World YWCA

WEEK WITHOUT VIOLENCE 2020 TOOLKIT

October 18–24, 2020
COVID-19 has further widened gender inequality.

Gender Based Violence (GBV) is rising.

We cannot afford to let this go on. Let us act NOW!
What is in this toolkit?

1. About World YWCA Week Without Violence ................................................................. 4
2. What has happened this year? .................................................................................. 5
3. Unmasking Gender Based Violence in the Wake of COVID-19 .............................. 6
4. How has COVID-19 impacted the issues related to GBV? ........................................ 7
5. Stigma is Not Quarantined. Impact of COVID-19 on Marginalized Communities ...... 12
6. Cyber Safety .................................................................................................................. 16
7. Sample Social Media Messages .................................................................................. 17
8. Activating Youth on Online Platforms ........................................................................ 23
9. Media Engagement ...................................................................................................... 24
10. Conducting Virtual Safe Spaces ................................................................................ 25
11. Wind Down: Creating Virtual Safe Spaces for Women ............................................ 27
12. Individual, Organisational & Virtual Activities ......................................................... 28
13. Resources .................................................................................................................... 29
World YWCA Week Without Violence is an annual global campaign to end the scourge of violence against women, young women and girls. Throughout the week, activities focus on raising awareness, promoting attitude change and enabling individuals and organizations to begin positive actions towards ending violence in their communities. Every year during the third week of October, YWCAs from all over the world promote and encourage a Week Without Violence – a week-long series of community events promoting diverse approaches to creating a world free of violence.

At World YWCA, we believe that this includes enhancing women’s voices in decision making, leadership and peace-building, promoting women’s economic empowerment, ending violence against women, young women and girls, and finding new ways for young women to connect, mobilize and inspire each other so they can take collective action.

We believe all women, young women, and girls should have the right to be safe and live free from fear and violence in all its forms, and that addressing violence against women, young women and girls must be a priority for all. We strive to mobilize women’s transformative leadership to end violence against women, young women and girls, once and for all, through local, national, regional, and international advocacy efforts, education programs, resilience work, and support services.

The following toolkit provides content, ideas, suggestions for organising and advocating during the Week Without Violence to be held from October 18-24.
Every year in the third week of October YWCAs around the world participate in the Week Without Violence campaign. We observe our common vision, legacy, and future as part of this dynamic movement that advances the human rights and leadership of women, young women and girls. This year, in the shadow of the global pandemic our activities will be majorly virtual as we take a moment to name the YWCA as an invaluable global movement of leaders and their contributions towards ensuring safety of women during this global pandemic. The following toolkit suggests using virtual safe spaces for women’s rights leaders to speak of their work and their realities in the current context. This is yet another adaptation of the YWCA safe spaces model that has been at the heart of our work since the 19th century.

Evidence from previous health crisis indicates that violence against women and girls is likely to be a lasting exacerbated impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, for instance women and girls endure multiple forms of violence including trafficking, child marriage, intimate partner violence, sexual exploitation and abuse. All forms of violence against women, young women and girls are a violation of human rights and have high social and economic costs. World YWCA has responded to the crisis and lockdown protocols by adapting our approaches to better suit this reality. One key strategy is online engagement and consultations across the YWCA movement.

Ahead of the Week Without Violence campaign, we conducted a social media consultation with women and young women online and it was evident that creating awareness and advocating on COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on GBV is the need of the hour in order to progress towards elimination of violence against women in order to ensure the impact is as minimal as possible.
Unmasking Gender Based Violence in the Wake of COVID-19

The world is in the middle of a pandemic that has magnified and exposed the glaring inequalities that the human-rights sector has been amplifying for a long time. The gendered impacts of the pandemic have invoked analysis on women's rights and how it manifests during this period. African women for instance, are experiencing two pandemics, with Kenya recording 3,954 schoolgirls becoming pregnant during the 5 month-lockdown period. Women and girls are bearing the brunt of the pandemic and are taking extra labor in the form of unpaid care work as they are the default caregivers, leaving them at a greater risk of sexual violence, GBV and at a greater mental health risk. The World Health Organization has called for the need to make commitments to scale up investment in mental health as well in the wake of the pandemic and begin addressing the historic neglect of mental health.

