

# Violence against people with disabilities because of their gender during COVID-19

## Know your rights & checklist



**easy  
read**

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In this easy read document, hard words are in **bold**. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after they have been used.



Some words are [blue and underlined](#). These are links which will go to another website which has more information.

# Introduction

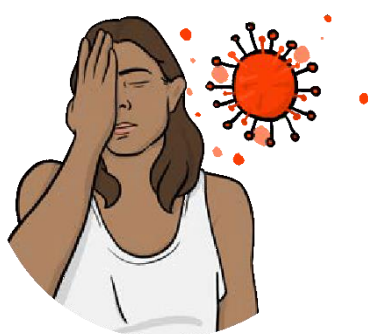


**Women Enabled International (WEI)** works for the rights of women, girls **gender non-conforming** people with disabilities, around the world.

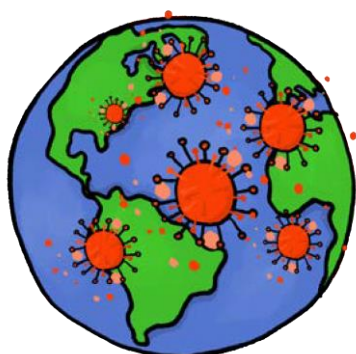


**Gender** is whether you like to be known as male, female or something else.

**Gender non-conforming** means you don't follow other people's ideas about gender. You may not dress or behave like other people think a male or female should.



We have written this information for people with disabilities who have experienced violence because of their gender, during **COVID-19**.



**COVID-19** is a new illness that is spreading around the world. It can affect your lungs and breathing.



This information explains:

- what we mean by violence against people with disabilities because of their gender



- your rights

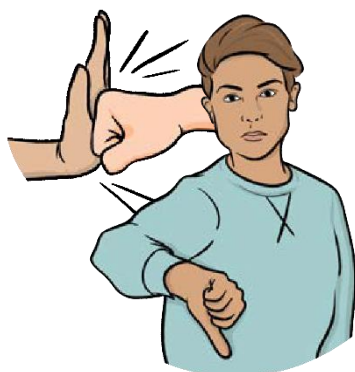


- what to do if you have experienced violence because of your gender



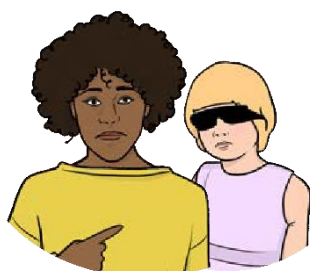
- what countries and support services should do, to stop violence against people because of their gender.

# Violence against people with disabilities because of their gender



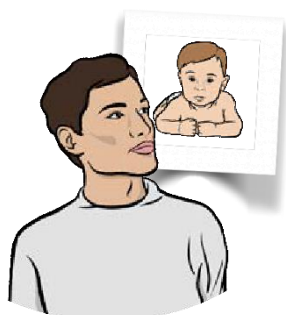
Violence against people because of their gender is called **Gender-Based Violence**.

**Gender-Based Violence** is harm that happens to a person or group of people because of their gender.

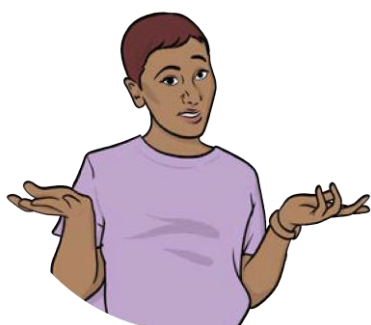


It can happen to anyone, but it mostly happens to:

- women and girls



- people who are a different gender to the one they were given when they were born



- people who are neither male or female.

In this information, these are the people we are talking about.

## Violence

There are different types of gender-based violence, including:



- physical violence - like being hit



- emotional violence - being made to feel upset



- psychological violence - being made to feel bad about yourself



- sexual violence - being forced to do sexual things, like kissing or touching when you don't want to





- financial violence - being stopped from spending your own money



- abuse - being hurt or treated badly.



## People with disabilities

People with disabilities may also experience gender-based violence.



It could be done by a support person or someone else who is close to you, like a partner or family member.



They might stop you from getting: ❌  
your medication



❌ some equipment you need



❌ food or money



❌ help to go to the toilet.

## COVID-19



There has been more gender-based violence against people with disabilities during COVID-19.



# Your rights



You have the right to be safe from gender-based violence.

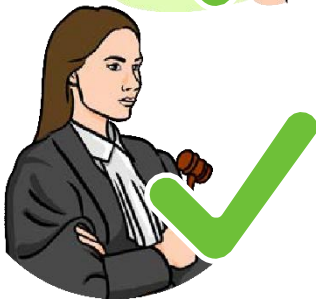


Your government must work to stop gender-based violence and punish the people who do it.



