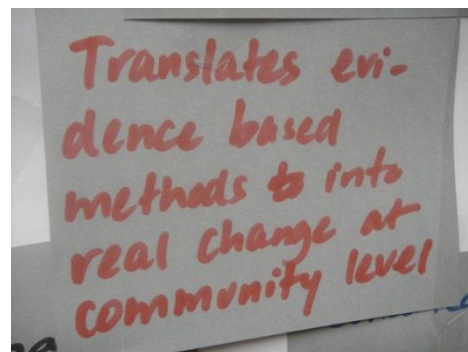


# Breaking the cycle of violence against women: health-based interventions

*Department of Reproductive Health and Research, WHO, November 2012*

For the past fifteen years, WHO has played a key role globally in the field of gender-based violence (GBV) because of its unique position in generating global evidence on the prevalence, risk factors and health outcomes of GBV, as well as in the development of evidenced-based guidance and tools around response and prevention. However, much remains to be done to tackle gender-based violence in its various forms and particularly at times in a women's life when she may be most vulnerable.

To address one aspect of this issue, WHO convened a meeting on 14-16 November 2012 bringing together a dynamic and diverse group of over 20 researchers and practitioners from 14 countries to develop strategies for improving interventions in health settings to reduce intimate partner violence, including among pregnant women. The meeting built upon the many lessons learned in implementing and testing interventions on violence against women in health care settings in various countries.



This skilled and committed group sought to share lessons from their research and to move even further by reaching agreement on key components of violence reduction interventions, common outcome measurement and research instruments. The group also highlighted key challenges in this area given competing demands and lack of resources, such as how to demonstrate the positive effect on children of interventions delivered to pregnant women, training of health care providers in intervention delivery, and providing the ideal dosage needed to effect change. The group also discussed ethical issues particular to research on violence with pregnant women.

The meeting covered topics ranging from the theoretical models underpinning intervention research on violence against women, to the practical strategies implemented and lessons learned from formative research and randomised-control trials around the world.



The meeting concluded with a number of practical and concrete actions including the agreement to develop a 'Researchers Handbook for Intervention Research on Violence Against Women' and the development of a Network on Intimate Partner Violence that will enable researchers to share research instruments, protocols, intervention descriptions as well as communicate with each other on an ongoing basis. In addition, the consensus around outcome measurement and instruments will ensure that meta analysis can be carried out, offering for the first time, the

potential to report evidence from many countries and across many settings for better advocacy and to influence policy and change.

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