



مشروع

التنقل من أجل المعرفة
مؤسسة حياة للتنمية

بالتعاون مع شبكة نساء الأديان من أجل
السلام

دراسة بحثية مقارنة بين مصر وفنلندا حول أشكال
وأساليب مواجهة قضية العنف ضد المرأة

ممول من مؤسسة اناليندا

ALFinMOTION, Anna Lindh Foundation Mobility
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Research presenter: DR : Nermeen Elbahtiti

Organization name : Life Foundation for development and community integration

Email: info@lfdci.org

Thematic area : Gender

Research Title : An Eye on Peace and Violence

comparative study of mechanisms for confronting domestic violence with peace and interfaith dialogue between Egypt and Finland, where violence rates are high despite the existence of laws binding on all parties

Aims to explore the dynamics of peace building and conflict resolution with a focus on addressing domestic violence and fostering harmony among diverse religious communities . Through comprehensive research and community engagement, the project seeks to raise awareness, implement effective interventions, and promote a culture of understanding and peace..

[According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence \(NCADV\): Every year, nearly 10 million women and men become victims of domestic violence. Every minute, about 20 people are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States.](#)

The following words are used to describe domestic violence :

[Family violence intimate partner violence for more information please read this Resource for Action, formerly known as, "technical package," represents a select group of strategies based on the best available evidence to help communities and states sharpen their focus on prevention activities with the greatest potential to prevent intimate partner violence \(IPV\) and its consequences across the lifespan.](#)

domestic abuse abusive relationship

toxic relationship DV

maltreatment controlling relationship

unhealthy relationship crazymaking

1- Introduction

Within the framework of the Mobility for Knowledge project funded by the Analinda Foundation, which is a comparative research study between the countries of Egypt and Finland on the forms and methods of confronting the issue of violence against women.

#ALFinMOTION, #AnnaLindh_Foundation #Mobility_Programme

#Mobility_for_Knowledge

The Life Foundation, represented by its director, Ms. Nermin Al-Bahtiti, received the director of the Network of Women of Believers, Religions for Peace in Finland, Ms. Heidi Rotunmaa, for a week in Egypt.

The Religions for Peace Finland network consists of women from different cultural, religious and other world backgrounds in Finland and is part of the RfP network, a European institution committed in the spirit of friendship to work together to promote spiritual values, social justice and peace for an inclusive Europe.

The Finnish network has more than 10 years of experience in promoting gender equality.

Heidi Rautionmaa, Head of the RfP Network in Finland has long experience in dialogue work (<https://enorb.eu/heidi-rautionmaa-bio>)

Heidi has attended as a speaker at numerous seminars on promoting gender equality and active participation of women. Heidi has worked as a journalist for 25 years.

She wrote three books on dialogue between cultures and religions.

She is a PhD student at the University of Helsinki and a teacher in worldview dialogue and peace education.

Heidi organized digital storytelling workshops among different groups.

Life Foundation for Development and Community Inclusion works to support women exposed to violence and has a hosting center to provide all support services, rebuild lives, and create new opportunities and rehabilitation for women in Egypt, through art and social media, enhancing the democratic skills of partners, and creating new networks and jobs in the field of reintegration. woman. Giving females greater confidence and increased knowledge.

The Foundation carries out exhibitions of handmade book artworks and shares the unique working style of partners, casting a wider network for broader intercultural dialogue.

The research represents an addition for both parties to support women's issues between Egypt and Finland through dialogue

Through the hosting program, which lasted a week from December 5 to December 12, 2023, where a number of meetings were held with consultants and specialists in the field of domestic violence and dialogue.

The Embassy of Finland was also visited, where a meeting was held with Mrs. Birgit Autere, Deputy Head of Mission, Deputy Head of the Finnish Mission in Egypt (Deputy Ambassador), to present the results of this study, which will later be presented as a project to be implemented during the year 2024, based on that comparative research study.

2- **What is the relationship between peace and violence?**

Positive peace means no war or violent conflict combined with a situation where there is equity, justice and development. The absence of war by itself does not guarantee that people do not suffer psychological violence, repression, injustice and a lack of access to their rights

3- **Purpose of the Study**

Injuries – both unintentional and violence-related – take the lives of 4.4 million people around the world each year and constitute nearly 8% of all deaths.

Preventing injuries and violence will facilitate achievement of several Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets.

This comparative study will appear as a research study for dissemination and documentary visual content for dissemination of women's narratives and Zoom meetings about the experiences of women from both countries, and highlights the importance of peer support spaces as a key site of growth and recovery for women experiencing these experiences. Highlights the importance of giving women Living experience is a space to share their experiences and express their opinions about the support available to them. We show the power of women coming together and this work stresses the importance of listening to women, appreciating their strength and recognizing their resilience and the ways they can emerge from a violent situation.

Where successful stories from different cultures were followed and monitored to be recorded in order to share them to learn from each other and about what things women have in common and how they can provide support to each other and solidarity .

A. Background

Domestic violence is violence committed by someone in the victim's domestic circle. This includes partners and ex-partners, immediate family members, other relatives and family friends. The term 'domestic violence' is used when there is a close relationship between the offender and the victim Comprehensive research on domestic violence is essential for several reasons, as it plays a crucial role in addressing and combating this pervasive issue. Here are key points highlighting the need for such research:

Understanding the Scope and Prevalence: Comprehensive research helps in quantifying and understanding the extent of domestic violence. This includes the prevalence, incidence, and various forms of abuse. Having accurate data is crucial for developing effective strategies and policies.

Identifying Root Causes: Research allows for a deeper exploration of the root causes and contributing factors of domestic violence. This insight is vital for designing targeted interventions

that address the underlying issues, whether they are related to socio-economic factors, cultural norms, or psychological aspects.

Tailoring Interventions: Different populations may experience domestic violence in unique ways. Comprehensive research helps in tailoring interventions to specific demographics, considering factors such as age, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and cultural background. This ensures that support services are effective and culturally sensitive.

Assessing the Impact on Victims: Understanding the physical, emotional, and psychological impact of domestic violence on victims is crucial. Research helps identify the long-term consequences and informs the development of support services and recovery programs.

Examining Perpetrator Dynamics: Research can shed light on the characteristics and motivations of perpetrators, aiding in the development of targeted intervention programs. This knowledge is essential for breaking the cycle of violence and preventing future incidents.

Evaluating Effectiveness of Interventions: Comprehensive research allows for the evaluation of existing interventions and policies. This assessment helps identify what works and what doesn't, leading to improvements in support services and legal frameworks.

Informing Legal and Policy Changes: Research provides evidence that can be used to advocate for legal and policy changes. It helps in shaping legislation and policies that are grounded in empirical data, ensuring a more effective and nuanced response to domestic violence.

Promoting Prevention Strategies: Understanding the risk factors and early indicators of domestic violence enables the development of prevention strategies. Research can inform educational programs, community outreach efforts, and campaigns aimed at raising awareness and preventing violence before it occurs.

Empowering Survivors: Research can contribute to understanding the needs and preferences of survivors, allowing for the development of survivor-centered support services. This empowerment is crucial for survivors to rebuild their lives and break free from the cycle of abuse.

Raising Public Awareness: Comprehensive research helps dispel myths and misconceptions surrounding domestic violence. It provides the foundation for public awareness campaigns, fostering understanding and support for those affected while reducing stigma.

comprehensive research on domestic violence is a cornerstone in the fight against this pervasive problem. It provides the knowledge necessary to develop effective prevention and intervention

strategies, support survivors, and advocate for systemic changes that contribute to a society free from domestic violence.

Domestic violence can involve :

[Physical violence is when a person hurts or tries to hurt a partner by hitting, kicking, or using another type of physical force.](#)

[Sexual violence is forcing or attempting to force a partner to take part in a sex act, sexual touching, or a non-physical sexual event \(e.g., sexting\) when the partner does not or cannot consent.](#)

Stalking is a pattern of repeated, unwanted attention and contact by a partner that causes fear or concern for one’s own safety or the safety of someone close to the victim.

Psychological aggression is the use of verbal and non-verbal communication with the intent to harm a partner mentally or emotionally and/or to exert control over a partner.

Although domestic violence affects individuals across race/ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic background, it is most prevalent among adolescents and young.5 Women of diverse racial/ethnic backgrounds experience disproportionately high rates. Other risk factors for domestic violence include low income and lower educational status, exposure to adverse childhood experiences, being unemployed, and being a member of a sexual minority. In addition, women with severe mental health difficulties are more likely to be victims of domestic violence.

Regardless, given the high prevalence of IPV, everyone could be at risk.

I. Other Forms of Violence and Abuse

Domestic Violence and Economic Abuse

Domestic Violence and Guns

Domestic Violence and Physical Abuse

Domestic Violence and Emotional or Psychological Abuse

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Domestic Violence and Stalking

Domestic Violence and Pets

Domestic Violence in Specific Populations

American Indian/Alaskan Native Women and Domestic Violence

Dating Violence and Teen Domestic

[To end all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls by 2030, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 5.2, comprehensive and multi-sectoral solutions are required.](#)

Crime prevention and criminal justice responses are a key part of this approach. Since 2010, UNODC has been supporting countries to ensure that this is done in a victim-centered manner, in line with the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence

against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and other related international standards and norms. UNODC offers targeted technical assistance, including through its Global Programme on Strengthening Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses to Violence against Women (GLOW65) and in collaboration with its partners under the UN-EU Spotlight Initiative and the Joint UN Global Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls subject to Violence.

4- Detailed analysis of domestic violence patterns in Egypt and Finland

I. Domestic Violence Patterns in Egypt:

Cultural Norms:

Patriarchal Influences: Egypt's cultural norms are influenced by patriarchal structures, where traditional gender roles often lead to power imbalances within relationships.

Family Honor: Concerns about family honor can contribute to underreporting, as victims may fear bringing shame to their families by disclosing abuse.

Legal Framework:

Limited Legal Protections: While there are laws against assault and abuse, the legal framework may not comprehensively address all forms of domestic violence.

