



# How to Refer a Gender-based Violence (GBV) Case



« ...but I am not a GBV specialist. What can I do to refer and support a survivor? »



GBV Sub-cluster NW-SW

# + Objectives

- You will have a basic understanding of what GBV is.
- You will have a basic understanding of what is your role and how to do a safe referral GBV survivors
- You will know the available GBV services.
- You will also know GBV key messages related to COVID-19



Session 1. What is  
+ Gender Based  
Violence (GBV)?

# Definition of Gender based violence



Gender-based violence is an umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will, and that is based on **socially ascribed (gender) differences** between **males and females**. It includes acts that inflict physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion, and other deprivations of liberty. These acts can occur in public or in private.

*Interagency Standing Committee. Guidelines for Integrating Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Emergencies. IASC (2015)*



# Key messages



- GBV is caused by gender inequality, the abuse of power and disregard of human rights.
- Anyone can experience GBV including men and boys but females are disproportionately affected because of gender inequality and power imbalance between male and female.
- GBV is not only rape/sexual violence but includes a different forms of violence such as physical and emotional violence.
- GBV survivors need various services to overcome the negative consequences of GBV. The needs of GBV survivors are not always same even if the survivors experienced same form of violence.
- **COVID-19 lockdowns** are bringing a rise in **domestic violence**, and homes cannot be assumed as safe zones for many women and girls

*“I urge all governments to put women’s safety first as they respond to the COVID-19 pandemic”*

