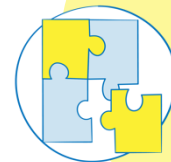


# Activity: Root Causes of GBV against Men and Boys

EXPECTED DURATION: 10 MINS



Objective: understand how/when violence against men and boys can be considered a form of GBV

- Put three signs on the wall around the room: “Agree”, “Disagree” and “Not sure”.
- Ask participants to move to the sign reflecting their opinion about the below statement. They can stand in between the different signs as well, along an imaginary gliding scale.
  - ▷ **Gender inequality, systemic discrimination and unequal power relations are the root causes of GBV against men and boys.**
- Ask participants to explain their opinion and allow discussion to take place.

## Key considerations:

- **Violence against men and boys that is rooted in gender discrimination is considered GBV.**
- GBV is understood as predominantly men’s violence against women and girls, however it also includes some forms of violence against men and boys (as described below). At the heart of this interpretation is the understanding that **violence is used with the view of reinforcing dominant forms of masculinity linked to power in order to maintain in place a gendered order/hierarchy**. This includes physical, emotional and sexual violence against women and girls, and/or various types of violence targeting persons with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) that do not conform to prevailing sociocultural norms, as well as sexual violence against men and boys.
- The GBV Policy reiterates this position that **men and boys can be subjected to sexual violence**. They may be exposed to sexual violence committed for the ‘*explicit purpose of reinforcing inequitable gender norms of masculinity and femininity.*’ In addition, they may also be targeted because of reduced power and status in view of diversity characteristics or other intersecting inequalities. There are ‘*forms of discrimination that lead to increased risk of sexual violence for men and boys,*’ including but not limited to ‘*socioeconomic status, birth country and legal status, including asylum status.*’ In addition, risks may be heightened for men and boys in detention, unaccompanied children or for children with disabilities. Inter-Agency Minimum Standards: **Men and boys may be targeted for abuse because of reduced power and status based** on age, disability, sexual orientation, **gender identity and other intersecting inequalities**. Homophobia, bi-phobia, and transphobia increase the risk of violence, including sexual violence. Men and boys with disabilities also face an increased risk of violence, including sexual violence.
- **Gender norms can also contribute to certain types of sexual violence against males in conflict settings.** In these instances, men may be targeted for “emasculatation” such that gender inequitable norms related to masculinity and femininity increase their exposure to some forms of sexual violence; this violence against males is based on socially constructed ideas of what it means to be a man and exercise male power.

