

Week 5 Discussion Guide: Violence Against Women



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Themes of the Week

- Health consequences of domestic violence
- Campaigns to end violence against women
- How to deal with perpetrators of domestic violence
- Prevalence of violence against women
- Honor killing/dowry death

Before You Begin

Visit the Discussion Toolkit instructions page and read the instructions thoroughly to prepare for group discussions: <http://internationalwomenshealth.org/interact.html>

The toolkits are a jumping-off point to start your conversations. You may have questions of your own that you wish to discuss with your group, which we also encourage.

As you plan your discussion session and choose which questions to address, please remember that you do not have to get through all of the questions. The main purpose of meeting together is to have an engaged and thoughtful discussion about International Women's Health and Human Rights.

Part I. Initial Response

Meet Your Group

Briefly introduce yourself and describe one new idea or fact that you have learned from the course during this week concerning violence against women in the home and community.

Part II. Topical Questions to consider with your group. We have left space for you to write down some of your thoughts on the subject as you meet with your group.

Defining Violence Against Women

1. Consider the phrase “violence against women.” Recall the first image or definition that came into your head before reading this week’s materials. Compare your original thought to the definition outlined on p. 142 of *From Outrage to Courage* of “violence against women” as a strategy for maintaining social power. What is different and what is the same? Has this new definition compelled you to think about domestic violence differently?

Health Impacts of Violence

2. What are some of the negative health implications of violence against women? Discuss the reasons why women who experience violence in relationships have higher morbidity rates than those who are in non-violent relationships.

Intimate Partner Violence

3. Consider the topic of **intimate partner violence**. Have you ever known anyone who suffered intimate partner violence? If so, was that person able to discuss the situation with you or others? Was that person able to gain access to a group or an agency that was able to help her/him? If you have *never known* anyone who suffered intimate partner violence, do you believe there is very little violence in your town or region? Can you provide reasons why this might be the case?

Culture & Violence

4. In this unit, we learned that violence against women may be especially prevalent in countries where the oppression of women is accepted by society and remains common. Look at the list of countries that the textbook suggests may be in this group (p. 140 of *From Outrage to Courage*). In the following thought exercise, we consider the question of whether anti-violence organizations can adapt to local norms while changing the culture and rhetoric around violence against women. If you are from one of these countries, you may have additional insights about this question!

a) What are some features of the local culture? In what ways does societal oppression of women contribute to the prevalence of domestic violence?

b) Choose one of the countries on the list. Create a mission statement for a new anti-violence organization that caters specifically to the cultural norms of your chosen country. If you were asked to teach a class about violence against women to men in this community, what would you say?

Honor Killing and Dowry Death

5. Explain the concept of and justifications for **honor killing and/or dowry death**. If you were asked to create a campaign against these traditions on a billboard or poster, what would you write in order to inform community members that this practice is unhealthy and unjust? Are there other strategies that could be used?

Part III. Submit a Report

When you have finished, please share your group's reflections with the IWHHR community. As a team, make sure to fill out the information needed for the Discussion Toolkit report **before you conclude your meeting**. Your group only needs to submit ONE report.

The online report form asks for the following:

Date of your Meeting

Group Members participating

What you discussed (short write-up of a few sentences)

City and Country of each participant

Was the meeting **online** or **in person**?

Access the Sharing Portal at:

www.setsail.io

Note: For those interested in a Statement of Accomplishment from Stanford University, you should also write an individual reflection on today's group meeting and post it on the Sharing Portal. You must attend at least three group meetings during this course to receive the Statement of Accomplishment.