The World YWCA’s Iceberg of COVID-19 and its impact on women, young women and girls is critical to talk about the growing pandemic realities, which are only worsened with rising GBV. YWCAs are at the forefront of this battle. Let us call for more support to YWCAs to address this better in communities.
Globally 243 million women and girls aged 15-49 years have been subjected to sexual and physical violence by an intimate partner in the last 12 months. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues this number is likely to grow as many women are still trapped at home with abusive partners. With less than 40% of women who experience violence seeking any help or reporting the crime, of those who seek help, less than 10% go to the police. More information available [here](#).

Only 23% of sexual assaults are reported to the police. In the cases that have been reported during the COVID-19 pandemic, victims are finding it increasingly difficult to access the resources they need. Read more [here](#).
Femicide:

Twelve women are killed every day in Latin America because of their gender in a crime known as femicide, according to the United Nations, and the region is home to 14 of the 25 countries with the highest rates of femicide in the world. In Argentina, 18 women have been killed by their partner or ex-partners during the first 20 days of a mandatory quarantine instituted by the government. Appeals to helplines in Argentina are up nearly by 40 percent. More information available here.

Sexual Abuse:

Globally, 1 in 3 women worldwide has experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner or sexual violence by any perpetrator in their lifetime. In times of crisis such as an outbreak, women and girls may be at higher risk of different forms of domestic violence due to increased tensions in the household. Confinement restrictions aimed to stop the spread of the coronavirus may be making violence in homes more frequent, more severe, and more dangerous. Read more here.
Cyber Abuse:

Over 1.5 billion students worldwide have been impacted by school closures, leaving many vulnerable to sexual predators. Taking advantage of youngsters spending more time unsupervised online, perpetrators are seeking to groom and exploit children through sexual coercion and sextortion. **Girls are particularly vulnerable, accounting for 90% of those featured in online child abuse materials.** In addition, with the current lockdown experienced in most parts of the world, people are spending more time online and the volume of digital content being produced is increasing exponentially making it harder to scrutinize. Read more here.

Gender-Responsive Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda:

The Women, Peace and Security agenda has been greatly affected by the pandemic, where access to sexual and reproductive health care, economic livelihood, access to technology and information on the pandemic has been limited due to conflict. There is an urgent need to introduce gender-responsive strategies that will push efforts to resource community care and humanitarian efforts for refugees, migrants and displaced women. **All ceasefire negotiations must include women peace builders, who are often at the frontline in taking care of their communities during and after conflict and withstand the worst consequences of conflict.** More information available here.
Globally, approximately 71 million people or one out of every 108 people are forcibly displaced. A majority of them live in countries with weak and under-resourced healthcare infrastructure where systems are unlikely to be capable of handling the scale of this crisis.

For refugees and other forcibly displaced people, Intimate Partner Violence is usually the most pervasive form of GBV and one that escalates rapidly without checks in place. Syrian refugee women may experience forced and early marriage because family members are trying to “protect” women and girls from rape and its social consequences (including the inability to marry due to sexual assault) and because they face extreme poverty with few options for becoming economically secure other than marriage. 23% of Syrian refugee girls were married prior to age 18. Fear of rape and other forms of sexual GBV are warranted; one in four cases reported by refugees is sexual GBV.

With the COVID-19 situation, biggest risk for women is still within the household. As a result, the “stay at home” orders that governments in most countries have imposed to reduce the spread of the coronavirus create significant risks for women and girls. More information. [1], [2], [3]
Female Genital Mutilation

Female genital mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. FGM is recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights of girls and women. It reflects deep-rooted inequality between the sexes, and constitutes an extreme form of discrimination against women. During COVID-19 and due to lockdown, more young women and girls are at risk of getting impacted because of FGM. More information available here.

