Constraints placed on women and men due to prejudices inherent in the construction of their gender.

Social norms, values and behavior define the roles and status of women and men in society. It is the toleration of these discriminatory norms and values that often paves the way for acts of VAW to occur.

At least 1 out of every 3 women has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime, according to a study based on 50 surveys from around the world.

Usually, the abuser is a member of her own family or someone known to her.

Amnesty International: Making rights a reality – Gender awareness workshops. 2004
EXAMPLES OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

- Intimate Partner Violence
- Prenatal sex selection, infanticide
- Human Trafficking
- Sexual slavery
- Forced Marriage
- Obstetric and Traumatic Fistula
- Female Genital Mutilation
Men rape women, men rape men

- Lancet Global Health 9/2013
- UN Multicountry study including 10,000 men interviewed about rape and IPV in Six Asian and Pacific Island countries
- Bangladesh, China, Cambodia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka
- Up to 26% have raped a stranger
- 14% participated in gang rape of a stranger
- 24% average but up to 59% forced their intimate partner to have sex against their will
- Highest rates occurred in Papua New Guinea

Why do men rape women?

- Sense of sexual entitlement, they deserve sex even in partner doesn’t want it
- Entertainment (fun/bored)
- Anger/desire to punish partner
- Alcohol use

Gang rape most often happened in adolescence

http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(13)70074-3
SEX SELECTION, FEMALE INFANTICIDE

- 60 Million-100 Million Missing Girls in the current population
- China one child policy favors male children
  - Rooted in control of female reproduction that began in 1970’s mandating forced sterilization, IUD placement, and abortions.
  - Results in Girls being abandoned, aborted or killed
  - Male child more valuable, thought to care for elderly family members
  - Skewed sex ratio
  - Social, economic and physical repercussions
    - 15% more men than women in China
    - Men’s inability to marry
    - Loss of their social status
    - Marginalization of men from lower social classes, increased violence
    - Increased sex industry, forced prostitution

SEX TRAFFICKING STATISTICS

Human sex trafficking generates billions of dollars in the U.S. every year.

Department of Justice has identified the **TOP 20** human trafficking jurisdiction in the country:

Seattle  
San Francisco  
Los Angeles  
San Diego  
Las Vegas  
Phoenix  
El Paso  
St. Louis  
Chicago  
New York  
Long Island  
Philadelphia  
Washington, D.C.  
Richmond  
Charlotte  
Miami  
Atlanta  
New Orleans  
Tampa  
Houston

A pimp can make $150,000-$200,000 each year, and the average pimp has **4 to 6 girls**.

**$9.5 BILLION**  
How much human trafficking generates in the United States **ANNUALLY**

**Approximately 300,000 children ARE AT RISK of being prostituted in the United States.**

1/3 OF TEENS ON THE STREET WILL BE LURED TOWARD PROSTITUTION WITHIN 48 HOURS OF LEAVING HOME.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
DRAWING ATTENTION TO SEX TRAFFICKING:

- A Road to Innocence (Autobiography)
- Newsweek article questioning the validity of her story:

- SOLD: poetic description of sex slavery as a child sold from Nepal
11 year old girl in Afghanistan preparing to marry 40 year old man
http://marcsteinerblog.wordpress.com/2008/02/21/221-child-brides-stolen-lives/
OBSTRUCTED LABOR
• Caused by inadequate pelvic size for baby to deliver
• Results from young age at pregnancy, malnutrition
• Without access to C/S women labor for days, baby dies and woman may die due to uterine rupture, hemorrhage or sepsis
A few days later woman begins to leak urine or feces or both
Pressure necrosis of pelvis
Permanent incontinence
33,000 women in Sub-Saharan Africa per year
Outcast from family and community
Fistula between rectum and vagina (enterovaginal)
WHAT FACTORS PUT WOMEN AT RISK FOR OBSTETRIC FISTULA?

- Malnutrition during childhood
- Early age at marriage and first pregnancy
- Lack of access to medical care/skilled birth attendants
- Lack of access to hospitals that can perform Cesarean sections
- Women culturally undervalued (polygamy)
- Lack of transportation or unsafe routes to hospital
SOCIAL AND MEDICAL IMPLICATIONS:

- Ostracized
- Divorce/abandonment by husband and loss of family support
- Inability to earn a living
- Cultural beliefs worsen her status:
  - Punishment from God for misdeeds
  - Diseases of genitals are sexually transmitted and relate to promiscuity
- Infectious consequences of incontinence
  - Urinary tract infections
  - Perineal soft tissue infections
  - Vaginitis (yeast infections, etc.)
- Malnutrition: chronic infections, lack of income, high output state/malabsorption
TRAUMATIC FISTULA
Rape in conflict settings is now routine weapon of war

Rape was defined as a crime against humanity following WWII and became a punishable act of genocide during the War Crimes Tribunals following the Rwandan Genocide

Rape during conflict can entail:
- Beating
- Multilation or removal of the genitals
- Rape with sharp objects
- Gunshots to the genitals
- Rape by multiple assailants
- Rape by HIV infected assailants


Rwandan Genocide 1994

Rwandan Survivors of Sexual Violence

Interhamwe was the Hutu militia that organized and carried out the mass slaughter of 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus over 100 days in April 1994
WHY HAS RAPE BECOME A TOOL OF WAR?

