

EVIDENCE TO ACTION BRIEF #2

Working at the Intersections of Violence Against  
Children and Violence Against Women

# Parent and Caregiver Support Programmes



# Introduction

A well-established and growing body of evidence demonstrates the multiple ways in which violence against children and violence against women intersect or overlap. This includes similar and compounding consequences for children’s and women’s health and well-being, and for child development.<sup>1</sup> In recognition of these intersections, there is growing interest in how parent and caregiver support programmes can be adapted to address both violence against children and violence against women. UNICEF’s current Child Protection Strategy highlights gender-transformative parent and caregiver support programmes as a key approach, as part of the strategic paradigm shift that increases the focus on violence prevention, tackling the structural and behavioural drivers of violence, and working at the intersections.<sup>2</sup> This brief summarizes what we know about the potential for parent and caregiver support programmes to reduce both violence against children and violence against women, and why addressing these intersections matters for children’s protection and well-being. It is the second in a series of evidence briefs designed to support UNICEF country offices

and other organizations to integrate work on the intersections between violence against children and violence against women.

## BOX 1: DEFINITIONS USED IN THIS BRIEF

**Violence against children** refers to “all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse” against someone under 18 years.<sup>3</sup> This brief primarily refers to violent discipline, which includes psychological aggression and/or physical punishment of a child, most often by parents and caregivers.<sup>4</sup>

**Violence against women** refers to “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”.<sup>5</sup> This brief primarily discusses intimate partner violence: “behaviour by an intimate partner or ex-partner that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviours”.<sup>6</sup>

**Parents and caregivers** are used interchangeably to refer to individuals with a primary role in providing care to children within the home, whether biological, adoptive or foster parents, grandparents or other relatives, or guardians. Existing research and programming at the intersections between violence against children and violence against

women focuses primarily on parents and caregivers in heterosexual relationships – as unequal relationship dynamics between men and women are a risk factor for intimate partner violence and men are its primary perpetrators.

### **Parent and caregiver support programmes**

(hereafter ‘parenting programmes’) are broadly defined as “a set of activities or services aimed at improving how parents approach and execute their role as parents, specifically their parenting knowledge, attitudes, skills, behaviours, and practices”.<sup>7</sup> They typically focus on strengthening parenting sensitivity and skills, including those that support positive parent–child interaction, positive encouragement, non-violent discipline, problem-solving, socio-emotional coaching and developmentally responsive supervision.

This brief focuses on parenting programmes for primary prevention, which are designed to prevent violence before it starts by addressing known risk factors and root causes of violence and promoting healthy relationships. Programmes that work with violent caregivers to prevent the recurrence of violence (e.g., court-mandated approaches) are outside the scope.



## What we know

Violence against children and violence against women intersect in multiple ways. As described in [Brief 1](#), evidence on these intersections comes primarily from research on violent discipline – which includes both physical punishment and psychological aggression – by parents and caregivers, and intimate partner violence against women.<sup>8</sup> These two forms of violence commonly co-occur, and children raised in homes with intimate partner violence are more likely to experience violent discipline.<sup>9</sup> While distinct, these two types of violence share multiple risk factors at the individual and family level, including couple conflict, substance abuse, economic stress, poor caregiver mental health and men’s dominance in the family. At the societal level, they share risk factors including poverty, high levels of gender inequality, and social and gender norms that condone violence against children and violence against women.<sup>10</sup> Both types of violence have common and compounding consequences for children’s and women’s physical and mental health, and for child development.<sup>11</sup>

These harms can be cumulative – with exposure to several types of violence multiplying a child’s (and a woman’s) risk of negative outcomes, with potentially devastating consequences.<sup>12</sup> For children, these consequences can last into adolescence and adulthood. Childhood exposure to violence can also increase future risks of experiencing or perpetrating different forms of violence – including potentially contributing to an intergenerational transmission of violence.<sup>13</sup>

These intersections highlight both a rationale and opportunity for parenting programmes to address violence against children and violence against women. While few parenting programmes seek to address both types of violence, emerging evidence suggests that they have the power to do so effectively.<sup>14</sup>

- **There is growing evidence that programmes can reduce violent discipline of children and intimate partner violence simultaneously:** A recent systematic review found 16 primary prevention programmes demonstrating reductions in parents’ use of violence against children and intimate partner violence (physical and/or sexual).<sup>15</sup> Nine were parenting programmes, including home-based and group-based programmes, which focused primarily on preventing violence against children. Seven were community-based interventions, which focused primarily on preventing intimate partner violence. Although these programmes reduced violence, they were designed to prevent it, and did not screen for, or recruit specifically for, families known to be experiencing violence. Most programmes were designed to address only one type of violence, or addressed the other in only a limited way, but still demonstrated reductions in both types of violence.<sup>16</sup> Thus, it is plausible to think that intentionally designing programmes to address both types of violence may be even more effective. Critically, many programmes also demonstrated improvements in some of the key outcomes sought by parenting programmes, such as improvement in parent–child interactions, responsive care, positive parenting and caregiver mental health.<sup>17</sup> Notably, one community-based programme in Rwanda demonstrated sustained reductions in violent discipline and intimate partner violence after six years, alongside better couple relations and improvements in caregiver mental health, parenting practices and child behavioural outcomes.<sup>18</sup>

