VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

Why focus on violence against women? Aren’t men victims of violence too?

1 in 3
Australian women has experienced physical violence, most often by a previous partner.

1 in 6
Australian women has experienced physical or sexual violence from a current or former partner.

75.3%
of family violence victims in Victoria in 2013-14 were women.*

In 2010 to 2012 83 women were killed by a current or former partner.#

31%
of women who experienced physical violence in the last twelve months were assaulted by a current and/or previous partner.

1 in 2
Australian men has experienced physical violence, most often by a stranger.

1 in 19
Australian men has experienced physical or sexual violence from a current or former partner.

24.3%
of family violence victims in Victoria in 2013-14 were men.*

In 2010 to 2012 26 men were killed by a current or former partner.#

4.4%
of men who experienced physical violence in the last twelve months were assaulted by a current and/or previous partner.

Most family violence and sexual assaults are against women, by men. For example, in Victoria in 2013-14, men were perpetrators in 83.9% of family violence reports.


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THE REAL CAUSE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Only 18% of Australians recognise that UNEQUAL POWER is the main cause of violence against women.

IT’S NOT FINANCIAL STRESS

But 13% of Australians think it is

IT’S NOT BECAUSE MEN CAN’T CONTROL THEIR ANGER

But 64% of Australians think it is

By understanding what causes the problem, we can be part of the solution. It’s time we all treated men and women as equals.

Source: National Community Attitudes towards Violence Against Women Survey, Australia 2014
ATTITUDES MATTER

Violence against women is sustained by attitudes which are still too common.

TRIVIALISE

“IF THINGS WERE THAT BAD, SHE COULD HAVE WALKED OUT.”

51% of Australians think most women could leave a violent relationship if they really wanted to.

EXCUSE

“HE WAS UNDER A LOT OF STRESS AND HE JUST GOT ANGRY”.

22% of Australians think that domestic violence can be excused if people get so angry they lose control.

BLAME SHIFTING

“WELL WHAT DID SHE EXPECT?”

12% of Australians think that if a woman goes to a room alone with a man at a party, it’s her fault if she’s raped.

MINIMISE

“THAT’S NOT VIOLENCE. IT’S NOT LIKE HE’S HITTING YOU.”

26% of Australians don’t think it’s serious if one partner tries to control the other by denying them money.

ATTITUDES ALSO SHAPE HOW VICTIMS FEEL AND WHETHER THEY SEEK HELP.

AND ATTITUDES SHAPE HOW WE ALL RESPOND.

JUSTIFY

“But his girlfriend cheated on him.”

6% of Australians think violence towards a current/former partner is justified if they admit to sex with another man.

If we want to stop violence against women, it’s time to change our minds.

Source: National Community Attitudes towards Violence Against Women Survey, Australia 2014

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WE’RE MORE SEXIST THAN YOU MAY THINK

17,500 Australians were asked about gender roles...

- 27% think that men make better political leaders than women
- 19% think men should be in control in relationships and the head of the household
- 12% think when jobs are scarce, men have more right to a job than women

People who agree with these statements are more likely to excuse, trivialise or justify violence towards women - or think the victim is partly to blame.

Violence against women begins with sexist attitudes and unequal power. Attitudes matter. Australians, it's time to change our minds.

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There is no excuse for rape. **Attitudes like these avoid the hard truth that violence is a choice.**

- 16% believe women often say no when they mean yes
- 19% believe if a woman is raped while drunk/drug affected she is at least partly responsible
- 43% believe rape results from men not able to control their need for sex
- Rape is never excusable, but some Australians still think it is.

Source: National Community Attitudes towards Violence Against Women Survey, Australia 2014

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There is no excuse that makes violence acceptable. Attitudes like these avoid the hard truth that violence is a choice.

64% believe violence is because men can't control their anger

21% believe domestic violence can be excused if the violent person regrets it

12% believe domestic violence can be excused if the violent person is under a lot of stress

Violence is never excusable, but some Australians still think it is.

Source: National Community Attitudes towards Violence Against Women Survey, Australia 2014

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MEN IN CONTROL?

While we continue to see women as less equal than men, disrespect and violence against women will continue to happen. If we want to stop this, we need to change our minds.

1 in 5

Australians believe men should take control in relationships even though controlling behaviour is a key factor in abusive relationships.

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