Annotated Bibliography- Research Network on Women, Peace and Security (RNWPS)

Theme: Anticipate Future Challenges
How is the future of conflict gendered and what are the impacts on Canada's capability needs?

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1. Women Peace and Security (WPS) and Role of Armed forces and Peacekeeping during COVID-19

Guerrina, R., & Wright, K. A. (2016). Gendering normative power Europe: lessons of the Women, Peace and Security agenda. *International affairs*, *92*(2), 293-312.

The UN Security Council Resolution 1325 has been credited for providing the impetus and mechanisms for the inclusion of gender in international peace and security. Here the focus is on the European Union's role in advancing Women, peace and Security (WPS) as a foreign policy objective. The correlation supports the identification of the ways in which gender norms have traveled and shaped different institutional settings. The analysis of European external relations has revealed the lack of an overarching lack of engagement with gender mainstreaming as a core principle and policy strategy. Firstly, the institution fails to align its emerging security strategy with global gender norms, namely Women, Peace and Security. An example of that could be their resistance in appointing a Special Representative/Envoy for WPS. Secondly, there has been a significant hurdle in the establishment of a 'velvet triangle' due to the leadership vacuum in the area of gender within the European Union External Action Service (EEAS). The absence of institutional champions has limited the opportunities and engagement with the civil society and epistemic communities. The role of member states in pushing their commitment to WPS in the EU needs to be concentrated as done under the efforts of NATO. Therefore, the EU needs to build on its momentum to mainstream gender to build its image as a gender actor and also as a security organization.

Keywords: WPS, UNSCR 1325, European Union (EU), European Union External Action Service (EEAS), Gender norms,

Wüstemann, N. (2020). Women, Peace and Security Organizations: Gender Norms and NATO. In *Gender Roles in Peace and Security* (pp. 165-176). Springer, Cham.

The paper emphasizes on the role of International Organizations (IOs) in the design and implementation of normative policy processes. In today's world of political complexity with the involvement of varied actors, IOs firstly internalize (and institutionalize) and then diffuse these norms. The prominence of the article is on the gender mainstreaming norm which gained importance through the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) on women, peace and security. UNSCR 1325 recognizes the impact of conflict on women and their paramount role in preventing and resolving conflict, and in building peace. NATO has hence adopted various policies within the last decade on mainstreaming gender, which comes across as striking given the organization's "hegemonic masculinity" and operating in a "hyper-masculine environment". The article therefore delves into NATO's role in implementing gender mainstreaming at both institutional and policy levels and also within NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. It was observed the main institutional and policy mechanisms within NATO and indicators of NATO's gender mainstreaming interpretation were very diverse and combined aspects of an interpretation as strategy, goal and process. But what is not known yet are the motivations, drivers of change (inside and outside NATO) or the degree of norm internalization within NATO. The author therefore asks the reader and suggests future research on the analysis and interpretation of gender norms by NATO. This will help understand NATO institutional design and their role as a "norm diffuser".

Keywords: WPS, NATO, Gender mainstreaming, gender norms, International Organizations

Hagen.J.J.(2016). Queering women, peace and security. *International Affairs*, 92 (2), 313-332.

The paper explores the experiences of violence and discrimination because of sexual orientation and gender identity, putting them at risk. The focus though is on the continued silence around homophobic and transphobic violence targeting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) in conflict-related environments. For example: the exclusion of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) against LGBTQ individuals from policy implementation and NGO monitoring of the WPS agenda. The interchangeable use of 'gender' and 'women' in implementing WPS resolutions and operationalizing WPS architecture is a problematic practice. UNSC resolutions such as the UNSCR 1325 directs its attention to gender-based insecurity through a limited discourse. As questions around the safety of LGBTQ individuals are lost in the international peace and security area, V. Spike Peterson draws attention to privilege and gender hierarchy, noting that not all men are privileged. The author calls for the "queering" of WPS architecture, bringing attention to LGBTQ individuals, including their participation in conflict prevention and gender equity. Finally, the paper suggests a radical gender perspective in peace and security operations that uses the WPS architecture requiring transphobic and homophobic violence in conflict-related environments to be addressed and LGBTQ individuals to be brought into the conversation about achieving global peace and security. Rather than additional resolutions, concerns related to sexual

orientation and gender identity could be addressed more immediately by beginning with the discourse of gender.

Keywords: LGBTQ, Sexual and Gender based Violence (SGBV), UNSCR 1325, Women, Peace WPS

Gilder, A. (2022). The Role of UN Peace Operations in Countering Health Insecurity after COVID-19. *Global Policy*.

The UN Peace operations provide support to protect people and livelihoods during conflict and disaster. Similarly, it has a significant role to play during this covid-19. The UN Security Council has traditionally focused on physical security threats linked to violence. It is time they expand their operationalization to non-violent security crises such as health insecurities. The author takes the premise of Edith Brown Weiss's theory of a 'kaleidoscopic' world where the actors and coalitions in the international system are constantly changing, and crises are spreading across the globe. Similarly, security is an 'elastic and dynamic concept' of the absence of threats and has moved beyond the realms of national borders, as crises from one state can easily migrate to other parts of the globe. International organizations are beginning to include human and health insecurity as a threat to international security. As UN development agencies such as FAO and UNICEF now focus on health insecurity in crisis-affected areas, the shift thus questions the UN's peacekeeping approach to responding to health insecurity with clear incorporation in their mission mandates. The UN has been required to adapt to non-traditional health threats such as the Ebola outbreak in 2014 and the recent COVID-19 pandemic, a threat to international peace and security. Therefore, the Security Council needs to account for a diverse range of conflict drivers, health threats, environmental degradation, food scarcity, and more. Accordingly, the UN must prioritize a mixed view of security and its response mechanism.

Keywords: COVID-19, Health Insecurity, UN Peace operations, International Security, Peace and Security

Hannah Wright (2020) "Masculinities perspectives": advancing a radical Women, Peace and Security agenda?, International Feminist Journal of Politics, 22:5, 652-674

The author draws on personal experiences of being an NGO advocate, readings of policy briefing and reports and on the basis of participatory observations and interviews conducted in the UK, to reflecting on the relationship between masculinities, feminists and war. Taking primacy of the WPS agenda, the article dives into the foundational tensions and the contestation of the origin and its strategies. The paper argues WPS agenda 1325 does not cover LGBT+ rights, migration and climate change. Another crucial missing element is the explicit referencing of men in WPS policies, here men, boys and masculinities are notable for their absence. Example: Lack of attention on the prevalence of sexual violence against men and boys. Here, the Netherlands NAP (2016-2019) is an exception with its commitment to integrating gender analysis and masculinities

into its strategies and programs. Therefore, building on the presented viewpoints Wright (2020) presents four arguments for a masculine perspective which have and have not been incorporated in WPS policies including the exploration of men as allies, male vulnerabilities and strategic and anti-militarist arguments around the same. Hence, the paper suggests gender-relational approaches to WPS policies whilst addressing the problematic and oppressive ways in which this demand is sometimes taken up by policymakers.

Keywords: Women, Peace and Security (WPS), Masculinities, Gender, Gender analysis, National Action Plan (NAP)

Catic, M., & Von Hlatky, S. (2014). Women, gender, and international security. *International Journal*, *69*(4). 570-573.

https://www.jstor.org/stable/24709424

Women and girls in conflict-affected countries are at high risk of facing gender-based violence, and their bodies are often used as a weapon, for example, the kidnapping of 300 Yazidi women and girls and the abduction of over 200 schoolgirls by Boko Haram extremists in Nigeria. Similar trends have been observed from Bosnia to Rwanda, from Syria to Congo, and from Iraq to Afghanistan, where women and girls are becoming targets of indescribable brutality in the post-Cold War era, including killings, sexual violence, torture, and forced captivity. This issue of *International Journal* presents two papers. Roxanne Krystalli's paper *Deconstructing the 2012 Human Security Report: Examining narratives on wartime sexual violence. And* Krystel Chapman and Maya Eichler's work *Engendering two solitudes? Media representations of women in combat in Quebec and the rest of Canada*. The issue highlights how the complexity of relationships between women, violence and international security was elucidated with a focus on four aspects: women as targets and victims of violence, women as agents of violence, women as scholars and analysts of violence, and women as policymakers and practitioners in the field of international security. Additionally, the perspective of two research papers on wartime sexual violence and media representation of women in combat in Quebec and the rest of Canada was brought forward. Finally, the paper suggests conducting more innovative research on integrating a gender perspective into defense policy design to bring positive change in military culture.