- **The existing evidence is limited – more adaptation and evaluation is needed to build the evidence base:** Thus far, only a handful of programmes have shown reductions in violence against children and violence against women. While the evidence includes rigorous randomized controlled trials, it also includes findings from smaller pilot or qualitative studies. Encouragingly, all but one of the 16 programmes identified in the systematic review were implemented in a low- or middle-income country, across a variety of diverse contexts, such as Colombia, Liberia, the Philippines, South Africa and Uganda.<sup>19</sup> Yet, most programmes were evaluated within a relatively short time frame and in a single location – and only one in a conflict or humanitarian setting.<sup>20</sup> Most of the evidence comes from programmes primarily reaching parents of younger children, although a few include parents of older children and adolescents.<sup>21</sup> Thus far, programmes have only addressed caregivers in heterosexual relationships, although similar dynamics and risk factors for violence may be present in same-sex relationships.<sup>22</sup> Very few programmes include separate sessions for children and more evidence is needed as to whether this improves effectiveness. Few, if any, programmes engage with broader family members, such as in-laws or grandparents, whose support may be critical for supporting changes in parenting or relationship practices.<sup>23</sup> More programmes need to be adapted or designed to address both types of violence, and be evaluated to understand their effectiveness across different settings, for different populations – including marginalized or disadvantaged families, and diverse family structures – and at scale.<sup>24</sup> Some populations will require specific programming approaches tailored to their unique needs. For example, parents of children with disabilities may feel overburdened and resort to violence if they do not feel equipped to care for their child, especially if the child has high support needs.<sup>25</sup> More consistent and validated measures of violence, risk factors and parenting outcomes should be used to enable better comparison of outcomes, while more programmes should also evaluate the impact of violence on children’s and adolescents’ mental health and well-being.<sup>26</sup>

- **The existing evidence can help strengthen parenting programmes to reduce violence against children and violence against women:** Programmes that have been effective at reducing violent discipline and intimate partner violence share many common components and characteristics. These programmes generally engage local community members or potential participants in the programme design or adaptation, take a strengths-based approach, and use participatory methods to build caregivers' knowledge and skills and promote changes in their attitudes and behaviour.<sup>27</sup> Nearly all programmes that have reduced both types of violence have engaged men alongside women, whether through separate or combined sessions, or both.<sup>28</sup> Engaging men is critical for preventing violence, as they are the primary perpetrators of intimate partner violence. Unequal relationship dynamics between men and women are also risk factors for violence against children and violence against women.<sup>29</sup> Effective programmes typically include specific content to address shared risk and protective factors, and they use participatory activities to raise awareness of violence and its consequences, strengthen age-appropriate parenting skills (including non-violent discipline), develop skills that support healthy, non-violent relationships (e.g., emotional regulation, stress management, conflict resolution, communication) and promote gender equality.<sup>30</sup> The systematic review found that the key mechanisms for reducing both types of violence were improved communication between caregivers, conflict resolution, awareness of the adverse consequences of both types of violence on children and reflection on inequitable gender norms.<sup>31</sup>
- **Many programmes that reduced violence against children and violence against women were designed to be gender-transformative:** Nearly all community-based interventions that reduced both types of violence encouraged critical reflection on inequitable gender and social norms, and sought to transform unequal gender relations and power dynamics between caregivers.<sup>32</sup> Programmes supported caregivers to develop healthy relationship skills, adopt practices like shared caregiving and decision-making responsibilities, and identify the benefits of more equitable ways of being.<sup>33</sup> On the other hand, parenting

programmes often overlooked the role of gender norms in shaping parenting practices, household dynamics and co-parent/caregiver relations.<sup>34</sup> However, there is a growing consensus on the need for gender-transformative parenting programmes and their potential to reduce violence against children and violence against women and promote caring, equitable and non-violent interactions for the whole family (see Box 2).<sup>35</sup> Parenting practitioners may feel challenged to integrate this kind of approach, especially alongside many competing demands. However, evidence of the potential benefits of doing so is gradually growing. A recent randomized controlled trial of a parenting programme in Tanzania – which explicitly addressed gendered relationship dynamics – improved child outcomes and parenting practices, while reducing intimate partner violence and fostering changes in household gender roles that can benefit children’s health and development.<sup>36</sup>

## BOX 2

### Gender-transformative parenting programmes to reduce violence against children and end violence against women<sup>37</sup>

UNICEF, Prevention Collaborative and Equimundo developed the series [Parenting Programmes to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children](#) to support parenting practitioners to work at the intersections between violence against women and violence against children, using a gender-transformative approach.