You have the right:

- not to be treated differently because of your gender or your disability



- to report a crime if you have experienced gender-based violence



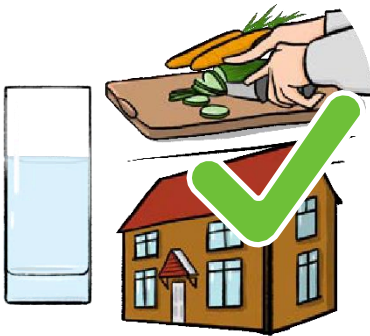
- to get information in a way you can understand, like easy read



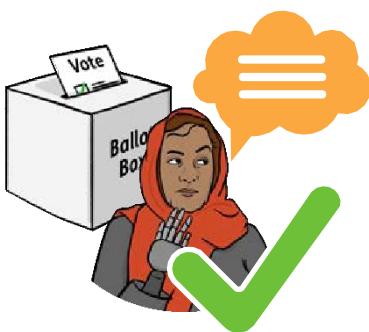
- to be safe in an emergency



- to get good health treatment



- to have enough food, water clothing and decent housing



- to be able to vote and say what you think about things



- to get services to help you if you have experienced gender-based violence



- to be able to go to somewhere safe if you have experienced gender-based violence.

## Your rights during COVID-19

During COVID-19, your government must:



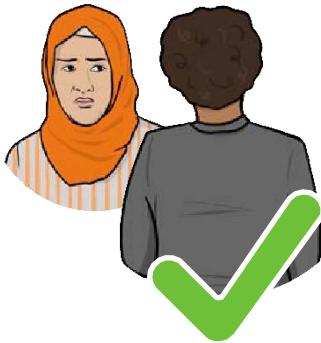
- respect your rights. Governments must have laws against gender-based violence



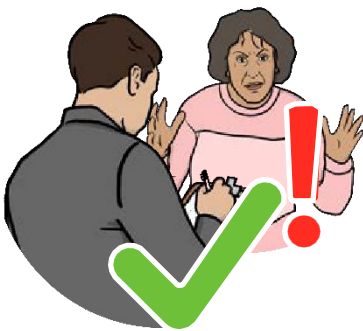
- protect your rights. Governments must protect people with disabilities from gender-based violence



- work to stop the things that cause violence against people with disabilities



- provide help to people who have experienced gender-based violence



- look into situations where someone has been violent and punish them



- help people with disabilities recover from gender-based violence.

# If you have experienced gender-based violence



Gender-based violence is **never** your fault. It is **not okay**.



If you have experienced any form of gender-based violence, you should report it to the police.



In an emergency you should contact the police straight away, or go to the hospital.

Whatever the COVID-19 rules are in your country, you **must** go straight to the police or hospital.



You should also:

- contact local organisations that help people who have experienced violence to be safe



- contact a local organisation that supports people with disabilities.



# Stopping the causes of violence

## COVID-19



During COVID-19 people have been on their own more often.

People with disabilities have had to stay indoors away from other people to stay safe from COVID-19.



Many professionals have not been able to support people in the same way.



Gender-based violence has become more likely to happen during COVID-19 for reasons including:

- people having less money
- people not being able to get support from their families so much





● fewer services



● people being alone at home

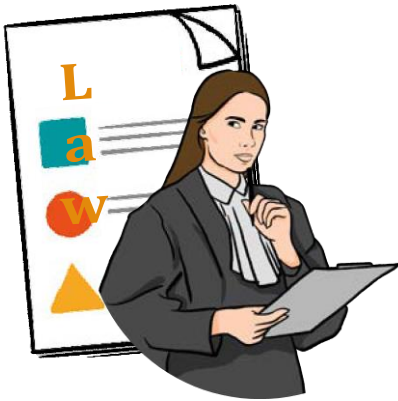


● stress



● people getting less care than they need.

# What countries should do



Countries should:

- have laws, **policies** and plans for dealing with gender-based violence

A **policy** is a set of rules about how something should be done.



- give people information about the risk of gender-based violence

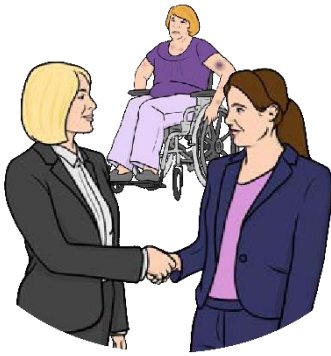


- make sure there are enough services to support people with disabilities



- help people who have lost their job or business during COVID-19.

