**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN ELECTIONS (VAW-E)**

**SAMPLE QUESTIONS: POST-ELECTION OBSERVATION**

**Guidance**

The following tool provides example questions that observation groups may wish to include on their data collection forms for a **post-election observation**. It has been designed as a reference for citizen observation groups, and provides an example of what questions election observation groups may wish to ask to record incidents of violence against women in elections (VAW-E). The questions presented here should be regarded as a set of options. Depending on the process or processes a group is observing, or the priority issues and indicators its leadership has chosen to focus on, groups can select and adapt relevant VAW-E questions and response options to integrate into their forms, which should be tailored to the particular electoral context. Groups should also consider which questions should require the observer to fill out a critical incident report – some questions that may require an incident report have been marked in grey below.

Some explanations have been included to provide more detailed information about certain questions or sections. While forms should not include these details, observation groups should consider developing similar explanations to include in their training materials for observers.

**Location and General Information**

Forms should include information about the location and date or time at which the observer was recording data, as well as a way to identify the individual observer in case follow-up is needed.

**Incidents of Post-Election Violence**

Violence can continue after polls have closed and after election day itself. Incidents of VAW-E following elections can have a serious impact on women’s ability to assume the posts to which they have been elected, or their ability to participate safely in future elections without fear of reprisals.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Did you witness or hear of any incidents where the security or secrecy of women’s ballots was compromised after the polling centers closed? | | |
| Yes | No | Don't Know |
| Did you witness or hear of any harassment or intimidation toward women voters returning from the polling centers? | | |
| Yes | No | Don't Know |
| Did you witness or hear of any media reports questioning the competence of women voters? | | |
| Yes | No | Don't Know |
| Have you witnessed or heard of incidents of social media being used to threaten or incite violence against women voters, candidates or election officials after the polls closed? | | |
| Yes | No | Don't Know |
| Have you witnessed or heard of incidents of violence toward women voters by their family members after they left the polling center? | | |
| Yes | No | Don't Know |
| Have you witnessed or heard of incidents of losing candidates or parties inciting supporters to act violently against women voters, election officials or candidates? | | |
| Yes | No | Don't Know |
| Have you witnessed or heard of any reprisals against women observers or election officials? | | |
| Yes | No | Don't Know |
| Have you witnessed or heard of acts of violence committed against women election officials or election management body workers during the vote tabulation? | | |
| Yes | No | Don't Know |
| Have you witnessed or heard of threats or harassment against women candidates who won their election? | | |
| Yes | No | Don't Know |
| Have you witnessed or heard of media reports that use hate speech or derogatory language when discussing women candidates who won their election? | | |
| Yes | No | Don't Know |
| Have you witnessed or heard of incidents where losing candidates or parties incited supporters to commit acts of violence against women candidates who won their elections? | | |
| Yes | No | Don't Know |
| Have you witnessed or heard of women being discouraged or blocked from accepting or filling the post they were elected to? | | |
| Yes | No | Don't Know |
| Have you witnessed or heard of women who won their elections stepping aside for a male colleague? | | |
| Yes | No | Don't Know |