



The UK's Flagship Global Initiative on Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls

Violence is a critical health problem facing girls and women around the world. The BMJ Public Health journal has just published the most comprehensive global evidence review on preventing violence against women and girls—confirming that **violence is preventable** and we know a lot about **what works**.

Led by the Global Women's Institute (of the [What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls](#) research consortium), in partnership with the WHO, the review synthesised findings from 178 rigorous studies to update the RESPECT Women framework, a global roadmap for violence prevention developed by WHO and UN Women.

What the evidence tells us:

- **Empowerment works:** 13 out of 14 reviews found that combining gender training with economic empowerment reduces violence.
- **Start young:** School-based life skills and dating violence programmes are effective, particularly in LMICs.
- **Violence is a public health problem:** More research is needed to understand how health systems can work to prevent violence.
- **Men and boys matter:** Group education shifts harmful norms.
- **Perpetrator programmes are failing**—yet still attract significant investment.
- **Major evidence gaps** remain for adolescent girls, women with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ communities.



Why it matters now

This review is a powerful affirmation of the effectiveness of feminist, locally led prevention strategies. But the work is far from done.

What Needs to Happen Next



Scale up proven, evidence-based strategies that empower women and transform gender norms.



Integrate VAWG prevention across sectors—education, climate, health, and humanitarian work.



Invest in inclusive, feminist research that centres the most marginalised.