

ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WOMEN, GIRLS AND LGBTI PERSONS: POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS

PREVENTING AND COMBATTING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Globally, about 243 million women and girls aged 15–49 have suffered sexual and/or physical violence by an intimate partner since the COVID-19 outbreak. LGBTI persons have also suffered from gender-based violence (GBV) during quarantine or lockdown. And since a lot of people's daily activities and interactions have moved online due to the pandemic, the Internet has also emerged as a prominent channel for GBV.

Actions Parliamentarians can take:

- Facilitate easily accessible means for [filing complaints](#) through the use of technology and/or community spaces such as pharmacies and supermarkets;
- Guarantee that complaints of GBV will be attended to and that [justice will be served](#);
- Provide temporary [shelters](#) for victims of GBV and their families;
- Establish [hotlines on GBV](#), counseling centers and psychological and legal care as essential services; and
- Generate safeguards for monitoring a [responsible Internet](#) infrastructure and promoting well-founded user care practices.

Country-Specific Practices:

Africa

Uganda: The government established a toll-free Uganda Child Helpline (UCHL) to facilitate the reporting and tracking of child abuse and GBV cases.

Europe

France: When shelters exceeded capacity, the government employed hotels to provide alternative accommodation for victims of domestic violence. There is also a new reporting app called FLAG specifically designed for LGBTI individuals to easily report acts of violence and be directed to relevant services.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Argentina: The government addressed delays in the judicial processes and has extended protection orders for victims of violence to 60 days.

To learn more about PGA's Gender, Equality and Inclusion Program, or to share your country's experience and policies, please contact:

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