

# GUN VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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Journalists for children and women rights and protection  
of environment in Macedonia

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# Violence against women

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- n **Article 1 of the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women states that:**
- n **“The term ‘violence against women’ means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”**

# Violence against women

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- n **Gender-based violence**
- n **According to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, gender-based violence against women is violence**
- n **“directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately.”**
- n **Such violence takes many forms, among them murder; stabbing; beating; rape; torture; sexual abuse; sexual harassment; threats and humiliation; forced prostitution**
- n **and trafficking.**

# Violence against women

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- n Violence may be physical, psychological, and sexual. It may be**
- n Manifested through deprivation or neglect as well as through overt use of force or harassment in peace or in war/conflicts.**

# Violence against women

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- n Perpetrators include, but are not limited to:
- n A) Intimate partners and other members of the family;
- n B) Employers (including of domestic workers), superiors and colleagues at work;
- n C) State officials, such as police, prison guards, soldiers, border guards, and immigration officials;
- n D) Members of criminal gangs;
- n E) Members of armed groups.

# Violence against women

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- n Women are victims of violence:
- n In the society
- n In the Family
- n On the Job
- n Guns violence

# Violence against women

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- n **For every woman killed or physically injured by firearms, many more are threatened.**
- n Most women who are victims of gun violence experience multiple types of abuse beforehand, including sexual, psychological and/or physical attacks. Patterns of attack are similar across cultures and often involve shooting family pets as a warning or bringing guns out for cleaning during an argument. As many women are emotionally involved and economically dependent on those who abuse them it can be extremely difficult to leave the situation.

# Violence against women

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- n NGO – Journalists for children and women rights and protection of environment in Macedonia made few research on the issues of guns violence under the women in the country

# Violence against women

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- n A gun increase the chance of death by 12 times compared to other means of violence.
- n According our last research each third women is victim of family violence, but each forth women is victim of gun violence

# Violence against women

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- n In our country domestic Violence is a public health epidemic that is greatly intensified with the easy access and availability of firearms
- § The research say that 47% of domestic violence homicides are from firearms.

# Violence against women

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- § Domestic violence homicides are 6.2 times more likely to occur in homes with guns than homes without guns.
- § In homicides where the weapon was known, 38% of female homicide victims were killed with a firearm. Of those female firearm homicides, 82% were killed with a handgun.

# Violence against women

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- § Guns are used by domestic abusers:
- § to gain control and power in a relationship

# Violence against women

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- § In Macedonia the reasons for abuse are:
- § Alcohol
- § Jealousy
- § Economic dependency
- § Ethnic intolerance

# Violence against women

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- n Intimate partner violence is the most common form of violence in women's lives worldwide.
- n In Macedonia, according to JCWE's research at least one in every fourth woman will be physically abused at least once in their life.

# Violence against women

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- n The women in Macedonia are abused in their own home
- n The abuser is very well known by victim.  
It's:
  - n husband
  - n boyfriend
  - n or other male relatives

# Violence against women

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- n While gun related domestic violence occurs in peaceful settings as well as in conflict zones, **domestic abuse increases during and after conflict.**
- n After a conflict officially ends, guns circulate in the community.
- n Post-conflict stress, combined with economic prospects and a reduction in basic services, contribute to the dynamics of domestic violence after war.
- n In Macedonia after the war conflict in 2002, more than 63 % of women was victims of domestic violence, often at the hands of men who had kept the small arms they used during the war.

# Violence against women

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- n Justice systems have historically overlooked violence against women, and human rights standards have tended to perceive the 'private sphere' as outside the scope of state interventions.
- n While legal protections for women experiencing domestic violence exist in 45 countries, many of these laws are not regularly enforced, especially during periods of conflict where domestic violence incidents are likely to be seen as irrelevant to the broader issues of conflict.

# Violence against women

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- n Unfortunately Macedonian government have not ratified the UN Resolution 1325 with which will be exist one of mechanism for protection of women in post-conflict period.

# Violence against women

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- n JCWE in collaboration with other women NGO in our country and other regional women organization work on few campaign to draw attention to intimate partner violence.
- n In the frame of the effort of IANSA and other international partner organization we work to:
- n Introduce strong domestic small arms legislation reinforced by rigorous regional and international agreements as an essential step to improve the safety of women against gun related domestic violence.
- n • Support the development of gender-sensitive international agreements concerning small arms and peace building.
- n Campaign to lobby for ratification of UN Resolution 1325