

LEADERS IN THE PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

WHEN REPORTING ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



DO

- ✓ **Call it what it is:** 'violence against women', 'family violence', 'intimate partner violence', 'sexual assault', 'sexual harassment'. Avoid terms that minimise the problem: 'troubled marriage', 'unwanted sex', 'domestic dispute' or 'relationship problems'.
- ✓ **Contextualise the story:** Provide information about the prevalence, dynamics, impacts, causes and laws around family violence.
- ✓ **Offer information about support services:** Print at the end of ALL articles referencing domestic violence – "People experiencing domestic violence should the confidential national domestic violence counselling service on 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732) and 000 in emergencies."
- ✓ **Be aware of source selection:** Research shows there is an overreliance on police and legal professionals for comment. Women's Health and Wellbeing Barwon South West (experts in the prevention of violence against women) can assist with issues including: the prevention of violence against women; gender equity; cultures/behaviours and attitudes.
- ✓ **Acknowledge that violence against women is not a private matter, but a widespread social problem.**
- ✓ **Prioritise the safety, dignity and confidentiality needs of women who have experienced violence, and their loved ones.**
- ✓ **Acknowledge and report on sexual assaults in intimate contexts:** Research shows that sexual assault in the context of intimate relationships is rarely reported in the media.



DON'T

- ✗ **Focus on or blame the behaviour of the woman/girl who has been a victim of violence.**
- ✗ **Sensationalise or trivialise violence against women by treating it as unusual, bizarre or humorous.**
- ✗ **Reinforce stereotypes about violence against women:** Please refer to our FAQs page.
- ✗ **Describe certain cultures or 'classes' as being inherently violent towards women:** Violence against women is not confined to a particular culture, class or nation – it is rooted in gender inequity.
- ✗ **Offer excuses for violent behaviour:** Using violence is always a choice.
- ✗ **Report in such a way to suggest the defence case is 'truth' when reporting court cases.**

FAST FACTS

On average, at least **ONE** woman a week is killed by a partner or former partner in Australia.

ONE IN FOUR Australian women have experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner.

ONE IN FOUR Australian women have experienced emotional abuse by a current or former partner since the age of 15.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER WOMEN experience both far higher rates and more severe forms of violence compared to other women.

ONE IN THREE Australian women have experienced physical violence since the age of 15.

Domestic violence is the single greatest contributor to death, disability and illness for Victorian women aged **15-44**.

Women are at least **THREE TIMES** more likely than men to experience violence from an intimate partner.

ONE IN FIVE Australian women have experienced sexual violence.

Women with disabilities are more than **TWICE** as at risk of experiencing domestic violence.

CONTACT US

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