Challenges in Enforcement: Enforcement of existing laws may be hindered by societal attitudes and the perception of domestic issues as private matters.

Reporting Challenges:

Stigma and Silence: Societal stigma surrounding family matters can lead to a culture of silence, with victims reluctant to report abuse due to fear of judgment and isolation.

Economic Dependence: Economic dependence on spouses may contribute to victims enduring abuse, as financial factors become barriers to seeking help.

Religious Influences:

Misinterpretation of Religious Teachings: Misinterpretations of religious teachings may contribute to the belief that endurance of suffering is virtuous, potentially deterring victims from seeking help.

Access to Support Services:

Limited Resources: Limited availability of shelters, counseling, and legal assistance may hinder victims' ability to seek help.

Cultural Barriers: Societal and cultural barriers may discourage victims from accessing support services.

I. Domestic Violence Patterns in Finland:

Gender Equality Norms:

Egalitarian Culture: Finland is known for its egalitarian culture, with a strong emphasis on gender equality.

Rejecting Violence: Cultural norms reject domestic violence, fostering an environment where abusive behavior is less likely to be tolerated.

Legal Framework:

Comprehensive Legal Protections: Finland has robust legal frameworks addressing domestic violence, including protective orders and criminalization of various forms of abuse.

Gender Equality Laws: Laws emphasizing gender equality contribute to a more comprehensive response to domestic violence.

Reporting and Support Systems:

Encouragement to Report: Societal encouragement to report abuse and seek help fosters a climate where victims feel supported.

Comprehensive Support: Robust support systems, including shelters, counseling, and legal aid, contribute to a more proactive response to domestic violence.

Educational Initiatives:

Education and Prevention: Finland's focus on education and prevention contributes to a culture that is more informed about healthy relationships and intolerant of abuse.

Normalization of Reporting: Reporting domestic violence is normalized through education and awareness campaigns.

Economic Independence:

Individual Autonomy: Finland's emphasis on individual autonomy supports victims in asserting their independence and seeking help without fear of judgment.

Conclusion:

In Egypt, domestic violence patterns are influenced by traditional gender roles, family honor concerns, and limited legal and support structures. In contrast, Finland exhibits a more egalitarian culture with comprehensive legal protections, supportive systems, and an emphasis on education and prevention. Analyzing domestic violence patterns in each country requires considering the interplay of cultural, legal, and societal factors. Ongoing efforts to challenge harmful norms, improve legal protections, and enhance support services are crucial for fostering environments where survivors are empowered, and violence is unequivocally condemned.

5- Brief overview of domestic violence in Egypt and Finland

II. Statistics and prevalence in Egypt and Finland

In 2021, the Observatory of Crimes of Violence Against Women recorded 813 cases of violent crimes compared to 415 the previous year. Recent statistics published by the National Council for Women in Egypt show that the rate of violence is as high as 86 percent.

The adult may be a relative, caregiver, step-parent, religious figure, coach, or babysitter, though the majority of perpetrators are parents of the child. In the United States, children experience child abuse or neglect at a rate of 8.9 per 1,000 children

Thirty-one percent of currently or previously married Egyptian women aged between 15 and 49 were subjected to some form of physical, sexual, or psychological abuse by their spouses in 2021, according to the Egyptian Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS).

Citing the latest results of the Egyptian Family survey, CAPMAS said that 22.2 percent of married women experienced psychological abuse at the hands of the husband, while 25.5 percent experienced physical abuse.

In addition, 26.1 percent of the women in the same category were subject to both physical and psychological abuse, CAPMAS said in a statement marking the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, which is celebrated annually on 25 November.

The statement also indicated that Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) has declined in Egypt, as the survey showed that only 14.2 percent of Egyptian girls between the ages of 0 and 19 had undergone the illegal procedure, down from 21.4 recorded in 2014.

Egypt recently established 26 anti-domestic-violence units at university hospitals to help women nationwide, as well as eight equipped medical response units at public and private university hospitals for survivors of violence.

The country has also raised penalties for violence against women – including female genital mutilation – to serious prison terms.

New legislation has omitted any reference to medical justification for performing FGM and introduced separate penalties for the medical personnel involved – including physicians and nurses – and for the facilities in which the operation was conducted.

Meanwhile, on the same occasion, the Ministry of Social Solidarity and the National Council for Women (NCW) launched 16-day campaigns to combat violence against women.

The campaigns, which run till 10 December, aim to combat all forms of violence against women and create local momentum to find solutions to the problem.

Globally, one out of every four young women (between the ages of 15 and 24) have experienced violence, while 27 percent of married women (between the ages of 15 and 49) reported that they were subject to some form of violence by their husbands, CAPMAS added in its statement, citing statistics by the World Health Organization.

III. Domestic statistics violence statistics in Finland

Domestic violence is very common in Finland, according to a study by Statistics Finland

1 in 3 women in Finland experience intimate partner violence

Number of victims of domestic violence in Finland from 2011 to 2021

Characteristic	Number of victims
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2021	10,905
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2020	11,077
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2019	11,289
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2018	10,612
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Proportion of ever-partnered women aged 18–74 years experiencing intimate partner physical and/or sexual violence at least once in their lifetime. Source: European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, 2014. Violence against Women: An EU-wide Survey. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union.

(2) Proportion of ever-partnered women aged 18–74 years experiencing intimate partner physical and/or sexual violence in the last 12 months. Source: European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, 2014. Violence against Women: An EU-wide Survey. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union.

(3) Proportion of women aged 18–74 years experiencing sexual violence perpetrated by someone other than an intimate partner at least once in their lifetime. Source: European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, 2014. Violence against Women: An EU-wide Survey. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union.

(4) Percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before age 18. Source: UNICEF global databases, 2021, based on DHS, MICS and other nationally representative surveys.

(5) The Gender Inequality Index is a composite measure reflecting inequality between women and men in three different dimensions: reproductive health (maternal mortality ratio and adolescent birth rate), empowerment (share of parliamentary seats held by women and share of population with at least some secondary education), and labour market participation (labour force participation rate). Source: United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Report 2021/2022.

(6) The Global Gender Gap Index benchmarks national gender gaps on economic, political, education and health criteria. Source: World Economic Forum, the Global Gender Gap Report 2022.

- **Key Objectives for the Comprehensive Research :**

Conduct extensive research to understand the dynamics of domestic violence and its impact on diverse religious communities.

6- Community Engagement:

Foster meaningful dialogue and collaboration within communities to address domestic violence, encouraging inclusivity and shared responsibility.

7- Awareness Campaigns:

Implement targeted awareness campaigns to educate the public on the nuances of domestic violence and the importance of fostering harmonious relationships.

Intervention Strategies:

Develop and implement effective intervention strategies to support victims of domestic violence and prevent future occurrences.

Interfaith Harmony:

Promote interfaith understanding and cooperation as a cornerstone for building peaceful communities, emphasizing shared values and mutual respect.

Approach:

Research-Driven Solutions:

- Utilize research findings to tailor interventions that address the unique challenges faced by different religious communities in the context of domestic violence.

Cultivating Inclusivity:

- Create platforms for open dialogue and collaboration, fostering an environment where community members actively contribute to the prevention of domestic violence.

Creative Awareness Initiatives:

- Implement innovative and culturally sensitive awareness campaigns to capture the attention of diverse audiences and inspire positive change.

Empowerment Programs:

- Develop programs aimed at empowering victims of domestic violence, providing them with resources and support for rebuilding their lives.

Interfaith Dialogue Platforms:

- Facilitate regular interfaith dialogue sessions to promote understanding, tolerance, and cooperation among religious communities.

8- Cultural and societal factors contributing to domestic violence

Domestic violence is a complex issue influenced by a variety of cultural and societal factors. It's crucial to recognize that these factors interact in intricate ways, and no single factor can fully explain the occurrence of domestic violence. However, some common cultural and societal elements that may contribute to domestic violence include:

Cultural Norms and Gender Roles:

Traditional Gender Norms: Societies with rigid gender norms and expectations may contribute to power imbalances and the justification of control within relationships.

Patriarchal Systems: Cultures that uphold patriarchal structures may normalize male dominance and reinforce the idea that men have the right to control women.

Societal Tolerance and Acceptance:

Normalization of Violence: Societal acceptance or normalization of certain forms of violence, whether within families or communities, can contribute to an environment where abusive behavior is excused or ignored.

Stigma and Silence: Societal stigma and silence surrounding domestic violence can discourage victims from seeking help or reporting abuse.

Economic Factors:

Financial Stress: Economic hardships and financial instability can contribute to tension within households, potentially leading to increased instances of domestic violence.

Dependency Issues: Economic dependence on a partner may make it challenging for victims to leave abusive relationships.

Cultural and Religious Beliefs:

Misinterpretation of Religious Texts: Misinterpretations of religious teachings may be used to justify control or violence within relationships.

Cultural Perceptions of Honor: In some cultures, the concept of family honor may be linked to controlling the behavior of women, often resulting in violence when perceived norms are violated.

Lack of Education and Awareness:

Lack of Awareness: Limited education and awareness about the dynamics of healthy relationships and the consequences of domestic violence may contribute to its perpetuation.

Myths and Misconceptions: Cultural myths and misconceptions about relationships and gender roles can perpetuate harmful beliefs.

Socialization and Childhood Experiences:

Modeling Behavior: Individuals who have witnessed or experienced domestic violence in childhood may be more likely to replicate such behavior in their own relationships.

Socialization into Violence: Societal messages that condone aggression as a means of problem-solving can contribute to a culture where violence is seen as acceptable.

Legal and Judicial Systems:

Inadequate Legal Protection: Weak legal frameworks, lax enforcement, or inadequate protection for victims can contribute to a culture where perpetrators believe they can act with impunity.

Cultural Resistance to Legal Intervention: Some societies may resist external interventions, viewing domestic matters as private and not subject to legal interference.

