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Key Challenges

• Lack of systematic approaches to prevention

• Lack of funding for prevention work

• Lack of investment in research, monitoring and evaluation

• Shifting landscapes
Why Prevention?

• VAWG is costly in terms of human suffering and resources
• VAWG is not inevitable
• Prevention has been either neglected or de-prioritised in approaches to VAWG
• International frameworks include prevention e.g. CEDAW, UN Resolution on prevention
• WHO has highlighted the need for prevention
**LEVEL** Overall structures in the social order (Macro)

**FACTORS**
- Devaluing women
  - Gender inequality, unequal power relations between women and men and the subordination of women
- Media violence
  - Glorification of violence and sexualisation of women and girls
- Impunity
  - Weak or limited laws against violence
- Masculinity
  - Normative heterosexual masculinity
- Children’s status
  - Lack of respect for children’s and especially girl’s rights

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**
- Interventions needed at a structural level to:
  - Achieve formal and substantive gender equality
  - Promote alternative models of masculinity
  - Regulate violence in the media
  - Regulate the sexualisation of women and girls in the media
  - Strengthen laws against violence
  - Promote children’s/girl’s rights

**LEVEL** Social norms and practices that regulate daily life (Meso)

**FACTORS**
- Entitlement
  - Male entitlement to sex and services from women
- Failed sanctions
  - Failure of criminal justice system to respond, poor implementation of law resulting in no sanctions for perpetrators
- Discrimination
  - Discrimination against women and girls in society e.g. workplace and education
- ‘Honour’ codes
  - Enforcement of ‘honour’ and shame around violence against women
- Poverty pockets
  - High concentrations of poverty, discrimination and social exclusion resulting in very low access to material resources, education and regular employment

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**
- Interventions at a societal level needed to:
  - Challenge the idea of male entitlement
  - Improve implementation of laws and increase conviction rates of sanctions on perpetrators
  - Eliminate discrimination against women and girls
  - Challenge codes of ‘honour’ and shame
  - Improve access to resources for socially excluded and disadvantaged communities

**LEVEL** Day to day interactions in the immediate environment (Micro)

**FACTORS**
- Peer approval
  - Peer-groups support, valorise and reinforce VAWG
- Stereotypes
  - Rigid constructions of what is ‘normal’ for a man/boy/woman/girl
- Myths
  - Persistent stereotypes and misunderstandings about VAWG
- Family stress
  - When pressures such as unemployment, social isolation and other stresses come together
- Obedience code
  - Different expectations of daughters
- Rewards
  - Real or perceived rewards for violence
- Opportunity
  - Conditions that facilitate perpetration of VAWG

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**
- Interventions needed in the immediate environment needed to:
  - Challenge peer support for violence
  - Establish active peer disapproval of VAWG
  - Transform gender stereotypes through education and public awareness
  - Challenge myths about VAWG
  - Ensure all schools and workplaces have effective policies, sanctions and redress for all forms of violence against women and girls
  - Improve access to resources, education and support for families living in poverty, especially women and children
  - Re-value daughters

**LEVEL** Individual life history (Ontogenetic)

**FACTORS**
- Masculine Self
  - Hostile towards women and approving of violence against women, need to prove self as ‘real man’
- Emotional and cognitive deficits
  - Lack of empathy and respect for women and girls
- Growing up in families unable to provide basic care
- Depersonalised sex
  - Sexual socialisation oriented to power and control
- Stimulus abuse
  - Abuse of pornography, alcohol and drugs
- Early trauma
  - Early exposure to violence in the home or abuse of trust

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**
- Interventions needed at a personal and family level to:
  - Promote alternative secure masculine identities that do not devalue women
  - Expand perceptions of women and children, especially where they are seen/treated as property
  - Increase family support and parenting programmes which address gender
  - Promote sexual ethics and ethics of care through education
  - Enable young men to critically assess pornography
  - Ensure drug and alcohol abuse services are informed by understandings of VAWG
  - Ensure that mental health care informed by understandings of VAWG
  - Ensure support for children who have been abused
Promising Practices

• Community-based approaches such as *Raising Voices*, *Bell Bajao* and *Promundo*

• School-based approaches such as work by *Ashiana Network*, *NIA* and *STAR Project*

• Key themes around partnership, leadership and valuing expertise
Find out more!

www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk

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