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| Title | **What is Gender-based Violence?** |
| Objective | * Explore and understand the meaning of gender-based violence
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| Target audience | Men only  |
| Group size | 20–30  |
| Estimated time | 1.5h |
| Materials  | Flip chart and marker |
| Printouts/downloadable resources | GBV* Cartoons showing [four types of gender-based violence](https://www.threemountains.academy/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/GBV-four-types-of-violence-English-smaller.png)
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| Source | Adapted from [*Journeys of Transformation*](https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=http://promundoglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Journeys-of-Transformation.pdf) by Promundo and [*Gender-based Violence* training module](http://www.migeprof.gov.rw/fileadmin/_migrated/content_uploads/GBV_Training_MODULE_English_Version.pdf) by Migeprof. |

1. **Steps:**

Introduction (20 minutes)

* The facilitator writes the four forms of violence shown in the cartoons on the flip chart and asks the following question:
* Who can give examples of psychological, economic, sexual or physical gender-based violence between partners?
* Allow for the discussion to develop around any examples given, then move on to the following questions:
* When is an act perceived as violent?
* What societal ideas, beliefs and perceptions fuel violence? (E.g. the idea that men have to beat women to maintain discipline).
* How can a nonviolent relationship help to increase the profit from a voluntary savings and loans (VSL) programme?

Small group work (one hour)

* Divide the participants into two groups. One group should prepare arguments that support four of the statements below. The other group should prepare arguments against four of the statements below:
* A man who has sex with his wife against her will is using his natural power and cannot be accused of sexual violence.
* Sexual violence does not happen between partners.
* A woman who does not ask her husband for permission to go to the VSL does not respect her husband, and the husband can force her to stay in the house for a week.
* Psychological violence cannot be considered a serious offence because it does not physically hurt.
* A husband who spends all his money on beer, without the permission of his wife, commits a form of economic violence.
* A woman who talks in public in the presence of her husband is a bad wife and should be called ‘bad wife’ or ‘witch’.
* A husband who allows his wife to spend VSL savings on her own needs must have been bewitched by her. He is not a normal husband.
* A husband who beats his wife when she disappoints him is showing love for her. This is not physical abuse.
* Invite each group to present their arguments.

**Homework:**

Every man in the group should ask his wife or partner how she perceives his role in the family. Does she consider him the boss, does he handle being the most powerful member of the household well? Is there anything she would like him to change about his behavior or do differently? Make clear that the participants should only ask the question and listen to the response.

The wives or partners have not participated in the training and they may need some time to speak up if their husband or partner comes back from a training and suddenly stars asking these questions. Prepare with the participants how they will feedback to their partners. The most important is a listening attitude of the man.

**2. Key message**:

The aim of this exercise is to make men more aware of what gender-based violence is, and to encourage them to change their behavior at home and become strong community advocates against GBV.

**3. Notes for facilitators:**

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| In this session, we reflect on acts of violence that occur between family members. In particular, men’s use of violence against female partners and spouses. Gender-based violence (GBV) is one of the most common types of interpersonal violence. The term refers to violence that is directed towards another person on the basis of their gender. Gender-based Violence can come in four guises:* Physical: slapping, kicking, burning, strangling
* Sexual: sexual coercion, forced sex, sexual threats and intimidation
* Emotional: isolation, humiliation, preventing access to health care, taking children hostage and making threats of violence
* Economic: withholding funds and preventing access to employment

Violence is related to power. When one person has power, they can abuse this and become violent. In general, men are assumed to have power over women, which is one of the reasons that conflicts between partners often turn violent against women. This is gender-based violence. Similarly, GBV occurs when a woman beats a man, even though this is less common. In this session, we focus on men and the different ways that men can abuse power and become violent against their wives, partners, female colleagues and daughters. |