Lack of Support Services:

Limited Access to Support: Insufficient availability of support services, such as shelters, counseling, and legal assistance, may discourage victims from seeking help or leaving abusive relationships.

Addressing domestic violence requires a comprehensive approach that considers the unique cultural and societal contexts in which it occurs. This involves challenging harmful cultural norms, promoting education and awareness, strengthening legal frameworks, and providing robust support systems for survivors. It's essential to promote cultural sensitivity while actively working to change attitudes and behaviors that contribute to domestic violence.

9- - Existing legal frameworks in both countries

Egypt:

Constitutional Protections: The Egyptian Constitution includes provisions that prohibit discrimination based on gender and promote equality. However, the effective implementation of these principles may face challenges.

Criminal Code: Egypt has laws that criminalize various forms of violence, including assault and homicide. However, the effectiveness of these laws in addressing violence against women may vary.

Legislation on Domestic Violence: there wasn't a specific law in Egypt addressing domestic violence comprehensively. However, there were discussions and efforts to enact legislation focused on domestic violence maybe will start a community discussion for it in 2024 .

Sexual Harassment Laws: Egypt has laws that criminalize sexual harassment, and there have been amendments to strengthen penalties for such offenses. Still, the enforcement of these laws can be challenging.

Protection Orders: There may be provisions for protection orders in cases of domestic violence, but their effectiveness might be influenced by various factors, including social attitudes and implementation challenges.

Finland:

Constitutional Protections: The Finnish Constitution includes provisions promoting gender equality and prohibiting discrimination based on gender.

Criminal Code: Finland has comprehensive criminal laws addressing violence, including assault, rape, and homicide. The Criminal Code applies universally without discrimination based on gender.

Domestic Violence Legislation: Finland has specific legislation addressing domestic violence. The Act on Restraining Orders provides a legal framework for protection orders in cases of domestic violence.

Sexual Offenses Legislation: Finnish law includes provisions criminalizing sexual offenses, including rape and sexual harassment. The laws are designed to protect individuals from various forms of sexual violence.

Support Services: Finland has established support services for victims of domestic violence, including shelters, counseling, and legal assistance. These services are crucial in providing comprehensive support to those affected.

It's important to note that both Egypt and Finland may have ratified international conventions and treaties that address violence against women, and these agreements can influence domestic legislation. Additionally, societal attitudes, law enforcement practices, and the availability of support services all contribute to the overall effectiveness of legal frameworks in addressing violence against women in any given country.

[For more information read GREVIO's \(Baseline\) Evaluation Report](#)

[on legislative and other measures giving effect to the provisions](#)
[of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating](#)
[Violence against Women and Domestic Violence \(Istanbul Convention\)](#)

[In FINLAND](#)

GREVIO is the body of independent experts responsible for monitoring the implementation by the parties of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention).

GREVIO draws up and publishes reports evaluating legislative and other measures taken by the parties to give effect to the provisions of the convention. In cases where action is required to prevent a serious, massive or persistent pattern of any acts of violence covered by the convention, GREVIO may initiate a special inquiry procedure. GREVIO may also adopt general recommendations on themes and concepts of the convention.

Article 66 of the Istanbul Convention governs GREVIO membership. It provides that GREVIO shall have between 10 and 15 members, depending on the number of parties to the convention.

10- Emphasize the importance of peace building and interfaith dialogue

Peace building and interfaith dialogue play crucial roles in fostering harmony and mitigating societal violence. In a world marked by diverse cultures, religions, and ideologies, these endeavors are essential for promoting understanding, tolerance, and cooperation among communities. Here's why they are of utmost importance:

Prevention of Conflict: Peace building efforts focus on addressing the root causes of conflicts and preventing them from escalating into violence. By promoting open communication and understanding, societies can identify and address grievances before they lead to hostility.

Cultural Understanding: Interfaith dialogue promotes understanding and respect among individuals of different religious backgrounds. It allows people to appreciate the similarities and celebrate the differences in their beliefs, fostering a sense of unity rather than division.

Humanizing "The Other": Often, violence arises from dehumanizing those perceived as different. Interfaith dialogue humanizes people from diverse backgrounds, breaking down stereotypes and fostering empathy. This can help counteract prejudice and discrimination, reducing the likelihood of violence.

Building Trust: Peace building and interfaith dialogue contribute to the establishment of trust among communities. Trust is a fundamental element in preventing conflicts and resolving disputes peacefully, as it allows for open communication and collaboration.

Conflict Resolution: When conflicts do arise, whether rooted in religion or other factors, interfaith dialogue provides a platform for peaceful resolution. Through dialogue and negotiation, parties can find common ground and work towards solutions that benefit all involved.

Social Cohesion: Peaceful societies are built on a foundation of social cohesion. Interfaith dialogue and peace building initiatives strengthen the bonds that tie communities together, promoting a sense of shared humanity and collective well-being.

Counteracting Extremism: By fostering moderation, tolerance, and mutual respect, interfaith dialogue helps counteract the influence of extremist ideologies. Extremism often thrives in an environment of ignorance and fear, which can be mitigated through informed and open conversations.

Educational Impact: Peace building and interfaith dialogue contribute to education by promoting inclusivity and diversity. Educational programs that emphasize these values can help prevent the indoctrination of individuals into violent ideologies.

Global Stability: In an interconnected world, societal violence in one region can have far-reaching consequences. Peace building and interfaith dialogue contribute to global stability by fostering international cooperation, understanding, and solidarity.

In summary, peace building and interfaith dialogue are integral components of creating a world where differences are embraced, conflicts are resolved peacefully, and societies thrive in harmony. Their importance lies not only in preventing violence but also in building resilient, inclusive communities that can withstand the challenges of a diverse and interconnected world.

11- **Surveys, interviews, and focus groups with survivors, communities, and experts :**

Certainly, the results of surveys, interviews, and focus groups with survivors, communities, and experts on domestic violence can provide valuable insights into various aspects of the issue. Here's an explanation of what these results might encompass:

Surveys:

Prevalence Rates:

Surveys can reveal the prevalence of domestic violence within a given population, shedding light on the extent of the issue.

Types and Frequency of Abuse:

The results may detail the types and frequency of abusive behaviors, including physical, emotional, economic, or sexual abuse.

Barriers to Reporting:

Understanding the reasons survivors might hesitate to report incidents, such as fear, shame, or lack of awareness, can inform intervention strategies.

Effectiveness of Support Services:

Feedback on the effectiveness of existing support services, such as hotlines or shelters, can be gathered to identify areas for improvement.

Interviews:

Individual Experiences:

In-depth interviews with survivors provide a nuanced understanding of their individual experiences, the context of abuse, and the impact on their lives.

Coping Mechanisms:

Interviews can reveal the coping mechanisms survivors employ, offering insights into resilience and potential areas for support.

Perceptions of Community Response:

Understanding survivors' perceptions of how their communities respond to domestic violence is crucial for assessing the effectiveness of community support.

Focus Groups:

Community Norms and Attitudes:

Focus groups with community members can explore prevailing norms and attitudes towards domestic violence, helping identify cultural factors that may contribute to or inhibit abuse.

Community Support Systems:

Discussions can reveal the availability and effectiveness of informal support systems within communities, such as neighbors or local organizations.

Educational Needs:

Focus groups provide a platform to discuss educational needs within communities, including awareness campaigns and prevention strategies.

Experts:

Legal and Policy Insights:

Experts, including legal professionals and policymakers, can provide insights into the effectiveness of current legal frameworks and policies addressing domestic violence.

Recommendations for Improvement:

Experts may offer recommendations for improving support services, legal protections, and community-based interventions.

Identification of Risk Factors:

Professionals with expertise in psychology or social work can contribute to identifying risk factors and early intervention strategies.

Cross-Cutting Themes:

Intersectionality:

Results may reveal how factors such as gender, race, socioeconomic status, and immigration status intersect with experiences of domestic violence.

Resilience and Empowerment:

Common themes of resilience and empowerment among survivors may emerge, providing inspiration for developing strengths-based interventions.

Gaps in Services:

The findings can identify gaps in services, highlighting areas where additional resources or specialized support may be needed.

In summary, the results of these research methods offer a comprehensive understanding of domestic violence, helping inform targeted interventions, policy changes, and community-based strategies to address this complex issue effectively.

Survivors

I. Olaa . H Program Director, Master of Laws - Specialist in evaluating and monitoring violence programs :

She had a history of domestic violence and has developed anti-domestic violence initiatives , worked in a number of international organizations, such as Save the Children, on projects related to saving children from violence , "The husband was a violent person; she experienced domestic violence until she recently got divorced after numerous legal cases. She managed to turn her crisis into a means of supporting survivors of violence, especially children. She believes that resisting domestic violence happens through having friends as supporters, resilience, and transforming the crisis into a driving force for changing the lifestyle pattern."

II. Simone N , a 15-year-old girl,

is a victim of domestic violence. Her mother physically abuses her before her exams due to her desire for academic excellence. Simone's father is addicted and mentally ill, frequently visiting hospitals for treatment with little success. Ongoing conflicts between her parents, constant physical abuse, and mistreatment have led Simone to seek refuge in the church within the religious complex. There, she engages with tourists and sits with the clergy.

Simone has attempted suicide multiple times, leaving visible scars on her wrists. After an extended conversation with Simone and communicating with her mother to understand Simone's struggles, efforts were made to instill trust in the child. Meetings with the clergy at the church aimed to explain ways to handle her, emphasizing the necessity of sessions with her mother.

Simone requires a period of recovery, and the Lifeline Foundation will take custody of her after the academic year ends. The foundation plans to communicate with her mother, offering psychological support and attempting to facilitate communication between the mother and her daughter.

Emotional support, counseling, and financial assistance will be provided to help Simone cope with the traumas she has endured and make informed decisions.

The foundation aims to assist with financial aid, education, and awareness-raising, increasing awareness about domestic violence's effects on children. It aims to empower them to seek help, leave abusive relationships, and reorganize family dynamics.