Keywords: Gender, Women, Canada, Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG), International Security

Juvan, J. (2022). The role of Armed forces in the COVID-19 Pandemic. Journal of Comparative Politics, 15(1), 73-89.

http://www.jofcp.org/assets/jcp/Articles-1-2022/JCP-January-2022-6.pdf

The paper examines the role of armed forces during the COVID-19 pandemic. It also shows how humanitarian needs have grown and how militaries have played a pivotal role in times when the state systems are overwhelmed. It uses mixed methods and data from seven EU countries, such as literature analysis, a scoping study, research of primary sources, and comparative analysis. During

all crises, states have been under enormous pressure due to the healthcare infrastructure gaps: personnel, intensive care equipment, and emergency supplies. The paper found that the most common measure adopted by countries was deploying armed forces in their country and abroad. It demonstrates that the international status of a country (NATO or non-NATO) did not influence the scope of a deployment-- although COVID-19 was a public health crisis--the military's role expanded from its traditional role (restricted to territorial defense against external military threats). To support its case, the author also discusses health emergency responses, such as the international response to the West African Ebola outbreak in 2014. The paper identifies five roles of armed forces during crises like covid-19: Logistics, Assistance to health systems; Police tasks; Guarding tasks, and Research. Finally, it calls to ensure the rights and protection of the military under all these circumstances.

Key words: Pandemic, COVID-19, Armed forces, Health crisis.

Gilder, A. (2022). The Role of UN Peace Operations in Countering Health Insecurity after COVID-19. *Global Policy*.

https://doi.org/10.1111/1758-5899.13056

Traditionally, the UN's peace operations focus on responding to physical security threats such as violence and preventing conflict. This policy insight by Gilder (2022) calls for the UN's peace operations to pay attention to health insecurity. This paper builds upon security theories such as Wiess's (2011;2020) work on 'kaleidoscopic,' including Nasu 2016; Andersen-Rogers and Crawford, 2018; and Hanlon and Christie, 2016. First, the paper troubles how UN peace operations exclusively focus on physical violence rather than non-traditional threats. Second, how UN peace operations have traditionally played a subsidiary role in responding to health crises. Third, how it should play a key role in addressing health insecurity in crisis. The paper's data comes from the literature review. The paper shows how the UN peace operation has failed to respond to the covid-19 pandemic and recommends that the UN Security Council can be flexible in adapting additional tasks to its mission mandates. The paper tracks the normative shift of security over the years, starting from the Cold War. The paper suggests that the UN can play a significant role in countering health crises through peacekeeping operations. It warrants a policy shift for peace operations toward human security and asks for implementing a diverse view of security in responding to the health crisis and better preparing and protecting populations.

Keywords: UN peace operations, Health Insecurity, Public Health, Peacebuilding, COVID-19

Hlatky, S.V, & Saideman,S. (2020). How COVID-19 has impacted Canadian Forces missions abroad. Policy Options.
https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/june-2020/how-covid-19-has-impacted-canadian-forces-missions-abroad/

The Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) continues to be over-stretched with disaster relief efforts which are added on to by the demand of Operation Laser, their response to COVID-19. This article

discuss how Covid-19 has impacted CAF missions abroad. As frontline workers CAF members are impacted by the virus which has stalled their domestic efforts, raising questions on their work outside the country. The paper presents how the infrastructural design of the forces does not allow for social distancing, making them vulnerable and become active carriers of the virus, especially in barracks. Hence, CAF has prioritized the health and safety of their force over some missions abroad. Taking this into account, tasks and deployments were put on an operational pause and adapted to public health restrictions. In this paper Hlatky and Saideman (2020) also discuss Canada's long standing and visible presence in Latavia and Kosovo were the forefront of their efforts during the pandemic as trainings and the readiness to act were observed in tandem with public health protocols. The effort fosters civil-military cooperation opportunities. In contrast, trainings in Ukraine and the NATO Mission in Iraq were put at halt. These operational stoppages are temporary and have not presented a threat to the host country. As Canada faces the criticism for a lean and risk-averse peacekeeping force, they bear the responsibility to make tough decisions on their choice of missions. Finally, the authors credit the CAF leadership for their responsible decisions and adaption to the pandemic and cautions on difficult decisions which lie ahead.

Keywords: Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), NATO, COVID-19, Peacekeeping

Beaulieu, K. (2022). Canada's National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security: What We Heard from our Dialogue with Civil Society, Public Servants, and Scholars.

https://www.mcgill.ca/rnwps/files/rnwps/wwh_paper_-_rn-wps1.pdf

The paper brings out the discussion between scholars and public servants, and a teach-in between scholars and civil society from an event designed to reflect and share challenges faced in implementing the National Action Plans (NAPs), focusing particularly on the areas to be improved upon while Canada prepares its third NAP. The Research Network on Women, Peace and Security (RN-WPS) event highlighted the provocative thoughts, concerns and experiences participants had on women, peace and security, and NAPs and concluded with recommended actions to consider in Canada's NAP. The most pressing issue that arose was the fact that there is no significant change on the WPS agenda both in Canada and internationally. There is a lack of funding commitment from donors and the respective countries on the WPS agenda. This offers one possible explanation on why WPS issues are given less priority and left behind. In Canada, there is lack of clarity about WPS issues and the NAP implementation process. There is also a lack of coordination between the NAPs implementing departments. Also, there was concern around localizing the WPS agenda and developing concrete tools to measure NAPs outcomes. Overall, there is an urgent need of co-constructing and re-imaging and building non-hierarchical and inclusive NAPs of WPS to bring in the perspectives and needs of a diverse set of women.

Keywords: Women, Peace and Security (WPS), National Action Plan (NAP), Canada

Wise, P. H., Shiel, A., Southard, N., Bendavid, E., Welsh, J., Stedman, S., ... & Bhutta, Z. A. (2021). The political and security dimensions of the humanitarian health response to violent conflict. *The Lancet*, *397*(10273), 511-521.

As half of the world's population of women and children live in countries experiencing armed conflict, the paper highlights Women's and Children's Health (WCH) as an area of concern and service. It underscores the health requirements of women, children, and adolescents in a conflict setting with analytic and empirical insight using various technical and case-study methodologies. The paper discusses the complex and changing geopolitical environment of armed conflict with the systemic use of explosive weapons and sexual violence, political affiliations, and technological advancement. It also talks about health threats such as the COVID-19 pandemic, urbanization, and climate change. Further, the paper discusses challenges on population at risk, protection mechanisms as well as the response on the ground. With the ever-changing nature of warfare, there is no rule book on protecting non-combatants. The paper demonstrates direct impacts (traumatic injury) and indirect impacts (destruction of the essentials of life, including food, water, shelter, medical care, and security). Finally, the paper calls for consideration of humanitarian principles (Geneva Convention, 1949) and protect civilians during COVID-19 crisis and suggests relying on localized solutions and build local resilience practices.

Keywords: Women's and Children's Health (WCH), Armed non-state actors (ANSA), Armed Conflict, International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

Smith, J., Herten-Crabb, A., & Wenham, C. (2021). COVID-19 & feminist foreign policy: Canada's comparative advantage. *Canadian Foreign Policy Journal*, **17**.

The paper addresses the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 faced by women such as increased rates of Gender-based Violence (GBV), higher levels of mental health threats and barriers to SRHR services. It also explores Canada's stands at a comparative advantage through its domestic and foreign policy commitments, including the Feminist International Assistance Policy (2017) and WPS agenda. It provides three arguments in which the potential can be expanded in practice to lead COVID 19 response and advance feminist foreign policy. Firstly, to prioritize the care economy within international assistance through investments in public education and social protection schemes. Secondly, championing a feminist global health agenda, especially with advocating for institutionalization of feminist approaches within the WHO and global health forums. This would take forward Canada's leadership in equity-based approaches to global health (global AIDS response and Framework Convention on Tobacco Control). Lastly, leveraging the domestic response and WPS agenda to build the understanding and response during a health crisis. Canada's historical commitment to advancing human security agendas could be invoked here to promote a feminist global health security agenda. The paper contributes to intersectionality studies, global diplomacy and security policy studies.

Khorram-Manesh, A., Mortelmans, L. J., Robinson, Y., Burkle, F. M., & Goniewicz, K. (2022). Civilian-Military Collaboration before and during COVID-19 Pandemic—A Systematic Review and a Pilot Survey among Practitioners. *Sustainability*, *14*(2), 624.

https://doi.org/10.3390/su14020624

The paper evaluates the civil-military collaboration (CMC) in healthcare before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. For the study, 166 individuals from 19 countries responded to an online survey, answering questions on command and control, safety, communication, assessment, triage, treatment, and transport (CSCATTT), as the crucial components of disaster and emergency management. Alongside, the systematic literature review revealed such successful collaborations while suggesting ways of improvement, particularly at the strategic level. The paper stands transparent in its approach as it clearly states its limitations on the sample size and inclusion-exclusion criteria, ethical considerations, and so on. The paper highlights how the pandemic has facilitated more intense collaboration in communication, coordination, resource distribution, and information sharing. It also presents how lack of practical partnership and operative engagement, which requires political will and a mutual civil-military authority. Using Vangen and Huxham's theoretical framework on the perspectives for successful collaboration calls for stronger leadership with agreement on future research and development was recognized. In addition to it, it also discusses organizational closeness/trustful relationships and educational and training initiatives to guarantee a synchronized and well-functioning CMC. Finally, the paper suggests an increasing number of health emergencies, armed conflicts, disasters, financial and technological developments, and a new range of CMC collaborations.

