

Chapter One – Global Violence against Women

CHAPTER ONE introduces students to family violence with a view of violence against women from selected countries around the world. Instructors may use this chapter to broaden student perspectives on family violence. It may help students to conceptualize family violence as an issue affecting diverse cultures and races. Intimate partner violence is recognized as a current social problem of epidemic proportions affecting millions of women, men, and children around the world.

Instructor Notes for Chapter One

1. Show a film on the global problem of violence against women.

Videos are available online at Films for the Humanities & Sciences. Visit their website for current selections of films for rent and sale at www.films.com. Women Make Movies is another source for suitable films. Their website is www.wmm.com. Films on violence issues from Intermedia, Inc. are more recent and cover diversity issues. Visit their website for current titles at: <http://www.intermedia-inc.com/index.asp>.

A good choice for this block of instruction would be the film entitled *Women's Rights*. It compares women's rights in the U.S. with the status of women in China, Afghanistan, and Kenya. Nonconsensual marriage and severe domestic violence are among the issues global issues discussed.

Another title to consider is *Nicaragua: Turning Away from Violence*. The film discusses the grassroots activism to end the oppression of women due to domestic violence.

A documentary, *Love, Honour & Disobey* by Fraction Films is a British film that examines the roles of culturally sensitive policing, religious fundamentalism and the issues which make domestic violence an even more difficult experience for minority women. It is available online at: <http://www.wmm.com/filmcatalog/pages/c689.shtml>

Short film clips on violence against women internationally is available at: <http://unifem.org/resources/audiovideo/>

2. Assign an internet project.

Ask each student to go onto the Internet and locate one site relating to global intimate partner violence. Alternatively, the student may be required to log on to one of the Internet sites that are listed under the heading of International in Chapter 14 of the text. They should report to the class what was found on the site.

3. Visit Amnesty International Web site.

There are videos clips available for download on international issues – including violence against women. These clips make good springboards for class discussion. Go to <http://www.youtube.com/user/AmnestyUSA>

4. Homework assignment.

Assign students to find an online news article about domestic violence in a foreign country.

Chapter One Outline

SIMPLY SCENARIO

KEY TERMS

INTRODUCTION

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: A GLOBAL CONCERN

THE UNITED NATIONS

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: AROUND THE WORLD

Afghanistan

Australia

Canada

India

Ireland

Pakistan

Palestine

People's Republic of China

Republic of Albania

Romania

Russian Federation

Sweden

Uganda

United Kingdom

CONCLUSIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW

INTERNET-BASED EXERCISES

REFERENCES

Simply Scenario

Life in Uganda

After her first husband died, Sules was forced to remarry by her father. Her new husband had 3 wives and 15 children, aside from hers. He beat her and raped her persistently. She is now HIV positive. "I was commonly the one who was beaten. He would beat me to the point that he was too ashamed to take me to the doctor. He forced me to have sex with him and beat me if I refused. This went for every woman [wife]. Even when he was HIV_ he still wanted sex. He refused to use a condom. He said he 'cannot eat sweets with the paper [wrapper] on'" (Karanja, 2003).

Question: In Uganda, what is the crime(s) described here? Explain your answer.

Answer: There are no laws that specifically protect Ugandan women from intimate partner violence. This is a patriarchal society where a payment is made to the parents of the bride prior to marriage, the husband therefore assumes to own his wife as his property. Polygamy, the marriage of a man to more than one wife, is practiced. Additionally, men inherit the wife of a brother who has died. Marital rape is not a legal concept in Uganda; there is a common law presumption of consent within marriage.

This may be a good time to talk to your class about the relative status of women in different countries. They should not assume that the legal or social status they enjoy in the United States follows them to other countries.

Questions for Review

1. What is meant by this term: **Violence against Women**?

Answer: The term **violence against women** means "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women" violence against women includes but is not limited to the following:

1. Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female

genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence, and violence related to exploitation;

2. Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work and educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women, and forced prostitution;
3. Physical, sexual, and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the State, wherever it occurs.

2. Who are the most frequent victims of intimate partner violence?

Answer: Women are the most frequent victims of intimate partner violence.

3. Explain the intended purpose of the proposed *I-VAW*.

Answer: The proposed *International Violence against Woman Act* promises to use United States training dollars and relief programs in the global fight against intimate partner violence. The approach involves assisting nations through the education and training of police officers and the military on intimate partner violence intervention. It provides increased support of overseas non-governmental and community-based organizations working to end violence against women and girls.

4. What has the UN done to eliminate violence against women?

Answer: Leading the global fight to eliminate violence against women, in 1993 the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women. The declaration acknowledged violence against women as a human rights violation.

