

Public consultation
Summary of submissions

Gender Based Violence

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What is Gender Based Violence?

“Domestic violence, sexual violence, stalking and harassment, Female Genital Mutilation, trafficking, prostitution, so called ‘honour’ crimes, forced marriage, violence in conflict and Femicide.”

CA 30169 CA 30246 & CA 30179

“Coercive control is a persistent and deliberate pattern of behaviour by an abuser over a prolonged period of time designed to achieve obedience and create fear.

It may include physical and/or sexual violence. It is all about making a woman's world smaller – trapping her, restricting her independence and freedom. A controlling partner may shut out her friends and family, control her movements, micro-manage what she eats or wears, restrict her access to money – all the time chipping away at her confidence and destroying her self-respect.”

CA30180

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Women and Men and Gender Based Violence

“It can happen to anyone but is predominantly perpetrated against children of both sexes and women. In addition to being a child and a woman, other characteristics such as having a disability or being LGBT can increase the likelihood of being targeted for sexual violence.” CA 30265

“Men as well as older women and men are also victims of sexual violence with some submissions arguing that the prevalence of this maybe be underestimated.”
CA 30074, CA 30060 & CA 30187




Gender Based Violence and Gender Inequality

“Violence against women is both a cause and a consequence of women’s inequality and an obstacle to gender equality. It has physical, mental and social implications for survivors, as well as for their families and communities.

In some cases, it can even lead to death. GBV (gender based violence) can hinder one’s ability to earn a living, access education and participate in social and political life.”

CA 30246

“Gender violence is a massive problem it is used to oppress and intimidate women and girls. Women are raped, sexually assaulted and harassed by family members, bosses, colleagues and to a lesser extent by strangers in the street.” CA 30171





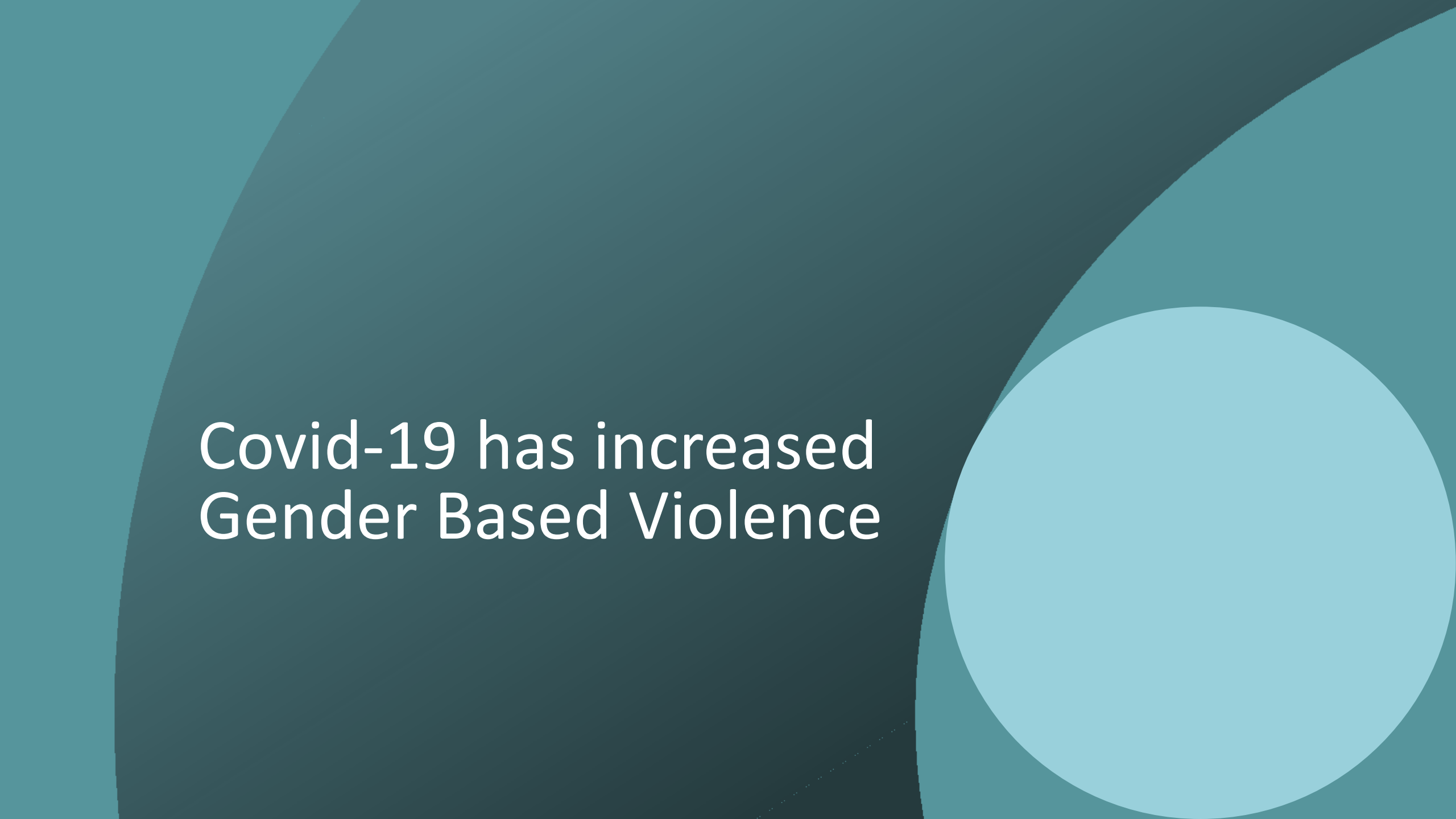
Gender stereotypes and Gender Based Violence

“Harmful gender stereotypes and roles imposed on us from birth and ingrained in us throughout our lives mean that we are not always equal in relationships and/or in sexual relations. We must address why a power imbalance between people can result in acts of sexual violence.”

