



Session 3: Health care worker policies for identifying and documenting GBV

SPACE | STRENGTHENING PACIFIC WOMEN'S
PROJECT | ACCESS TO HEALTH AND SAFETY



PACIFIC
WOMEN
LEAD



Pacific Community
Communauté
du Pacifique

Welcome to this training today

The SPACE Project seeks to empower women by prioritising their safety and health through tailored, evidence-based health-system response strategies that place GBV survivors at the heart of all health interventions.

Veilomani is a Fijian word referring to love for one another, to be at peace with each other, and working together constructively.

We would like to recognize any survivors of family violence in the room, We hope what we say is empathetic to their experience. We express sorrow for all the people, women and children who have been killed in the setting of family violence or gender based violence.

Self Care and Support

The subject matter of this day can be heavy and that there may be people in the room who have experienced violence. We know that often these discussions can prompt memories of trauma or other strong emotions – if you would like to take a break, we're more than happy for you to step out, step back, take a break.

We also encourage you to practice self-care. Look after yourselves and each other. Self-care can take many forms, spiritual, emotional, physical. For you, self-care might be completely different as it is for the next person. The important thing is to figure out what works for you!

If you do need to take a moment to step away from the session, to turn off your camera, please do take care of yourself.

Take a moment to consider support options within your own hospital.

Session Objectives

1. Develop awareness of health care workers' legal frameworks and obligations to respond to needs of survivors of GBV
2. Identify approaches to safely identify child and adult survivors of GBV

Resources

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). For the first time in history, the CEDAW Committee has come to the Pacific in April 2025 with high level sessions held in Suva, Fiji.

Vaelei Apulu-loasa of the Samoa Victim Support Group (SVSG) spoke about turning commitments into lived change.

“CEDAW must be more than policy—it must be practice,” she said. “At SVSG, we work every day to make the rights in this Convention real for women facing violence and vulnerability.”

The Pacific Humanitarian GBV Sub Cluster (GBV SC) is a coordinating body under the Pacific Humanitarian Protection Cluster and The Pacific Humanitarian team. Online resources directory includes national resources for 14 Pacific Island Countries and Territories

<https://pacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-gender-based-violence-kiribati-review-policy-and>

ELIMINATING SEXUAL & GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (ESGBV) IN KIRIBATI



INCREASING GENDER EQUALITY & IMPROVING HUMAN RIGHTS FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN

Kiribati National Policies

Kiribati Family Health and Support Study 2009

National Policy and Action Plan To Eliminate Sexual and Gender Based Violence 2011-2021

