

# Irish Consortium of Gender Based Violence

## Membership Charter

1. (FOUNDATION) We believe that all people are born equal in dignity and rights. Every human being deserves to be treated as such throughout their lives.

2. (WHAT is GBV) We believe that Gender Based Violence is violence directed at a person on the basis of gender identity. We recognise that Gender Based Violence is both a cause and a consequence of gender inequality. Gender Based Violence is a violation of human rights and a manifestation of historical and persistent unequal power relations. Gender Based Violence comes in many forms including, but not limited to, intimate partner violence, rape and sexual assault, sexual harassment, prostitution and trafficking, female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage.

3. (WHO). We acknowledge that women, men, girls and boys may experience direct acts of GBV because they do not conform to, or challenge prevailing gender norms and expectations. We recognise that 1 in 3 women globally experiences violence and that they bear the disproportionate burden of direct acts of GBV.

4. (WHO) We acknowledge that sexual minorities also experience and can be the targets of GBV precisely because they do not conform to and/or do challenge prevailing gender norms and expectations. We believe that every woman and man, regardless of their sexuality, has the right to live free from violence and discrimination.

5. (HOW) We believe it is important to shape our response globally within international legal frameworks and standards, while also contributing to the strengthening of such. We believe in the importance to actively participate towards the promotion of Gender Equality and the ending of any form of discrimination within the International Frameworks of the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Call to Action on Protection from GBV, in order to create a society based on equal justice between men and women free from prejudices. Failing to do this would hinder the moral and material well-being of our common shared humanity and perpetuate Gender Based Violence.

6. (HOW) We believe that supporting Gender Equality at the household, local, regional, national and international levels will create a profound change in the consciences and the actions of the people of the world so Gender Based Violence will soon be eradicated.

7. (PREVENTION) We believe that women's voices and participation to the affairs of the world are central to successfully promote Gender Equality and tackle violence against women in order to create peaceful and secure societies.

8. (PREVENTION) We believe the women, men, girls and boys are key allies and partners in achieving gender equality and addressing GBV by challenging and transforming harmful concepts of masculinity and femininity.

9. (RESPONSE) We acknowledge that all response to GBV should be survivor centric in its core and should reflect the diversity that exists amongst women and girls and the multiple forms of oppression and discrimination they face. We recognise the barriers that exist to stop women from being empowered and getting help when surviving Gender Based Violence which include stigma, fear, self-blame, guilt, impunity, controlling women's access to financial resources and property, emotional manipulation, discrimination and racism. Responses to tackling violence against women must reflect these realities.

10. Recognising the prevalence of GBV and the fact that it is experienced across all countries, we are committed to promote Gender Equality, to reject all forms of Gender Based Violence and to strive to play our part in increasing the safety and security of women and girls, their families and communities affected by inequality, conflict and climate change in humanitarian and development contexts.