



Ending Gender-Based Violence

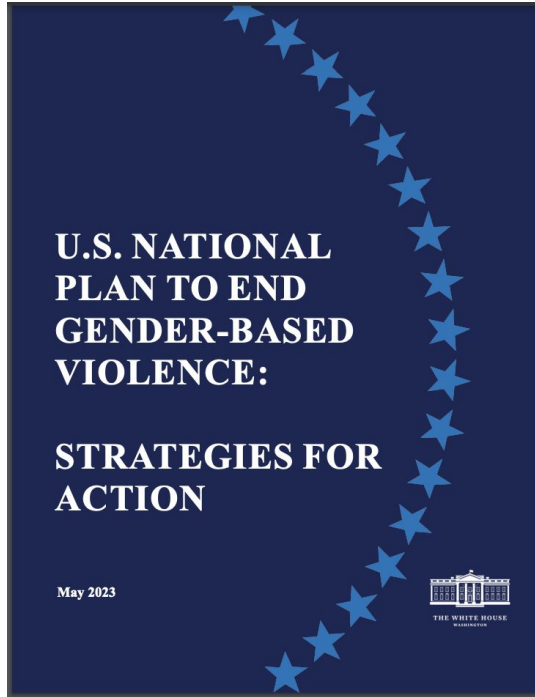
Overview of the Federal Plan

What is Gender-Based Violence?

- **Gender-based violence (GBV):** Refers to any harmful threat or act directed at an individual or group based on actual or perceived sex, gender, gender identity, sex characteristics, or sexual orientation.
- The federal government views GBV as a threat to public health and a form of discrimination.
- GBV also disproportionately affects women.



The Federal Plan



- The White House has released a comprehensive plan to combat Gender-Based Violence, which includes methods for governments to aid in prevention, protection, and healing.
- The plan aims to foster a “trauma-informed care” approach.
- The plan considers many factors in a victim’s experience, such as harmful intersections with race, the role played by online violence, and interactions with the legal system.
- Along with laws such the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and advisory bodies like the White House Gender Policy Council (WHGPC), this plan is part of a larger federal effort to promote gender equity.

The Seven Pillars

- It is vital to center the voices of survivors when designing their care; GBV gives rise to a nuanced continuum of harm, which lived experience can help reveal.
- The plan is composed of **seven pillars** designed to address GBV from every angle:
 1. Prevention
 2. Support, Healing, Safety, and Well-Being
 3. Economic Security and Housing Stability
 4. Online Safety
 5. Legal and Justice Systems
 6. Emergency Preparedness and Crisis Response
 7. Research and Data

The Seven Pillars

Pillar 1: Prevention

- Opportunity: Create community-based programs that teach men and boys how to help prevent GBV, including expressing their own masculinity in a positive fashion.
- Challenge: Opposition could come from women's groups who would prefer that all resources go directly towards helping women and girls.



The Seven Pillars

Pillar 2: Support, Healing, Safety, and Well-Being

- Opportunity: Ensure that child welfare systems at various levels of government work in concert to keep GBV survivors together with their children, as well as connecting them both to trauma-informed service providers.
- Challenge: There is a lack of explicit standards / accreditation for what constitutes a trauma-informed care provider.



The Seven Pillars

Pillar 3: Economic Security and Housing Stability

- Opportunity: Advocate for an expanded legal definition of “homeless,” which would allow survivors experiencing homelessness to access services more easily.
- Challenge: Arguments could be made that increased access to homeless services might strain budgets even further.



The Seven Pillars

Pillar 4: Online Safety

- Opportunity: Educate advocacy groups and legal service providers about ways to help victims pursue justice in cases where intimate images of themselves have been disseminated online without their consent.
- Challenge: The inability to thoroughly remove such images from the internet may create a perception of ineffectuality.



The Seven Pillars

Pillar 5: Legal and Justice Systems

- Opportunity: Create a legal clinic which offers assistance specifically to survivors, following the principles of trauma-informed care.
- Challenge: Formal priorities for which victims receive how much legal aid and when must be established.



The Seven Pillars

Pillar 6: Emergency Preparedness and Crisis Response

- Opportunity: Include methods of avoiding retraumatization for GBV survivors in the training of first responders.
- Challenge: Arguments could be made that trauma-informed care is a secondary concern when addressing emergency situations.



The Seven Pillars

Pillar 7: Research and Data

- Opportunity: Advocate for the conduction of crime victimhood surveys which focus on the inclusion of underserved and marginalized communities.
- Challenge: Victims' unwillingness to share their experiences or answer yet another survey may lead to inaccurate data.



The Plan's Place in Los Angeles

The principles presented in this document are meant to be applicable to stakeholders at all levels of government. Advice is given on how to conduct research, craft policy, and deliver services.

A “whole-of-government” approach is needed to break down silos between different agencies and municipalities, ensuring both cooperation and efficiency.

CSW can advocate for action on the part of all City departments, as well as become a consultable center of anti-GBV expertise.

Contact LA Civil Rights

For more information on the U.S. National Plan to End Gender-Based Violence:

- Email matthew.joun@lacity.org
- Check out the White House Plan:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/National-Plan-to-End-GBV.pdf>

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