

Eliminating violence against women and girls: a national emergency



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This report, unanimously adopted by the Council at its 116th session on 26 November 2020, highlights that violence against women and girls (VAWG) is a pervasive phenomenon in Morocco.

It indicates that, according to the latest HCP (High Commission for Planning) survey of 2019, 7.6 million of the 13.4 million women aged between 15 and 74, accounting for 57% of women, have experienced at least one form of violence.

The report underlines that the efforts and measures undertaken by the government to combat violence against women are struggling to make the desired impact. This is caused by a variety of factors, from the place that the phenomenon ought to have in public policies, to the need for harmonizing the violence against women and girls regulatory and legal framework with constitutional and international standards, to the limited effectiveness of the institutional framework to eradicate VAWG, to the lack of awareness raising activities on VAWG, and even the impact of stereotyping that women have to go through, to the access to justice for VAWG victims and to the degree of protection for vulnerable groups (particularly women and girls with disabilities).

Recommendations:

Six measures are recommended for a more effective system for the prevention of and protection from violence against women and girls:

- Identify this issue as an important national priority.
- Put in place a normative framework that fully conforms with positive law.
- Correct the shortcomings in the application of law n°103-13.
- Establish a comprehensive preventive policy on violence against women and girls.

- Eliminate the obstacles to women's right of access to justice and build an integrated territorial system to protect women and girls victims of violence.
- Adopt measures tailored to the most vulnerable groups of women and girls (including women and girls with disabilities and immigrant women).

Further, the report proposes ten (10) avenues for improvement in the response, in emergency and crisis situations (ECS), to violence against women and girls. These include strengthening data systems on violence against women and girls and integrating this issue into economic and social support and recovery plans.