

Analysis of Resolution A/77/302: Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence Against Women and Girls

By the Domestic Abuse and Violence International Alliance

October 17, 2022

The World Health Organization reports that men are far more likely to die of violence-related causes than women, for the following age groups:¹

- 5-14 years: Male: 1.7; Female: 1.0
- 15-24 years: Male: 57.7; Female: 8.1
- 25-34 years: Male: 92.3; Female: 10.3
- 35-54 years: Male: 70.6; Female: 6.5
- 55-74 years: Male: 29.5; Female: 3.3

Overall, the WHO reveals that men are more than eight times more likely than women to die of violence-related causes.

The 2016 report, A Gendered Analysis of Violent Deaths, similarly concluded, “Globally, men and boys accounted for 84 per cent of the people who died violently in 2010–15.”² Clearly, violence against men represents a greater problem than violence against women.

Regarding domestic violence, a compilation of 343 scholarly investigations concluded that “women are as physically aggressive as men (or more) in their relationships with their spouses or opposite-sex partners.”³ These studies were conducted on a broad range of racial, ethnic, and socio-economic groups in 40 different countries.

But inexplicably, a Resolution has been introduced to the UN Third Committee titled, “Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate all Forms of Violence Against Women.”⁴ The document focuses on digital abuse and domestic violence during the COVID pandemic, against women. The document includes no mention of violence against men, and no corresponding resolution on violence against men has been introduced in the United Nations.

DIGITAL ABUSE

The A/77/302 document makes the claim that “reports emerged of a surge in violence against women and girls in digital contexts.” (page 3). *But the UN proposal provides no data to support its claim of a “surge.”*

¹ <https://platform.who.int/mortality/themes/theme-details/topics/indicator-groups/indicator-group-details/MDB/violence> Death rates per 100,000 population.

² <https://www.smallarmssurvey.org/resource/gendered-analysis-violent-deaths-research-note-63>

³ https://www.researchgate.net/publication/261543769_References_Examining_Assaults_by_Women_on_Their_Spouses_or_Male_Partners_An_Updated_Annotated_Bibliography

⁴ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/465/68/PDF/N2246568.pdf?OpenElement>

Scientific research reveals:

1. A 2017 study on digital abuse by the Center for Innovative Public Health Research concluded, “12% of men have been targeted by a current or former romantic partner, as have 12% of women. This similarity in rates for men and women holds true for each of the different types of abuse we asked about.”⁵
2. The authoritative book, *Child and Adolescent Online Risk Exposure*, concludes, “it is difficult to conclude that digital abuse is a gender-specific behavior in adolescents’ romantic relationships.”⁶
3. According to a 2021 survey by the Pew Research Center, 43% of men, compared to 38% of women, have experienced online harassment. Some 35% of men say they have been called an offensive name, compared to 26% of women. Men report being physically threatened online more often than women as well — 16% vs. 11%.⁷
4. A 2022 article on digital abuse revealed, “I believe parents are dismissive ... by not understanding that boys can be in an abusive relationship. Boys can be extra ashamed to come forward.”⁸
5. A 2022 study found that 8.0% of men aged 18-35 years had been targeted for technology-facilitated abuse.⁹
6. A study published in the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* found that males were significantly more likely to have experienced digital dating abuse (32.3%) compared to females (23.6%), and more likely to experience all types of digital dating abuse, and were more likely to experience physical aggression.¹⁰

In summary, the A/77/302 proposal ignores the research findings that show men and boys experience digital abuse at levels that are similar to, or greater than the abuse experienced by females.

COVID PANDEMIC

The A/77/302 document claims an “intensification of violence against women since the start of the pandemic.” *But the resolution does not present a single police report or crime statistic to support such a conclusion.*

Research reveals the following:

1. Police reports and crime statistics reveal the following:

⁵ https://datasociety.net/pubs/oh/Intimate_Partner_Digital_Abuse_2017.pdf

⁶ https://www.researchgate.net/publication/346394065_Gendered_nature_of_digital_abuse_in_romantic_relationships_in_adolescence

⁷ <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2021/01/13/the-state-of-online-harassment/>

⁸ <https://www.wfyi.org/news/articles/teen-domestic-violence-digital-abuse-parents-should-know>

⁹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8786424/>

¹⁰ https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0886260519897344?rfr_dat=cr_pub%3Dpubmed&url_ver=Z39.88-2003&rfr_id=ori%3Arid%3Acrossref.org&journalCode=jiva

