

Law and Policy Implementation in Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls

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Laws and policies that address violence against women and girls (VAWG), as well as those that promote gender equality and women's access to employment, have been identified as key components of the enabling environment needed for VAWG prevention to be effective, as is laid out in the **"RESPECT Women: Preventing violence against women" framework**: this publication provides a comprehensive framework to inform policy makers and implementers about designing, planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating interventions and programmes on preventing and responding to violence against women.

The framework outlines 7 inter-related intervention strategies, derived from the word "respect"

Relationships skills strengthened

Empowerment of women

Service ensured

Poverty reduced

Environment made safe

Child and adolescent abuse prevented

Transformed attitudes, beliefs and norms

Underpinning the publication's methodology is the realization that ending violence against women begins with RESPECT and a collective commitment to act today.

Focusing on 10 diverse projects implemented by 9 CSOs that received funding from the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, this review draws out some cross-cutting themes, challenges, lessons and recommendations from practice but

- Highlighting the role that CSOs play in engaging with formal and informal legal and policy systems for VAW prevention.
- Showcasing how these organizations seek to navigate the complexities of engaging with these systems for VAWG prevention in different ways
- Providing practical tips and recommendations for practitioners, researchers and for donors.

Recommendations for practitioners

- Careful positioning is needed in relation to CSOs engagement with legal and policy systems (they must consider whether to work alone or to partner with others...)
- CSOs must avoid politicization (balance the risks of becoming politicized by party politics in their specific context)
- Capacitating formal government and legal duty bearers for improved VAWG prevention can strengthen the entire system

- Look for ways to bridge gaps between formal and informal systems and actors around laws and policies and to make them more survivor centered and connected (equip women at community level to understand and demand their rights)
- Disrupting cycles of VAWG requires integrating access to justice with VAW strategies in the long term (access of survivors to justice, including healing and support and strengthen the accountability of perpetrators and duty bearers)
- CSOs can become a wider resource for legal and political systems in times of crises (CSOs can leverage their existing relationship and filter their expertise into new policies and laws to help prevent VAWG from escalating)
- Use more creative and participatory action research methodologies (showcase the lived realities of the women and girls affected and empower them as research subjects)

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