VIOLENCE IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC REGION
SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act by violence or coercion, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts directed against a person’s sexuality, regardless of relationship to the victim.

Includes

Considered to be one of the most traumatic, pervasive, and most common human rights violations.

KEY FACTS

Between 2% and 47% of women in the Western Pacific Region have experienced sexual violence by a non-partner in their lifetimes.

Boys and men also suffer sexual violence, although this remains poorly documented.

Sexual violence against women and girls can lead to unintended pregnancies, unwanted abortions, gynaecological problems and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.

NATIONAL RESPONSE

Of the 20 regional countries that participated in the survey, ONLY

National Action Plans

- 12 countries have a national or subnational action plan for the prevention of sexual violence.

Legislation

- 20 countries have national or subnational laws against forced sexual intercourse (rape).
- 19 countries have national or subnational laws against contact sexual violence (non-intercourse).
- 16 countries have laws against non-contact sexual violence (harassment).

Evidence-based programmes implemented on a larger scale*

- 5 countries have programmes to prevent sexual violence in schools and colleges.
- 8 countries have programmes to prevent sexual violence via improvements to the physical environment. (e.g. public transport, street lighting).
- 10 countries have programmes to change social and cultural gender norms.

For more details about programmes, refer to the glossary in Violence in the Western Pacific 2014

Source: Violence in the Western Pacific 2014
http://ins.wpro.who.int/handle/10665/112400

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