5. Define the term **dowry** and problems associated with the practice in India.

Answer: According to the New Delhi Supreme Court, dowry is payment of money or articles during, before, or after marriage by the girl's parent to her in-laws. The problem occurs when dowry is considered inadequate and retribution against the bride occurs. Giving gifts to the bride and groom are acceptable, however, insisting on dowry is illegal. The practice is still widespread; the cash and presents given must be linked to the actual marriage in order to be considered illegal dowry. In 2006 there were 7,618 official murders attributed to dowry deaths.

6. How often does rape of a female occur in Pakistan according to the Human Rights Watch?

Answer: One woman in Pakistan is raped every two hours according to estimates of Human Rights Watch.

7. According to Amnesty International, how often is it estimated that a woman in Russia is killed by intimate partner violence?

Answer: Every forty minutes a woman is killed by intimate partner violence in the Russian Federation.

8. The first shelter for victims of intimate partner violence was founded in what country, when, and by whom?

Answer: Erin Pizzey founded the first shelter for victims of intimate partner violence in 1971, in the United Kingdom.

Fill-in the Blank Questions

1. The _____ emphasizes that violence against women is a violation of human rights and recommends strategies to be employed by member states and specialized agencies to eliminate it.

ANS: Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women

2. Between _____ and _____ million girls and women in the world are estimated to have undergone female genital mutilation (or procedures like it) and _____ million girls are estimated to be at risk every year.

ANS: 100, 140 million, 3 million

3. In Australia, appropriate intervention designed to improve access to legal services for Indigenous women is accomplished through the _____.

ANS: Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention Legal Services in Australia.

4. _____ concluded in a recent report that the Irish Government has not established effective mechanisms to identify, combat, and redress violence against women, leading to a continued sense on the part of victims and the women's rights movement of effective impunity for perpetrators.

ANS: Amnesty International

5. According to _____ studies on violence against women estimate that a woman in Pakistan is raped every two hours.

ANS: Human Rights Watch

6. Hundreds of women and girls are believed to be murdered every year by execution for perceived misuse of her sexuality, known as honor killings, a form of _____.

ANS: Femicide

7. _____ forms the backbone of the watchdog groups for women's rights in China today.

ANS: Non-Governmental Organizations

8. Currently, from 20 to 30 percent of all _____ committed in Russia take place in the family.

ANS: Murders

9. The first battered women's shelters were opened in Stockholm and Gothenburg in _____.

ANS: 1978

10. In 1971 _____ founded the first known shelter for victims of intimate partner violence.

ANS: Erin Pizzey

Multiple Choice Questions

Identify the letter of the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

____ 1. What form of violence is most commonly reported by women?

a. Family Violence

c. Partner Violence

b. Violence by a friend

d. Domestic Violence

ANS: C

____ 2. Femicide is

- a. a form of honor killing typically done by fathers in the family.
- b. committed by a non-family member.
- c. a more specific type of homicide.
- d. is done out of respect for the woman.

ANS: A

____ 3. Similar to that of other countries, Canada

- a. has strict policies regarding violence against women
- b. enforces all laws to ensure violence is kept to a minimum
- c. does not acknowledge that violence occurs to more than just women
- d. has no specific offence of violence against women or spousal assault

ANS: D

____ 4. A common practice in India is

- a. Dais
- b. female infanticide
- c. sex-selective infanticide
- d. all of the above.

ANS: D

____ 5. In what year was the first campaign against intimate partner violence launched in Romania

- a. 2001
- c. 2007

b. 2003

d. 1999

ANS: C

____ 6. Currently, most murders committed in Russia take place in

a. the family

c. a dating relationship

b. a serious relationship

d. the home of the person who committed the murder

ANS: A

____ 7. British Civil Law allows the victim to request _____ against the abuser.

a. a form of arrest

c. a restraining order

b. a law suit

d. none of these

ANS: C

____ 8. Which of the following is an example of violence against women in the family?

a. forced prostitution

c. sexual harassment at work

b. dowry-related violence

d. trafficking in women

ANS: B

____ 9. The inclusion of intimate partner violence as a training objective heightens the legitimacy of police intervention for _____ and _____ and sensitizes the officers to the appropriateness of police involvement in these crimes

a. homicide; rape

c. rape; domestic assault

- b. domestic assault; battery
- d. homicide; domestic assault

ANS: C

_____ 10. Which is a legislative reform taken by many European countries to prevent intimate partner violence?

- a. All acts of intimate partner violence are recognized as crimes and fall under provisions of the penal law
- c. Both A and B
- b. Victims are allowed to request protection services from the State
- d. None of the above

ANS: C

_____ 11. Who in the family is most likely to be responsible for honor killings in Afghanistan?

- a. mothers
- c. uncles
- b. grandfathers
- d. fathers

ANS: D

_____ 12. Which of the following is the most potentially dishonorable act of a Muslim daughter in Afghanistan, demanding "punishment?"

