

@EVIE_EQUALITY

**A VIOLENCE PREVENTION
RESOURCE**

WHAT KIND OF BEHAVIOUR ALLOWS VIOLENCE TO HAPPEN?

Studies tell us that the single biggest driver of violence is gender inequality. By understanding inequality and the gendered drivers of violence we can all take action to prevent violence from occurring at all.

What we need to understand as individuals is how these drivers make their way into our everyday lives and our interactions with each other at home, work or school.

Violence doesn't *start* at physical abuse or harm.

It starts with attitudes, behaviours and beliefs that create and contribute to an unequal power dynamic which ultimately harms everyone.

ENFORCING GENDER ROLES

Enforcing or expecting rigid gender roles and stereotyped ideas of masculinity and femininity.

The idea that women and men and girls and boys should act in certain ways or fulfill certain roles all limit us as a society and in many cases harm our ability to grow and expand as individuals.

Dismissing or not believing anyone who falls anywhere outside the gender binary such as trans or non-binary people also contributes to violent attitudes and behaviour.



DISMISSING OR CONDONING BAD BEHAVIOUR

Condoning of sexist or violent behaviour – for example, the idea that it is excusable for men to use violence in certain circumstances, that they cannot always be held responsible, or that some kinds of violence (such as sexual harassment, catcalling, leaking nudes etc), are not serious.

The notion of ‘Boys will be Boys’ is often used to dismiss the seriousness of problems regarding toxic masculinity and can create unsafe environments for everyone.

Trying to shift blame onto the victim or anyone coming forward about problematic behavior is another way violence is often dismissed and condoned.



He's just jealous cos he likes you.

MEN MAKING EXCEPTIONS FOR OTHER MEN

Male peer relationships or 'male bonding' that emphasises aggression and disrespect towards women –

For example, the way some groups of men seek to prove themselves or their 'masculinity' through actions that are disrespectful, hostile or aggressive towards others.

Men often choosing to dismiss issues raised by a woman, trans or non-binary person and siding with another man in their peer group without question.



UNEQUAL DISTRIBUTION OF POWER AND CONTROL

Men taking control of decisionmaking limits women's independence in public life and relationships –

For example, the idea that men make better leaders than women, or that men should be the head of the household and decide how money is spent.

Men still hold the majority power in political spaces and lawmaking and often won't have lived experience when it comes to living with the fear of sexist, violent attitudes.

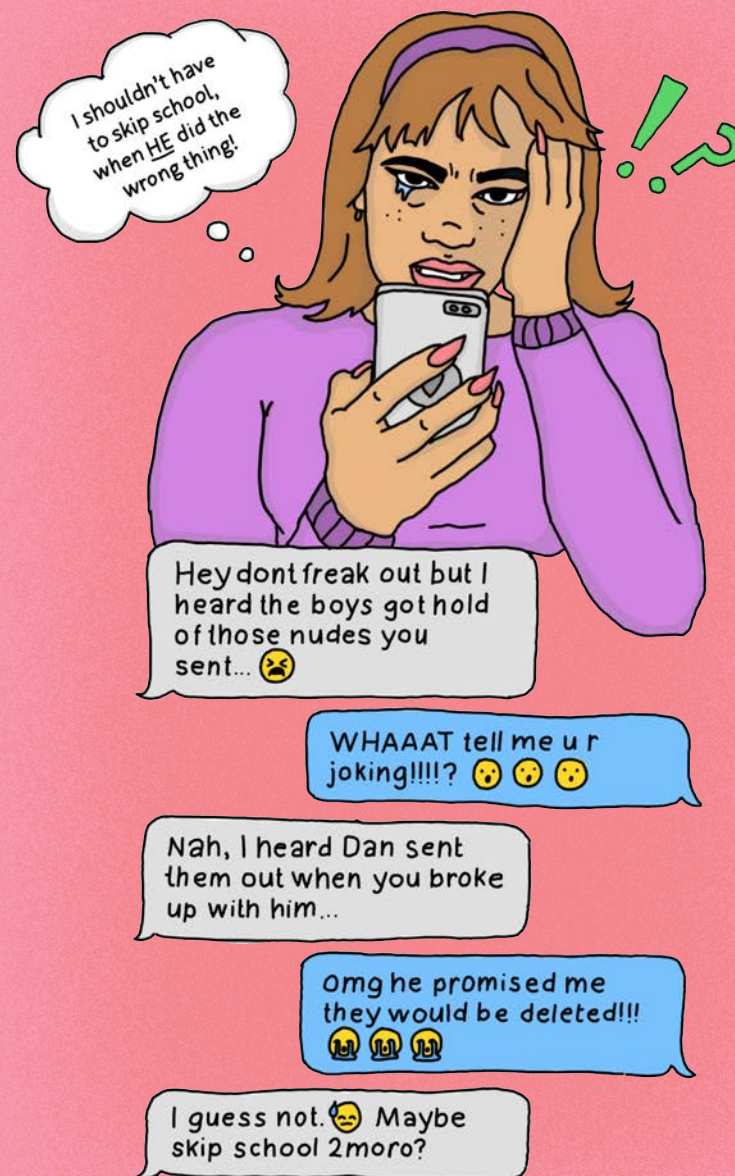


SEXISM AND VIOLENT BEHAVIOUR ONLINE

Technology-facilitated abuse is overwhelmingly gendered — 96% of perpetrators are male and 93% of victims are female.