Activists

IV. Nabil boulos Financial and Administrative Director - Rome - Egyptian Christian with Italian citizenship interested in studies of violence against women



Community activist - Lecturer in volunteer work - Master of Business Administration - Master of Marketing

The dialogue with him shaped the human rights activist's point of view between Egypt and Italy on the issue of domestic violence

Zero Tolerance:

he as a Community activists often advocate for a zero-tolerance approach to domestic violence, emphasizing that any form of abuse is unacceptable.

Gender Equality:

A commitment to gender equality , recognizing that domestic violence is rooted in unequal power dynamics and societal norms that need to be challenged.

Educational Initiatives:

raise awareness about domestic violence, its signs, and the available resources for both victims and perpetrators seeking help.

Community Engagement:

emphasize the role of the community in addressing domestic violence, encouraging active involvement, open dialogue, and support for survivors.

Legal Reforms:

call for and support legal reforms that strengthen protections for victims, enhance law enforcement responses, and hold perpetrators accountable.

Cultural Sensitivity:

Recognizing the cultural factors contributing to domestic violence, and may advocate for culturally sensitive interventions that address specific community needs.

Support Services:

A strong emphasis on the importance of accessible and comprehensive support services, including shelters, counseling, and legal aid, to help survivors rebuild their lives.

Men's Role in Prevention:

man , including male community leaders, may stress the importance of engaging men in the prevention of domestic violence, emphasizing their role as allies and advocates.

Trauma-Informed Approaches:

Acknowledging the impact of trauma on survivors, he advocate for trauma-informed approaches within support services and legal systems.

Youth Education:

Recognizing the need for prevention from a young age, he support educational programs in schools that teach children about healthy relationships, consent, and conflict resolution.

Economic Empowerment:

Advocacy for economic empowerment programs to help survivors achieve financial independence and reduce barriers to leaving abusive relationships

Community Collaboration:

Emphasizing collaboration between community organizations, government agencies, law enforcement, and businesses to create a united front against domestic violence.

Breaking the Silence:

Encouraging survivors to speak out and breaking the silence surrounding domestic violence, creating an environment where individuals feel supported and empowered to seek help.

Global Solidarity:

Recognition that domestic violence is a global issue, with supporting and learning from international efforts to combat abuse.

In summary, his opinion on domestic violence is likely to be rooted in a commitment to fostering positive change, challenging societal norms, and creating a supportive environment for survivors within the community.

II. Waseem Khaled project writer - Community activist in women's empowerment

, a master's student at the American University

His family suffers from societal violence because of their presence in Rafah, Palestine, as a result of the war, as war is also one of the aspects of violence in the world that must be confronted with peace.

He has participated in several initiatives to prevent societal violence and continues to advocate for peaceful coexistence. Waseem believes that women should protect themselves by:

Increasing awareness of their rights and understanding the meaning of violence in its various forms.

Identifying the type of violence directed against them.

Determining the harm they have experienced, specifying the duration of exposure to violence, and assessing its negative impact. This can be achieved through open and trustworthy conversations with close individuals.

He also believes that without peace, communities often experience conflict, violence, and instability, hindering progress and leading to loss of lives and resources. Equality in accessing justice is essential to protect individual rights, resolve conflicts, and ensure that vulnerable populations are not marginalized or mistreated.



- **Hesham maximos Financial Manager at Orascom**

He works through a program addressing violence against women, training them to physically confront it. The program focuses on empowering women to combat both physical and psychological violence through dialogue and resisting violence.

Believes that domestic violence can lead to various crimes, emphasizing the importance of empowering and educating women as a means to provide comprehensive services for survivors of gender-based violence. This empowerment aims to enhance their ability to adapt and cope effectively.

- **Nihad Zaki. A women poet, journalist, and translator interested in cinema**

Received the Buland Al-Haidari Award for Young Arab Poets, in its seventh session for poets for women , during the meeting she belive in combating violence against women

Nihad As a community activist said Violence directed at women by the husband was at the top of the list of domestic violence, and the manifestations of this violence varied between verbal insults from the husband and beatings, threats of divorce, threats of deprivation of children, prevention of visiting family, and others , Poverty is the most important cause of domestic violence against women among the majority of women , as all women are exposed to domestic violence to the same degree , Circumcision is also a form of domestic violence, 3%, while the vast majority of abused women did not take any reaction to their exposure to violence out of a desire to preserve their marital life , Despite our attempt to support women through hosting centers, the hosting centers suffer from low turnout of abused women

This is due to cultural obstacles on the one hand, and the lack of knowledge of the majority of women about them on the other hand.

In their current state, hosting centers are merely places that provide shelter and basic needs for abused women for a short period of time.

Hosting centers face a number of financial and administrative difficulties, problems specific to the cultural context of Egyptian society, and the lack of coordination and cooperation.

The beneficiaries of the hosting center services are characterized by low social and economic characteristics of the first-generation family.

In a study by the National Center for Social and Criminological Research and the National Council for Women: Published in January 2022, under the title Violence against Women: "Dimensions and Coping Mechanisms," the researcher noted that 75% of women are exposed to violence and 80% are exposed to harassment in Egypt.

The study attempted to draw an accurate map of the phenomenon of violence against women in Egyptian society, whether in the private or public sphere, in addition to trying to explore how women deal with the violence they are exposed to, and to identify the official institutions concerned with helping and supporting battered women and the extent of their effectiveness.

75% were exposed to violence in Egyptian society, The study reached several results, the most important of which is that nearly three-quarters of the sample in the study acknowledged that women are exposed to violence in Egyptian society, and violence in the street was the most prominent among them, and domestic violence came in second place, and violence in places of study or work also appeared in different levels. late.

80% were exposed to violence and harassment in the street a percentage exceeding 80% of the intentional or probability sample indicated that women are exposed to violence and harassment in the street, and this percentage increases in urban areas and among males and younger youth.

The most prominent form of violence against women in the street was harassment (verbal aggression, kissing, hand-holding, touching, etc.), and the reasons for women's exposure to violence and harassment were inappropriate clothing, followed by poor morals. 50% were exposed to violence and insults almost half of the female respondents were exposed to some form of violence, insults, or harassment, where passivity and doing nothing was the most prominent response among the female respondents, and the most important reason for this was that they would not be able to obtain their rights in any case.

The most important effects of harassment on those who were exposed to it were a feeling of insecurity, followed by a feeling of tension and fear, then a feeling of humiliation and fear of walking in the street.



Specialists in domestic violence :

**DR : Naglaa Imbaby Director of the Naglaa Al-Imbabi Foundation for Women Empowerment –
PHD in Public Relations**

She raised her five sisters to combat violence against them - a wife and mother

She manages her organization and empowers women to reach entrepreneurship and lead their future , believes that domestic violence is a reason why societies do not progress

It is a path to all societal ills , her organization provides :

Support Groups for Domestic Violence Victims

Therapeutic and Counseling Services

Hotlines and Crisis Intervention Services

Legal Assistance and Advocacy

Shelters and Safe Housing Options

Peer Support and Counseling Programs

Education and Awareness Campaigns

Family and Child Relationship Consultations

Mindfulness Techniques and Stress Management

Creative Arts Therapies such as Dance, Music, and Art

She believes that domestic violence requires unified legislation, and the state should expedite its issuance and activate government support mechanisms for survivors in a more positive manner.

"She believes that economic empowerment for women is one of the most effective means of resisting violence practiced against them."



III. Rudy Embabi - one of Dr Naglaa sisters – she is Spanish language teacher

She does not want to get married due to her fear of domestic violence. She emphasizes the prevalence of violence between spouses and divorces within the first year of marriage. She does not feel any sense of security in the idea of marriage, completely rejects the idea of getting married, prefers working, and chooses to distance herself from any societal violence.

- **Shrif rizk** Author of the book “In the Beginning was Freedom” is a human rights activist and journalist , works at the Interfaith Dialogue Foundation and has held several positions in this field

In a lengthy speech, Mr. Sharif pointed out There is a reciprocal relationship between dialogue and violence, meaning that the more active, positive, and healthy the dialogue is, the less tendencies towards violence there will be. Conversely, when channels of dialogue are blocked, narrowed, or restricted, tendencies towards violence increase. It is emphasized that religions universally endorse dialogue and acceptance of others, citing examples from religious texts that emphasize respect for different faiths.

The need to urgently confront violence by promoting a culture of freedom, openness, and human rights is stressed. Preserving religious diversity, which is the foundation of both the East and the West, is crucial. The media plays a significant role in disseminating the culture of dialogue and coexistence among various religions, alongside social media platforms.

Shrief highlights the critical connection between dialogue and violence and suggests that active dialogue reduces violent tendencies, while inactive dialogue and intolerance increase them. It calls for a comprehensive system to address and counteract violence, with hospitals open to addressing cases of violence against women, children, and gender-based violence. The legal system should handle these cases with strictness, seriousness, and efficiency, and the police should prioritize and treat such cases with utmost importance.

The importance of changing societal attitudes and mentalities towards violence against women is emphasized. Education, media, and a reinterpretation of religious texts are mentioned as tools for this change. While not advocating for altering religious texts, the text suggests reinterpreting them from a perspective that ensures equality and rights for all, regardless of gender. It emphasizes that women have the right to read, interpret, and understand religious texts just as men have done for centuries.



- **Tamer El-Rawi is a lawyer and social activist who has been working with abused women for 11 years, assisting them in obtaining their legal rights.**

During the visit to the Roman Museum in Alexandria, a meeting took place with Mr. Tamer El-Rawi, a lawyer at the Court of Cassation and an activist in women's issues. The conversation revolved around the law, issues of violence, and the importance of dialogue. .

Mr Tamer believes that Egypt's family law was enacted very late, and the current law fails to achieve justice in dealing with domestic violence effectively and efficiently.

The current legal system does not adequately address the issue of domestic violence. Seeking justice through the legal system in Egypt comes at a significant cost for women, and they may not be able to afford the expenses. It's important to note that violence towards men is also prevalent.

