



BISP Women
Empowerment Advisory
Forum Thematic Group:
Violence Against Women
and Girls.

Esteemed guests, excellencies, dear friends, good morning! I apologise for not attending this session today due to unavoidable circumstances. My name is Valerie Khan, Chairperson Acid Survivors Foundation and Executive Director Group Development Pakistan. I am humbled to be among you all and hope that the proposed way forward to enable BISP beneficiaries to stand against VAWG will obtain your support.

Feel free to share your feedback and suggestions at valekhan@yahoo.fr

Pakistan Zindabad!

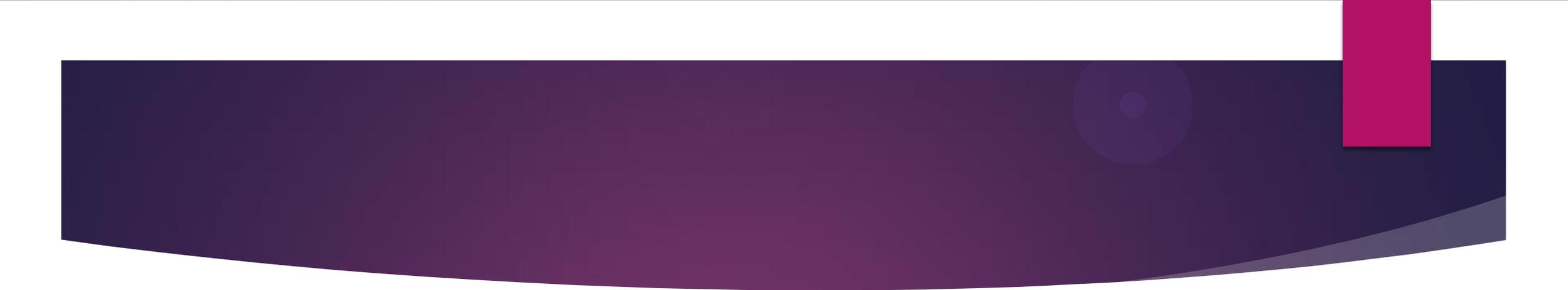


Current situation: successes

VAWG is highly prevalent in Pakistan and knows no socio-economic, ethnic, geographical, cultural or religious boundaries.

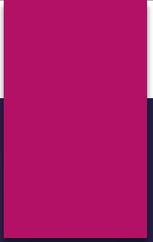
Several positive steps were taken to stop VAWG in Pakistan during the last decade:

-structural level: enactment of pro women and girls legislation, policies that partly address VAWG at regional, national or provincial level. Improved social, institutional and political disapproval of some forms of VAWG such as acid violence, swara, child marriage, honour killing.

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- ▶ Institutional level: establishment and operationalisation of support structures; improved capacities of LEAs, more female police officers, development of programs, strong condemnation of rape and honour killing, positive partnership between state and non-state actors
 - ▶ Socio-cultural level: decrease in acid violence by 50% in the last 2 years, conviction rate increased to 10% for acid violence, increased number of cases of swara reported and action taken, decrease in child marriage. Increased number of women saying NO to violence and taking their case to court for justice, increased number of men engaged into stopping VAWG.

Current situation: failures

- ▶ Structural level: inadequate and discriminatory laws and policies remain especially due to distorted interpretation of qisas & dyat which grant impunity to perpetrators and deny justice to survivor or victim. Mindset that perpetuate the role of women as a subservient entity confined to a reproductive role within the four walls of the domestic sphere.
- ▶ Institutional level: lack of sensitivity, capacities & resources. Politicised LEAs, lack of recognition or accountability of LEAs who deliver well, inadequate supports services.
- ▶ Socio-cultural: prevailing VAWG and discrimination, insufficient deterrent effect, and prevailing impunity. At least 47% of the population (women) not equipped and empowered to positively contribute to the society which is a lasting impediment to the prosperity of the country. Negative image impacting investment and effective geo-strategic gains.



How to involve BISP beneficiaries into further action to counter VAWG?

BECAUSE MOST VULNERABLE WOMEN FROM COMMUNITIES **CAN** MAKE A POSITIVE SUSTAINABLE CHANGE: 60% OF ACID SURVIVORS MANAGE TO AVOID VAWG POST REHABILITATION & REINTEGRATION PROGRAMMES

WAY FORWARD step 1: assess prevalence of VAWG among BISP beneficiaries

- ▶ Conduct a KAP survey on VAWG in several selected pilot districts through a state and non-state actors partnership
- ▶ Assess prevalence and types of VAWG experienced by BISP
- ▶ Assess types of responses
- ▶ Assess level of awareness on laws, support structures and strategies

Step 2: awareness campaign

- ▶ Based on KAP results conduct a MEDIA awareness to
 - 1) Increase social, institutional and political disapproval of VAWG
 - 2) Increase awareness of survivors and perpetrators and LEAs on laws
 - 3) Foster deterrent effect
- Conduct sessions at community levels to sensitize women on the above and equip them with skills and knowledge to prevent/respond to VAWG
- Campaign must be participatory, connected to beneficiaries and stakeholders reality in Pakistan, culture sensitive, non aggressive, creative

STEP 3: capacity building

- ▶ Train LEAS and service providers on better preventing/responding to VAWG
 - caregiver empowerment program
 - Training on psycho-social support
 - Legal/Para legal training
 - Training must be based on KAP and fit need assessment of trainees.

Step 4: referral network

- ▶ Develop a referral mechanism so that cases of VAWG among BISP beneficiaries (mostly) can be reported and taken care of and VAWG responded to
- ▶ Multistakeholders

Step 5: Database

- ▶ Develop a data base where reported cases are entered and followed up and data analysed to monitor progress among beneficiaries.
- ▶ Analysis used as evidence for advocacy for further improving policy and legal framework in a relevant manner

Thank You!