



GENDER SENSITIVE TERMINOLOGIES

Booklet for Media

Introduction to booklet

Media deals with the cases of gender-based violence and other gender sensitive issues on daily basis. The issues and cases covered under media reporting involves diverse sensitive issues, which has the potential to influence the attitudes and perception of audience by the terminologies used in reporting. Usage of gender-biased terminology influences attitudes and expectations of readers or listeners and often perpetuates stereotypical concepts.

Raising awareness among media persons on gender sensitive terminologies not only sensitize media on gender sensitive communication but will also help in educating general public with regard to sensitive language and social issues. Integration of gender sensitive terminologies and applying gender sensitive communication in the area of reports and coverage of social issues can be a powerful tool to induce social changes and transform people's mind set from stereotypical definitions of issues. Usage of the specific sensitive language in press releases, social media content, publications, and statements by media provide a crucial model for both, different media outlets and for general masses as well.

This “Gender Sensitive Terminologies” booklet is developed for the media outlets, which include gender non-biased and sensitive terminologies with the purpose to make aware of and sensitize media persons on sensitive terminologies. The aim of this booklet is to provide a glossary which can contribute towards a general and clearer understanding of some of the frequently used terms and concepts in relation to gender sensitive social issues. The booklet will not only benefit media persons but is also helpful for policymakers, researchers, students and/or anyone interested in such issues wither by writing o it or using verbally.

We anticipate that this booklet will contribute in sensitizing media persons to avoid sex or gender biased terminologies, language and communication and start using language which further contributes in influencing attitudes and expectations and will transform the mind of the reader or listeners towards gender sensitive issues and stereotypical concepts.

Gender Sensitive Glossary

▶ a

Abuse

Misuse of power through which the perpetrator gains control or advantage.

Access

Access to resources implies that women are able to use and benefit from specific resources (including material, financial, human, social and political ones).

Advocacy

Speaking or acting in ways that support or espouse a cause, issue, group, or institution.

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Binary

Something made or based on two parts, often in opposition to one another; often used in discussing the social construction of identities in binary and structural opposition or as either/or dichotomy (e.g. masculinity–femininity; white-black; straight–gay; young-old; rich-poor; able-bodied-disabled, etc.)

Bisexual

Sexual attraction and/or behavior toward members of both sexes.

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Child marriage

Formal marriage or informal union before the legal age of marriage in context of respective state which effects both girls and boys.

Cisgender

Cisgender refers to where someone's gender aligns with the sex they were assigned at birth.

Coercion

The act of compelling a person to do, or to abstain from doing, something by show of physical force, threats, intimidation, extortion or other forms of duress which prey on fear or desperation.

Community

A group of people bound together by living in the same place or sharing the same ideas and ideologies; can describe a neighborhood, village, city or school (all site-specific/place-based); can also be used to describe a race, ethnicity, religion, or other group that shares certain identifiable characteristics.

Consent

When someone unambiguously and voluntarily agrees to do something, fully understanding the consequences of their decision, and they do so without any coercion, such as the use of force or threats to their safety.

Cultural Abuse

When a person is harmed as a result of practices that are part of their culture, or tradition.

► d**Discrimination**

Prejudice + power. It occurs when members of a more powerful social group behave unjustly or cruelly to members of a less powerful social group. Discrimination can take many forms, including both individual acts of hatred or injustice and institutional denials of privileges normally accorded to other groups. Ongoing discrimination creates a climate of oppression for the affected group.

Domestic Violence

Any physical abuse or threat or pattern thereof, between intimately involved partners, or members of a family or household.

Duty bearer

Those actors who have a particular obligation or responsibility to respect, promote and realize human rights and to abstain from human rights violations. The term is most commonly used to refer to State actors, but non-State actors can also be considered duty bearers. An obvious example is private armed forces or rebel groups, which under international law have a negative obligation to refrain from human rights violations. Depending on the context, individuals (i.e., parents), local organizations, private companies, aid donors and international institutions can also be duty-bearers.

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Empowerment

Empowerment implies people – both women and men – taking control over their lives by setting their own agendas, gaining skills (or having their own skills and knowledge recognized), increasing their self-confidence, solving problems, and developing self-reliance. It is both a process and an outcome. Empowerment implies an expansion in women's ability to make strategic life choices in a context where this ability was previously denied to them.

Emotional Abuse

A pattern of degrading or humiliating conduct towards another, including verbal abuse, threats to cause emotional pain, manipulation and intimidation, and repeated exhibition of obsessive possessiveness or jealousy.

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Female genital mutilation/cutting

All procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

Femininity

Socially constructed characteristics or ideas typically associated with the female sex.