Keywords: Civilian-military collaboration, Interagency Partnership, Pandemic, Public Health

Gibson-Fall, F. (2021). Military responses to COVID-19, emerging trends in global civil-military engagements. *Review of International Studies*, *47*(2), 155-170.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0260210521000048

This research article addresses the pivotal yet redefined military's role in addressing health crises. As the health systems were overwhelmed, three emerging trends of military response were observed: Minimal technical military support (Civilian leadership-military niche tasks in transportation and supply chain, border control); Blended civil-military response (Civilian leadership-military support in organization and logistics; air repatriations, border controls, mobile testing, quarantine and lockdown enforcement, emergency field hospitals)and Military-led responses (Military leadership in response planning and coordination, emergency hospitals, contact-tracing, surveillance, border controls, quarantine and lockdown enforcement). These were in tandem with the domestic public health approaches and capacity within the health care systems. It was also noted that countries with weak health systems did require recourse to a top-down (military) approach. Therefore, military engagement in humanitarian crises, health emergencies,

and pandemic preparedness has led to the rise of the global health security paradigm. The direct and indirect involvement of the military changed the course of policy and practice linking the military with health actors. This urges for a change in the normative scope of the military to be involved in pandemics and future emergency responses, both domestically and globally. The author suggests being mindful of the military's involvement as public health goals and humanitarian principles are hard to reconcile with military mandates when health interventions are politicized and when they can leverage their impunity by disregarding humanitarian conventions.

Keywords: Militaries, Global Health, COVID-19, Civil-Military Relations

2. Suppression of the rights of Indigenous women and girls

Ray, L. (2018). Pipelines, prostitution and Indigenous women: A critical analysis of contemporary discourse. *Canadian Woman Studies***,** *33***(12).**

https://cws.journals.yorku.ca/index.php/cws/article/view/37762/34310

The paper explores the larger framework and ideologies of domination, leading to the severe manifestation of violence against women. Based on the literature review, the paper argues how violence against women and resource development are directly linked in the contemporary discourse. The paper discusses how land and women have been commoditized as objects, with interest in oil and pipeline development and prostitution. In the commodification of women are disassociated from their bodies and rendered as a 'thing.' Similarly, oil is disassociated from the land, allowing it to be extracted at an alarming rate. In both these cases, Land and Women are denied ethical considerations. Hence, these render power constructs that elevate men above Indigenous women and land and, thus, the prevalence of the acts of violence against women and denial of land rights. Indigenous women are overrepresented in extreme forms of oppression such as street prostitution, experiencing violence, or being murdered in the sex trade. These conditions lead to the persistence of settler colonialism which leads us to question that in the oil and pipeline and prostitution discourse of nation-building and self-determination, whose nation and self-determination interest are being served. Therefore, with the onset of colonialism and the state's vested interest, the sanctity of women and land that are sacred from the Anishinaabe point of view have been disrupted, serving as sites to support this practice of dominance and thus violence. Finally, the paper suggests for understanding the discourse and examining historical and holistic framework that recognizes social and political power.

Keywords: Colonialism, Indigenous women, Oil and Gas, Violence, Prostitution, Land Rights

Lowery, B. (2022). A Review of Jessica McDiarmid's' Highway of Tears: a true story of racism, indifference and the pursuit of justice for missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls'. *Literary Cultures*, 5(1).

https://journals.ntu.ac.uk/index.php/litc/article/download/386/225

The paper reviews Jessica McDiarmid's book called the Highway of Tears, recounting true stories of the countless Missing and murdered Indigenous women (MMIW) in Canada, found along the Northern British Columbia's Highway 16. Based on facts from personal interviews and news clippings, the paper calls for justice for the victims regardless of their lives, de-stigmatizing the victims from the society's troubled and stereotypical view of them. It also discusses how the country's systems and organizations put these women in vulnerable positions and forced them to tolerate violence and abuse for survival. The paper talks about the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), the Canadian Government, and social services for their lack of accountability, injustice, and mistreatment of Indigenous people. For example, Indigenous women and girls' cases are blatantly dismissed by RCMP and the media. The book also details the accounts of the Indigenous women and their families, bringing in the historical perspective of subjugation and violence faced by indigenous people. Along with the prevalence of systemic racism against indigenous people, the book also highlights issues such as over-policing and targeting of indigenous youth and addiction. The book also brings in personal accounts of how the families remember their loved ones and how they honor their memories and fight for justice in the hope of preventing another family member from going through the same situation.

Keywords: Racism, Indigenous Women, Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women (MMIW), Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Systemic Racism, Indigenous Youth, Violence

Hardy, E. (2022). If I go missing. *The Land of Hope and Toil*, 5(1)

https://journals.ntu.ac.uk/index.php/litc/article/download/387/226

If I go missing is an illustrated book written by a 14-year-old Brianna Jonnie to Winnipeg, Manitoba Police Department, on the systemic racism against Indigenous people, also highlighting their tendency to put aside their cases. In the letter, Emily Hardy (2022) talks about the mistreatment of indigenous peoples, especially women and youth. Through the eyes of a young person, the author tries to understand how racism in Canada has affected the lives of Indigenous. The author also touches upon the issue of missing and murdered indigenous women and persuades the police force to act promptly in such cases. The author also thanks to the police for their work and effort in working on the cases of the missing indigenous people and returning them home safely. The book is a valuable resource for understanding the existing systemic racism and the need to dismantle stereotypes and promote the importance of indigenous missing persons' cases.

Keywords: Indigenous youth and women, systemic racism, police, violence

Bailey, J., & Shayan, S. (2021). The missing and murdered Indigenous women crisis: technological dimensions. In _The Emerald International Handbook of Technology Facilitated Violence and Abuse_. Emerald Publishing Limited.

https://doi-org.proxy3.library.mcgill.ca/10.1108/978-1-83982-848-520211007

The paper adopts a 2016 article on the Canadian National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (NIMMIWG), considering the technological dimensions that led to indigenous women's deaths and disappearances in Canada. The systemic and interlocking oppressions of colonialism, misogyny, and racism were identified as root causes of this "Canadian genocide," manifesting in multiple forms of violence. RCMP (2014) estimates more than 1,100 MMIWG. The paper calls for urgent action to target violence in Canada's social, historical, and colonial context. The paper also presents how technology adds to the situation's complexity, which reflects and reinforces existing stereotypes leading to what is described as a national crisis. The paper discusses the impacts of cyber violence in four particular areas: Stalking and Intimate partner violence, human trafficking, online pornography, child abuse imagery, and online hate and harassment. The paper suggests using technology for outreach, support, and community organization. These include positive portrayals in media and awareness campaigns. Finally, the paper calls to take the CEDAW (2015) recommendations seriously to improve Canada's response to the protection of Indigenous women and girls through technical initiatives by the police (particularly RCMP) and the justice system, including a national inquiry and action plan. Examples include DNA technology such as RCMP's Project KARE.

Keywords: Indigenous women and girls, Online hate and harassment, Human trafficking, State surveillance, Sexual violence

Voyageur, C. (2020). Inflicting the White Man's Burden: Colonial Intrusion into First Nation Women's Lives. In _The Palgrave Handbook of Gender, Sexuality, and Canadian Politics_ (pp. 439-457). Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.

https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007%2F978-3-030-49240-3_22.pdf

The expansion of European Imperial powers in North America and their imposition of laws upon indigenous people has led to the subordination and the marginalization of Indigenous people's social, political, and economic structures. For example, the original inhabitants of what later became Canada called themselves Mi'kmaq, Maliseet, Dene, Nehiyawak, and Innu— "the People" (Chartrand 1991: 1)—colonizers referred to them collectively as "Indians." Therefore, colonialism led to a burdensome and long-standing societal structure, discrediting and dispossessing locals of their lands, resources, identity, and self-determination. The Indian Act placed them at an economic and political disadvantage vis-a-vis the mainstream Canadian Society, including controlling their public and private lives by the government and the church. The paper

charts the history of the spread of these imperial powers and details the beliefs and policies that impact First Nations Women. The paper also discusses the double disadvantages of oppression inside and outside the First Nations community. Finally, to strengthen its debate on marginalization of Indigenous people's rights and liberty the paper discusses destabilization, patriarchy, loss of women's identity upon marriage, enfranchisement, 'double mother rule,' limiting marriage partners, political inequality, and the rising and continued cases of murdered and missing indigenous women.