- a. attempting to assimilate into Western culture
- c. seeking employment
- b. seeking education
- d. not wearing a hijab (headscarf)

ANS: A

_____ 13. Who is most at risk for intimate partner abuse in Australia?

- a. women in urban settings
- b. women in suburban settings
- c. Aboriginal women
- d. immigrant women

ANS: C

_____ 14. A British medical journal reported in early 2006 that up to 10 million female fetuses were aborted in India over the past 20 years. This practice is known as:

- a. dais
- b. female infanticide
- c. preferred infanticide
- d. gender specific abortion

ANS: B

_____ 15. Section 498-A of the Indian Penal Code deals with illegal cruel conduct against women. Which of the following is a type of this conduct?

- a. conduct that is likely to drive a woman to suicide
- b. conduct which is likely to cause grave injury to the life, limb, or health of the woman
- c. harassment with the purpose of forcing the woman or her relatives to give some property
- d. all of the above

ANS: D

_____ 16. Commonly referred to as “karo kuri” or “tur,” _____ is a custom in Pakistan where male relatives kill sisters, daughters, or other female family members to avenge the shame she is accused of bringing to the family.

- a. honor killing
- c. vengeful killing

b. shame killing

d. none of the above

ANS: A

_____ 17. In Palestinian society, a woman's _____ is the property of the men around her, first her father, later a gift for her husband; a dowry as she graduates into marriage.

a. money

c. land

b. virginity

d. jewelry

ANS: B

_____ 18. Sexual abuse is a topic rarely studied in the People's Republic of China and _____ is not acknowledged as occurring.

a. rape

c. incest

b. child pornography

d. all of the above are not acknowledged

ANS: C

_____ 19. The transition to this type of economy in the Republic of Albania has left women more vulnerable due to a lack of jobs and an increased economic dependency on men.

a. fair trade

c. common market

b. free trade

d. protectionist

ANS: B

_____ 20. Approximately 20 to 30 percent of all murders committed in Russia take place:

- a. between friends
- b. between strangers
- c. in public places
- d. in the family

ANS: D

_____ 21. Intimate partner violence is not a specific criminal offense in the UK, but some of these acts may be included under what type of offense?

- a. assault
- b. harassment
- c. battery
- d. both a and c

ANS: B

True/False Questions

Indicate whether the sentence or statement is true or false.

_____ 1. The United Nations Development Fund for Women was created to provide financial and technical assistance to innovative programs and strategies that promote women's human rights, political participation, and economic security.

ANS: T

_____ 2. A legal analysis by the American Bar Association reveals that European countries have not initiated legislative reforms in order to prevent intimate partner violence.

ANS: F

___ 3. There are still 102 States that have no specific legal provisions against intimate partner violence.

ANS: T

___ 4. In Afghanistan more than eight out of every 10 acts of violence is committed by a family member such as a husband, father-in-law, son or cousin.

ANS: T

___ 5. The Canadian Criminal Code has very specific offence of violence against women or spousal assault.

ANS: F

___ 6. According to Human Rights Watch, studies on violence against women estimate that a woman in Pakistan is raped every two hours; approximately 70-90 percent of women suffer from some form of intimate partner violence; and there were at least 3,296 cases of violence against women in 2002.

ANS: T

___ 7. Reasons for these burning attacks predominantly by husbands or in-laws vary, but most cases center on failure to give birth to a daughter.

ANS: F

___ 8. In Palestinian society, a woman's virginity is the property of the men around her, first her father, later a gift for her husband; a dowry as she graduates into marriage.

ANS: T

____ 9. In January of 2003 the first campaign against intimate partner violence was launched in Romania, where aggressive relationship behavior is considered abnormal and morally wrong.

ANS: F

____ 10. In Uganda, changing the traditional gender expectations is difficult, both men and women believe that the husband has the right to beat and rape his wife.

ANS: T

Internet Based Exercises

1. What can you do to combat violence against women? Learn more about V-Day and other global antiviolence projects at <http://www.feminist.com>. Design a campaign or educational project and present your ideas to the class. What would it take to materialize your ideas?
2. NGOs in the People's Republic of China were introduced in this chapter. NGO represents a common global approach to combating violence against women. Can you find other NGOs that exist in other countries? To learn more about the role of an NGO, visit the Web site <http://www.vitalvoices.org> for the Vital Voices Global Partnership.
3. What does the Family Violence Prevention Fund do? Find out at <http://endabuse.org>.
4. Go to the Amnesty International Report 2008: State of the World's Human Rights. From here, you can find the status of violence against women around the world. Visit <http://thereport.amnesty.org/eng/Homepage>.