

Violence against people with disabilities because of their gender during COVID-19

Know your rights & checklist



**easy
read**



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In this easy read document, hard words are in **bold**. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after they have been used.



Some words are blue and underlined. These are links which will go to another website which has more information.

Introduction

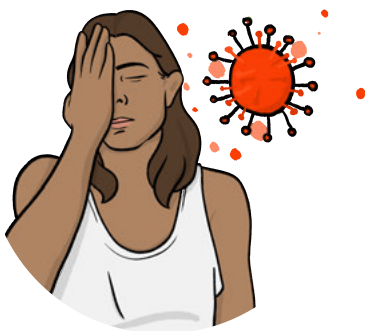


Women Enabled International (WEI) works for the rights of women, girls **gender non-conforming** people with disabilities, around the world.

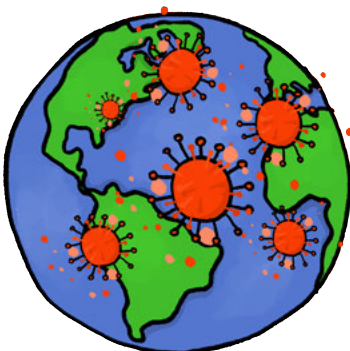


Gender is whether you like to be known as male, female or something else.

Gender non-conforming means you don't follow other people's ideas about gender. You may not dress or behave like other people think a male or female should.



We have written this information for people with disabilities who have experienced violence because of their gender, during **COVID-19**.



COVID-19 is a new illness that is spreading around the world. It can affect your lungs and breathing.



This information explains:

- what we mean by violence against people with disabilities because of their gender



- your rights



- what to do if you have experienced violence because of your gender



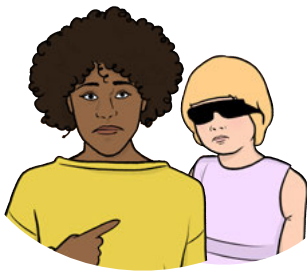
- what countries and support services should do, to stop violence against people because of their gender.

Violence against people with disabilities because of their gender



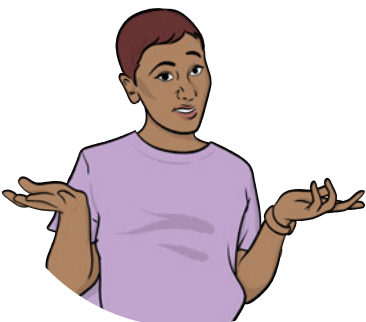
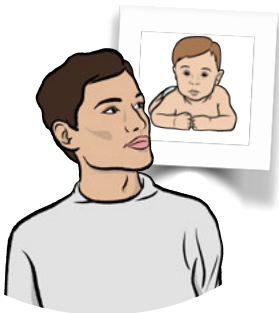
Violence against people because of their gender is called **Gender-Based Violence**.

Gender-Based Violence is harm that happens to a person or group of people because of their gender.



It can happen to anyone, but it mostly happens to:

- women and girls
- people who are a different gender to the one they were given when they were born
- people who are neither male or female.



In this information, these are the people we are talking about.

Violence



There are different types of gender-based violence, including:

- physical violence - like being hit



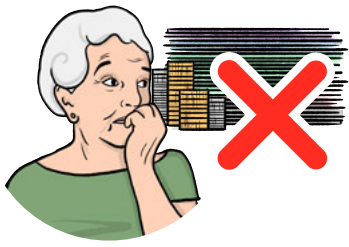
- emotional violence - being made to feel upset



- psychological violence - being made to feel bad about yourself



- sexual violence - being forced to do sexual things, like kissing or touching when you don't want to



- financial violence - being stopped from spending your own money



- abuse - being hurt or treated badly.



People with disabilities

People with disabilities may also experience gender-based violence.



It could be done by a support person or someone else who is close to you, like a partner or family member.



They might stop you from getting:

✗ your medication



✗ some equipment you need



✗ food or money



✗ help to go to the toilet.

COVID-19



There has been more gender-based violence against people with disabilities during COVID-19.

Your rights



You have the right to be safe from gender-based violence.

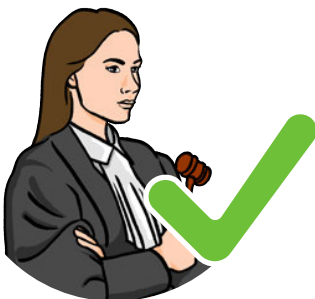


Your government must work to stop gender-based violence and punish the people who do it.