Keywords: Colonialism, Indigenous Women, North America, Imperial powers

Hume, R., & Walby, K. (2021). Framing, Suppression, and Colonial Policing Redux in Canada: News Representations of the 2019 Wet'suwet'en Blockade. *Journal of Canadian Studies***, 55(3), 507-540.**

https://doi.org/10.3138/jcs-2020-0021

Situated in colonial settler studies and informed by writings of Indigenous scholars, Hume and Walby (2021) in this paper examines how Wet'suwet'en mobilization is framed in news media coverage. Upon analysis, the framing has been derived into three themes: reduction of the issue to gas pipelines, characterization of land defenders as protestors, and portrayal of Indigenous groups as divided. The paper focuses on The Royal Canadian Mounted Police's (RCMP) excessive use of force against land defenders. It delegitimizes the Wet'suwet'en's claim to sovereignty, including corporate incursions, police surveillance, and occupation across unceded Wet'suwet'en' territory. Highlighting incidents of settler-colonial violence continue to label the assertion by Indigenous people of their territories as "resistance" and is treated as both illegitimate and criminal by state agencies. RCMP portrayal as impartial interlocutors is flawed given their clearance to use lethal force against land defenders, such as the case in the arrest of 14 land defenders at the Gidimt'en Access Point in northern British Columbia (2019). Given these reasons, recycled propaganda is relayed to the Canadians as mainstream media, justifying colonial violence against violent and unruly protesters. The heavy militarization of RCMP's invasion in Wet'suwet'en territories has led to massive solidarity protests from as recent as early 2020, focusing on continued and effective coverage of the events. The paper also talks about the images of violent treatment and arrest of peaceful land defenders, journalists, and legal observers that have led to awareness and social media campaigns such as #StandWithWetsuweten and #ShutDownCanada the refusal to accept the colonial status quo any longer.

Keywords: public police, suppression, media studies, colonialism, Indigenous resistance

Bird, D. (2021). Negotiating Successful Transitions:" Criminalized" Indigenous Women in Saskatchewan (Doctoral dissertation, University of Saskatchewan)

http://hdl.handle.net/10388/13195

Bird (2021), in this master's thesis, captures the experiences of Indigenous women inmates- the fastest-growing federal inmate population, in the settler-colonial Canadian prisons. It examines the lives of five Indigenous women on their experiences with the effectiveness of Indigenous-based prison programs and their post-release transitions. The qualitative study dives into an understanding of these formerly incarcerated Indigenous women documenting their perceptions of the Government's efforts to "Indigenizing " the criminal justice system. The women reveal it has not been helpful due to disconnects between the theory underlying Indigenous reclamation projects and their practical application. The chapters contextualize the issue of Indigenous women's history in carceral systems and what works and what does not in the current scenario. The complexities of their lived realities are ignored, and the deficiencies of the criminal justice system remain unchallenged. The women lacked trust in the healing programs, given Correctional Service Canada's control and surveillance. Additionally, they are not prepared to support the transition post-prison. Therefore, the research reiterates the importance of listening to and centering Indigenous women as experts on their own lived realities. The paper shows that definition of a successful life post-prison is not to be just out of prison but that of liberation. It also discuss about free from fear of prosecution, to live free from fear, without stigma and labels associated with their criminalization. Finally, the paper calls for building relationships and the need for social, economic, and cultural supports that are not controlled by settler state institutions.

Keywords: Indigenous women, Canada, First Nations, Settler Colonialism, Indigenous women

Felt, M. (2016). Mobilizing affective political networks: The role of affect in calls for a national inquiry to murdered and missing indigenous women during the 2015 canadian federal election. In *Proceedings of the 7th 2016 International Conference on Social Media & Society* (pp. 1-8).

https://dl.acm.org/doi/abs/10.1145/2930971.2930978

The paper highlights high rates of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women (MMIW) in Canada, which the RCMP reports as four times more than other Canadians. With the 2015 federal elections, PM Justin Trudeau had begun the process of a national inquiry into the matter, which advocated for hope, post-Stephen Harper's tenure. As the efforts intensified on social media, the mixed methods study delves into election-related tweets with #MMIW and related ones such as *cdnpoli, whoisshe*, and violence. These revealed emotional triggers such as anger, hope, and disgust when viewed through the lens of affect theory. The campaign was examined in terms of Manuel Castells theory on networks recognizing their social value, followed by social media, social networking sites (SNS), social movements, and political activism. Charles Tilly's concept on WUNC (public enactments of worthiness, unity, numbers, and commitment) displays was joined with the campaign. Johnson, Zhang, Bichard, and Seltzer were quoted to show that SNS influence political

attitudes and behaviors. The results were categorized under prominent effects, which was a combined sense of anger at injustice and hope for change over the lingering disgust built on a history of disrespect. Under triggers, six trigger peaks were recognized linked to the developing political landscape. Finally, the paper also discusses digital solidarity, such as common hashtags, retweets, following each other, and effective mobilization of activists.

Keywords: Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women (MMIW), social media, Affect theory, Indigenous claims, social movements

Lucchesi, A. H. E. (2019). Mapping geographies of Canadian colonial occupation: Pathway analysis of murdered Indigenous women and girls. *Gender, Place & Culture*, *26*(6), 868-887.

https://doi.org/10.1080/0966369X.2018.1553864

The paper delves into the landscape of violence that generations of indigenous women have been expected to navigate. It builds on life course studies, particularly notions of pathway analysis, to demonstrate how such analysis can be combined with cartography to understand the situation around missing and murdered indigenous women. Even then, taking the colonial landscape into consideration, there are only limited life course studies examining Indigenous women and girls. Therefore, the paper enlists maps and database on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls as useful tools in communicating indigenous experiences of colonial violence and genocide. The paper draws insights of the systematic devaluation of Anishinaabe and Inuit women from the database with a focus on recent cases which had ample information available for research, they were Thunder Bay (1966): Jane Bernanrd and Doreen Hardy and Montreal, 2017: Siasi Tullaugak and Sharon Barron. Here the author highlights how the media has a lukewarm response towards the reporting and follow-up of these cases. And also, how the police have closed these cases without exercising detailed caution and investigation into the matter. The author urges for the accountability of authorities (police) for the prevalence of the grave forms of violence against women and allowing hotbeds of widespread intergenerational racial violence to exist in their cities. As a means to inform both academia and violence prevention policy, the stories and life paths of Indigenous women and girls need to be critically examined to prevent these patterns of violence.

Keywords: Cartography, Colonialism, Gender Violence, Indigenous, Life course studies, Mapping

3. Post Afghanistan response

Women, U.N. (2021). Women's Rights in Afghanistan: Where are we now? *Gender Alert*, **(1).**
https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2021-12/Gender-alert-Womens-rights-in-Afghanistan-en.pdf

This report highlights the impacts of Afghanistan's crisis (Taliban's takeover) on women's rights and gender equality. Methodologically, the paper relies on primary and secondary data and discusses key thematic areas such as work, education, health care, protection, gender violence against women and girls, freedom of movement, accountability mechanisms, humanitarian response, participation in public political life, and changing political dynamics. The issues faced by women and girls are compounded by decades of war, natural disasters, ongoing pandemics, and deep-rooted poverty. The significant impact on gender norms is central to the country's political, peace, and security landscape. Findings show that the political instability in the country is widespread and poses severe effects on gender equality and women's rights. The paper also points out that the Taliban's assurances to respect women's rights in accordance with Islam are contradictory and lack commitments to existing constitutional provisions. For example: abolishing the Ministry of Women's affairs, which was a vital part of the country's gender equality infrastructure, established under the auspices of the Bonn Agreement. Families have been self-censoring women in the absence of clarity in directives and to protect their "honor" due to the lack of protection and support mechanisms, both internal and external (foreign aid, international humanitarian response). The situation reverses their rights and the recent successes made to counter existing patriarchal norms and forms of marginalization of women and girls. Finally, the paper provides three recommendations to safeguard women's rights and freedoms: Rebuilding the Afghan women's movement, investing in support services for women by women, and establishing independent monitoring mechanisms.

