

Sport GVP: Preventing Gender Based Violence in and through Sport

Understanding Gender-Based Violence: A Sport Perspective



Understanding Gender-Based Violence in Sports

Training Package for Sport Professionals, Staff, and Executives



Understanding Gender-Based Violence in Sports

Purpose: To provide a comprehensive understanding of gender-based violence (GBV), its various forms, and the factors that underpin it.

Key Topics:

- Prevalent forms of GBV in various contexts
- Cultural, legal, and systemic factors that interact to perpetuate GBV
- Prevalence and forms of GBV in sports environments
- Strategies to prevent abuse and harassment in sport

Target Audience: Sport professionals, coaches, sports administrators, and athletes.

Defining Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

- **Definition:** GBV refers to harmful acts directed at individuals based on their gender or acts that disproportionately affect individuals of a particular gender.
- **Forms of GBV in Sports:**
 - **Physical violence:** Intentional use of force causing injury, pain, or distress.
 - **Sexual violence:** Unwanted sexual advances, coercion, harassment, or abuse.
 - **Psychological violence:** Emotional manipulation, threats, humiliation, and intimidation.
 - **Economic violence:** Controlling access to financial resources, scholarships, or employment opportunities.
- **Reference:** The [Istanbul Convention](#) outlines four main forms of GBV: physical, sexual, psychological, and economic violence.

Types of GBV



Factors Contributing to GBV in Sports

- **Cultural and Social Norms:**
 - Gender stereotypes reinforce male dominance in sports and normalise harassment.
 - LGBTQI+ and female athletes are disproportionately affected by discrimination and violence.
- **Institutional and Legal Barriers:**
 - Weak enforcement of policies allows GBV to persist.
 - Lack of standardised reporting mechanisms discourages victims from coming forward.
- **Economic Dependence:**
 - Athletes may fear losing sponsorships, scholarships, or contracts if they report GBV.
- **Political Factors:**
 - Women and LGBTQI+ people under-representation in politics, limits their ability to advocate for effective policies that address GBV.

Prevalence of GBV in Sporting Environments - 1

Key Statistics:

- Studies show that 31% of women in the EU have experienced at least one instance of physical violence since the age of 15.
- Research suggests that the prevalence of sexual harassment can vary widely, from 1% to 64%, depending on the context and the group surveyed (Lang et al., 2023).

Case Studies:

- Abuse scandals in gymnastics and football highlight systemic failures in addressing GBV.
- Media investigations have led to policy reforms in sports federations worldwide.



Prevalence of GBV in Sporting Environments - 2

- **Vulnerable Groups:**

- Female athletes are more likely to experience sexual harassment and discrimination.
- LGBTQI+ individuals face homophobic and transphobic violence in sports environments.
- Young athletes are particularly at risk due to their dependence on coaches and institutions.



Strategies for Preventing and Addressing GBV in Sports - 1

- **Leadership and Cultural Change:**
 - Sports federations must promote gender equality and safe reporting structures.
 - Athletes should be empowered to challenge discriminatory norms.
- **Safeguarding Policies and Procedures:**
 - Establishing clear reporting mechanisms for GBV cases.
 - Implementing codes of conduct for coaches and staff.



Strategies for Preventing and Addressing GBV in Sports - 2

- **Education and Awareness:**
 - Training programmes on gender sensitivity and bystander intervention.
 - Integrating GBV awareness into sports curricula and coaching certifications.
- **Accountability Measures:**
 - Independent investigations and legal actions against offenders.
 - Transparent disciplinary procedures to hold perpetrators accountable.



Reflection and Discussion

- Key Questions
 - *What are the main barriers to addressing GBV in sports?*
 - *How can sports organisations implement effective prevention measures?*
 - *What role do coaches and athletes play in fostering a culture of respect and accountability?*



Conclusion

Summary of Key Takeaways

- GBV in sports is a systemic issue that requires proactive intervention.
- Education, policy development, and survivor-centred approaches are critical.
- Multi-stakeholder collaboration (athletes, institutions, policymakers) is essential to creating lasting change.



Questions?



THANK YOU



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