Feminism

A philosophy and social movement centered on establishing and achieving political, economic, and social equality for women.

Femicide

Crime involving the violent and deliberate killing of a woman.

Forced marriage

Forced marriage describes a marriage that takes place without the free or valid consent of one or both of the partners and involves either physical or emotional duress.

**Gender**

A concept that refers to the difference between men and women that are socially constructed, changeable over time and have variations within cultures.

Gender Analysis

A systematic approach, usually using social science methodologies, for examining problems, situations, projects, programs, and policies to identify the gender issues and impacts. There are a number of tools available for conducting gender analyses. Gender analysis of a development program involves identifying the gender issues for the larger context (i.e., structural factors); specific sites; and the issues and differential impacts of program objectives, strategies, and methods of implementation.

Gender and Development

Approach that recognizes that all development planning, policies and projects must reflect gender sensitivity and gender awareness.

Gender Blind

Inability to recognize and consider the differences between men's and women's needs, benefits, access to resources, power; the absence of gender analysis from thoughts or practice.

Gender-based discrimination

Any distinction, exclusion or restriction (such as unfair or unequal treatment) made based on gender norms, roles and relations that prevents women and men of different groups and ages from enjoying their human rights. It perpetuates gender inequality by legitimizing stereotypes about men and women of different ages and groups.

Gender-responsive budgeting (GRB)

Government planning, programming and budgeting that contributes to the advancement of gender equality and the fulfillment of women's rights. It entails identifying and reflecting needed interventions to address gender gaps in sector and local government policies, plans and budgets. GRB also aims to analyze the gender differentiated impact of revenue-raising policies and the allocation of domestic resources and Official Development Assistance.

Gender Discrimination

Any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of socially constructed gender roles and norms which prevents a person from enjoying full human rights.

Gender Disparities

Differences in men's and women's access to resources, status and well-being that usually favor men.

Gender Equality

Equal treatment of women and men in laws, policies, and equal access to resources, services, education, health care, occupational positions, etc.

Gender Equity

Gender equity means fairness of treatment for women and men, according to their respective needs. This may include equal treatment or treatment that is different but considered equivalent in terms of rights, benefits, obligations, and opportunities (e.g., equal treatment before the law, equal access to social provisions; education; equal pay for work of the same value).

Gender Gap

Apparent disparity between men and women in values, attitudes and access to power and positions.

Gender Identity

One's internal gender, which may or may not match the physical sex, or the presenting gender. Unlike biological sex which is assigned at birth and based on physical characteristics gender identity refers to a person's innate, deeply felt sense of being male or female (sometimes even both or neither).

Gender Mainstreaming

The process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies, or programs in any area and at all levels. It refers to strategies for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of policies and programs in all political, economic, and social spheres—such that inequality between men and women is not perpetuated.

Gender neutral

Anything – a concept, an entity, a style of language – that is unassociated with either the male or female gender. The nature of systemic and embedded or internalized bias is such that, unfortunately often, what is perceived to be gender neutral is in fact gender blind.

Gender Relations

Relative positions of men and women in the division of resources/ responsibilities, benefits/rights, power/privileges.

Gender-transformative approach

Programs and interventions that create opportunities for individuals to actively challenge gender norms, promote positions of social and political influence for women in communities, and address power inequities between persons of different genders.

Gender Roles

Socially determined behaviors, tasks and responsibilities for men and women.

Gender-based violence

Any act that results in, or is likely to result in physical, sexual, psychological, economic harm, or suffering based on gender of a person.

Gender-bias

Prejudiced actions or thoughts based on gender-based perceptions that women are not equal to men.

▶ h**Harassment**

Word, conduct or action (usually repeated or persistent) that, being directed at a specific person, annoys, alarms or causes substantial emotional distress in that person and serves no legitimate purpose.

Human Rights

Agreed international standards that recognize and protect the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of every individual, without any distinction as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origins, property, birth or other status.

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Identity

A way to define or explain who you are, comprising different characteristics or attributes (e.g. age, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, class, sexual orientation, ability, religious beliefs, etc.).

Informed Consent

To be distinguished from 'consent' above, as it refers specifically to the approval or assent when someone carefully understands the consequences of a decision and consents freely without any force.

Intersex

A physical condition in which the individual is born with biological characteristics that are divergent from typical female and male. This may include variations in chromosomal, physical, gonadal, hormonal, or other attributes, and may include a combination, rearrangement, or lack of biological male or female features.

Intimate partner violence (IPV)

Refers to behavior by an intimate partner or ex-partner that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse, and controlling behaviors.

▶ m

Masculinity

The quality of being masculine.

Matriarchy

A social system that gives power and authority to women rather than men.