Keywords: Gender equality, Women, Peace and Security (WPS), National Action Plan (NAP), Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG), Afghan women and girls, Humanitarian response

Alvi-Aziz, H. (2008). A progress report on women's education in post-Taliban Afghanistan. *International Journal of lifelong education*, **27**(2), 169-178.

https://doi.org/10.1080/02601370801936333

The paper is based on the post-Taliban 2001 era. It explores the limited structural progress and setbacks in the education of Afghan women as the state and NGOs prioritized their agendas over the needs of women and girls. The post-conflict rebuilding efforts are a threat due to the security concerns and cases of violence against women, including their historical subjugation. As the author was denied information by the Ministry of Education and its official collaborators, the literature

review relies on UN and NGO reports demystifying the projection of success (miscalculation and exaggeration) in rebuilding post-conflict Afghanistan by west-based institutions, particularly the US and the Bush administration. The diversion of aid for personal uses and human resources rather than development work was observed on the ground. Therefore, average Kabulis suffered the brunt while the foreigners and wealthy Afghans enjoyed all privileges. The Taliban regime had infringed the rights of women and girls towards quality education and their right to freedom, which resulted in the 3-4% female literacy rate (US congress figures). Some civil society organizations have pioneered their work despite these challenges, including the Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan. The author urged for a reorientation of security, state, and NGO policies to further women's education. The recommendations to create a "strong educational base" are again under threat with the Taliban takeover in 2021. Their well-known standing and evidence discouraging education and freedom of women and girls by any means necessary (bombing of schools, landmines, acid attacks) are in need of an urgent WPS response mechanism.

Keywords: Taliban, Afghanistan, United States, Bush Administration. Education, Security

Ahmad, A., Rassa, N., Orcutt, M., Blanchet, K., & Haqmal, M. (2021). Urgent health and humanitarian needs of the Afghan population under the Taliban. *The Lancet*, *398*(10303), 822-825.

https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(21)01963-2

As Taliban gains control of the country, there is palpable fear among citizens as they relive the instrumentalization of weaponization and violence. The health and humanitarian infrastructure is crumbling with the persecution of health and NGO officials through door-to-door and social media searches. Gauging evidence from WHO field reports and humanitarian and health organizations, the paper reports internal displacement of more than 500,000 with decrease in access to health care and essential services. The vulnerable population are facing disproportionate impacts with pre-existing impacts of conflict on health and security expected to be magnified. The UN Assistance Mission has reported a 46% increase in the killing and wounded civilians from the last year, with more women being killed and wounded as compared to the records since 2009. Drought and COVID-19 have exacerbated food insecurity with an impending humanitarian catastrophe without improved and collaborative humanitarian access. Even though NGO personnel and human rights defenders have continued to work amidst threats and violence, there is pronounced concern that the successes made in the area of public health will be lost over the coming months, compounded by deteriorating financial situation leading to poverty. Therefore, urging vital humanitarian health efforts through improvement in transport and supply chain mechanism of aid materials, protection of civil society and evacuation procedures. Along with six key action to prevent worsening of the health and humanitarian crisis, the paper goes a step ahead suggesting a dialogue with Taliban authorities on continuation of health and humanitarian services, including vaccination against COVID-19.

Keywords: Taliban, Afghanistan, Women and Children, Afghan girls, Gender-based violence

Bogaert, H. (2022). History Repeating Itself: The Resurgence of the Taliban and the Abandonment of Afghan Women. *Immigration and Human Rights Law Review*, *4*(1), 3.

https://scholarship.law.uc.edu/ihrlr/vol4/iss1/3

The article delves into the failure of the United States and its allies in rooting out the Taliban from Afghanistan and its repercussions on Afghan people, especially women and girls. It traces the history of the country, tracking the rise, fall and subsequent rise again of the Taliban. Here, International conventions such as CEDAW, investigations in the International Criminal Court, asylum-seeking abroad, and monetary aid have been inadequate in responding to Taliban's blatant violation of human rights. These inadequacies of intergovernmental agencies are due to lack of proper enforcement (power) to implement the ideas of the International Bill of Human Rights. In addition, involvement of military forces has been ineffective. The author holds the international community responsible for creating a power vacuum, bringing in political instability in the region for a guerrilla group to take control. In conclusion, even though the solution is unclear, the author suggests an urgent response by the international community towards the protection of human rights of the people of Afghanistan, in contrast to complete abandonment.

Keywords: Afghanistan, Taliban, Afghan Women and Girls, Human Rights

Gregory, T. (2022). Calibrating violence: Body counts as a weapon of war. *European Journal of International Security*, **1-29.**

https://doi.org/10.1017/eis.2022.7

The author draws on interviews with senior coalition officials, recently declassified documents and coalition data on civilian harm, to examine the weaponization of counting of civil casualties in Afghanistan from 2008-2014. A Civilian Casualty Tracking Cell (CCTC) and Civilian Casualty Mitigation Team (CCMT) was formulated to collect data civilian casualties, along with the explanation on how these counts were complicit in violence inflicted by coalition troops, shaping how the conflict was both thought and fought. The intent behind reducing civilian casualties was to protect Afghan people but their concern that the casualties might cause them the war. The confluence of military necessity and humanitarian reason encouraged the coalition to introduce measures that did reduce harm inflicted on civilians but was not their strategic priority which was observed in the coalition's backlog on reporting and withholding of data on civilian harm. As body counts could be both a tool of transparency and a weapon for war, there need be a consideration for more relational forms of representation. It is important that we are not simply documenting the dead in order to find ways of inflicting violence more efficiently, but to recognize the horrors experienced by civilians during times of war.

Keywords: Body Counts, Civilian Casualties, Counterinsurgency, Violence, Afghanistan

Zannou, E. J., & Switala, V. J. (2022). A New Reality-Afghan Women's Perspectives on their Rights inAfghanistan.

The research is a Bachelor's thesis work of two students from Diaconia University of Applied Sciences where they aim to shed light on the perspectives of Afghan women and their rights, focusing on the period from May-October 2021. The qualitative research analysis has revealed a common theme of fear, multidimensional fears related to their rights to their health, participation in the society, self-development and self-determination. The findings have resulted in the compromise of the right to education, right to freedom of movement and right to freedom from violence. Due to existing social disparities and patriarchal norms, women bear the additional burden of discrimination in terms of work, health, nutrition and even the absence of rights to a freely consented marriage, leading them to vulnerable situations and poor living conditions. Therefore, the gaps and future areas of work point to the exploration of perspectives of women who are vulnerable and from rural areas. It also urges for the continued involvement of the international community in promoting and maintaining women's rights in Afghanistan.

Keywords: Afghanistan 2021, Afghan women perspectives, Women's rights, Taliban

Islam, Z., Kokash, D. M., Babar, M. S., Uday, U., Hasan, M. M., Rackimuthu, S., ... & Nemat, A. (2022). Food security, conflict, and COVID-19: perspective from Afghanistan. *The American journal of tropical medicine and hygiene*, *106*(1), 21.

The authors explore the state of food insecurity in Afghanistan, a country suffered through years of conflict and political instability. Food security in a country can be described as having physical and economic access to adequate, safe and nutritious food meeting their dietary requirements and food preferences for a functional and healthy life. The existing turmoil in the country was exacerbated by the Taliban takeover and macroeconomic turnover during COVID-19, making it increasingly challenging for people to access daily provisions: closing of borders, decrease in monetary aid. This is in addition to limited access due to snowfall during winters, natural calamities such as flash floods and droughts, depreciating livestock conditions, inflation leading to increase in oil price, displacement, suspension of commercial flights (food services carriers) and so on. According to the United Nations, about 12 million Afghan citizens face acute food insecurity and lack of access to stable jobs and income. The UN has indicated that if help is not provided by September'22, the country could run out of food. These economic contractions have led to rise in poverty levels and other socioeconomic and public health issues. The paper recommends provisions for farmers along with humanitarian aid, legalizing opium for trade for medicinal purposes (to maintain livelihood), opportunities for vulnerable population, entrepreneurial - focused interest-free loans and training workshops, creation of food warehouses and creation of

job opportunities. In addition, there must be efforts to ease tensions, refugee support services and purchase of Afghan goods and services.

Keywords: Afghanistan, Food Insecurity, COVID-19, Health, Aid

4. COVID-19 and Gender Based Violence (GBV)

Sánchez, O. R., Vale, D. B., Rodrigues, L., & Surita, F. G. (2020). Violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic: An integrative review. *International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics*, *151*(2), 180-187.

The paper is a qualitative synthesis of 38 articles published between December 2019-June 2020 on increase Violence against women (VAW) during the COVID-19 pandemic. The imposition of COVID norms and restrictions such as social distancing and lockdown exacerbated the vulnerabilities of women with the occurrence of domestic, family and intimate partner violence. Here the role of health workers, public security and social services in screening, identifying and addressing cases of violence was identified as key. The evidence derived from anecdotes, police reports, shelters and so on has shown an increase in demand for emergency services. As there was no proper channel of reporting due to existing barriers such as aggressive and controlling behavior of the aggressor, fear of contracting the virus, low privacy, lack of social support mechanisms and facilities, it's implicit that cases or numbers were underreported. Additionally, it suggested the need for an intergenerational response as the violence and its impacts were transcended to other vulnerable populations: children, adolescent, pregnant women, migrants and elderly. Along with the overburdened healthcare system, the complexity of the situation led to negative outcomes in health and well-being. The link between VAW and SRHR was profound, highlighting the need to foster essential health services during a crisis. Since the aforementioned impacts were observed globally and were not limited to low- or medium-income countries, it is crucial to develop strategies with a mix of traditional and non-traditional ways, learning from experiences of our response to VAW in health emergencies.