1. Type I (Clitoridectomy)
   This is the partial or total removal of the clitoral glans

2. Type II (Excision)
   This is the partial or total removal of the clitoral glans and the labia minora

3. Type III (Infibulation)
   This is the narrowing of the vaginal opening through the creation of a covering seal

4. Type IV
   This includes all other harmful procedures to the female genitalia for non-medical purposes, e.g. piercing, incising, scraping.
The criminalization of sex work is the biggest challenge facing sex workers during COVID-19. Since this work is considered illegitimate and illegal in most countries, government responses to sex workers’ plight during the pandemic has been non-existent. Due to the strict curfew rules, sex workers are experiencing increased cases of violence, assault and harassment both from state authorities and clients. It is imperative that sex workers access government responses to the pandemic, including government relief, access to health services, lenient curfew hours and funding. More importantly, decriminalize sex work!

Read more [here](#).

Listen to a podcast from Mama Cash on Sex workers rights [here](#).
Women, young women and girls with disabilities constitute 1 in 5 women globally, and up to three-quarters of persons with disabilities in low and middle-income countries. Despite their prevalence in the population, women, and girls with disabilities face multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination in all areas of life, such as chronic poverty, social isolation, heightened risks of being victims of violence and sexual abuse, denial of their sexual and reproductive rights, lack of access to community support services, lack of accessible communication and information, inadequate health care, denial of their legal capacity, lack of opportunities for education and employment, barriers in accessing justice, and attitudinal barriers such as stigma and ableism. These exclusions, barriers, and discrimination apply also to the COVID-19 pandemic and its response. Women and girls with disabilities may have increased risk for exposure to and complications of COVID-19, and are disproportionately affected by the negative impacts of quarantine measures. For more information [here](#).
As the health system focuses on putting an end to the coronavirus, other key services for the LGBTQI2S+ community, such as mental health and sexual counselling, become harder to access. In many countries due to surge in demand on medical infrastructure, HIV and other testings have been suspended, leaving many minorities at a higher risk to these infections, given their inability to access vital medical care.

In Argentina, the newly created Ministry of Women, Genders and Diversity is now focusing on gathering quality data on women and LGBTQI2S+ groups. Together with the World Bank, the Argentina government is looking for strategies to address rising gender-based violence and the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 on the LGBTQI2S+ population. Read more [here](#).
In a study conducted by CARE, a non-profit international aid organization, investigators have found that while almost nobody is spared from the anxiety, worry and overall emotional fatigue of the coronavirus pandemic, women are almost three times as likely as men to report suffering from significant mental health consequences.

Things are even harder in the developing world, in Bangladesh for example, where women are six times likelier than men to have been laid off during the coronavirus recession and where an astounding 100% of 542 women surveyed reported increased mental health problems, the emotional toll is exacerbated by lack of mobility either due to religious strictures that forbid women from leaving home without the accompaniment of a male family member or because of lack of access to public transportation. Either way, this limits their access to services like mental health care and in many cases, they sorely need it. More information available [here](#).
The pandemic has moved a lot of work online and many people are re-imagining existence in the digital spaces, including their data privacy and online safety. Online GBV is especially magnified because most countries do not have solid Cyber Protection Laws that protect women and Queer persons online. More concerning is the fact that victims of online violence sometimes do not recognize that what they are going through is violence because online violence is considered trivial or non-existent, as it does not affect us materially. As we embrace digital organizing, we need to ensure that online spaces are safe, accessible and inclusive. Social distance is a key priority in combating the spread of COVID-19, however this does not mean we should not be there for each other. Here are some useful tools that can help to support your sisters during this pandemic: [1], [2], [3], [4]
Sample Social Media Messages

Hashtags to use: #WWV20 #YoungWomenLead #YoungWomenRise #WeekWithoutViolence2020

Twitter & Instagram & Facebook: Share 7 tweets for each day.

FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM MESSAGES:

Is home truly a safe space for everyone? Many women, young women and girls have been quarantined with their abusers and locked down at home with nowhere to run to. Let us address the pandemic of GBV now, before it is too late! Prioritise and increase funding for GBV prevention by supporting women-led organisations-. Donate to YWCA NOW!.
#WWV20 #YoungWomenLead #YoungWomenRise #WeekWithoutViolence2020

Stay safe stay at home doesn't mean feeling safe at home for everyone. During the COVID-19 pandemic the numbers of cases of rape and teenage pregnancy have increased due to the lockdown. According to a survey, approximately 80% of sexual assaults are committed by someone known to the victim. 67% identify their perpetrator as a family member, and 79% said they were living with that perpetrator. Youngwomen lead when they are safe and free from violence. YWCA safe spaces are critical right now. Support your local YWCA to create a world free from violence.
#WWV20 #YoungWomenLead #YoungWomenRise #WeekWithoutViolence2020
FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM MESSAGES:

Gender Based Violence cases have increased by 12% since the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic and most cases are vastly under reported mainly due to lack of access to services as victims are confined with their perpetrators at homes. There is a need to ensure that GBV survivors access psychological support, legal information, counselling and referral to shelters and protection services is a matter of strong concern.
#WWV20 #YoungWomenLead #YoungWomenRise #WeekWithoutViolence2020

Female genital mutilation is a retrogressive form of culture that is still practiced in many of our African societies. This must be addressed by the state and governments to ensure that we put an end to it. Support young women to advocate to #ENDFGM.
donate.worldywca.org #MyBodyMyMind Learn more on what is FGM watch Afia’s story

Rape is not normal! Intimate partner violence is not normal! Child marriage is not normal! Female genital mutilation is not normal! They are all forms of violence! It is important to speak up against normalising gender based violence. Break the silence against VAW NOW! Watch Better world is possible.
#WWV20 #YoungWomenRise #WeekWithoutViolence2020

Evidence shows that rates of sexual violence increase during states of emergency, including natural disasters, active conflict, and health crises. The first step to addressing gender based violence is by declaring it a national disaster! How many more lives should we lose before this?
#WWV20 #YoungWomenLead #YoungWomenRise #WeekWithoutViolence2020

Women spend three times as many hours as men in unpaid care and domestic work limiting their access to decent work, with the COVID-19 pandemic women have been disproportionately affected by cuts and lay-offs limiting their ability to support themselves and their families. The dual burden of mental and physical trauma is creating adverse effect on women. Raise your voice now. Join YWCAs and support women, young women and girls.
#WWV20 #YoungWomenLead #YoungWomenRise #WeekWithoutViolence2020
TWITTER MESSAGES:

1 in 4 countries have no laws specifically protecting women from domestic violence. How can we ensure that governments establish new policies and laws to protect women and establish a proper justice system to punish the perpetrators. Watch Apinya’s story and how she broke this cycle.
#WWV20  #YoungWomenRise #WeekWithoutViolence2020

Child marriage is a global issue that cuts across countries, cultures, and religions. Around 650 million women and girls alive today were married as children. Unless we accelerate our efforts, 150 million more girls will be married by 2030. We need to protect the future of girls. Watch Muskan’s story.
#WWV20  #YoungWomenRise #WeekWithoutViolence2020

Violence against women and girls is universal but at the same time widely under-reported. Less than 40% of women who experience violence report these crimes or seek help of any sort. Gender Based Violence is not ok and will never be ok, let’s talk about it.
#WWV20  #YoungWomenRise #WeekWithoutViolence2020

The global statistics indicate that 13 million girls could be forced into child marriage, and two million more could undergo FGM in the next decade, beyond what would have been expected as Covid-19 disrupts global efforts to end both practices. Child marriage is a human rights violation we NEED to End it NOW!
#WWV20  #YoungWomenLead  #YoungWomenRise
#WeekWithoutViolence2020
TWITTER MESSAGES:

The global cost of #VAW had previously been estimated at approximately US$1.5 trillion. That figure can only be rising as violence increases now and continues in the aftermath of the pandemic #COVID19. Join the YWCA in their work towards ending GBV.
#WWV20 #YoungWomenRise #WeekWithoutViolence2020

Sexual Harassment didn’t disappear with COVID-19 social distancing or restrictions it’s happening online and is manifested in different forms not just physical. Women are facing increased stalking, bullying and sex trolling. Unsolicited pornographic videos while dialling into a social event via a virtual chat room is on the rise. Join us as we advocate for cyber safety of women.
#WWV20 #YoungWomenRise #WeekWithoutViolence2020