Te Rau N Te Mwenga or the Family Peace Act (FPA) 2014

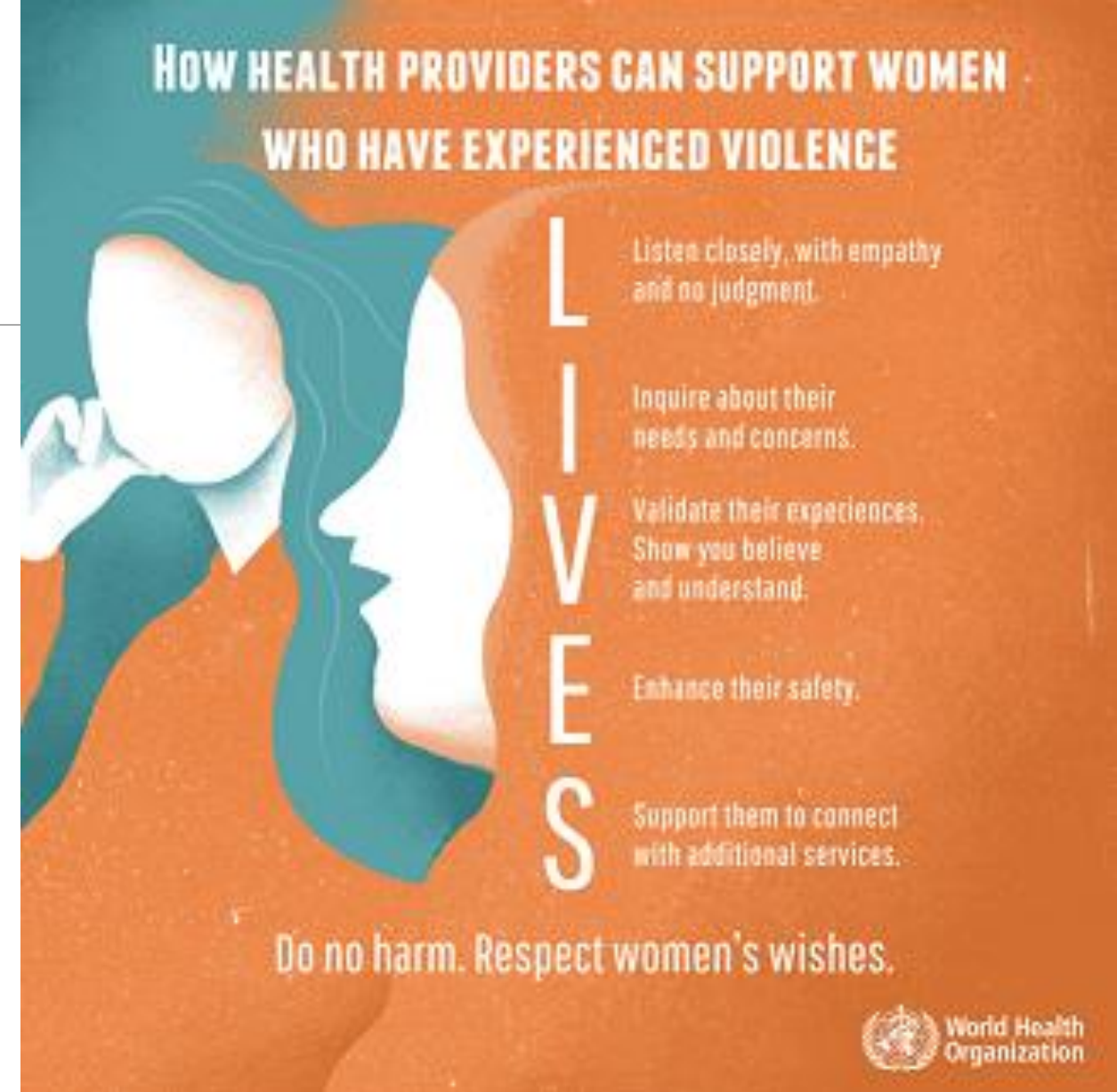
- introduction of preventative measures such as education and public awareness programmes to reduce, prevent and eliminate violence;
- introduction of a monitoring mechanism through a council comprising key stakeholders who have a critical role to play in the implementation of the law; and
- establishment of funding support for domestic violence victims such as shelters, training, prevention and public awareness programmes

AMAK (AiaMwaeaAinen Kiribati) is the national umbrella organisation for women. AMAK has been influential in generating visibility and awareness around the issue of domestic violence.