Keywords: COVID-19, Intimate partner violence (IPV), Violence against Women (VAW)

Women, U. N., & Count, W. (2021). Measuring the shadow pandemic: Violence against women during COVID-19. *UN Women Data Hub*.

The UN Women report is a compilation of the results of Rapid Gender Assessment surveys on the impact of COVID-19 on the violence against women and girls in 13 countries. The survey was based on challenges faced during lockdowns and restricted mobility periods, with a focus on the prevalence of Violence against women (VAW) which was on a significant rise, negatively

impacting women's feelings of safety and mental health. Even though VAW is a human rights violation with devastating immediate and long-term consequences, women around the world experience it in various forms, settings, levels of frequency and severity. These conditions hamper their basic health, empowerment and living standards which are the prerequisites to achieving gender equality. The COVID-19 stay-at-home order to contain the spread of the virus led to women being locked down with their abusers, creating dangerous conditions for VAW, often with tragic consequences. According to the survey data, 1 in 2 women reported that they or a woman they know has experienced a form of violence since the COVID-19 pandemic. The assessment has taken in consideration the impact on vulnerable women and the burden of unpaid care work along with rise in pre-existing inequalities. The results have thus shown that more than 2 in 5 women projected a worsening of their overall mental and emotional health. The response warrants a call for action on women-centric response including policies, allocation of resources, strengthening of services, regular collection of gender-disaggregated data and investment in prevention mechanisms.

Keywords: Violence against Women (VAW), COVID-19, Health

UN Women. (2020a). *Violence Against Women and Girls Data Collection during COVID-19*. https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publica tions/2020/VAWG-data-collection-during-COVID-19-compressed.pdf

The paper identifies the methods through which data on Violence against women and girls (VAWG) can be collected during the COVID-19 pandemic. Data is a crucial tool in understanding the risk factors that lead to an increase in VAWG, identifying sources and services for women victims/survivors and in designing evidence-based policy and programmes. These would be particularly useful in developing strategies for prevention of VAWG in emergencies and public health crisis in the future. It enlists the methodological, ethical and safety principles to be considered in the context of the COVID measures imposed in the country. The findings here are based on a UN Women and WHO brief on COVID-19 and VAWG. Firstly, it identifies the challenges, which are: use of unconventional methods of data collection; it may entail serious safety risks; understanding our limitations on the data that cannot be collected and what the data cannot tell us. Secondly, it lists the guiding principles: Protecting and supporting women and girls who experience violence; Existing data can already provide strong evidence to inform the response to COVID-19; Importance of ethical and safety principles during a crisis. Lastly, the recommendations included: Not proceeding with data collection if there are any risks of harm; Not include questions about women respondent's experiences of violence as part of population-based rapid assessments; choosing the most appropriate method and source for data collection based on the context whilst ensuring the safety of women respondents; Advocating for the needs of women and girls who are often marginalized.

Key words: Data Collection; Gender-based Violence (GBV), Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG), COVID-19

Coss, S. A. (2020) COVID-19 and Ending Violence Against Women and Girls.

https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/04/issue-brief-covid-19-and-ending-violence-against-women-and-girls#view

Drawing from the knowledge and experience of wide range of experts, the UN Women policy brief highlights the rise of violence against women and girls (VAWG) during COVID-19. Globally, 243 million women and girls aged 15-49 are subjected to sexual and/or physical violence. As security, health and money worries heightened along with the confinement at homes, the number is rapidly increasing. Hence, emerging data has shown an increase in the cases of VAWG, particularly domestic violence. Therefore, there is pressure on essential services and an increase in cyber violence, as most of our interactions moved online. The brief highlights the VAWG response mechanisms of countries to ensure the safety of women, bringing in innovative solutions and also a virtual justice system. It enlists the recommendations to be considered by the government, international organizations and the civil society. These include allocation of additional resources in VAW and COVID-19 response plans, strengthening of services and building capacities of essential care providers, women-centric policy response and collection of sex-aggregated data on VAW to inform effective response mechanisms.

Keywords: Violence against Women and Girls, COVID-19, Lockdown, Domestic violence

World Health Organization. (2020). *COVID-19 and violence against women: what the health sector/system can do, 7 April 2020* **(No. WHO/SRH/20.04). World Health Organization.**

https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/331699/WHO-SRH-20.04-eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

The policy brief regards Violence against Women (VAW) as a major threat to global public health and women's health during emergencies which increases during the time of emergencies such as in the case of the COVID-19 pandemic. Citing the prevalence of VAW, about 1 in 3 women worldwide have experienced physical and/or sexual violence. Here the vulnerable women such as older women, women with disabilities and women who are displaced, refugees and living in conflict-affected areas are likely to have additional risks and needs. An exponential rise in the cases of domestic violence has been observed globally. For example: the number of cases reported to a police station in Jingzhou (China) tripled in February 2020 as compared to the previous year. The lockdown measures to contain the spread of the virus led to women being stuck with their abusive partners and leading to a rise in intimate partner violence. In addition, due to existing patriarchal norms and subjugation of women has led to an increase in risks, stress and mental health issues owing to disruption of social and protective networks and decreased access to services. As the health sector is majorly composed of women, they are susceptible to violence at workplaces as healthcare workers. In addition to the tips for coping with stress and violence at home, the brief lists recommendations for various other service sectors responding to VAW:

Governments and policy makers, health facilities, health providers, humanitarian response organizations, community members and women who are experiencing violence.

Keywords: COVID-19, Violence against Women and Girls (VAW), Gender-based Violence (GBV), Public Health, Domestic Violence

UN Women. (2020b). Decision tree: Data collection on violence against women and COVID-19. *Decision Tree: Data Collection on Violence against Women and COVID-19.* https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/07/decision-tree-data-collection-on-violence-against-women-and-covid-19

The decision tree is a comprehensive tool for data collection on Violence against Women (VAW) and Girls, developed by UN Women. Two main aims of the decision tree are on the why (is the data being collected) and how (will the data be collected), along with the questions which are useful to explore on addressing VAW. It addresses the importance of data of VAW and its usage providing examples of survey questions in addition to an analysis of the existing data. The paper suggests the sources of primary research which include mapping of existing services, need for short surveys and interview of survivors (with full consent and sensitivity). It also lists a number of do's and don'ts when it comes to data collection of this sensitive issue. It discourages the use of service data as it might not be the most preferred source of reporting (Example: police reports, data from shelters). Therefore, the decision tree prioritizes women's safety over data collection and provides a step-by-step mechanism on ensuring their safety.

Keywords: Data Collection, Decision tree, Gender-based Violence (GBV), Violence against Women (VAW), Safety.

De Ninas, P. A. U. G., De La Violencia, D. G. A., & De Esfuerzos, T. R. A. V. É. S (2022). Beyond the Shadow Pandemic.
https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/pdf/sc_covid19_gbv_brief_english.pdf/

The brief focuses on the specific risks and vulnerabilities faced by girls in the effort to prioritize response and recovery efforts on the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) during the COVID-19 pandemic. Along with promising good practices and cases studies from Save the Children's findings on the ground and secondary sources, the paper details on the exacerbated risks of GBV for adolescent girls such as early/child marriage leading to early pregnancy and physical abuse by parents and guardians. They have also less likely to return to school and have been pushed into stereotypical roles of unpaid care work and subjected to harmful gender norms. The paper furnishes a comprehensive list of recommendations for the national governments, donors, UN Actors, Media and Humanitarian organizations. Some of these include: concrete policy, programmatic and funding efforts addressing GBV against adolescent girls, recognition of GBV response as essential services, development of formal and informal protection system, gender disaggregated data collection and analysis and participation of women and girls in decision making.

Fraser, E. (2020). Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on violence against women and girls. *UKAid VAWG Helpdesk Research Report*, *284.*

https://www.sddirect.org.uk/media/1881/vawg-helpdesk-284-covid-19-and-vawg.pdf

The secondary research data on the emerging evidence, case studies and recommendations for mitigation of Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) was brought together by UK Aid's VAWG helpdesk. The evidence revealed an increased risk of domestic violence in workplace especially in the health sector, racial and sexual harassment (online and offline), abuse and exploitation of vulnerable women workers, violence in emergency settings and violence perpetrated by state official and armed guards. As a response, the paper suggests a 'twin-track' approach combining the support to organizations working directly with survivors and integrating VAWG into sectoral responses. Therefore, the recommendations include collection of gender-disaggregated data, focus on vulnerable and marginalized populations, strengthening of leadership and participation of women in decision making, GBV training for first responders, updated GBV referral pathways and provision of psychosocial support. These have been drawn from the evidence collected on lessons from similar epidemics and state-specific examples from across the globe on evidence, mitigation strategies and advocacy efforts.

