

PREVENTION FOUNDATIONS—REFRESHER

PREVENTION

Violence against women
prevention principles




PREVENTIONCOLLABORATIVE




In this topic, we will cover principles that underpin violence against women prevention programming.

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VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PREVENTION PRINCIPLES



Accountable to women and girls Based in a gender-power analysis Inclusive and intersectional Prioritising the safety of women and girls Starting with ourselves


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At the Prevention Collaborative, we have found that successful programmes uphold five violence against women prevention principles. They are:

- Being accountable to women and girls
- Being based in a gender-power analysis
- Being inclusive and intersectional
- Prioritising the safety of women and girls
- Starting with ourselves

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VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PREVENTION PRINCIPLES




Accountable to women and girls
Invite input and feedback from women and girls at all stages of programme design and implementation

Based in a gender-power analysis

Inclusive and intersectional

Prioritising the safety of women and girls

Starting with ourselves

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Being accountable to women and girls

Prevention programmes must be accountable to the women and girls participating in them, and to women and girls in the community where the programme is implemented. Programmes should invite input and feedback from women and girls at all stages of programme design and implementation, including ensuring women’s meaningful participation in formative research, programme design, and evaluation.

In many contexts and communities, women’s rights organisations are embedded in communities and have long experience working on issues of violence against women. Other organisations working to prevent violence against women will benefit from consulting with and building strong relationships of mutual respect and trust with local women’s rights organisations. Interventions focusing on work with men and boys need to pay particular attention to how they are accountable to women, and in many contexts a good way to do this is to partner with local women’s groups and/or women’s rights organisations.

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VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PREVENTION PRINCIPLES



Accountable to women and girls

Invite input and feedback from women and girls at all stages of programme design and implementation


Based in a gender-power analysis

Analyse the gendered power dynamics in the context where violence is occurring and determine how interventions will affect those dynamics

Inclusive and intersectional

Prioritising the safety of women and girls

Starting with ourselves

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Being based in a gender-power analysis

Violence against women is embedded in a gendered relationship where the abuser uses and reinforces gender differences, privileges, and inequalities to control and violate their victim. Any work to prevent violence must therefore start with an analysis of these gendered power dynamics in the specific context where the violence is occurring.

It also requires a careful analysis of the power and position of those intervening to prevent violence and how any interventions will affect these gendered power dynamics to ensure the safety of women and girls is prioritised.

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Accountable to women and girls

Invite input and feedback from women and girls at all stages of programme design and implementation

Based in a gender-power analysis

Analyse the gendered power dynamics in the context where violence is occurring and determine how interventions will affect those dynamics

Inclusive and intersectional

Analyse how different characteristics and identities affect women's risk of violence and inform the most effective way to prevent violence and support survivors

Prioritising the safety of women and girls

Starting with ourselves

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Being inclusive and intersectional

Prevention programming must be safe, welcoming, and engaging for diverse groups of women and men, including by age, sexuality, dis/ability, race, ethnicity, and migration status.




It is important to recognise the ways that different forms of inequality and oppression operate together and exacerbate each other. This is often referred to as intersectionality. These interacting forms of oppression are forms of violence in themselves, and also often increase the risk of interpersonal violence that specific women face.


Therefore, it is important that prevention programmes are informed by an intersectional analysis of how different characteristics and identities affect women's risk of violence as well as inform the most effective way to intervene to prevent violence and support survivors.

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 <p><u>Accountable to women and girls</u></p> <p>Invite input and feedback from women and girls at all stages of programme design and implementation</p>	 <p><u>Based in a gender-power analysis</u></p> <p>Analyse the gendered power dynamics in the context where violence is occurring and determine how interventions will affect those dynamics</p>	 <p><u>Inclusive and intersectional</u></p> <p>Analyse how different characteristics and identities affect women's risk of violence and inform the most effective way to prevent violence and support survivors</p>	 <p><u>Prioritising the safety of women and girls</u></p> <p>Prioritise safety and work to minimise and mitigate potential backlash</p>	 <p>Starting with ourselves</p>
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Prioritising the safety of women and girls


Prevention programming often involves challenging unequal power relationships, and this may increase risks to women in the short-term. Programmes should prioritise safety and work to minimise and mitigate potential backlash.


Prevention programmes can prioritise safety in a number of ways such as:


- Undertaking risk assessment and safety planning with women;
- Providing support for survivors and women disclosing experiences of violence; and
- Monitoring and addressing backlash.

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 <p><u>Accountable to women and girls</u></p> <p>Invite input and feedback from women and girls at all stages of programme design and implementation</p>	 <p><u>Based in a gender-power analysis</u></p> <p>Analyse the gendered power dynamics in the context where violence is occurring and determine how interventions will affect those dynamics</p>	 <p><u>Inclusive and intersectional</u></p> <p>Analyse how different characteristics and identities affect women's risk of violence and inform the most effective way to prevent violence and support survivors</p>	 <p><u>Prioritising the safety of women and girls</u></p> <p>Prioritise safety and work to minimise and mitigate potential backlash</p>	 <p><u>Starting with ourselves</u></p> <p>Reflect on our own attitudes and beliefs around gender, power, privilege, and violence and how this impacts our work; foster collective care and staff support</p>
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Starting with ourselves

Finally, to do this work, we need to start with ourselves. This means that we, as both individuals and organisations, need to reflect on our own attitudes and beliefs around gender, power, privilege, and violence and how this impacts our work. This is a continual process; it cannot be achieved through 'one off' training.

When recruiting programme staff, community facilitators, or volunteers, it is important to select for gender equitable and non-violent beliefs as well as for skills and experience.

These individuals then need to be supported in a process of reflection around gender, power, privilege, and violence, and in building the skills needed for effective programming.

It is also important to foster collective care and build processes to support staff around safety and secondary trauma.

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