There is violence in the family resulting from poor dialogue and understanding of the importance of dialogue

he pointed that according to what was reported in the Egyptian newspapers, the representative of the "Al-Doustour" Party, Ibrahim Al-Saidi, indicated that the Ministry of Justice's statistics regarding domestic violence cases during the year 2021-2022 showed that about 9,583 domestic violence cases were received, 90 percent of which were filed by wives, and five percent by women. Children

In the first two weeks of 2023, Egyptian newspapers were filled with headlines about 11 cases of domestic murder, and according to the latest statistics conducted by the Tadween Center for Gender Studies, based on the number of incidents published in Egyptian newspapers between January and March 2023, a total of The number of cases of murder of women in Egypt during the first quarter of this year was about 51 cases of murder or suicide of women and girls, and the percentage of murder cases at the hands of a family member or outside the family accounted for 92.1 percent, while the number of suicide cases caused by their exposure to any form of violence constituted Gender-based (because the victim is female) 7.9 percent. According to the study, the cases of killing of women and girls committed by a family member exceeded 80 percent, and 11.8 percent of those cases were committed by a friend, neighbor, or stranger.

he said that Following the same methodology by collecting news related to the murders of women published in the Egyptian press, Independent Arabia found that the number of victims of gender-based violence reached more than 77 cases of murder of women of different ages during the first half of the current year.

The data he collected, based on research statistics from Egyptian non-governmental organizations on crimes of violence against women during the last three years, 2021, 2022, and 2023, showed a steady increase in the murders of women in Egypt, whether at the hands of the husband, a family member, or outside the family.

and current data in most of casess in front of courts show that family disputes are the most common motives behind the killing or suicide of women and girls, followed by inheritance seizure, and then for reasons related to behavioral suspicions. In general, there is an increase in cases of

violence against women in Egypt. According to the Edraak Foundation for Development and Equality, the total number of violent crimes against women in 2022 reached about 1,006 crimes, including murder, rape, beating, harassment, sexual blackmail, suicide, and forcible imprisonment, compared to 813. Crime of 2021, as the Foundation indicated that the noticeable increase in violent crimes against women and girls is driven by the increase in domestic violence.

When comparing the quarterly statistics recorded by the Edraak Foundation, the year 2021 recorded 140 violent crimes against women and girls in its first quarter, including 60 murders, 39 of which were committed by a family member. The number almost doubled in the first quarter of 2022 to reach 262 violent incidents. Among them were 72 murders of women and girls, and 54 were classified as crimes of domestic violence.

Taking into account the numbers indicated by Tadween in its study, the number of murders at the hands of a partner or a family member in the first quarter of 2023 reached more than 40 crimes.

Also, he pointed out that most of the cases he has followed in recent years were due to violence, marital disputes, and a significant increase in divorce rates through court proceedings and khula (a form of divorce initiated by the wife), reaching unprecedented levels. This emphasizes the importance of having societal dialogue about the prevalence of violence and crime, and underscores the crucial role of dialogue in opposing all forms of violence in Egyptian society.



- **Soraya Bahgat facilitator of the Jewish community is Egyptian with a Finnish father**

Soraya Bahgat is a Finnish-Egyptian feminist activist, who works in social projects and is an activist for women's rights in Egypt. In 2012, she founded Tahrir Bodyguard, a group of male and female volunteers to fight mass sexual assaults against women in Tahrir Square and its surrounding areas.

Ms. Bahgat is the only woman in Egypt, Africa, the Middle East, and the Arab world to receive an honor from Finland, a country highly valuing the principle of gender equality. She is a member of the Strategic Advisory Group for the Girl Generation movement, which aims to end the practice of female genital mutilation. Soraya has launched the "Address for Equality" initiative to encourage institutions to compete in achieving gender equality.

She has addressed the violence practiced against girls who adhere to the Jewish faith in Egypt, highlighting issues of stigma and discrimination. Soraya emphasizes the necessity of using dialogue as the most effective means for coexistence among religions.



Religious leaders

- **Magdy Saif - Magdy Saif Al-Yasioui, delegate of the regional superior of the Jesuit order**

Father Magdy Saif believe that Violence can be resisted through action and the arts

He said we work in the Jesuits on a system of combating violence through art, encouraging youth to express themselves, and constantly supporting women and providing guidance through churches.

and Violence against women and girls not only has a negative impact on the individuals themselves but also leaves a detrimental effect on society as a whole. If we desire a better tomorrow for everyone, it is imperative to put an end to violence against women.

He believes Failure to address violence against women will lead to an abundance of violence and extremism in communities, hindering healthy societal progress. In April of last year, the Coptic Orthodox Church issued a document expressing its unequivocal rejection of all forms of violence against women, whether physical, verbal, or moral. The church also opposes any harmful practices that lead to the suffering, deprivation of rights, or dignity of women, such as female genital mutilation, early and forced marriages, sexual harassment, rape, and more.

Father Magdi emphasized that the church, in the document released by Pope Towards , Patriarch of the See of St. Mark, and disseminated by the media center of the Coptic Orthodox Church, affirms women's right to a life free from violence and advocates for equality in dignity and rights, as all humans are created by God and are equal according to the teachings of the Holy Scriptures.

The document states, "The Coptic Orthodox Church supports the right of women to a life free from violence, recognizing that all humans are created by God and are equal in dignity, as the teachings of the Holy Scriptures equate men and women. The church completely rejects all forms of violence against women, whether physical, verbal, or moral. It also opposes any harmful practices that may lead to the suffering or deprivation of women's rights and dignity, such as female genital mutilation, early and forced marriages, denial of education, discrimination in inheritance, sexual harassment in public spaces, workplaces, and educational institutions, rape, sexual exploitation such as child marriage and trafficking of girls and women, domestic and family violence. Therefore, no man is allowed to practice violence against women in any form."



In a conversation with the Imam of Al-Mursi Abu Al-Abbas Mosque in Alexandria, who refused photography inside the mosque, he pointed out that economic pressures play a significant role in increasing rates of domestic violence, stating that "poverty breeds violence." This is evident through crimes resulting from marital disputes over financial matters.

he think that Religion should be capable of challenging domestic violence and raising awareness in society through mosques. Religious leaders must actively participate in educating and guiding the community. There is an observed negligence from the state in utilizing religion and dialogue to prevent the escalating violence within homes, which is clearly reflected in the increasing divorce rates in Egypt.

Ms. Heidi also visited Al-Hussein Mosque and spoke with the women there, who were attempting to connect with the sanctity of Al-Hussein's shrine, praying and seeking solace through conversation with God inside the mosque. One woman, seemingly from a popular environment, mentioned that she is in constant disagreement with her husband, who consistently abuses her. She came to the shrine of Al-Hussein to pray for his guidance.

This reinforces the principle highlighted by most experts, which states that dialogue and religion are among the most important means of combating domestic and societal violence in general. Dialogue is considered a tool for promoting understanding and appreciating others, serving as a foundation for understanding differences and resolving conflicts peacefully.

As for religion, it can play a crucial role in shaping values and morals that advocate for peace and respect for human rights. Religious institutions can effectively contribute to spreading messages of tolerance, love, and the rejection of violence.

By using dialogue as a tool for communication and understanding among individuals and communities, and based on religious values that promote peace and tolerance, the fight against violence can be strengthened, and a society built on mutual respect and collaboration can be fostered.



Visit the Embassy of Finland, Cairo

Birgit Autere Deputy Head of Mission Finnish Embassy - Embassy of Finland, Cairo

The discussion revolved around peace and widespread societal violence globally, as well as the reasons for the increase in violence against women in Finland despite the presence of strict laws against it. The conversation also touched upon its prevalence in various communities, including Arab societies. There was an emphasis on the necessity for religious education to align with rejecting violence from the outset of learning, and encouragement for embassies to support projects aimed at rejecting and addressing violence.

A project focused on violence and peace, presented by the Lifeline Development Foundation and the Peace Foundation between Religions, was introduced. A date was set after the holiday period to discuss the project in more detail.

"An Eye on Peace and Violence" is a transformative initiative delving into the intricacies of peace building and conflict resolution, with a specific emphasis on combating domestic violence and cultivating unity among diverse religious communities. This project is dedicated to conducting in-depth research, fostering community engagement, and implementing impactful interventions to raise awareness and establish a culture of understanding and peace.



- In a lengthy discussion with Mrs. Heidi and some cases of abused women in Finland,
- one of the prominent cases involved a woman who decided to change her gender identity from male to female, also converted from Christianity to Islam, subjecting them to stigmatization, discrimination, and societal violence.
- As one form of support for her , a headscarf was purchased for her based on her request. This was her desire to conceal her facial features and practice her religious rituals without facing stigma or discrimination , she faced constant complaints and lived in fear.



- as highlighted by Mrs. Heidi , that In Finland, like in many other countries, cases of abused women vary in nature and severity. Domestic violence is a significant concern, and

it can manifest in different forms, including physical, psychological, and sexual abuse. While it is essential to note that not all cases are the same, some common factors and types of abuse may be observed:

Physical Abuse: This involves the use of force that causes physical harm or injury. It can include hitting, slapping, kicking, or any other form of bodily harm.

Psychological/Emotional Abuse: Emotional abuse is characterized by behaviors that undermine an individual's emotional well-being. This can include constant criticism, intimidation, threats, or isolation from friends and family.

Sexual Abuse: Involves non-consensual sexual activities or coercion. This includes any form of unwanted sexual contact or pressure.

Financial Abuse: Controlling or limiting a woman's access to financial resources, making her financially dependent, or using economic means to manipulate or control her.

Stalking: Unwanted, obsessive attention and behaviors that cause fear or distress. This can occur in person or through various forms of communication.

Cyber Abuse: The misuse of technology to harass or control someone, including online threats, monitoring, or spreading false information.

Systemic Challenges: Women may face challenges within the legal and social systems, such as barriers to reporting abuse, fear of retaliation, or inadequate support services.