## What services should do



Services should work together with organisations that are run by women with disabilities, to help people with disabilities who have experienced gender-based violence.



These organisations can work against gender-based violence by:

- setting up safe places for people to escape from violence



- helping people to use computers and phones, so they are not so alone.

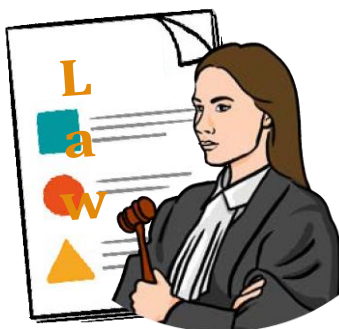
# Services to help people if someone is violent to you

## What countries should do

Countries should:



- make sure there are good and accessible services, to help and support people who have experienced gender-based violence during COVID-19



- have laws that make sure people with disabilities can report the crime and get justice, when they have experienced gender-based violence



- check the quality of services for people with disabilities that have experienced gender-based violence



- keep information about the violence, to help make things better in the future.

## What services should do



Services should:

- provide information about gender-based violence and the support that is available to people with disabilities



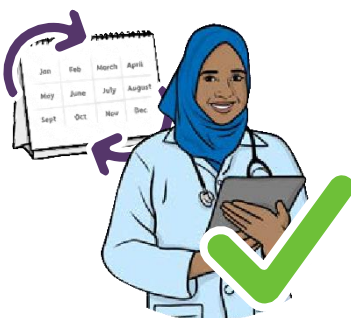
- let people with disabilities have a support person with them when they are getting help for gender-based violence



- give people the chance to meet online if it is safer to do this



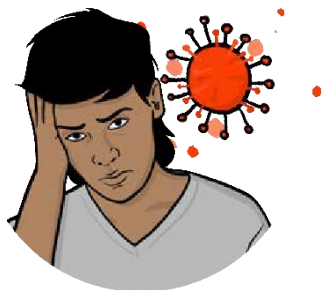
- provide long term help for people to recover from gender-based violence.



Sexual health services should do regular checks to see if people with disabilities may have experienced gender-based violence.



# A life without violence



COVID-19 has also made it harder to get the right support and services to help people with disabilities recover from gender-based violence.



In the future, when the world is safer from COVID-19, it is a good time to make sure these problems don't happen again.



The government must make sure that people with disabilities can live a life without violence.

## A. Better laws and policies

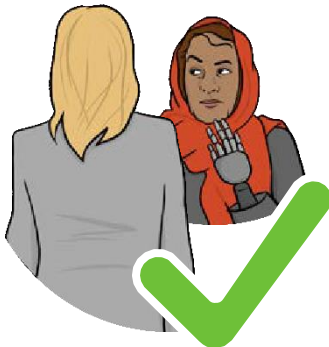
### What countries should do

Countries should make sure there are proper laws and policies to protect people from gender-based violence.



Countries must make sure that courts of law:

- are accessible to people with different needs
- have staff who have been trained to work with people with disabilities
- have a sign language interpreter and other types of support available.



## B. Better services

### What countries should do

Countries should:



- involve people with disabilities in checking that services are working properly



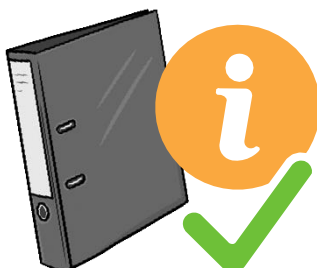
- provide training for staff, services and the police about disability and how to include people with disabilities



- look at what is stopping people with disabilities get a good service when they have experienced gender-based violence



- set up a proper way for people with disabilities who have experienced gender-based violence, to get the services they need



- collect better information about people who have experienced gender-based violence.

## What services should do



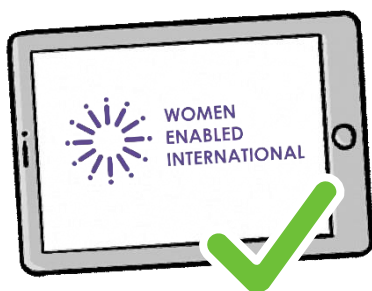
Services should:

- train their managers and staff so they know what to do when people with disabilities have experienced gender-based violence



- look at what is stopping people with disabilities to get good service when they have experienced gender-based violence.

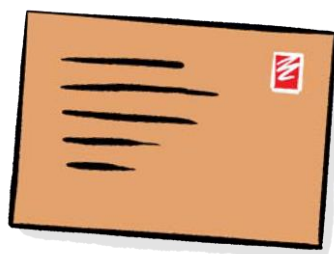
# For more information



If you need more information please contact us by:

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