A recent national survey by women's services network WESNET found almost all women experiencing family violence suffered from technology abuse.

It's a term that covers everything from abusive texts and social media posts, to tracking of smartphones, to monitoring of a victim's movements.

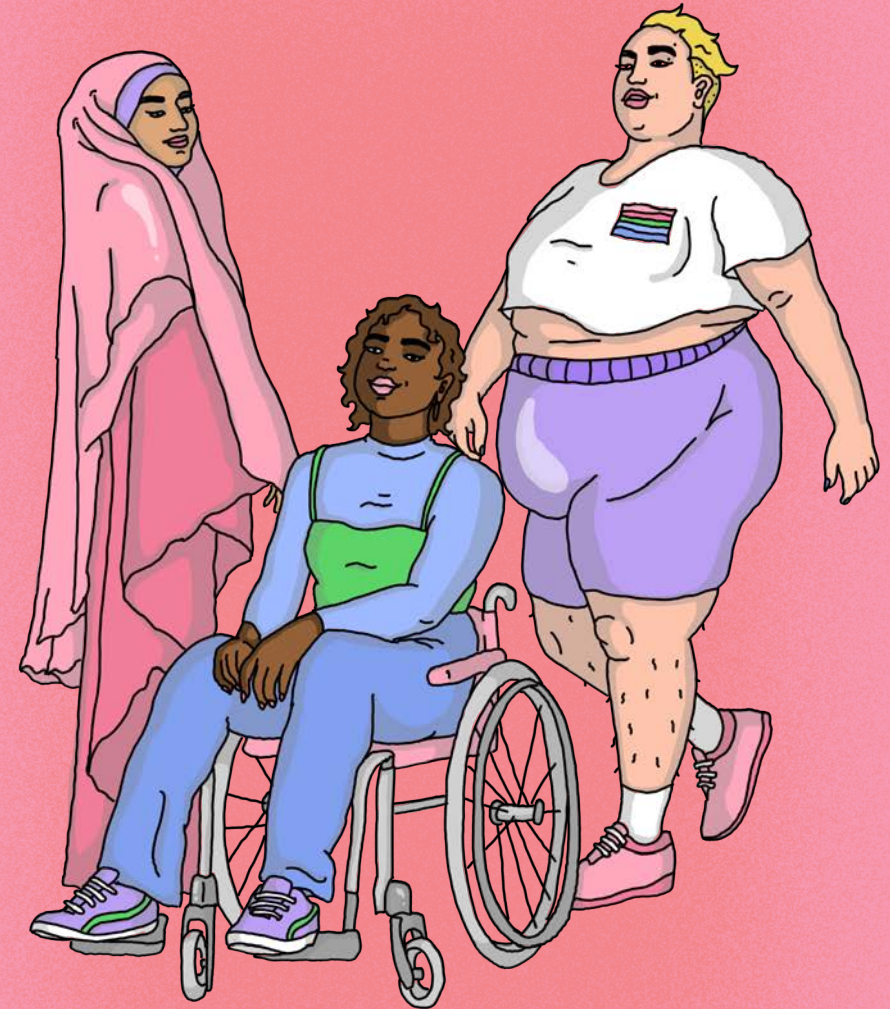


INTERSECTIONALITY & OVERLAPPING INEQUALITIES

Gender inequality is the underlying condition for violence against women, but it is not the only nor most prominent factor in every context. Multiple forms of violence & discrimination can be experienced by one individual at the same time.

This overlap is reflected in the different rates and different types of violence experienced among women from varied backgrounds.

There are multiple factors that contribute to inequality, discrimination & disadvantage, including colonisation, racism, ableism & homophobia, all of which play in role in violence against women & gender non-conforming people.