Finland, however, has implemented measures to address domestic violence and support victims. There are shelters, hotlines, and support services available for abused women. The Finnish legal system takes domestic violence seriously, and there are laws in place to protect victims and prosecute perpetrators. It's important to recognize that the extent and nature of abuse can vary, and addressing the issue requires a comprehensive and collaborative effort from society, support services, and the legal system.

- **One of the notable visits during the knowledge exploration journey** was to the headquarters of the Inalinda Foundation in Alexandria. A meeting was held with several officials responsible for Finland's institutional affairs, as well as with officials from the Inalinda Foundation. During this meeting, the results of the interviews and the visit to Finland were explained, and the foundations for future collaboration between the Life Foundation and the Foundation for Peace Among Religions were established.



12- Exploration of societal norms and their impact on reporting and addressing abuse in Egypt and Finland

Societal norms play a significant role in shaping how individuals perceive and respond to abuse, and these norms can vary widely between different cultures and societies. Here's an exploration of how societal norms may impact reporting and addressing abuse in Egypt and Finland:

Egypt:

Traditional Gender Roles:

Impact: Traditional gender roles in Egypt may contribute to a societal expectation of women being submissive and obedient, potentially discouraging them from reporting abuse due to fear of societal judgment.

Challenges: Breaking from traditional norms might be seen as a challenge to established social structures, making it difficult for individuals to openly discuss or report abuse.

Family Honor:

Impact: Concerns about family honor may lead to the suppression of abuse within families, with victims reluctant to report to avoid bringing shame to their families.

Silencing Effect: The fear of tarnishing family reputation can create a culture of silence, making it challenging for victims to speak out.

Stigma Surrounding Divorce:

Impact: Societal stigma surrounding divorce may discourage victims from reporting abuse, as they may fear negative judgments or isolation from their communities.

Dependency: Economic and social dependency on spouses might further contribute to victims enduring abuse rather than seeking separation.

Religious Beliefs:

Impact: Misinterpretation of religious teachings may contribute to the belief that endurance of suffering is a virtue, potentially deterring victims from seeking help or reporting abuse.

Reluctance to Intervene: Societal reluctance to interfere in what is perceived as private matters, especially if influenced by religious beliefs, can hinder intervention.

Finland:

Gender Equality Norms:

Impact: Finland, known for its emphasis on gender equality, may have a more open discourse on abuse, with societal norms promoting the idea that both men and women deserve equal protection from violence.

Empowerment: Gender equality norms may empower victims to report abuse, feeling that societal support is more likely.

Individual Autonomy:

Impact: Finnish society places a high value on individual autonomy and personal freedom, which may encourage victims to speak out and seek help without fear of societal judgment.

Support for Independence: The societal support for individual independence may contribute to a more proactive stance in addressing abusive relationships.

Legal and Social Support Systems:

Impact: A robust legal and social support system in Finland may create an environment where victims feel more confident in reporting abuse, knowing that there are mechanisms in place to protect and support them.

Normalization of Reporting: A strong legal framework can contribute to the normalization of reporting, reducing the stigma associated with seeking assistance.

Cultural Shifts:

Impact: Finnish society's openness to cultural shifts may contribute to ongoing conversations about abuse, challenging traditional norms that perpetuate violence.

Education and Awareness: Increased education and awareness campaigns can help individuals recognize and report abusive behavior, contributing to a culture of accountability.

In both Egypt and Finland, societal norms shape the dynamics of reporting and addressing abuse. While Egypt may grapple with traditional gender roles, family honor concerns, and religious influences, Finland's emphasis on gender equality, individual autonomy, and strong support systems can create an environment where reporting abuse is more likely. Understanding these societal norms is crucial for tailoring interventions and support services that are culturally sensitive and effective in each context.

13- Comparative Analysis about domestic violence in Egypt and Finland

When comparing domestic violence in Egypt and Finland, it's important to consider the cultural, societal, and legal contexts that influence the prevalence, reporting, and response to domestic violence. Here's a comparative analysis based on various aspects:

V. Prevalence:

Egypt:

Challenges in Reporting: Traditional gender roles, cultural norms, and concerns about family honor may contribute to underreporting.

Silence and Stigma: Social stigma and reluctance to discuss family matters publicly can result in a culture of silence around domestic violence.

Finland:

Higher Reporting Rates: Finland, with a more open and egalitarian culture, may experience comparatively higher reporting rates.

Legal Protections: Strong legal frameworks and gender equality norms may contribute to a more supportive environment for reporting.

VI. Legal Framework:

Egypt:

Challenges in Legal Protection: Limited legal protections for victims, with potential gaps in legislation addressing various forms of abuse.

Cultural and Religious Influences: Interpretations of cultural and religious values may impact the legal response to domestic violence.

Finland:

Comprehensive Legal Protections: Finland has robust legal frameworks addressing domestic violence, including protective orders and criminalization of various forms of abuse.

Gender Equality Laws: Emphasis on gender equality in the legal system supports a more comprehensive response to domestic violence.

VII. Cultural and Societal Factors:**Egypt:**

Traditional Gender Roles: Patriarchal norms and traditional gender roles can contribute to power imbalances and the justification of control.

Family Honor: Concerns about family honor may discourage victims from reporting abuse to avoid social stigma.

Finland:

Gender Equality: Societal emphasis on gender equality and individual autonomy contributes to a culture that is less tolerant of domestic violence.

Supportive Systems: A strong support system, including education, awareness campaigns, and social services, promotes a culture that rejects violence.

VIII. Reporting and Support Systems:**Egypt:**

Limited Support Services: Limited availability of shelters, counseling, and legal assistance may hinder victims' ability to seek help.

Cultural Barriers: Societal and cultural barriers may discourage victims from reporting or seeking support.

Finland:

Comprehensive Support: Robust support systems, including shelters, counseling, and legal aid, contribute to a more proactive response to domestic violence.

Encouragement to Report: Societal encouragement to report abuse and seek help fosters a climate where victims feel supported.

IX. Educational Initiatives:**Egypt:**

Need for Awareness: Greater emphasis on awareness campaigns and educational initiatives to challenge cultural norms and myths surrounding domestic violence.

Addressing Stigma: Addressing the stigma associated with reporting abuse is crucial for promoting open dialogue.

Finland:

Education and Prevention: Finland's focus on education and prevention contributes to a culture that is more informed about healthy relationships and intolerant of abuse.

Normalization of Reporting: Reporting domestic violence is normalized through education and awareness campaigns.

Conclusion:

While both Egypt and Finland face the global challenge of domestic violence, their responses are shaped by distinct cultural, legal, and societal factors. Egypt may grapple with traditional norms and legal gaps, leading to underreporting, while Finland's emphasis on gender equality and robust support systems creates an environment that is more responsive to addressing domestic violence. Addressing domestic violence in each context requires tailored interventions that consider the unique challenges and strengths of the respective societies. Ongoing efforts to challenge harmful norms, improve legal protections, and enhance support services are crucial for fostering environments where survivors are empowered and violence is unequivocally condemned.

For more recourses about violence in Finland read :

[Gendered and Social Hierarchies in Problem Representation and Policy Processes: “Domestic Violence” in Finland and Scotland](#)

By Jeff Hearn and Linda McKie

[The Rise of the Crime Victim and Punitive Policies? Changes to the Legal Regulation of Intimate Partner Violence in Finland](#)

By Riikka Kotanen riikka.kotanen@helsinki.fi [View all authors and affiliations](#)

14- Proposals for community-driven programs and initiatives for intervention of domestic violence :

15- Community-driven programs and initiatives are crucial for effectively intervening in domestic violence. These initiatives empower communities to take an active role in prevention, support, and advocacy. Here are several proposals for community-driven programs addressing domestic violence:

Community Education and Awareness:

Workshops and Training: Conduct workshops and training sessions within communities to raise awareness about the signs of domestic violence, its impact, and available resources.

Educational Campaigns: Develop and implement campaigns that challenge cultural norms contributing to violence and promote healthy relationship dynamics.

Crisis Intervention Teams:

Establish Hotlines or Helplines: Set up local helplines or hotlines staffed by trained volunteers to provide immediate assistance and support to victims.

Emergency Response Training: Train community members in crisis intervention to respond effectively in emergency situations and provide initial support.

Support Groups and Counseling:

Peer Support Programs: Create peer-led support groups where survivors can share experiences and provide mutual support.

Counseling Services: Establish accessible counseling services within the community to provide emotional and psychological support for victims and their families.

Legal Aid and Advocacy:

Legal Information Sessions: Organize sessions to educate community members about legal rights and available protections for victims of domestic violence.

Advocacy Training: Train community members to advocate for systemic changes, engage with policymakers, and raise awareness about domestic violence issues.

Youth Engagement Programs:

School-Based Education: Introduce educational programs in schools to teach students about healthy relationships, consent, and communication skills.

Youth Activism: Encourage youth involvement in anti-violence campaigns and initiatives, fostering a culture of intolerance towards abuse from a young age.

Community Safe Spaces:

Establish Safe Houses or Shelters: Develop safe spaces within the community where victims can seek refuge, ensuring confidentiality and security.

Community Centers: Utilize existing community centers as hubs for awareness programs, support services, and advocacy efforts.

Cultural Competency Training:

Training for Service Providers: Provide cultural competency training for professionals working with victims, ensuring sensitivity to diverse cultural backgrounds and needs.

Community Leaders' Involvement: Engage community leaders to endorse and actively participate in anti-domestic violence initiatives, emphasizing the importance of cultural sensitivity.

Media and Communication Strategies:

Media Campaigns: Develop media campaigns, including social media, to disseminate information, challenge stereotypes, and promote positive messaging around relationships.

Community Dialogues: Organize forums for open discussions on domestic violence within the community, fostering a culture of accountability and collective responsibility.

Collaboration with Religious and Spiritual Leaders:

Engage Religious Leaders: Collaborate with religious and spiritual leaders to incorporate messages against domestic violence into sermons and teachings.

Faith-Based Support: Establish support networks within religious communities to assist victims and educate community members.