You have the right:

- not to be treated differently because of your gender or your disability



- to report a crime if you have experienced gender-based violence



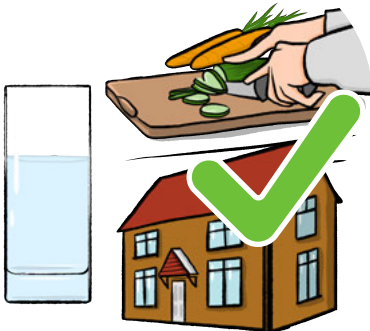
- to get information in a way you can understand, like easy read



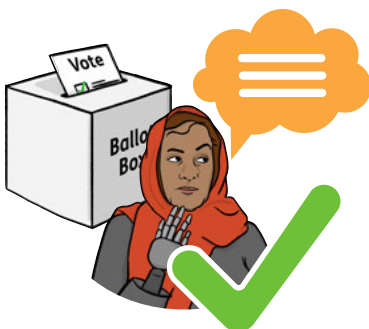
- to be safe in an emergency



- to get good health treatment



- to have enough food, water
clothing and decent housing



- to be able to vote and say what
you think about things



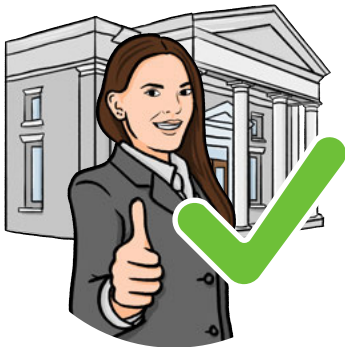
- to get services to help you if you have experienced gender-based violence



- to be able to go to somewhere safe if you have experienced gender-based violence.

Your rights during COVID-19

During COVID-19, your government must:



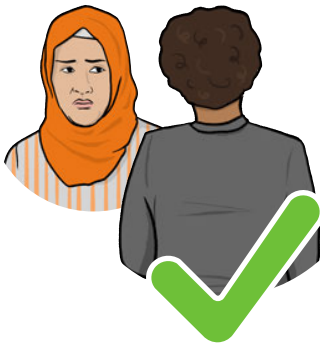
- respect your rights. Governments must have laws against gender-based violence



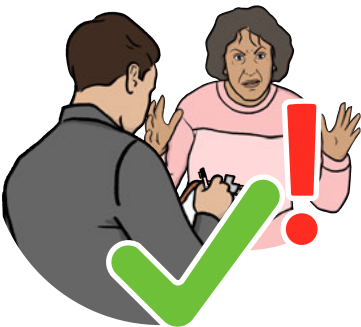
- protect your rights. Governments must protect people with disabilities from gender-based violence



- work to stop the things that cause violence against people with disabilities



- provide help to people who have experienced gender-based violence



- look into situations where someone has been violent and punish them



- help people with disabilities recover from gender-based violence.

If you have experienced gender-based violence



Gender-based violence is **never** your fault. It is **not okay**.



If you have experienced any form of gender-based violence, you should report it to the police.



In an emergency you should contact the police straight way, or go to the hospital.

Whatever the COVID-19 rules are in your country, you **must** go straight to the police or hospital.



You should also:

- contact local organisations that help people who have experienced violence to be safe
- contact a local organisation that supports people with disabilities.



Stopping the causes of violence

COVID-19



During COVID-19 people have been on their own more often.

People with disabilities have had to stay indoors away from other people to stay safe from COVID-19.



Many professionals have not been able to support people in the same way.



Gender-based violence has become more likely to happen during COVID-19 for reasons including:

- people having less money
- people not being able to get support from their families so much





- fewer services



- people being alone at home

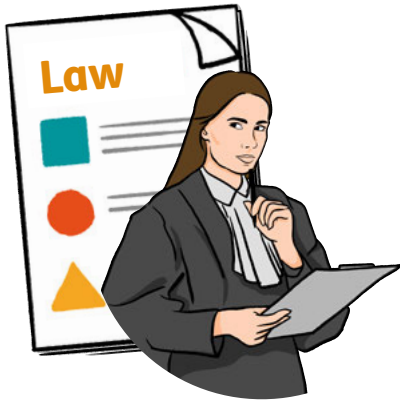


- stress



- people getting less care than they need.

What countries should do



Countries should:

- have laws, **policies** and plans for dealing with gender-based violence

A **policy** is a set of rules about how something should be done.



