

potential that results when women and girls terminate their education or training due to experiences of violence.⁷⁵ When violence against women and girls results in death, the costs associated with pain and suffering can be felt by the entire community.

An examination of the economic and financial impacts of SGBV in times of war or conflict can facilitate improved efforts to build resilience and foster recovery interventions that promote women's economic empowerment. Reducing violence against women could increase the amount of development assistance available for reallocation to broader gender equality programming and economic development opportunities. Furthermore, to ensure that survivors of violence can actively participate in the economy, they must have access to justice and adequate psychosocial support. Efforts to tackle norms that contribute to violence against women and girls must also address any resistance and backlash that the efforts inspire, such as opposition to the promotion of economic opportunities for women. It is necessary to work with men, particularly men who are in positions of traditional or religious leadership and strongly influence social norms, to ensure the success of interventions that aim to foster gender equality and women's economic empowerment.

Legal reforms and new legislation demonstrate increased commitments to women's empowerment. In the World Bank Group's Women, Business and the Law 2018 report,⁷⁶ 130 of the 189 economies assessed, including every economy in South Asia, have laws prohibiting sexual harassment at work, while 59 economies lack such legislation. The same report also underscored that more than 140 economies have implemented legislation prohibiting domestic violence against women and ensuring their protection. Greater attention must be

given to policies that promote the better enforcement of relevant laws to give women more confidence in their justice systems. Important strides have been made in relation to the collection of data about violence against women. However, in a majority of countries, less than 40% of women who experienced violence sought help. Among those who did seek help, less than 10% sought help from the police.⁷⁷ Ongoing efforts to increase reporting of violence against women and to track all forms of violence in all sectors are central to creating an environment conducive to women's economic empowerment.

The G7 commitment to women's economic empowerment recognizes violence against women and girls as a major barrier to women's economic participation that must be overcome. G7 countries are committed to providing the necessary support to tackle violence against women and girls in all its forms.⁷⁸