

# Public Space: Violence against women and adolescent girls

**MY BODY  
MY RIGHT**

**MY MOBILITY  
MY RIGHT**

## Why are survivors silent on public sexual assault?

- Character assassination •
- Lack of family and social support •
  - Family prestige •
  - Loss of employment •
  - Fear of safety •
- Unable to identify the violence •
- Challenges in evidence collection •
  - Doubts in obtaining justice •

The difficulty in gathering evidence and the inability of the police to investigate allegations in the absence of evidence are clear barriers to the filing of complaints by survivors of violence in public spaces.



**Safe public space is everyone's human right.**

## Violence in public spaces



40% of violence incidents occurred on public transit



35% tolerated the assault and exhibited no retaliation



35% of family members were not supportive of the situation



26% of perpetrators were unidentified



25% were silenced because of socio-cultural factors



12% protested at the incident scene



12% perpetrators were teachers, colleagues, and friends



12% perpetrators were drivers and driver's assistant



9% of incidents occurred in educational institution



2% of survivors complaint the violence to authority

**Note:** A total of 321 people were included in the study on violence in public space.

To increase women's engagement in the public and social realm, it is essential to create an environment where women and adolescents can claim public space with comfort and dignity.

Violence against women means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life. (Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, 1993, Article 1)

## Locations where survivors experienced violence



The research on violence in public spaces included 321 participants. 40% of those surveyed (127) reported being victims of violence on public transportation



Public transportation



Playground, park, store, village



Road



Educational institutions



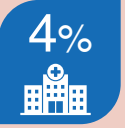
Crowd



Remote locations



Market and other public venues



Health Facilities



Hotel, pub, dance bar



Financial Institutions



Other service providers



Workplaces



## Perpetrators

A total of 129 respondents provided information on offenders of violence and abuse in public spaces. 26% of the perpetrators (33) were unknown.



Stranger



Service provider



Teacher, colleagues, friends



People in power



Driver, driver's assistant



Acquainted individual



Others



Keens

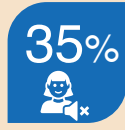


Service seekers



## Response of survivors

35% (68) of respondents chose to endure, remain silent, reach an agreement, or provide no response.



Endure, keep silence, settle on mutual understanding, provide no response



Share with others



Ignore and flee



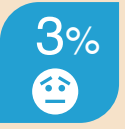
Protest in the incident scene



Physical defense



Physical defense



Manifest fear and rage



Complaint lodged with authorities



Collective protest



Be vigilant



Be vigilant



Dilemma



## Reason for enduring and keeping silent

25% (54) choose to remain silent in the face of violence. Women are taught to endure since childhood and to remain silent for fear of being humiliated.



Socio-cultural reasons



Family reasons



Economic risk/benefits



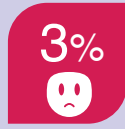
Fear



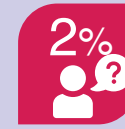
Lack of knowledge



Take for granted



Lack of courage



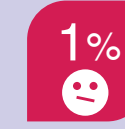
Incapable of sharing



Regard as a minor violation



Other reason



Disbelief in the justice system

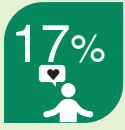


## Family's response towards the incident

35% (43) of family members were seen as unsupportive among the 126 respondents.



Unsupportive



Supportive and motivated to defend



Supportive but indifferent to the pursuit of justice



Supportive and pursuing justice



Place restrictions



Investigate



Revenge-seeking behaviours



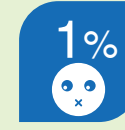
Force to leave employment



Instructed to take a male companion on all outdoor excursions



Investigate further for information



No response



Orient junior members