- Destabilizes populations
- Destroys community and family relationships
- Expression of hatred of one group for another
- Act of dominance motivated by ethnic cleansing
- “Sexual services” for combatants

Past: In the land of Blood and Honey: Film directed by Angelina Jolie depicting the rape camps during the Bosnian war

Current UN reports of ISIS sex slavery trade (children as young as 1-9 acquire the highest payment 165$)

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/14/world/middleeast/isis-enshrines-a-theology-of-rape.html?_r=0

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF RAPE

- Similar ostracization to fistula victims
- Women often cast out of husbands home if pregnant with child from rape
- Encampments of women have grown up around fistula hospitals in DRC (Congo)
- Children of rape can grow up as outcasts, or are orphaned
STOP RAPING OUR GREATEST RESOURCE

Two survivors under the age of 9. PHOTO: PAULA ALLEN © 2007
SO WHAT IS PREVENTION?

- Changing the way we view gender roles and equality
- Giving women access to their own income
- Education of women
- Delivering contraception to every woman who wants it
- Safe access to abortion services
- Ensuring access to skilled birth attendants for all delivering mothers
- Overcoming financial, transportation and distance constraints
- Having clean facilities that can provide Cesarean sections
WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION OF FGM

Most women infibulated
Circumcision and excision widespread in some groups
Circumcision practiced by some Muslim population groups
Some cases reported
FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

- Affects 100-140 Million girls and women worldwide
- Health implications: UTI, Pelvic infections, pelvic pain, endometriosis, dyspareunia, cysts in scar tissue
- Recent Trends since anti-FGM legislation introduced:
  - Medicalization of procedure
  - Younger age at time of procedure
  - Fewer women choosing for daughters

En.wikipedia.org, WHO Female Genital Mutilation Fact Sheet, 2011
Four main reasons for FGM:

1. **Socio-cultural** - female maturity (rite of passage), protect the infant at birth, ensures virginity, prerequisite for marriage
2. **Hygienic/aesthetic** - external genitalia are “ugly” and “dirty”, makes a girl beautiful
3. **Spiritual** - spiritual cleansing, killing the “evil spirit”
4. **Psycho-sexual** - need to control women’s sexuality, maintain chastity and faithfulness during marriage, increases male pleasure
A. Normal

B. TYPE I

A. Prepuce removal only or B. Prepuce removal and partial or total removal of the clitoris

C. TYPE II

Removal of the clitoris plus part or all of the labia minora.

D. TYPE III

Removal of part or all of the labia minora, with the labia majora sewn together, covering the urethra and vagina and leaving a small hole for urine and menstrual fluid.
Girls 5-12 years of age
Kidnapped or lured into the ceremony
Use knives, pieces of glass, razors and rocks; no anesthetic
Use thorns, hemp sutures, animal excrement for hemostasis
Tie the girls thighs together for several weeks to ensure healing
EARLY MEDICAL COMPLICATIONS

Bleeding:
- Hemorrhage
- Anemia
- Hypotension
- Oliguria
- Shock
- Death

Infection:
- Cellulitis
- Abscess
- Septic Shock
- PID
- Tetanus
- Gangrene

Urethral Injury:
- Urethral edema
- Urinary retention

Fractures:
- Clavicle
- Femur
- Humerus
Urinary:
- Urethral strictures
- Meatal obstruction
- Chronic UTIs
- Meatitis
- Cysts
- Urinary crystals

Scarring:
- Keloids
- Fibrosis
- Hematocolpos
- Sebaceous/Inclusion
- Vulvar abscess

Pain:
- Neuromas
- Chronic vaginal infections
- Scar
- Dyspareunia
- Vaginismus
- Dysmenorrhea
- Menorrhagia

Infertility:
- Vaginal stenosis
- Infibulated
- Dyspareunia
- Apareunia

(Mostly occur in types II and III)

LATE MEDICAL COMPLICATIONS

Clitoral sebaceous cyst, 2008, GH
DEFIBULATION

Steps:
1. Insert Kelly clamps under the scar
2. Make an anterior incision between two clamps with Mayo scissors (watch out for buried clitoris)
3. Cut from bottom of scar to clitoris
4. Make sure to view the introitus and urethra
5. Place absorbable subcuticular sutures on either side

WHAT TO DO?

- Interventions should address:
  - gender socialization
  - power relations
  - abuse in childhood
  - mental health issues
  - poverty.

- Interventions should be tailored to respond to the specific patterns of violence in various contexts.

- Physical and sexual partner violence might need to be addressed in different ways.

Nicholas Kristoff and Sheryl WuDunn. Half the Sky, 2012

The Hospital by the River, Dr. Catherine Hamlin with John Little

A Walk to Beautiful: screening on PBS Nova—May 13th, 2008 for times: check www.PBS.org

"The Greatest Silence: Rape in the Congo“ Lisa M. Jackson: Sundance Film Festival 2008

Committee 12: Urinary Incontinence in the Developing World: The Obstetric Fistula. 893-935


Shepherd, Amanda MS4. Female Genital Mutilation: GYN Externship presentation DH 2012


Google Images