- give people information about the risk of gender-based violence

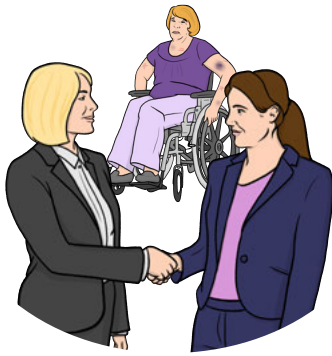


- make sure there are enough services to support people with disabilities



- help people who have lost their job or business during COVID-19.

What services should do



Services should work together with organisations that are run by women with disabilities, to help people with disabilities who have experienced gender-based violence.



These organisations can work against gender-based violence by:

- setting up safe places for people to escape from violence



- helping people to use computers and phones, so they are not so alone.

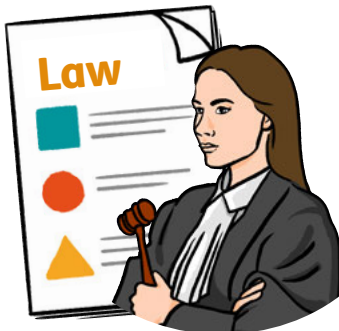
Services to help people if someone is violent to you

What countries should do

Countries should:



- make sure there are good and accessible services, to help and support people who have experienced gender-based violence during COVID-19



- have laws that make sure people with disabilities can report the crime and get justice, when they have experienced gender-based violence

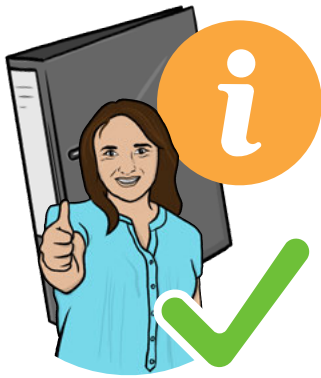


- check the quality of services for people with disabilities that have experienced gender-based violence



- keep information about the violence, to help make things better in the future.

What services should do



Services should:

- provide information about gender-based violence and the support that is available to people with disabilities



- let people with disabilities have a support person with them when they are getting help for gender-based violence



- give people the chance to meet online if it is safer to do this



- provide long term help for people to recover from gender-based violence.



Sexual health services should do regular checks to see if people with disabilities may have experienced gender-based violence.

A life without violence



COVID-19 has also made it harder to get the right support and services to help people with disabilities recover from gender-based violence.



In the future, when the world is safer from COVID-19, it is a good time to make sure these problems don't happen again.



The government must make sure that people with disabilities can live a life without violence.

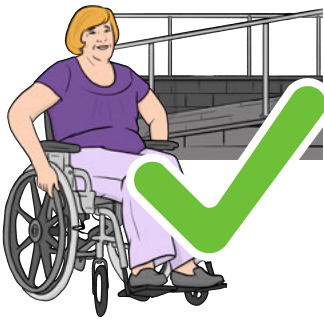
A. Better laws and policies



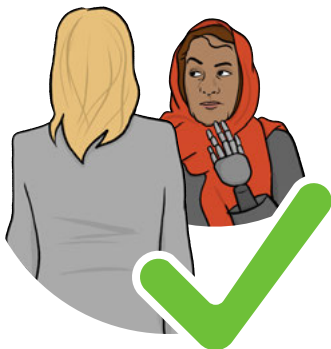
What countries should do

Countries should make sure there are proper laws and policies to protect people from gender-based violence.

Countries must make sure that courts of law:



- are accessible to people with different needs



- have staff who have been trained to work with people with disabilities



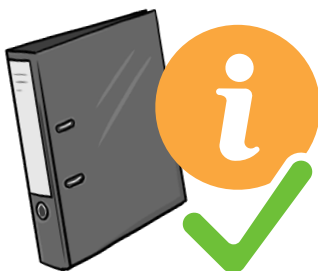
- have a sign language interpreter and other types of support available.

B. Better services

What countries should do

Countries should:

- involve people with disabilities in checking that services are working properly
- provide training for staff, services and the police about disability and how to include people with disabilities
- look at what is stopping people with disabilities get a good service when they have experienced gender-based violence
- set up a proper way for people with disabilities who have experienced gender-based violence, to get the services they need
- collect better information about people who have experienced gender-based violence.



What services should do



Services should:

- train their managers and staff so they know what to do when people with disabilities have experienced gender-based violence
- look at what is stopping people with disabilities get a good service when they have experienced gender-based violence.



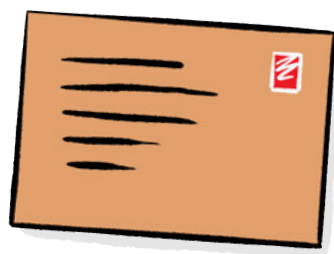
For more information



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