

VOTES WITHOUT VIOLENCE

KEY DEFINITIONS



This tool was developed by Caroline Hubbard and Claire DeSoi for NDI's Votes Without Violence program and toolkit.

Gender: Refers to the socially determined differences between women and men that are learned, changeable over time and have wide variations both within and between cultures.

Sex: Refers to the biological characteristic that categorize someone as either male or female. These characteristics are generally universal and determined at birth.

Gender equality: Equality means that women's and men's rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether they are born male or female.

Gender equity: Provisions should be made to redress inequality before women can take advantage of the opportunities provided, creating equality of process and outcome.

Violence against women: Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, in public or in private life.

Electoral violence: Electoral conflict and violence is defined as the use or threat of force to harm persons or property involved in the electoral process, with the intention of influencing the conduct of electoral stakeholders and/or to affect the electoral process. Electoral violence can be physical, psychological, sexual, coercion, or threats.

Violence against women in elections is defined as:

- » any act of gender-based election violence that is directed primarily at women, and that is a result of their aspirations to seek political office, their link to political activities (for example, working as election officials or attending campaign rallies) or simply their commitment to vote;
- » *as well as* any use or threat of force to harm persons or property with the intention of influencing the electoral process that has a disproportionate impact on women because of their marginalized and vulnerable status in society.

This violence can be specifically motivated to uphold gender norms or traditional female roles in society. Violence also impacts women in a disproportionately harmful way, discouraging them from being or becoming politically active during an election. VAW-E can manifest in many forms, which fall into five key categories: physical violence, sexual violence, threats and coercion, psychological violence and economic violence.

Family voting: when one member of a family casts votes on behalf of an entire family, or in some cases, where a family member places pressure on other members of the family to vote for a certain party or candidate. (Adapted from "Consolidated Response on the Prevention of Family Voting," available https://www.ndi.org/files/Consolidated%20Response_Prevention%20of%20Family%20Voting.pdf)

Proxy voting: when voters appoint a "proxy voter" to vote for them. (Adapted from "Consolidated Response on the Prevention of Family Voting," available https://www.ndi.org/files/Consolidated%20Response_Prevention%20of%20Family%20Voting.pdf)

Gender disaggregated data: Data that is gathered and broken down according to gender, in order to aid analysis of any underlying influences (such as gender relations) that may be reflected in the data.