BEYOND BRUISES

UNVEILING THE STIGMA

The COVID-19 pandemic has recently intensified **global awareness of domestic violence**, revealing its prevalence in numerous households.

Research shows that **mental health and emotional well-being** are associated with an increase in violence levels; thus, policymakers and practitioners should prioritize mental health support with interventions to address the rise of violence in households (Lanchimba et al., 2023).

GENDER-BASED CRIMES

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS NOT "JUST A FAMILY MATTER"

Domestic violence is a **pattern of controlling behavior** that **inflicts physical or emotional harm** on a partner or family member.
(United Nations, 2025; National Centre for Domestic Violence, 2023).

It can result in **physical abuse, sexual abuse, mental abuse, and economic harassment**.
(Women's Aid Organisaiton, 2023)

According to Section 2 of Domestic Violence Act 1994, DV means the commission of one or more of the following acts:
a) Willfully or knowingly placing, or attempting to place, the victim in fear of physical injury;
b) Causing physical injury to the victim by such act which is known or ought to have been known would result in physical injury;
c) Compelling the victim by force or threat to engage in any conduct or act, sexual or otherwise, from which the victim has a right to abstain;
d) Confining or detaining the victim against the victim's will;
e) Causing mischief or destruction or damage to property with intent to cause or knowing that it is likely to cause distress or annoyance to the victim



Gender is also an important factor that influences people's attitudes towards violence against women. There is a difference between men and women in terms of their attitude towards violence.

According to *Rauf & Ayob* (2020), **women are more susceptible to a high risk of domestic violence (DV) than men** due to the attitude differences between the genders.

The research stated that one of the many reasons women often experience DV is **the lack of awareness**.

The drop in the number of DV cases in accordance to the Malaysian police data in 2017 was reasoned to be because of the **stigma that surrounds DV**. The factors contributing to the low reporting data include **embarrassment, fear of exposure to the media, and fear of the legal system** (Rauf & Ayob, 2020).

Based on these findings, **increasing awareness programs at all levels of society is recommended to combat domestic violence** and to encourage communities to report incidents of domestic violence.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

GENDER-BASED CRIMES

MY AND UK STATISTICS

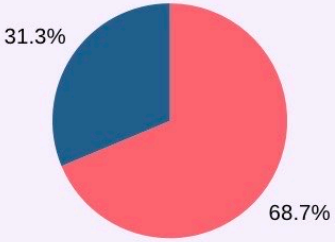


Lifetime intimate partner violence (IPV) among reproductive-age women:

- 7.12%
- (estimated approx. 432,000 women affected)

Reported cases overwhelmingly involve female victims.

In 2021, 5,131 female victims and 2,337 male victims (out of higher total cases).



(Women's Aid Organisaiton, 2023)

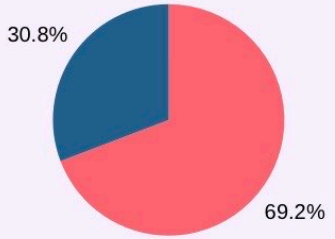


Emotional/psychological abuse common across genders, but **physical/sexual more often affects women.**

1 in 4 women will experience domestic abuse.

Women were found to be nearly twice as likely to be victims

In March 2024, estimated 1.6 million female victims and 712,000 men.



(Office for National Statistics, 2024)



PREVENTATIVE MEASURES AGAINST DV IN MALAYSIA

The anti-stalking and protection order provisions (***Section 507A of the Penal Code***) came into force in 2023. This was confirmed by a notice from the Attorney General's Chambers.

- The section applies to both physical and online stalking.
- The section does not require that the victim be aware of the stalker's identity.
- The section does not require that the stalker's actions actually cause the victim to feel distress, fear, or alarm. It is sufficient that the stalker knows or ought to know that their actions are likely to cause these emotions.

2017 Amendments to Domestic Violence Act 1994

- Responded to rising domestic violence as a "social epidemic".
- Empowers Social Welfare Officers as Enforcement Officers to:
  - Assist victims in filing domestic violence reports.
  - Arrange transportation to temporary safe housing, shelter, or safe place.
  - Arrange relocation to nearest hospital/medical facility for treatment if needed.
  - Explain victims' rights to protection and accompany them to collect personal belongings from current/former home.



PREVENTATIVE MEASURES AGAINST DV IN UNITED KINGDOM

Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (DAA)

Broader Definition of Abuse:

UK DAA includes **economic abuse** (e.g., controlling finances/services)

- MY DVA currently lacks this
- Amendments to the MY DVA is suggested to cover financial control for fuller victim protection.

Inclusive Relationships:

UK DAA **protects "personally connected" parties**, incl. civil partners (same-sex)

- MY DVA excludes same-sex

DOMESTIC ABUSE ISN'T ALWAYS PHYSICAL.

Help is available 24/7.
Your safety matters.

Talian Kasih 15999 Hotline (Established 2007)

- Dedicated hotline for reporting domestic violence, human trafficking, and child abuse.
- **Panggilan:** 15999
- **WhatsApp:** 019-2615999

One-Stop Crisis Centres

- **Services include:**
  - Medical treatment for injuries.
  - Collection of medical evidence for court use.
  - Assistance (via Medical Social Worker or Social Welfare Officer) for police protection, shelter, legal aid, and counselling.