The Kiribati Family Health Association (KFHA) provides counseling to families

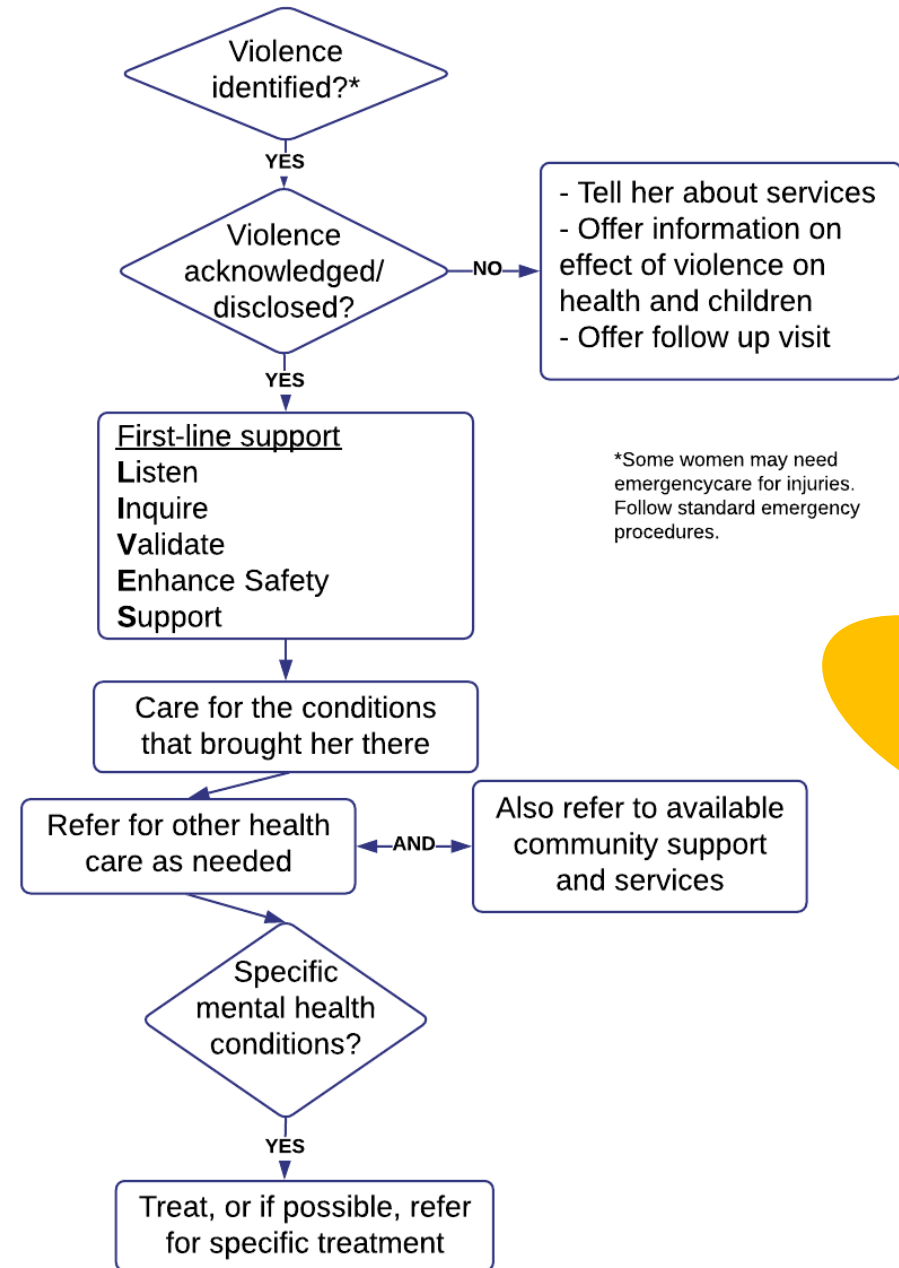
Kiribati Women and Children Support Center (<https://www.kwcsc.ki/>)

What to do and how to do it?



Summary protocol for intimate partner violence

1. Identify partner violence
2. First-line support: Listen, Inquire, Validate (LIV)
3. Treat health conditions that brought her to the facility
4. First-line support: Enhance safety, offer Support (ES)
 - a. Assess and plan for safety
 - b. Refer for other support services
5. Assess for mental health conditions
 - a. Manage or refer for moderate to severe mental health conditions



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World Health
Organization

CARING FOR WOMEN
SUBJECTED TO
VIOLENCE: A WHO
CURRICULUM FOR
TRAINING HEALTH-
CARE PROVIDERS

Minimum system requirements for asking about IPV

- ✓ Training on how to ask and on minimum first-line response
- ✓ A protocol/standard operating procedure
- ✓ Private setting
- ✓ Confidentiality ensured
- ✓ System for referral in place

If a facility cannot now meet all 5 criteria, then efforts are needed to
make sure that all these criteria can be met.



Caring for women subjected to violence: A WHO curriculum for training health-care providers

Identifying partner violence

NOTE: Universal screening is NOT recommended

- **Clinical enquiry** IS recommended, and health-care providers should be sensitized and have a low threshold for asking, as answers can improve diagnosis and treatment
- Printed information on services for partner violence should be available in private areas (with cautions about taking it home)
- Posters with general information on partner violence can be displayed in waiting areas.

Clinical inquiry: suspect violence if:

- ✓ On-going stress, anxiety or depression; substance misuse
- ✓ Thoughts, plans or acts of self-harm or (attempted) suicide
- ✓ Injuries that are repeated or not well explained
- ✓ Repeated STIs
- ✓ Unwanted pregnancies
- ✓ Unexplained chronic pain or conditions
- ✓ Repeated health consultations with no clear diagnosis
- ✓ Partner or husband is intrusive during consultations
- ✓ Often misses health-care appointments
- ✓ Children have emotional and/or behavioural problems



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violence: A WHO curriculum for
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Key messages



- Health care workers have an important role – **providing information** and **building trust** through effective communication.
- To identify IPV, stay alert to **clinical cues**
 - **Ask compassionately**, without judging
 - **Verbal and non-verbal skills** are important
 - **Active listening** provides important support
 - Your **skills** will improve with practice
- Policies- helping health care workers to access resources, support and to deliver more effective healthcare for the people in our communities.