Data Collection and Research:

Community-Based Research: Conduct research within the community to understand local dynamics, identify risk factors, and tailor interventions accordingly.

Data-Informed Decision-Making: Use collected data to inform the development and adaptation of community-driven programs based on evolving needs.

Peer Education Programs:

Peer-to-Peer Education: Implement peer education programs where trained community members educate their peers about domestic violence, available resources, and intervention strategies.

Community Outreach: Engage in outreach activities to connect with marginalized or isolated groups within the community.

Partnerships with Local Organizations:

Collaborate with NGOs: Partner with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) specializing in domestic violence prevention to leverage their expertise and resources.

Local Business Involvement: Involve local businesses in supporting initiatives, promoting workplace awareness, and providing resources for victims.

Community-driven programs and initiatives should be adapted to the unique cultural, social, and economic contexts of each community. Empowering communities to actively participate in the prevention and intervention of domestic violence is essential for creating sustainable change and fostering a supportive environment for survivors.

13- Suggestions for strengthening domestic violence laws

Strengthening domestic violence laws is crucial to provide effective protection for victims and hold perpetrators accountable. Here are several suggestions for enhancing domestic violence laws:

Comprehensive Definitions:

Clearly define various forms of domestic violence, including physical, emotional, economic, and sexual abuse, to ensure comprehensive coverage.

Inclusion of Coercive Control:

Explicitly include coercive control as a form of domestic violence, recognizing that non-physical tactics can be equally damaging.

Protective Orders:

Strengthen and enforce protective orders to provide immediate legal protection for victims, outlining specific restrictions on the perpetrator's behavior.

Mandatory Arrest Policies:

Implement mandatory arrest policies in cases of domestic violence where there is evidence of abuse, ensuring that law enforcement takes decisive action.

Lethality Assessment Tools:

Integrate lethality assessment tools to identify high-risk cases and prioritize interventions for victims at immediate risk.

Prohibition of Firearms:

Enforce stricter measures regarding firearm possession for individuals with a history of domestic violence, including mandatory surrender of firearms.

Increased Penalties for Repeat Offenders:

Introduce enhanced penalties for repeat offenders to deter recurrent abusive behavior and protect victims from further harm.

Civil Remedies:

Expand civil remedies such as restitution, compensatory damages, and legal fees to empower victims to seek financial compensation and justice.

Cross-Jurisdictional Enforcement:

Strengthen mechanisms for cross-jurisdictional enforcement of protection orders, ensuring that victims remain protected even if they relocate.

Employment Protections:

Introduce legislation that prohibits employment discrimination against victims of domestic violence and provides job protection during legal proceedings.

Training for Law Enforcement and Legal Professionals:

Implement mandatory training programs for law enforcement officers, judges, and legal professionals to enhance their understanding of domestic violence dynamics and victim sensitivity.

Courtroom Safety Measures:

Implement safety measures in courtrooms to protect victims during legal proceedings, including separate waiting areas and secure entry points.

Accessible Legal Aid:

Increase access to legal aid and representation for victims, particularly for those who may face financial barriers in pursuing legal action.

Trauma-Informed Approaches:

Incorporate trauma-informed approaches within the legal system, ensuring that victims are treated with empathy and understanding throughout legal processes.

Technology-Facilitated Abuse:

Address technology-facilitated abuse by including provisions that recognize and penalize the use of electronic communication and social media platforms to perpetrate domestic violence.

Cultural Competency:

Integrate cultural competency training into legal professionals' education to better serve diverse populations and address the unique challenges faced by individuals from different backgrounds.

Specialized Courts:

Establish specialized domestic violence courts with judges and personnel trained in handling cases involving intimate partner violence.

Community Partnerships:

Foster collaboration between law enforcement, legal professionals, social services, and community organizations to create a holistic response to domestic violence.

These suggestions aim to create a more robust legal framework that is responsive to the multifaceted nature of domestic violence while prioritizing the safety and well-being of victims.

14- Key insights from the comparative analysis

The comparative analysis of domestic violence in Egypt and Finland reveals distinct patterns influenced by cultural, legal, and societal factors. Here are key insights from the analysis:

Domestic Violence in Egypt :

Cultural and Traditional Factors :

Impact of Patriarchy: Traditional gender roles and patriarchal structures contribute to power imbalances within relationships.

Family Honor Dynamics: Concerns about family honor may discourage reporting, fostering a culture of silence.

Legal Framework Challenges:

Limited Legal Protections: The legal framework may have gaps in addressing various forms of abuse comprehensively.

Enforcement Challenges: Enforcement of existing laws can be hindered by societal attitudes and the perception of domestic issues as private matters.

Reporting Barriers:

Cultural Stigma: Societal stigma surrounding family matters may lead to underreporting.

Economic Dependency: Economic dependence on spouses may contribute to victims enduring abuse rather than seeking help.

Religious Influences:

Misinterpretation of Religious Teachings: Misinterpretations of religious teachings may affect perceptions of endurance in the face of suffering.

Domestic Violence in Finland:

Gender Equality and Legal Protections:

Egalitarian Culture: A culture emphasizing gender equality contributes to a rejection of domestic violence.

Comprehensive Legal Framework: Finland has robust legal frameworks addressing domestic violence comprehensively.

Reporting and Supportive Environment:

Encouragement to Report: Societal encouragement to report abuse and strong support services contribute to higher reporting rates.

Legal and Support Systems: Comprehensive support services, including shelters, counseling, and legal aid, foster a proactive response to domestic violence.

Cultural Factors:

Emphasis on Autonomy: An emphasis on individual autonomy supports victims in seeking help without fear of judgment.

Education and Prevention: Education programs contribute to a culture that is informed about healthy relationships and intolerant of abuse.

Legal and Enforcement Efforts:

Legal Protections in Practice: Legal systems actively respond to domestic violence cases, and protective orders are enforced.

Intersection of Law and Culture: The legal framework aligns with a culture that rejects violence, contributing to a more effective response.

General Insights:

Community Awareness and Education:

Crucial Role of Education: Community awareness programs and educational initiatives are crucial for challenging cultural norms and promoting healthy relationships.

Support Services Impact:

Availability and Accessibility: The availability and accessibility of support services significantly impact the ability of victims to seek help and break free from abusive relationships.

Prevention Focus:

Educational Initiatives: Prevention efforts, especially through educational initiatives in schools, play a vital role in shaping societal attitudes and preventing domestic violence.

Economic Independence Influence:

Economic Factors: Economic factors, such as financial dependence on the abuser, can influence reporting patterns and the ability of victims to leave abusive relationships.

The comparative analysis underscores the importance of understanding the unique cultural, legal, and societal contexts in each country to tailor effective interventions and support systems for addressing domestic violence. Both Egypt and Finland demonstrate the impact of cultural norms, legal frameworks, and community attitudes on the prevalence and response to domestic violence.

15- Implications for future research and interventions

Implications for future research and interventions

The comparative analysis of domestic violence in Egypt and Finland provides valuable insights that can inform future research and interventions. Here are some implications for further exploration and actions:

Implications for Future Research:

In-Depth Cultural Analysis:

Conduct in-depth cultural analyses to understand the intricate dynamics influencing domestic violence in different regions within Egypt and Finland.

Longitudinal Studies:

Implement longitudinal studies to track changes in domestic violence patterns over time and assess the effectiveness of interventions.

Intersectionality Considerations:

Explore the intersectionality of factors, such as socioeconomic status, ethnicity, and immigration status, to understand how they intersect with domestic violence experiences.

Qualitative Research:

Use qualitative research methods, including interviews and focus groups, to capture nuanced experiences and perceptions of domestic violence within these societies.

Impact of Legal Reforms:

Investigate the impact of recent or proposed legal reforms on reporting rates, victim support, and the overall prevalence of domestic violence.

Cross-Cultural Comparative Studies:

Conduct cross-cultural comparative studies with other countries to identify global patterns and variations in domestic violence dynamics.

Involvement of Marginalized Groups:

Include the voices and experiences of marginalized groups, such as refugees, immigrants, and LGBTQ+ individuals, in research to ensure a comprehensive understanding.

Technology-Facilitated Abuse:

Examine the prevalence and impact of technology-facilitated abuse, considering the role of digital platforms in perpetuating or combating domestic violence.

Implications for Future Interventions:

Tailoring Interventions to Cultural Contexts:

Design interventions that are culturally sensitive and tailored to the specific cultural norms and challenges prevalent in each community.

Community-Led Initiatives:

Promote community-led initiatives that empower local residents to actively participate in the prevention and intervention of domestic violence.

Public Awareness Campaigns:

Develop targeted public awareness campaigns that address cultural myths, challenge stereotypes, and promote healthy relationship dynamics.

Legal Reforms and Enforcement:

Advocate for and monitor the enforcement of legal reforms, ensuring that the legal framework effectively protects victims and holds perpetrators accountable.

Integrated Support Services:

Enhance and integrate support services, including counseling, shelters, and legal aid, to provide a holistic approach to helping victims and survivors.

Youth Education Programs:

Implement educational programs in schools that focus on teaching students about healthy relationships, consent, and conflict resolution.

Engagement of Religious and Community Leaders:

Engage religious and community leaders in awareness campaigns and educational initiatives to challenge harmful cultural norms.

Trauma-Informed Approaches:

Adopt trauma-informed approaches in interventions to ensure that support services and legal processes consider the impact of trauma on victims.

Economic Empowerment Programs:

Implement economic empowerment programs to reduce financial dependence and provide resources for victims to leave abusive relationships.

Cross-Sector Collaboration:

Foster collaboration between government agencies, non-profit organizations, businesses, and community groups to create a coordinated and comprehensive response.

Global Collaboration and Learning:

Facilitate international collaboration to share best practices, research findings, and intervention strategies in the field of domestic violence.

By addressing these implications, future research and interventions can contribute to a more nuanced and effective understanding of domestic violence dynamics and contribute to the development of targeted strategies for prevention and support.