Although coronavirus has distanced many of us, it has not stopped sex-based harassment and violence. In the previous 12 months, 243 million women and girls aged 15-49 across the world have been subjected to sexual or physical violence by an intimate partner. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, this number is likely to grow with multiple impacts on wellbeing of women, young women and girls.
#WWV20 #YoungWomenRise #WeekWithoutViolence2020
Toolkit Pictures and Guide

For Facebook and Twitter Cover
Toolkit Pictures and Guide

For Facebook and Twitter Cover

Click on the image to download Facebook Cover

![Facebook Covers](image1)

ENGLISH  FRENCH  SPANISH

Click on the image to download Twitter Cover

![Twitter Covers](image2)

ENGLISH  FRENCH  SPANISH

“Follow this link for accessing social media products and more resources related to the campaign. This page will be updated every other day with more resources shared by others as well.”
Activating Youth on Online Platforms

Young people are critical to solve the issues around GBV. In order to activate more youth and young voices, online platforms like Tiktok have become a growing medium of engagement. We suggest using the platform to promote gender sensitisation around the growing GBV, especially in light of COVID-19, when young people are more active on social media platforms and applications. Create videos that include slogans like “Stop GBV”, “No means no”, “Smash the patriarchy”, “Break the silence against gender based violence” and use the hashtags #WeekWithoutViolence2020 and #WorldYWCA

Participate in the “Stop violence challenge” with your friends and post banners, stories, wear your t-shirts with anti-GBV slogans and tag @WorldYWCA across social media platforms using the #WeekWithoutViolence2020 hashtag.
The media has an important role to adopt gender sensitive reporting that avoids telling stories about violence against women, young women and girls in sensational ways that glorify trauma and centers the brutality of women’s experiences. Instead, they should provide broad, well-researched perspectives on the systemic inequalities that allows violence against women to thrive. National and local YWCAs can play a strong role in ensuring media plays a correct role during this pandemic.

Practical Tips

- Provide authentic information, avoid sensational, dramatic headlines that might trigger reliving the GBV trauma.
- Engage the media on gender sensitive reporting training.
- Work with different sources, including NGOs and the Justice Systems, to provide information and statistics on violence and provide thorough investigative reporting on the broad issue of violence against women.
Idea for discussions on GBV during the COVID19 pandemic:

- What are some of the gendered dimensions of COVID-19 pandemic on girls and young women across the world?
- How are the COVID-19 containment measures and restrictions by the governments such as curfew, social distance and lockdown affecting young girls and women?
- What are some of the innovations by girls and young women emerging during COVID-19 that should be scaled up by governments and policy makers?
- What are the ways governments can ensure the COVID-19 containment measures are gender responsive to the needs of girls and young women?
- Are there specific sectors affected by COVID-19 where girls and young women are the majority economic drivers and what strategies should be adopted to cushion them against economic fallout?
- What are the country level responses to the increasing numbers of gender based violence cases experienced during COVID-19 Pandemic.
How to Make the Best of Virtual Safe Space:

Some suggested topics:

• What are some of the gendered dimensions of COVID-19 pandemic on girls and young women across the world?
• How are the COVID-19 containment measures and restrictions by the governments such as curfew, social distance and lockdown affecting young girls and women?
• What are some of the innovations by girls and young women emerging during COVID-19 that should be scaled up by governments and policy makers?
• What are the ways governments can ensure the COVID-19 containment measures are gender responsive to the needs of girls and young women?
• Are there specific sectors affected by COVID-19 where girls and young women are the majority economic drivers and what strategies should be adopted to cushion them against economic fallout?
• What are the country level responses to the increasing numbers of gender based violence cases experienced during COVID-19 Pandemic.
• COVID-19: Unmasking new approaches for organizations to fight Violence against Women and Girls.
With the current COVID-19 situation it is impossible to go out and hold space for each other, hence the urgency of the Wind Down segment which brings us together to unpack the tensions during this pandemic in a healthy and meaningful way. We don't have to drink wine to validate our presence, rather the intention is to share our lived experience in a safe space. Have your water, tea, coffee or juice ready!

When was the last time you had a proper Wind Down and got the opportunity to connect with those within the movement? Well, here are suggested tips from YWCA to keep in mind while creating a virtual safe space for your next Wind Down.

