

be aggressive, strong, and in control. Conversely, women are expected to be passive, obedient and submissive. According to research studies, abusive men hold traditional views of male authority and female compliance. They adhere to the belief that they have the right to control persons with less status, particularly their wife and children. The Committee was informed of research findings showing that societies with male-dominant marriages have the highest rate of violence against women and societies with egalitarian marriages have the lowest.

Witnesses concluded that the enduring nature of violence against women is evidence that change will come about only when society's underlying structure and beliefs concerning sex roles and gender inequality are made visible and challenged.

During her appearance before the Committee, the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women advocated changes in the structures of society that keep women subordinate.

It is obvious from this cursory look at what we both know of the causes of violence against women that it is both a frightening symptom and a product of the subordination of women in society. Therefore, any efforts to address this violence must be broadly based strategies designed to effect fundamental change in the social and economic structures that maintain the subordination of women. These strategies must be considered and pursued in the context of overall efforts to promote equality for women. (1:19)

The Committee is impressed with this assessment and agrees with the thrust of the Minister's analysis. The relationship between inequality and violence is a theme that runs throughout this report.