

What the experts say: Coronavirus and violence in the home

LEADING MINDS ONLINE #2 | 21 MAY 2020

Measures to contain COVID-19 can create a "perfect storm" for children and women who are at risk of experiencing violence in the home, potentially increasing incidence of harm and abuse. Leading Minds Online looks at violence in the home before, during, and after the pandemic, and how it can be addressed.

Violence in the home is not a new problem

Lockdowns don't cause violence - violence in the home existed long before COVID-19. But the risks are now heightened. If the unequal power relations between adults and children, women and men, which are at the root of violence are left unchecked, violence is likely to persist.

Structural solutions to structural problems

Structural conditions, such as gender inequality and weak legal sanctions, enable violence. To address violence, we must transform the structures which create it in the first place. Prevention and response services must be spread across multiple sectors, like schools, community initiatives and health services.

Access to essential services for survivors

Services to respond to violence survivors (including child protection, helplines, shelters, etc) should be considered essential and receive adequate funding and support both during and after the pandemic.

**WATCH THE RECORDING:
[YOUTUBE.COM/UNICEFINNOCENTI](https://www.youtube.com/UNICEFINNOCENTI)**



LEADING MINDS

20 ONLINE 20

Violence against children and violence against women intersect and feed each other.

Available administrative data represent only the tip of the iceberg of violence in the home, as many victims of violence do not seek help.

Children who witness violence are far more likely to be involved in violence later in life, either as perpetrators or as victims.

Teachers, social workers, and health workers play an essential role in the detection and prevention of violence, and need support during COVID-19, e.g. PPE, financial assistance, online tools

Violence is a learned behaviour that can be unlearned. Change is possible with sound policies and interventions.

unicef

Office of Research-Innocenti



Shanaz
Mathews



Cornelius
Williams



Najat Maalla



Emily Esplen



Dipak Naker



Alessandra
Guedes

#LEADINGMINDS



[UNICEF-IRC.ORG/COVID19](https://www.unicef-irc.org/covid19)