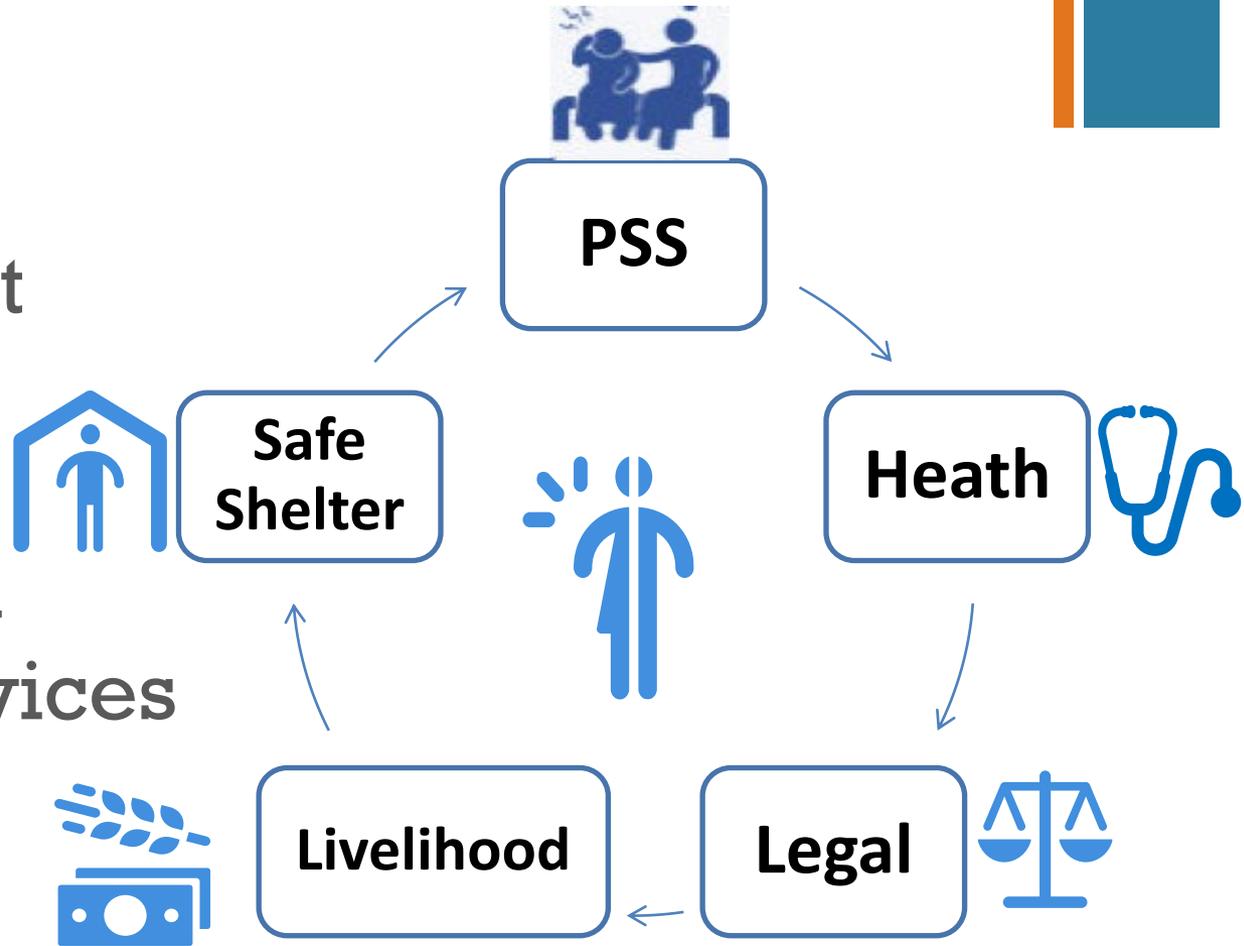
António Guterres, UN Secretary-General



Session 2. **GBV referral  
pathway and roles of  
a Non GBV specialist**

# + What is the GBV referral pathway?

A flexible mechanism that safely links survivors to supportive and competent services in a timely way



# + Remember ! Urgent Medical Treatment

<b>Prevention of HIV</b>	<p>The risk of HIV can be reduced if a survivor is referred for medical care to receive HIV post-exposure prophylaxis within</p> <p><b>3 days (72 hours)</b></p>
<b>Prevention of Pregnancy</b>	<p>The risk of unwanted pregnancy can be reduced if a survivor is referred for medical care to receive emergency contraception within</p> <p><b>5 days (120 hours)</b></p>
<b>Evidence Collection</b>	<p>If the survivor requests evidence collection for legal purposes, it is important that the medical examination be arranged and recorded</p> <p><b>as soon as possible (48 hours).</b></p>



## **Remember ! Urgent Safety Referral**



- Consider if the perpetrator or anyone else is a present and urgent threat to the survivor and/or yourself
- Call the security actor/Safe Shelter actor if there is an urgent physical threat to the survivor and/or yourself



# Session3. How to respond to a disclosure of GBV? +

# + ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF NON GBV SPECIALISTS

- All actors are responsible for knowing the GBV referral pathways and the services available where they work.
- Provide a listening ear, **free of judgement**,
- Obtain verbal consent for referrals to services.
- Provide **accurate**, up-to-date information on available services and **let the survivor** make their **own choices**.
- All survivors have different needs.
- When possible and if needed help to meet basic emergency needs (food, water, information, shelter, clothing, etc.)
- Apply the **guiding principles**.

# Guiding Principles- Safe referrals of GBV Survivors

## RESPECT

All actions taken are guided by respect for the choice, wishes, rights and dignity of the survivor.

## SAFETY

The safety and security of the survivor is the number of priority for all actors.

## CONFIDENTIALITY

People have the right to choose to whom they will or not tell their story. CONFIDENTIALITY means not sharing any information at any time to anyone without permission