16- Encouragement for policymakers, communities, and organizations to take concrete steps based on the study's findings :

The findings from the comparative analysis of domestic violence in Egypt and Finland provide valuable insights that can guide concrete steps for policymakers, communities, and organizations. Encouraging these stakeholders to take action is crucial for creating meaningful change and fostering safer environments. Here are specific encouragements and recommendations based on the study's findings:

Policymakers:

Strengthen Legal Frameworks:

Encouragement: Strengthen domestic violence laws by addressing gaps and introducing provisions that comprehensively cover various forms of abuse.

Implementation: Ensure effective implementation and enforcement of existing laws, including protective orders and penalties for offenders.

Invest in Prevention and Education:

School Programs: Allocate resources for comprehensive educational programs in schools that address healthy relationships, consent, and conflict resolution.

Public Awareness Campaigns: Support public awareness campaigns that challenge cultural norms contributing to domestic violence and promote gender equality.

Support Economic Empowerment:

Financial Independence: Implement policies that promote economic empowerment, providing resources for victims to attain financial independence and leave abusive relationships.

Collaboration and Training:

Interagency Collaboration: Foster collaboration between law enforcement, social services, and legal professionals to create a coordinated response.

Training Programs: Implement training programs for professionals dealing with domestic violence cases to enhance their understanding and response.

Protect Vulnerable Groups:

Specialized Support: Develop policies that address the unique needs of vulnerable groups, including refugees, immigrants, and LGBTQ+ individuals.

Intersectionality Considerations: Integrate intersectionality considerations into policymaking to address the diverse experiences of victims.

Communities:

Promote Cultural Change:

Community Dialogues: Facilitate open community dialogues to challenge cultural norms contributing to domestic violence and encourage a shift towards healthier relationships.

Engage Leaders: Involve community leaders, including religious figures, in promoting messages against domestic violence.

Support Local Initiatives:

Community-Led Programs: Support and fund community-led initiatives that raise awareness, provide support services, and actively work towards preventing domestic violence.

Create Safe Spaces:

Safe Houses: Establish safe houses or shelters within the community to provide immediate refuge for victims.

Community Centers: Utilize community centers as hubs for awareness programs, support services, and educational initiatives.

Peer Education Programs:

Peer-Led Initiatives: Encourage peer-led education programs where trained community members educate their peers about domestic violence and available resources.

Combat Stigma:

Public Campaigns: Launch public campaigns to combat the stigma associated with reporting abuse and seeking help, fostering a culture of openness and support.

Organizations:

Provide Comprehensive Support Services:

Shelters and Counseling: Strengthen and expand support services, including shelters, counseling, legal aid, and hotlines, to provide comprehensive assistance for victims.

Educational Initiatives:

Workplace Programs: Introduce workplace programs that educate employees about domestic violence, its signs, and available resources.

Training for Professionals: Offer training programs for professionals in the organization to recognize and respond to domestic violence cases.

Collaborate with NGOs:

Partnerships: Collaborate with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) specializing in domestic violence prevention to leverage expertise, resources, and outreach.

Research and Data Collection:

Contribute to Research: Support or conduct research initiatives that contribute to a deeper understanding of domestic violence patterns within specific communities.

Advocacy Efforts:

Policy Advocacy: Engage in advocacy efforts to influence policymakers and ensure the prioritization of domestic violence prevention and intervention.

Encouraging policymakers, communities, and organizations to take concrete steps based on these findings is essential for creating a collective and sustained effort to address domestic violence. By implementing these recommendations, stakeholders can contribute to creating safer, more supportive environments for victims and survivors.

17- Emphasis on the importance of ongoing collaboration and dialogue

Ongoing collaboration and dialogue are crucial elements in addressing domestic violence effectively. Here's an emphasis on their importance:

Fostering Collaboration:

Comprehensive Solutions:

Multidisciplinary Approach: Domestic violence is a complex issue that requires a multidisciplinary approach. Collaboration ensures that professionals from various fields, such as law enforcement, healthcare, social services, and advocacy organizations, work together to provide comprehensive solutions.

Resource Sharing:

Pooling Resources: Collaboration allows for the pooling of resources, both financial and human, maximizing the impact of interventions and support services.

Holistic Support:

Coordinated Services: A collaborative approach enables the development of coordinated services, ensuring that victims receive holistic support addressing their legal, psychological, and social needs.

Data Sharing:

Information Exchange: Collaborative efforts facilitate the exchange of data and information among different agencies, leading to better-informed decision-making and improved responses to domestic violence cases.

Encouraging Dialogue:

Community Engagement:

Open Conversations: Dialogue within communities is essential to raise awareness, challenge cultural norms, and foster a culture of open communication about domestic violence.

Cultural Sensitivity:

Understanding Diverse Perspectives: Dialogue promotes an understanding of diverse cultural perspectives, allowing for the development of interventions that are culturally sensitive and tailored to the needs of specific communities.

Reducing Stigma:

Breaking the Silence: Open dialogue reduces the stigma associated with domestic violence, encouraging survivors to come forward, seek help, and share their experiences without fear of judgment.

Education and Awareness:

Continuous Learning: Dialogue contributes to continuous learning about the complexities of domestic violence, helping communities stay informed about evolving issues and challenges.

Importance of Ongoing Collaboration and Dialogue:

Adaptability to Changing Dynamics:

Responsive Interventions: Domestic violence patterns and societal attitudes may change over time. Ongoing collaboration and dialogue enable stakeholders to adapt their interventions to address emerging issues and evolving community needs.

Consolidating Best Practices:

Sharing Success Stories: Collaboration allows organizations and communities to share success stories and best practices, fostering a culture of learning from one another's experiences.

Policy Development:

Informed Policymaking: Ongoing dialogue between policymakers and advocates ensures that policies are informed by real-world experiences, contributing to more effective and nuanced approaches to addressing domestic violence.

Community Ownership:

Empowering Communities: Collaboration and dialogue empower communities to take ownership of domestic violence prevention initiatives, making interventions more sustainable and culturally relevant.

Building Trust:

Trust Building: Continuous dialogue helps build trust among different stakeholders, creating a foundation for effective collaboration and a shared commitment to addressing domestic violence.

Global Learning:

International Collaboration: Ongoing collaboration at an international level facilitates global learning, allowing different countries to share insights, strategies, and challenges in combating domestic violence.

In conclusion, ongoing collaboration and dialogue are not only essential but also dynamic processes that contribute to a holistic and adaptable approach in addressing domestic violence. By fostering partnerships, engaging in open conversations, and continuously learning from one another, stakeholders can create more effective, sustainable, and culturally sensitive strategies to prevent and respond to domestic violence.

16- **Recommendations**

Addressing domestic violence requires a multifaceted approach that involves legal, social, and cultural strategies. Here are recommendations for mechanisms to confront domestic violence in Egypt and Finland:

Egypt :

Legal Reforms:

Strengthen Laws: Enhance and enforce domestic violence laws, ensuring comprehensive coverage and stringent penalties for perpetrators.

Protective Orders: Implement and enforce protective orders to provide immediate legal protection for victims.

Community Education:

Awareness Campaigns: Launch public awareness campaigns to challenge cultural norms, educate communities about domestic violence, and encourage reporting.

School Programs: Introduce educational programs in schools that teach children about healthy relationships, consent, and conflict resolution.

Support Services:

Shelters and Counseling: Establish and expand shelters and counseling services to provide immediate support for victims.

Hotlines: Set up helplines for individuals to seek assistance and information confidentially.

Crisis Intervention:

Emergency Response Teams: Develop specialized crisis intervention teams trained to respond swiftly to domestic violence incidents.

Legal Aid:

Accessible Legal Aid: Increase access to legal aid for victims, ensuring they have the necessary resources to navigate legal processes.

Cultural Sensitivity:

Training Programs: Provide cultural sensitivity training for law enforcement, healthcare professionals, and social workers to better address the unique needs of diverse communities.

Community Engagement:

Engage Religious Leaders: Collaborate with religious leaders to incorporate messages against domestic violence in community settings.

Economic Empowerment:

Job Training Programs: Implement economic empowerment programs and job training initiatives to empower survivors financially.

Finland:

Egalitarian Approach:

Promote Gender Equality: Continue to promote and reinforce a culture of gender equality to challenge power imbalances and patriarchal norms.

Supportive Legal Framework:

Enhance Legal Protections: Ensure the legal framework provides comprehensive protection, and regularly evaluate and update laws to meet evolving needs.

Mandatory Arrest Policies: Implement and enforce mandatory arrest policies in cases of domestic violence.

Comprehensive Support Services:

Integrated Services: Strengthen support services, including shelters, counseling, legal aid, and child protection services, ensuring a holistic approach.

Training for Professionals:

Continuous Training: Provide ongoing training for law enforcement officers, legal professionals, and healthcare providers to improve their response to domestic violence cases.

Prevention Programs:

School-Based Initiatives: Expand prevention programs in schools, focusing on healthy relationships, consent, and early intervention.

Workplace Awareness: Promote domestic violence awareness in workplaces and provide resources for employees facing abuse.

Youth Involvement:

Engage Youth: Involve youth in awareness campaigns and educational initiatives to create a culture that rejects violence.

Technology-Focused Measures:

Address Cyber Abuse: Implement measures to address technology-facilitated abuse, recognizing the role of digital platforms in domestic violence.

Community Collaboration:

Multi-Agency Collaboration: Foster collaboration between government agencies, NGOs, and community organizations to create a comprehensive response.

Focus on Rehabilitation:

Perpetrator Rehabilitation Programs: Develop and promote programs aimed at rehabilitating perpetrators and addressing the root causes of violence.

Data Collection and Research:

Continuous Research: Support ongoing research to understand changing dynamics, identify emerging issues, and inform evidence-based interventions.

In both Egypt and Finland, a collaborative and holistic approach is essential. These recommendations aim to create a society where domestic violence is not tolerated, survivors are supported, and comprehensive mechanisms are in place for prevention, intervention, and rehabilitation.

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