- Choose a virtual platform.
- Is it accessible? Have you thought about Internet Bandwidth, language and translations, downloads?
- Whom do you invite to your space?
- How do you take into account Cyber bullying?
- How do you ensure confidentiality or privacy in your space? How do you conduct a virtual safe space?
- Test your platform in advance
Wind Down:

Creating Virtual Safe Spaces for Women

- Prepare your guiding questions.
- Plan your moderators.
- Invite participants and let them know who else will be joining. People are more comfortable if they know with whom they are speaking.
- Set up guidelines and basic rules for conversation and respect. Agree on those with safe space participants to ensure that respect prevails at all times. Ensure anonymity if required.
- All participants are valued and respected.
- The conversation is confidential, ‘what happens in the group stays in the group; unless you want to share your discussions.
- Discuss speaking time for each person.
- Make sure everyone gets to speak and make space for more quiet people.
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<th>INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>VIRTUAL ACTIVITIES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Engage actively on the social media platforms. Use the designated hashtag and tag World YWCA.</td>
<td>Involve the local influencers e.g. church and village elders, chiefs, women groups through songs and storytelling in local or simplified language.</td>
<td>Organize a virtual open day festival which automatically enters the participants into a prize draw upon registration.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Each year, 15 million girls are married before the age of 18 years. That is 28 girls every minute! (At exactly 1:28 AM and 1:28PM post a picture of yourself wearing an orange outfit with the caption No Longer Silent. Stop GBV.)</td>
<td>Involve the local influencers e.g. church and village elders, chiefs, women groups through songs and storytelling in local or simplified language.</td>
<td>Organize Public Service Announcements through community media. Invite experts of the subject matter such as Community Health Workers who are able to give credible information.</td>
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<td>Create a podcast about living through Gender Based Violence during COVID-19 Pandemic.</td>
<td>Organize community sports tournaments to amplify the advocacy message. Brand the venue together with any other information materials.</td>
<td>Organize fitness and self-care activities such as: Masquerade dance party, Spoken word/poems, Yoga.</td>
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<td>Write a blog post to be shared on SheSpeaks World YWCA platform.</td>
<td>Organize e-protests using your social media accounts to rally against violence.</td>
<td>Wind down evening (preferably the last day of the campaign week) Create escape rooms/chill out sessions where the participants can share their experience working in the GBV spaces.</td>
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<td>Cite your local feminist authors and share the key lessons using the campaign hashtag.</td>
<td>Organize Series on GBV virtual discussions. Invite policy makers, feminist activists and local women’s rights organizations to engage and share the milestones experienced in the fight against Gender Based Violence.</td>
<td>Select podcasts with specific topic to run through the campaign week.</td>
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<td>Organize Whatsapp chat debate around gender stereotypes that sustain the existence of gender-based violence.</td>
<td>Organize Virtual debates around gender stereotypes that sustain the existence of gender-based violence.</td>
<td>Organize Help me solve it sessions, leveraging collective intelligence to generate solutions against GBV.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organize Stop Violence Challenge. Share a picture of yourself in bright colors, add a GBV caption and use World YWCA week without violence hashtag. Tag your friends to also take part in the challenge.</td>
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Resources:

**Gender Based Violence**

- KICTANet: Online gender-based violence in times of COVID-19 World Health Organization
- Media Coverage of gender-based violence Handbook The Role of Data in Addressing Violence
- COFEM Feminist Pocketbook

**Child Marriage/ Female Genital Mutilation**

- https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/female-genital-mutilation
Resources:

Reproductive Health Violations

Economic fall.

Cyber Abuse
- https://www.equalitynow.org/covid_19_online_exploitation
- https://time.com/5892297/women-coronavirus-metal-health/#:~:text=In%20new%20study%20conducted%20suffering%20from%20significant%20mental%20health

Movies to Watch on GBV:
- https://16days.thepixelproject.net/the-pixel-project-selection-2017-16-films-about-violence-against-women/

Books to read:
- Invisible Women: Exposing Data Bias in a World Designed for Men- by Caroline Criado Perez