## NON DISCRIMINATION

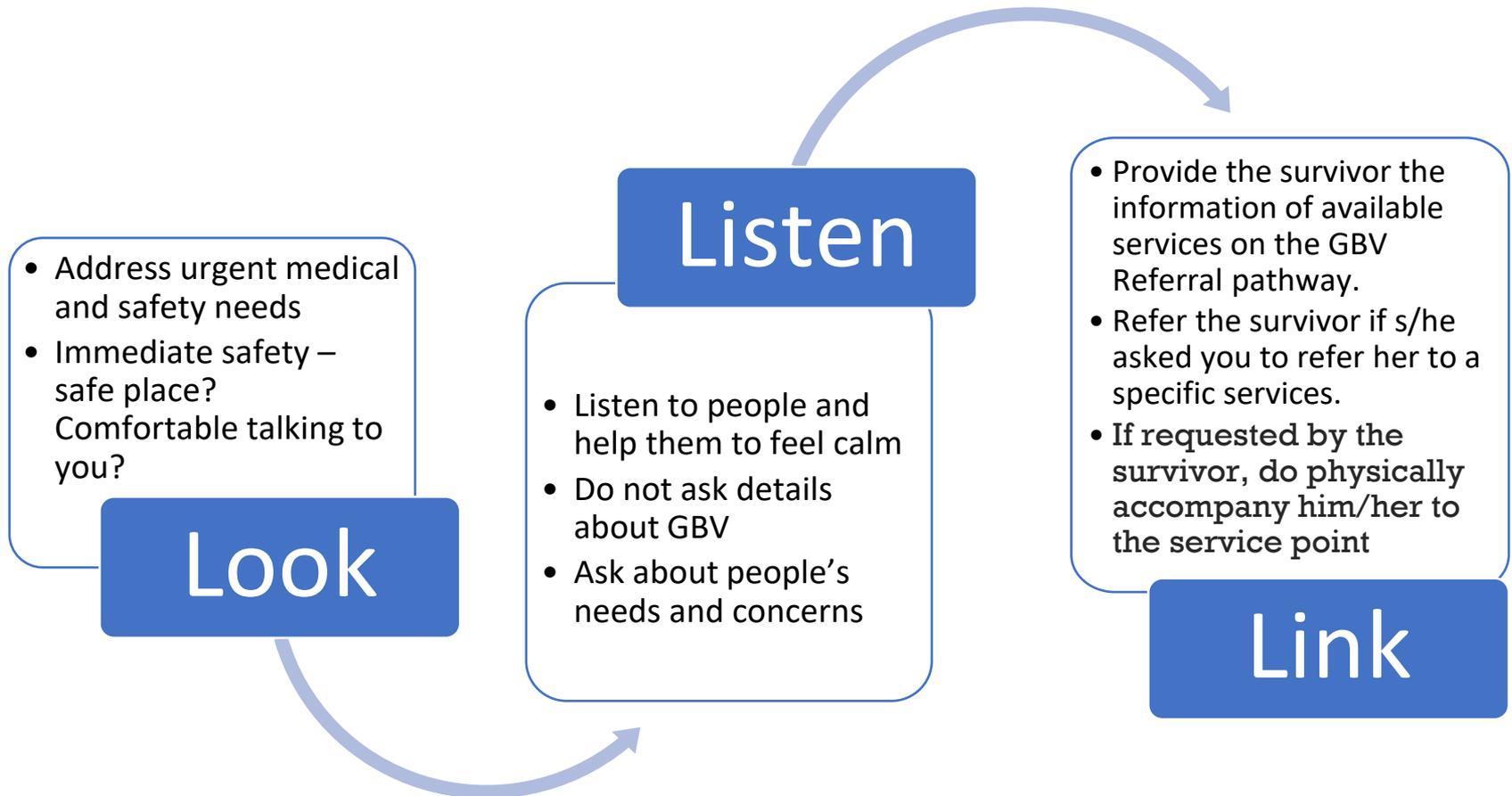
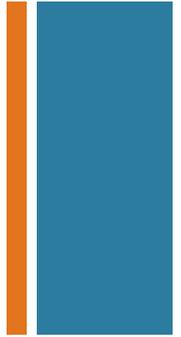
Provide equal and faire treatment to anyone in need of help

## Best interest of the child

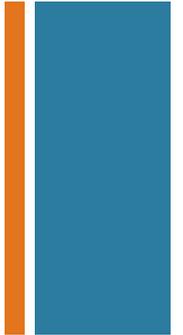
*Decisions and actions affecting the child should reflect what is best for the safety, well-being and development of that particular child*



# Steps to respond to a direct disclosure of GBV



# + Key messages



- Your roles are:
  - to provide a listening ear, free of judgement, to the survivor who disclosed GBV experience to you; and
  - to provide accurate, up-to-date information on available services and let the survivor make their own choices.
- When you respond to a disclosure of GBV experience, make sure that you apply guiding principles: safety, respect, non-discrimination, confidentiality and best interest of the child (in case of children only).
- Only survivors can decide when, how and to whom s/he disclose her/his GBV experience. NEVER actively look for GBV survivors.



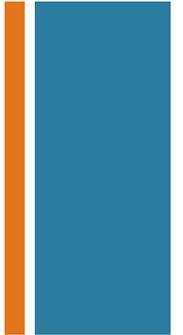
# PLEASE, giving support doesn't mean:

- An interview, questioning about what happened to the person or a verification of the facts.
- Put pressure on the person to get his or her feelings in detail.
- Giving Psychosocial support which is a whole process with structured steps and offered by trained specialists.

**Note: Please, you will never, never do survivors identification on the field. This is strongly prohibited.**

## **NB: GBV as a collective responsibility:**

1. Everyone has a role to play
2. **But not everyone is qualified to do all the work.**
3. Need to understand our respective roles and limits.





**+**  
**THANK YOU!!**  
**QUESTIONS???**