Peterman, A., Potts, A., O'Donnell, M., Thompson, K., Shah, N., Oertelt-Prigione, S., & Van Gelder, N. (2020). *Pandemics and violence against women and children* **(Vol. 528). Washington, DC: Center for Global Development.**

https://www.cgdev.org/publication/pandemics-and-violence-against-women-and-children

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the paper identifies the times of economic uncertainty, civil unrest, and disaster, all linking to increased violence against women and children (VAW/C) with pandemics being no exception. The rapid review of both qualitative and quantitative literature identifies nine main pathways linking pandemics to VAW/C through the effects of/on: economic insecurity and poverty-related stress; quarantines and social isolation; disaster and conflict-related unrest and instability; exposure to exploitative relationships due to changing demographics; reduced health service availability and access to first responders; inability of women to temporarily escape abusive partners; virus-specific sources of violence; exposure to violence and coercion in response efforts, and; violence perpetrated against health care workers. The paper also highlights gender-sensitive policy and program responses, which include an enhanced first-response system, integration of VAW/C in health systems, expansion of shelter and temporary housing for survivors, encouraging informal (and virtual) social support network, clear communication and support during quarantine (by the government functionaries), integration of VAW/C in longer term pandemic preparedness and finally, implementing and investing in a flexible funding mechanism.

These findings are supplemented with three areas of research on the mitigation of VAW/C: Understanding the magnitude of the problem, linkages with other social and economic factors and innovative and effective response mechanisms.

User, M., (2021). *CARE Gender in Emergencies -* **Magnifying inequalities and compounding risks . Care.**

https://policycommons-net.proxy3.library.mcgill.ca/artifacts/1730946/care-gender-in-emergencies/2462595/

The impact of COVID-19 has been detrimental for the marginalized and vulnerable populations with significant set-backs on hard-won development gains, magnifying inequalities and compounding risks. Half of the worst affected people worldwide include women and girls, who face a double disadvantage given their marginalization in terms of public health and social protection systems, especially in resource-poor countries and conflict infested areas. They are at a risk of gender-based violence and lack in provisions of sexual and reproductive health. Therefore, the research emphasizes the need for placing gender at the center of humanitarian and development response. Based in Afghanistan, Ecuador and Turkey between April and May 2021, it focuses on the impact of COVID-19 on health and protection of women and girls on the move. The data hence is based on a representative sample of displacement including internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugee returnees, migrants and refugees. The recommendations include strengthening of public health emergency preparedness, prioritization of meaningful participation of women in leadership and decision making, collaboration with government on the continuity of health services, investment in creative, durable and gender-responsive solutions and increased funding on GBV mitigation strategies such as cash and voucher assistance, increase in volume and quality of frontline responders.

Wenham, C., & Davies, S. E. (2021). WHO runs the world–(not) girls: gender neglect during global health emergencies. *International Feminist Journal of Politics***, 1-24.**

https://doi.org/10.1080/14616742.2021.1921601

The gendered impact of global health emergencies has been observed due to the neglect of gender experience and needs in the response mechanism. It has been evident from the outbreak of Ebola in West Africa, Zika in Latin America and now COVID-19. Even with their current mandate of coordination and participation, the World Health Organization (WHO) has been accused of sexual exploitation by their emergency responders in the Democratic Republic of Congo. This shows the systemic lack of gender awareness within the organizations and international organizations in general. The literature review covers the issue under five main categories. Firstly, why gender-blind responses in health emergencies are harmful. Secondly the importance of gender inclusion

in decision making. Third, institutional responsibility of WHO, Fourth, COVID-19 as an opportunity for a paradigm shift and finally, the benefit of gender inclusion to inform a sustainable gender-inclusive global health response. In that context, the WHO has a responsibility to lead the process through mainstreaming gender in its policies and practices that promote the prevention and detection of, and response to, infectious disease outbreaks. The proposed measures include the adoption of gender analysis frameworks, representation in decision making for preparedness and response and finally, the use of feminist methodologies among the means of collecting evidence for informing policy for each outbreak.

Keywords: Global health security, Gender, World Health Organization, COVID-19, Women

Al-Ali, N. (2020). Covid-19 and feminism in the Global South: Challenges, initiatives and dilemmas. *European Journal of Women's Studies*, *27*(4), 333-347.
https://doi.org/10.1177%2F1350506820943617

The literature review exposes the pre-existing vulnerabilities of women and wider challenges faced by the LGBTQ populations, ethnic minorities, domestic workers, migrants and sex workers, which were exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic. With a focus on the global south, the author has explored a pandemic induced "crisis of social reproduction" which has impacted women as main caregivers and the increase in gender-based violence (GBV). These issues were compounded with the growing poverty rate and limited access to health resources, especially for the marginalized and vulnerable communities identified above. It goes on to identify the feminist visions and dilemmas by drawing parallels with the global north. Feminists form the global south have been critical of the gender-blind policies, interventions and relief programs of governments. Along with rise in threats from right-wing populism and militant ethno-nationalism. In all this confusion, Awino Okech (SOAS, London) suggested a window for "rewiring societies' with the emergence of creative, powerful and important feminist responses, initiatives and solidarities at local and at transnational levels. She also brought forward the argument that feminists need to create stronger narratives, build effective allyship and engage in transnational solidarity led by activists from the Global South. The author concludes by highlighting a number of visions, tensions and dilemmas faced by feminists in the Global South that will need to be taken into consideration in terms of transnational feminist solidarities.

Keywords: Global South, Covid-19, Social reproduction, Transnational feminism

UNDP. (2020). *Gender-based violence and COVID-19.*
https://www.undp.org/library/gender-based-violence-and-covid-19#modal-publication-download

The UNDP brief recognizes the increase in domestic violence and gender-based violence (GBV) due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The pre-existing gender inequalities along with pandemic induced stress and COVID-19 related movement restrictions have led to a rise in GBV. Through literature review, the author highlights actions and strategies to prevent and address GBV. These include the

integration of GBV in national and sub-national response plans, provision of coordination support and advice through shelters, safe spaces, psycho-social support to victims/ survivors, inclusion and support to CSOs plus traditional and faith-based leaders in advocacy against GBV and the encouragement of community-led solutions. These solutions were supplemented with state-specific examples of good practices adopted worldwide. The paper sought to provide additional considerations which is to put women at the center of all efforts, utilization of available data to the fullest, exploration of tech-based solutions, adoption of an intersectional approach to the response mechanism, foster a culture of zero tolerance of Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and the engagement with men and boys challenging unequal gender roles and gender stereotypes.

Keywords: Gender-based violence; Civil Society; COVID-19; Women and Girls

Agarwal, B. (2021). Reflections on the less visible and less measured: gender and COVID-19 in India. *Gender & Society*, *35(2), 244-255.*

https://doi.org/10.1177%2F08912432211001299

Based on the findings from telephone surveys and literature review, this article examines gendered impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Indian context. The findings from the Indian context can be connected with the challenges faced in developing countries as well. The author observed the impacts such as job losses, food shortages, enhanced domestic burdens, gender-based violence and the depletion of savings and assets, and widowhood (and its societal impacts on the dependents such as educational reversal of girls), from which recovery was a challenge. The complexity of these gendered impacts needs to be considered as it has exposed the pre-existing inequalities and social norms. Lastly, the author also highlights the importance of group-based approaches for protecting women's livelihoods in crisis and the dire need for empowerment through the provision of land rights and formal employment for mitigating the risk of intimate partner violence. In conclusion, the author reflects on the larger question of creating a synergy between feminist theory, evidence gathering, and policy formulation.

Keywords: Gendered, COVID-19; India

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). (2020). *Gender and disaster risk reduction and response in the context of COVID-19: The Asia-Pacific Region*.
https://www.undrr.org/publication/action-brief-gender-and-disaster-risk-reduction-and-response-context-covid-19-asia

The focus of the action brief is on gender-responsive disaster preparedness and response in the times of COVID-19. Linking gender with disaster, it warns the heightened impact of disasters on the vulnerable population of women and girls due to existing gender inequality. These inequalities have been reinforced during the pandemic with the increase in unpaid care work, increased sexual and gender-based violence risks, disproportionate impacts on their livelihoods (women working as farmers, migrant workers, entrepreneurs etc.) and impact on sexual and reproductive health rights. Along with this it highlights the critical importance of sex, age, disability disaggregated

data (SADDD) to inform disaster risk response, taking into consideration that women and girls are a heterogeneous group. It enlists some key messages on prevention, response and recovery and recalls the international conventions and commitments (SDG 3, SDG 5, IPCC, CEDAW) in our resolve to improve Disaster risk reduction (DRR) practices and making them gender-responsive and socially inclusive. These include: Leveraging international guidelines and minimum standards on gender equality, collecting and using SADDD data, adapting the existing DRR systems to be gender-response, advancing existing commitments to support local women-focused organizations and finally, seeking and supporting women's leadership. These recommendations are derived from the work done by UN Women, UNDRR and partners under the Leave no one behind agenda, in response to COVID-19 in the Asia pacific region. The brief brings forth critical examples to ascertain the need for gender and social inclusivity, such as women leaders in Rohingya camps.