CA30173

“Gender norms and stereotypes bleeding into the public’s views of sexual and domestic violence – such as women ‘ask’ to be raped by their actions and clothing choice and men cannot get raped – these beliefs are deeply problematic..”

CA 30191

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Covid-19 has increased
Gender Based Violence

“Home is not always the safest place during the Covid-19 Crisis and there are worrying reports from China and Italy that indicate an increase in domestic violence incidents during the crisis.

We must remember that workplaces and schools often offer sanctuary for victims of domestic violence. Job losses, remote working, self-isolation and other measures are already impacting on victims. The reality that the abuser may also be at home more can be very scary.”

CA30275



Impacts of Gender Based Violence

“From a young age, girls’ and boys’ freedom is gendered, most often because girls are seen as more vulnerable to assault by others.

The distance from the home and the age at which boys are allowed to move independently, (for example take the bus to town, go on unsupervised overnight stays away from home etc.) is more expansive and earlier than girls’ in general.”

CA 30265

“Women may be prevented from working, or their wages or social welfare payments may be taken by the perpetrator, leaving her with no independent income, may have disrupted work histories, with high rates of absenteeism frequent changes in jobs and more employment in casual work.


This leads to income inadequacy, creating dependency and further undermining her capacity to be independent and safe, particularly if she has children.” CA 30179

“It also has major implications for women’s access to leadership and decision making. When we think of the qualities needed to progress in leadership – confidence, self-belief, optimism and positivity – they are often the very traits that are eroded by domestic abuse and coercive control.”

CA 30180

“Gender based violence has both short and long term impacts on women, including on their physical health (e.g., injuries, infertility, chronic pain, long term disability, Femicide) and mental health (e.g., low self-confidence, depression, anxiety, PTSD, suicide).”

CA 30169


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People experiencing vulnerability at
greater risk of Gender Based Violence

“Migrant women who do not have an autonomous immigration status (status in their own right) are especially vulnerable in situation of domestic abuse.” CA 30254

“Language and literacy barriers, fear of negative treatment and discrimination in services, and inability to secure employment and safe and adequate accommodation/housing all act as barriers. This leaves Traveller and Roma women with very little concrete options but to stay in abusive relationships or leave and end up homeless.” CA 30264



Sexual exploitation, sexual harassment
and sexual violence in online, digital
and social media

“Online gender based sexual violence is real and can have profoundly negative effects on a person. This more recent type of sexual violence is already proving to be quite prevalent, particularly towards young women.

Online sexual violence includes: Non-consensual sharing of intimate images and videos. Online exploitation, coercion and threats; Online sexual harassment, Sextortion and Unwanted online sexual conduct.”

CA30173




Criminal Justice and Gender Based Violence

“Both within the justice system and in wider society, the victim of sexual violence is often blamed for what happened to them. This leads to a real reluctance to report offenders.”

CA 30173

“Sexual offence reporting rates are notoriously low. These cases have a very high rate of drop-off after reporting, occurring at many different stages in the criminal justice system. This impacts on our whole society, including permitting those who carry out the abuse to continue free from sanction or accountability.”

CA 30173

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Prevention of Gender Based Violence

“That prevention and accountability is fully prioritised across all publicly-funded education settings. And that all prevention is informed by the realities of gender inequality, sexism, misogyny and all other forms of hate.”

CA 30265

“The state should ensure mandatory sex education and healthy relationships education in schools.”

CA 30142



Services and Supports

“With a population of 4.73 million, Ireland’s 131 refuge beds fall far short of the recommended 473 beds required. The situation is even more difficult in rural areas where services need to cover wider catchment areas.”

CA 30247

“Resources must be allocated to the reform of family law courts system and the development of a model of multi-agency Domestic Homicide Reviews. An integrated courts welfare system should be established with appropriate facilities and wraparound services for victims of sexual violence.”

CA 30179

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Policy responses to Gender Based Violence

“Legislate for a minimum of 10 days paid leave for persons experiencing domestic and intimate partner abuse and violence.”

CA 30179, CA 30204, CA 30266, CA 30183, CA30275 and
CA 30169

“The establishment of a National Rapporteur for Sexual, Domestic and Gender Based Violence and exploitation, reporting regularly to Government on progress achieved, with adequate resources and powers to develop recommendations and monitor their implementation through a third national action plan.”

CA 30179, CA 30265, CA 30172, CA 30182, CA 30267,
CA 30169, CA 30255, CA 30173, CA 30188, CA 30187
and CA 30246