Media

1. any means of transmitting information;
2. the various forms, devices, and systems that make up mass communications considered as a whole, including newspapers, magazines, radio stations, television channels, and web sites.

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Norms

Behaviors and ideas that are socially expected and often accepted as fact, seen as typical, taken for granted.

► p

Patriarchy

Social system in which men hold the greatest power, leadership roles, privilege, moral authority and access to resources and land, including in the family. Most modern societies are patriarchies.

Prejudice

Unfavorable or discriminatory attitude (not action) towards persons of different categories.

Psychological Abuse

Subjecting another to emotional and verbal abuse, which may result in psychological trauma, including anxiety, depression or posttraumatic stress disorder.

► r

Rape

Non-consensual and unlawful sexual activity and usually sexual intercourse carried out forcibly or under threat of injury against a person's will. Rape is a form of physical violence, based on coercion and physical force without or against the will or consent of the person.

Reproductive Rights

Basic rights of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly on the number, spacing and timing of their children.

Rights holders

Individuals or social groups that have particular entitlements in relation to specific duty-bearers. In general terms, all human beings are rights holders under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In particular contexts, there are often specific social groups whose human rights are not fully realized, respected or protected. More often than not, these groups tend to include women/girls, ethnic minorities, indigenous human rights-based approach does not only recognize that the entitlements of rights-holders need to be respected, protected and fulfilled, it also considers rights-holders as active agents in the realization of human rights and development – both directly and through organizations representing their interests.

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Sex

Refers to the biological characteristics between men and women, which are universal and do not change.

Sexism

Discrimination against someone or some group of people based upon sex.

Sexuality

The feelings and activities connected with a person's sexual desires.

Sexual Abuse

A broad category incorporating various forms of sexual violence, including, but not limited to, rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment.

Sexual Assault

Illegal sexual contact that usually involves force upon a person without consent or is inflicted upon a person who is incapable of giving consent. Sexual assault' covers a wide range of unwanted sexual behaviors that are often used by offenders as a way to assert power and control over their victims.

Sexual Behaviors

Any actions such as touching, kissing, and other stimulation of a body.

Sexual Exploitation

Any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another.

Sexual Harassment

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

Sexual Orientation

The desire for intimate emotional and/or sexual relationships with people of the same gender, another gender, or multiple genders.

Sexual Rights

A person's right to have control and decide freely and responsibility in matters related to her or his sexuality.

Sexual Violence

Any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed, against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)

This can be understood as the right for all, whether young or old, women, men or transgender, straight, gay, lesbian or bisexual, HIV positive or negative, to make choices regarding their own sexuality and reproduction, providing they respect the rights of others to bodily integrity. This definition also includes the right to access information and services needed to support these choices and optimize health.

Stereotype

A fixed idea or image that many people have of a particular type of person or thing, but which is often not true in reality. To form a fixed idea about a person or thing which may not really be true.

Survivor

A person who continues to live especially despite being nearly killed or experiencing great danger or difficulty.



Transgender

The category of a person or people who have a gender identity or gender expression that differs from their assigned sex.

Trans men / trans women

Trans men are those who were assigned female at birth but who identify as men. Those assigned male at birth but identifying as women may be referred to as 'trans women.

Transsexual

A person who feels emotionally that they want to live, dress, etc. as a member of opposite sex, and thus has a medical operation to change their sexual organs.

Transphobia

Transphobia is the unrealistic or irrational fear or hatred of trans people. Like all prejudices, it is based on negative stereotypes and misconceptions that are then used to justify and support hatred, discrimination, harassment, and violence toward people who are transgender.

▶ V**Victim**

A person harmed, injured, or killed as a result of a crime, accident, or other event or action.

Violence Against Women (VAW)

Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women.

Violence

An act that intentionally threatens, attempts, or actually inflicts harm on another person or group of others.

Vulnerable

Able to be easily physically, emotionally, or mentally hurt, influenced, or attacked.



Women Empowerment

Giving Empowerment to women.

Resources

<http://criticalmediaproject.org/glossary/>

<https://genderinmyanmarnews.org/en/gender-glossary>

<https://www.unicef.org/rosa/media/1761/file/Gender%20glossary%20of%20terms%20and%20concepts%20.pdf>

https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/Pnadl089.pdf

<https://www.cbd.int/gender/decisions/terminology.shtml>

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/faoterm/PDF/Gender_glossary-e.pdf

<https://www.osce.org/gender/26397?download=true>

<https://www.who.int/gender-equity-rights/knowledge/glossary/en/>

<https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/media/human-resources/equalitydiversity/genderidentity/ACAS-Gender-identity-terminology-Aug2017.pdf>

<http://www.vawgresourceguide.org/terminolgy>

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Disclaimer!

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