

Gender Equality & Disaster



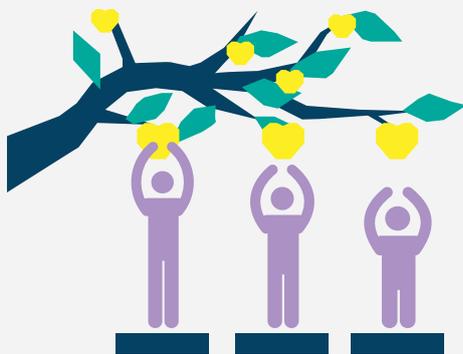
To understand the link between Gender Inequality and Family Violence [Click here](#).

Understanding Gender Inequality in times of Disaster

During times of disaster some men may assert more dominance and control over their partners and children. Unequal opportunities and rigid stereotypes expect women to be passive, uninvolved and the nurturers. And in times of disaster these become even stronger, rather than everyone working from the same equally respected place.

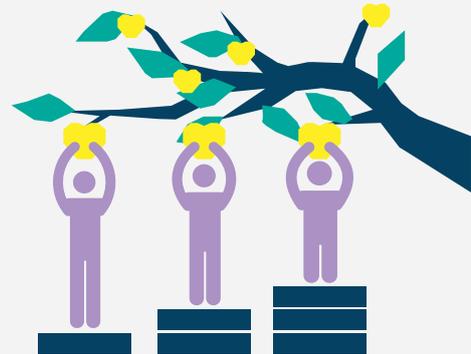
The expectations that men should be more powerful, be in control and be the final decision-maker, creates a harmful stereotype for both genders. It forms an imbalance because one gender – usually the male – has more authority than the other. When this authority and power is abused by men and used to control others' behaviour, significant harm is done, particularly to women and children.

Equality = Sameness



GENDER EQUALITY is when people of all genders have equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities.

Equity = Fairness



GENDER EQUITY is fairness of treatment for women and men, according to their respective needs.

The 4 Main Drivers of Violence Against Women

- Agreeing with and accepting violence against women
- Men's control of decision-making and limits to women's independence
- Rigid gender roles and stereotypes
- Male groups/mates/peers who emphasise aggression and disrespect towards women

Reinforcers of the 4 Main Drivers Especially during Disasters

- Stress and Alcohol
- Agreeing with and accepting violence in general
- Experience of, and exposure to, violence
- Anti-social behaviour, especially harmful use of alcohol
- Socio-economic inequality and discrimination (poverty, migrants)
- Backlash when male dominance, power or status is challenged.

So...what happens to gender roles during COVID-19?



We need equity to achieve equality.

Gender Equity recognises that women and gender-diverse people are not in the same 'starting position' as men. Just providing the same opportunities does not necessarily make us all equal. Sometimes more support is needed, to ensure we all have a level playing field. That is why, to be fair, we start with Gender Equity to achieve Gender Equality.

"When I was going to work I could escape the emotional abuse and violence. Now that I am working from home, there is no escape"



"I have extra anxiety when accessing health care because I'm often discriminated against due to my sexuality"



"My husband said we would do things 50/50 but his job is less flexible than mine, so of course this means I'm doing the lion's share"



"I'm trying to work from home and home school my children. I don't really get to do any kind of real work until after the 'school day' finishes"

"My children were safe at school away from the abuse, but now that they are learning from home they are exposed 24/7"



Advancing equality and respect

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