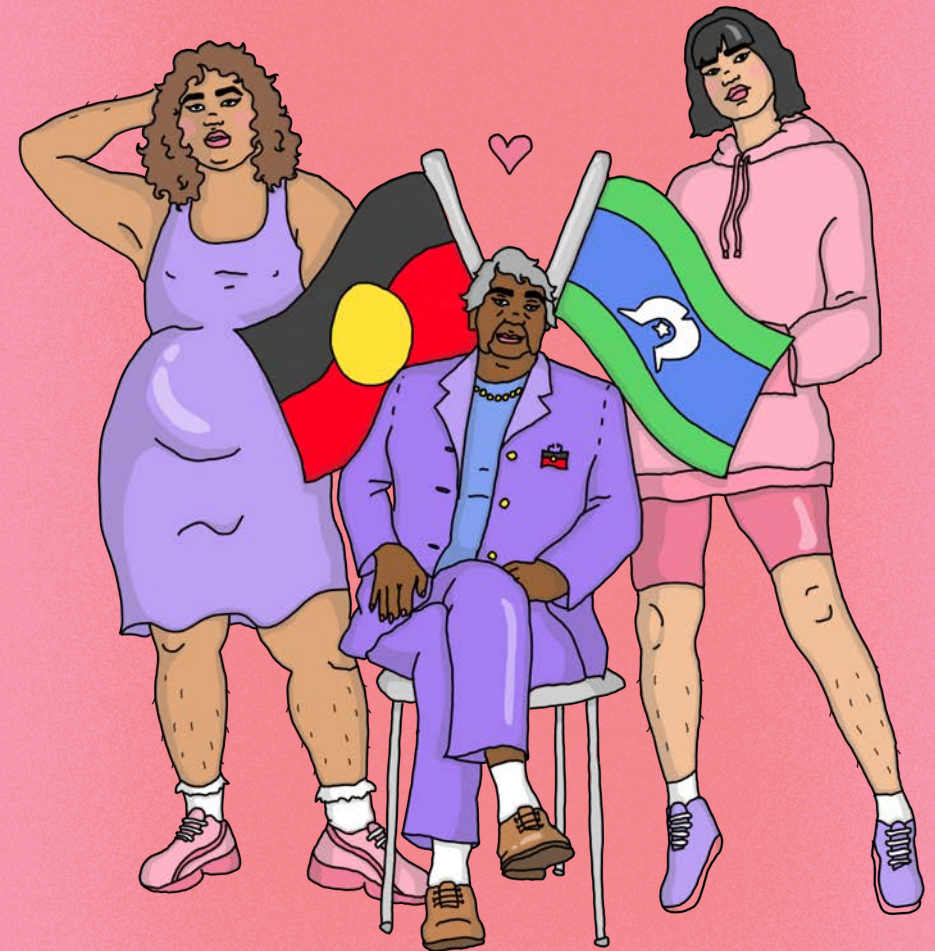


ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women experience violence at around twice the rate of non-Indigenous women, and are 34 times more likely to be hospitalised due to family violence related assaults than other Australian women.

Any violence experienced by First Nations people must be considered in the context of broader colonial violence, specifically the intergenerational impacts of colonisation & white supremacy.

Experiences of dispossession, the forced removal of children, the interruption of cultural practices that help lessen interpersonal violence, ongoing economic exclusion & racial disadvantage are all examples of colonial trauma.



WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFO & WHO CAN HELP?

If you or someone you know
is experiencing anything
discussed in this booklet

make a call:
1800RESPECT
(1800 737 732)

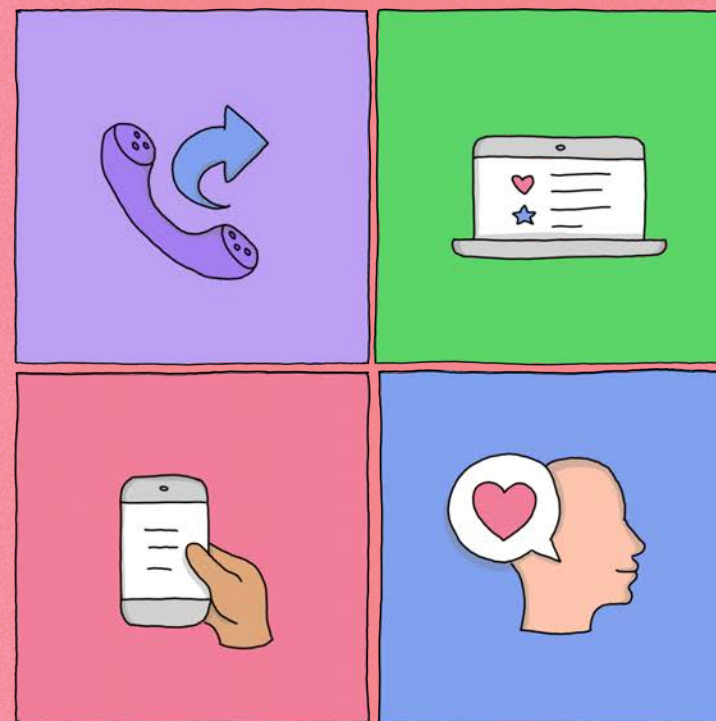
or chat online via:
www.1800respect.org.au

for anonymous advice
24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

For more information on ending violence
against women & their children visit the

OUR WATCH website via:

www.ourwatch.org.au



**If anything in this booklet has caused
distress to you or someone you know:**

**CALL 1800 RESPECT
(1800 737 732)**

**the National Sexual Assault, Domestic
Violence Counselling Hotline.**

PLACE YOUR ORGANISATION INFO LABEL HERE

**This Booklet was created for the EViE Project, a Blue
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Information cited from www.ourwatch.org.au**