both sex and gender), including cultural ideals about women's characteristics, roles, and identities. These notions change over time.

**Gender:** The social (not biological) differences and relations between men and women and the attributes, behaviour, and activities to which each is expected to adhere. These differences are learned and they vary widely among societies and cultures, and change over time.

**Gender-based violence:** Any act of physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, or economic abuse that is attempted or threatened with some type of force and is directed against a person because of his or her gender role in a society or culture.

<sup>1</sup> From McQueen 2001. See Fact Sheet 3 for more information.

<sup>2</sup> From Article 2 of the Timor-Leste Law Against Domestic Violence.

<sup>3</sup> See Fact Sheet 2 for more information.

**Gender equality:** The equal rights, responsibilities, and opportunities of women and men and girls and boys. Equality does not mean that women and men will become the same but that a person's rights, responsibilities, and opportunities will not depend on whether they are male or female.<sup>4</sup>

**Gender sensitive:** Policies or programs that account for gender, acknowledging the different experiences, expectations, pressures, inequalities, and needs of women, men, transgender, and intersex people.<sup>5</sup>

**Gender transformative:** Policies or programs that examine challenges and make long-term, sustainable changes to structures, norms, and behaviours that reinforce gender inequality, and strengthen those that support gender equality.<sup>6</sup>

**Intersectionality:** The interconnected nature of social categories (ie. race, gender, class) which create overlapping systems of discrimination, oppression, or domination. For example, an intersectional approach recognises that a Timorese woman's experiences of discrimination are different than an Australian woman's, or that a lesbian woman's experiences of discrimination are different than a straight woman's.

**Intimate partner:** A current or former husband/wife or boyfriend/girlfriend.

**Intimate partner violence (IPV):** Violent and coercive behaviours, including physical, sexual, and psychological attacks, and economic coercion, that adults or adolescents use against their current or former intimate partners.

**Masculinities:** The different notions of what it means to be a man (in terms of both sex and gender), including cultural ideals about men's characteristics, roles, and identities. These notions change over time.

**Multi-sectoral:** Involving more than one field or sector (ie. Health, Education, Security, Finance, Agriculture).

**Participatory approach:** An approach in which participants are actively involved in activities that encourage self-reflection, rather than an approach based on participants listening passively to a lecture or presentation.

**Patriarchy:** A system of structures and institutions created to sustain male supremacy and female subordination.<sup>7</sup>

**Perpetration of violence:** Using violence against another person.

**Prevalence of violence against women:** The proportion or percentage of women in a group who have experienced violence, out of the total number of women in the group.

**Primary prevention of violence against women:** An approach that promotes safe and healthy environments, norms, and behaviours, aimed at stopping violence against women before it occurs (ie. Skills-building for couples on non-violent conflict resolution, positive discipline programs for parents and teachers, comprehensive sexual education focused on consent).

**Protective factors for violence against women:** Conditions or characteristics that reduce the likelihood that a woman will experience violence or that a man will use violence against a woman.

**Risk factors for violence against women:** Conditions or characteristics that increase the likelihood that a woman will experience violence or that a man will use violence against a woman.

**Sex:** Biological differences between women and men. 'Sex' also refers to the act of sexual intercourse.

**Social norms:** Shared beliefs about what others in a group actually do and what others think that others in a group should do.

**Social norms change approach:** An approach which aims to change shared beliefs about what others in a group actually do and what others think that others in a group should do.

**Strength-based approach:** An approach that focuses on people's strengths, including their dignity, capacities, rights, uniqueness, differences, and commonalities. Through this approach, people and communities are enabled to identify, value, and mobilise their strengths and capacities to make positive change.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>4</sup> From UN Women, available from: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/conceptsanddefinitions.htm>

<sup>5</sup> From Women's Health Victoria, available from: <http://whv.org.au/static/files/assets/e98b657e/Gender-transformative-policy-and-practice.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> From Women's Health Victoria, available from: <http://whv.org.au/static/files/assets/e98b657e/Gender-transformative-policy-and-practice.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> From SANAM 2011.

<sup>8</sup> Adapted from St Luke's Innovative Resources, available at: <http://innovativeresources.org/what-is-the-strengths-approach/>

**For more information on the Prevention Toolkit, please contact:**

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