Keywords: Disaster Risk Resilience, COVID-19, Asia-pacific, Gender, Disaster Management

Porter, C., Favara, M., Sánchez, A., & Scott, D. (2021). The impact of COVID-19 lockdowns on physical domestic violence: Evidence from a list randomization experiment. *SSM-population health***,** *14***, 100792.**

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmph.2021.100792

Domestic violence emerged as a global concern in 2020 with the enactment of stay-at-home restriction to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus. A double list randomized experiment method was incorporated to quantify the increase in physical domestic violence experienced by young people aged 18-26 during the 2020 COVID-19 lockdown in Peru. The experiment, embedded in a telephone survey of respondents from a young lives study (2016), revealed that 8.3% of the sample experienced an increase in physical violence within their households and a 23.6% increase in physical violence during lockdown as compared to the last round of in-person data collection of the violence. The reported increase did not differ significantly by gender. The study thus suggested a close monitoring of certain vulnerable groups which are susceptible to violence.

Keywords: Domestic violence, COVID-19, Peru

Row, A. and Oliveira., A. (2020) The Humanitarian Response Network of Canada Responding to COVID-19.

https://cooperation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Briefing-4_With-HRN.pdf

The Humanitarian Response Network's (HRN) briefing note seeks to share lessons learned to strengthen the quality and efficiency of humanitarian action. They have been working on advocacy efforts and the provision of aid to vulnerable communities, intending to leave no one behind. Doctors of the World (MDM) emphasized the need for awareness-raising, communications, adaptation, and support as key elements of the organization's work. Doctors without Borders (MSF) highlighted having a proportionate public health response to ensure availability and access to life-saving services, not neglecting the other health needs in view of COVID-19, noting the secondary impacts of COVID-19 (reduced medical supplies and

personnel) and continuity if essential services, treatments, and vaccines. The discussion brought out some common issues tackled by HRN members: Impacts of COVID-19 on Education, COVID and Conflict, Inclusion of PWDs in Humanitarian response, nutrition and food security issues, secondary health impacts, Gender and COVID-19, Gender-based Violence, Innovation, and Localization. The paper highlights the role of Global Affairs Canada (GAC) in providing funding, processes, and engagement around COVID-19. They have been supporting multilateral agencies, allocating resources through UN-country-based funds, and supporting localization with an openness to working with NGOs. They have been engaged with COVID-19 response mechanisms nationally and internationally and placed the safety of women and girls at the center of their response. Finally, the paper emphasizes the joint statement on gender-based violence and COVID-19 and outlines relevant considerations in humanitarian response.

Keywords: COVID-19, Gender, Health, Humanitarian Response, Security, Canada

GIWPS (2021). *Responding to rising intimate partner violence amid COVID-19 A rapid global*, **Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security.**

https://giwps.georgetown.edu/resource/responding-to-rising-intimate-partner-violence-amid-covid-19/

The paper identifies ways in which governments and civil society organizations have responded to the rising rates of intimate partner violence (IPV) and the overall issue of violence against women (VAW) during the pandemic. As governments had to impose lockdowns to control the spread of the virus, the paper brings forward a myriad of cases from across the globe and innovative strategies adopted by them to respond to VAW and in particular, IPV. In South Africa, 87,000 gender-based violence complaints were reported in the first seven days of the lockdown. In India, the number of domestic violence cases doubled and in Thailand, the number of clients visiting domestic violence crisis units were more than double. Women were also hesitating in using formal reporting mechanisms and the situation was worse than it was being reported. Information was largely collected through anecdotal reports of vulnerable populations and service providers. Rapid review of published and grey literature revealed the efforts taken to increase awareness and access of services by survivors. Civil society and women's organizations had a prominent role to play in mobilizing resources, urgently and efficiently through innovative public-private partnerships. The lessons learnt include: Boosting public awareness and outreach; Innovating mechanism for reporting; Expanding housing and shelter options; Ensuring adequate health sector responses; Fostering economic independence; Supporting law enforcement and judicial interventions; Advancing monitoring and evaluation efforts. The learnings hold true for longer term solutions on responding to VAW through a collaborative effort by the government, NGOs, women's groups and UN organizations.

Keywords: Violence against Women; COVID-19, Government response, Civil Society, United Nations

EIGE, (2021). The Covid-19 pandemic and intimate partner violence against women in the EU, European Institute for Gender Equality.

https://eige.europa.eu/publications/covid-19-pandemic-and-intimate-partner-violence-against-women-eu

The report is a preliminary overview of the measures taken by the EU to support victims of violence during the COVID-19 outbreak. It identifies seven main challenges for service providers: ensuring continuity of service delivery, finding new ways of providing support, meeting a surge in demand for services, dealing with strain on service provider staff, reaching victims, identifying the risk level of victims and inadequacy of funding. Responses to these challenges varied within Member States, in terms of additional funding and their classification of essential services. Some adopted comprehensive action plans addressing the issue of intimate partner violence (IPV) and some adopted new legislations or amendments to existing legislations. Member states in general recognized the importance of improving the availability of communication and support tools for victims, in line with the human rights instruments and their obligation to combat VAW as a human rights violation. There were also awareness raising campaigns on IPV. Belgium, Ireland, Spain and Slovenia were the four member states which showcased promising results in terms of the response to VAW during COVID-19. The study relied on a combination of methods (Desk research, Targeted desk research, online survey, in-depth analysis of four member states, stakeholder interviews) to offer recommendations for national policies and measures that could improve access to support services for women victims/survivors. Firstly, the aim is to reduce VAW in crisis situations, including women specific needs in emergency and recovery plans. And secondly, improving access to support services and limiting the impact of COVID-19.

Keywords: Violence against Women (VAW), European Union (EU), COVID-19, Intimate Partner violence (IPV)

Peterman, A., & O'Donnell, M. (2020). COVID-19 and Violence against Women and Children. *A Second Research Round Up*.

https://www.cgdev.org/sites/default/files/covid-19-and-violence-against-women-and-children-second-research-round.pdf

The paper is a literature review of 44 paper exploring the increase in violence against Women and Children (VAW/C) during the COVID-19 pandemic. The findings have revealed an underreporting of these cases and the need for "actionable" research, informing evidence-based policy and financing responses including prevention and mitigation measures-rather than the mere examination of trends. The breakdown of existing indicators of VAW/C have shown an increase in domestic violence, Intimate Partner violence (IPV)-Sexual, Emotional, Psychological, Physical, Cybercrime, Harassment and Sexual Assault. The paper emphasizes on the need for evidence-based recommendations for governments, donor institutions and civil society actors to provide well-informed decisions on the prioritization of interventions and policy responses, both for the current and future pandemics.

Keywords: Violence against women and children (VAW/C), COVID-19, Pandemic, Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

Harvey, R. (2021). The Ignored Pandemic: The Dual Crises of Gender-Based Violence and COVID-19.

https://policycommons-net.proxy3.library.mcgill.ca/artifacts/1924977/the-ignored-pandemic/2676748/

Rowan Harvey (2021) identifies the rise in Gender based violence (GBV) during COVID-19 as a global pandemic as well. It affected all social groups across the globe, with increasing cases of domestic violence and intimate partner violence amongst other forms of violence. Here he highlights the gap in responding to the issue and the lack of investments towards it, terming it as dramatically inadequate (0.0002% of overall COVID response). Even before the onset of the pandemic, women, including trans women, and girls and LGBTQIA+ have been facing GBV and is among the most common causes of death, injury and mental and emotional suffering. 1 in 3 women- around 736 million have experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner or non-partner across their lifetime. The impacts worsened with the diversion of attention and resources, resulting in an explosion of GBV cases globally. The paper relies on the stocktaking of the 16 days of activism campaign on GBV in presenting the following efforts of the state government and international actors and furnishes a key milestone timeline of activism to end GBV: Strengthen and resource women's and feminist organizations and movements; Take a systemic, intersectional and multisectoral approach and scale up funding to tackle GBV; Build economies that strengthen resilience to GBV; Collect more and better data. In all these efforts the author urges the need for prioritizing survivors/victims and frontline responders whilst addressing patriarchy and the other root causes of GBV.

Keywords: Gender based Violence (GBV), COVID-19, Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), Government, Activism, LGBTQIA+