- a. Australia: In New South Wales, the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research found “no evidence of an increase in domestic violence since social distancing was implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.”¹¹
 - b. Reports from the following countries revealed no increase in domestic violence as a result of COVID stay-at-home policies: Albania, Austria, Canada, India, Netherlands, Russia, Spain, and Tasmania.¹²
 - c. United States:¹³
 - i. Several analyses found a *decrease* in police calls for domestic violence during the COVID pandemic. For example, in seven cities criminologist Matthew Ashby reported that overall, there was a 2% decrease in domestic violence/family dispute calls.¹⁴
 - ii. The National Commission on COVID-19 and Criminal Justice concluded, based on reports from 11 cities, that “Domestic violence did not increase in the first quarter of 2021 over the first quarter of 2020.”¹⁵
 - iii. The FBI reported a decline in the number of rapes during the pandemic: “When compared with the estimates from 2019, the estimated... volume of rape (revised definition) offenses decreased 12.0%,” from 43.6/100,000 persons in 2019 to 38.4/100,000 in 2020.¹⁶
 - iv. The FBI reported the number of homicides committed by spouses, girlfriends, and boyfriends remained steady in 2020, compared to previous years.¹⁷
2. Calls to domestic violence hotlines:
- a. Many claims about the alleged increase in domestic violence during the COVID pandemic rely on reports about calls to local domestic violence hotlines. But such reports are unverifiable and unreliable.¹⁸
 - b. Claims of a “surge” in domestic violence resemble the 1993 Superbowl Abuse Hoax, when domestic violence activists claimed that “Women’s shelters and hotlines are flooded with more calls from victims on Super Bowl Sunday than on any other day of the year.” The Superbowl Hoax was later debunked by the *Washington Post*.¹⁹
 - c. The number of calls to the U.S. Domestic Violence Hotline remained steady during the COVID pandemic from 2018-2020.²⁰

¹¹ <https://quadrant.org.au/opinion/media/2021/08/the-great-covid-domestic-violence-fundraiser/>

¹² <http://endtodv.org/pr/coronavirus-abuse-hoax-unravels-across-the-globe/>

¹³ <http://endtodv.org/coronavirus-abuse-hoax/>

¹⁴ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7337826/#sup1>

¹⁵ <https://covid19.councilonci.org/2021/05/21/impact-report-covid-19-and-crime-4/>

¹⁶ <https://www.fbi.gov/news/pressrel/press-releases/fbi-releases-2020-crime-statistics>

¹⁷ <https://crime-data-explorer.fr.cloud.gov/pages/explorer/crime/shr>

¹⁸ <http://endtodv.org/pr/hoax-alarming-claims-of-domestic-violence-spike-cannot-be-verified/>

¹⁹ <http://endtodv.org/pr/coronavirus-abuse-myth-recognized-as-greatest-media-hoax-of-2020/>

²⁰ https://www.thehotline.org/wp-content/uploads/media/2021/06/Hotline-EOY-Impact-Report-2020_FINAL.pdf

3. Domestic violence reporting follows a cyclical pattern, with more reports during the summer months and fewer reports in the winter months.²¹ Most analyses of domestic violence during the COVID pandemic did not account for this cyclical pattern.
4. In India, Smriti Irani expressed dismay over the domestic violence “scaremongering” at the hands of certain non-governmental organizations.²²
5. Commentator Corrine Barraclough concludes, “The myth that domestic violence is surging in lockdown will become one of the biggest lies the gendered narrative leans on for additional funding.”²³

Overall, the A/77/302 Resolution makes a series of unsupported and false claims about domestic violence during the COVID pandemic.

CONCLUSION

The Domestic Abuse and Violence International Alliance concludes that UN Resolution A/77/302: Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence Against Women and Girls is a modern-day exercise in Orwellian disinformation. The United Nations delegates cannot take such a one-sided, poorly referenced, and intellectually dishonest document seriously.

²¹ https://cdn.ymaws.com/counciloncj.org/resource/collection/D26974EF-0F75-4BDE-ADE7-86DA0741DC49/Impact_Report_-_Crime.pdf

²² https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/union-minister-smiriti-irani-debunks-claims-of-lockdown-leading-to-increase-in-domestic-violence/articleshow/76256622.cms?utm_source=facebook.com&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=TOIMobile

²³ https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=corrine%20barraclough&epa=SEARCH_BOX