Gender-transformative parenting programmes intentionally seek to address the root causes of gender-based inequalities and to challenge or transform inequitable gender roles, norms and power imbalances between women and men, girls and boys. They work with both female and male parents and caregivers to build and sustain healthy, non-violent relationships with their partners and children. These programmes aim to transform parents’ own gender attitudes and behaviours, so as to improve couple relations and change the way parents raise their children. To do so, they promote critical reflection and discussion of unequal gender attitudes, norms and power dynamics, as well as supporting parents in identifying the benefits of more equitable ways of being. They develop or strengthen relationship and parenting skills, to improve the quality of co-parent and parent–child relationships (e.g., communication, emotional self-regulation, conflict resolution, stress management and non-violent discipline).





## What this means for the work of UNICEF and other organizations

The emerging evidence suggests that parenting programmes can be designed to reduce both violence against children and violence against their mothers and female caregivers. Indeed, failing to address intimate partner violence is not just a missed opportunity, but may undermine the intended outcomes of parenting programmes.<sup>38</sup> Caregivers in violent relationships may be less able to develop healthy parent–child interactions or adopt positive parenting practices.<sup>39</sup> Even where violent discipline is prevented in a household, children may still be exposed to intimate partner violence and its long-term consequences.

The current [Child Protection Strategy](#) emphasizes gender-transformative parent and caregiver support programmes to reduce violence and transform gender-imbalanced power structures within families.<sup>40</sup> To strengthen the potential of parenting programmes to meet these aims, UNICEF country offices can:

- **Support parenting programmes to engage men as equitable parents, and caregivers, alongside women:** This may require new ways of working, as many parenting programmes focus solely on mothers and female caregivers, or aim to include men but face challenges recruiting them.<sup>41</sup> Programmes that do effectively engage men approach them positively, acknowledging that many want to be more involved and are eager to learn how best to care for their children.<sup>42</sup> UNICEF and other organizations can support parenting practitioners to modify and test their messaging, content and recruitment strategies to appeal to both men and women and the information and skills they desire as parents.<sup>43</sup> Where appropriate, programmes can explore opportunities to bring men and women together in some (or all) sessions to support them with healthy relationship skills. These decisions should be informed by women’s and men’s own preferences and availability.<sup>44</sup> Programme curricula can be adapted to include activities for men to reflect on and challenge their own gender attitudes and practices, and their experiences and concerns as fathers, and promote positive masculinities that support men’s equitable, non-violent and caring participation in their children’s and partners’ lives<sup>45</sup> (see Key Resources section). In these efforts, we can learn from United Nations (UN) agencies and civil society partners that are experienced at implementing gender-transformative programmes with men, including those that promote maternal, newborn and child health, and early childhood development, or work to prevent violence against women.<sup>46</sup>
- **Ensure that parenting programme curricula challenge inequitable social and gender norms and unequal power dynamics between men and women:** Effective gender-transformative parenting programmes are co-designed with local communities, to identify social and gender norms that no longer serve them and uplift positive norms that support healthy

relationships, positive masculinities and gender equality.<sup>47</sup> UNICEF and other organizations can work with parenting practitioners to integrate participatory activities that encourage parents (and children) to reflect on and identify the costs of adhering to inequitable gender norms and imagine the benefits of more respectful, caring and equitable relationships.<sup>48</sup> This can include activities that support women and men to reflect on how gender norms influence their behaviour and expectations as parents – for themselves, their partners and their children – and contribute to inequality more broadly. Caregivers can be supported to question social norms that condone violence against children and violence against women, and enabled to take action to prevent violence in their families and communities. Programme curricula should go beyond simply challenging gender attitudes and norms, to support participants to reflect on how power is used in the family and the harmful effects of unequal power dynamics for women, children and men. In these efforts, we can collaborate with United Nations agencies, such as UN Women and UNFPA, and civil society partners with expertise in gender-transformative programming. We can also ensure that programme facilitators are adequately trained to support these activities – which starts by giving them space to reflect on their own attitudes about gender, violence and men’s engagement.<sup>49</sup>

- **Enhance parenting programme curricula to develop skills that support healthy co-parent/caregiver relationships, alongside parenting skills:** Gender-transformative parenting programmes promote caring, equitable and non-violent partner or co-parent relations, as well as developing the skills to support them.<sup>50</sup> UNICEF and other organizations can support parenting programmes to integrate content on healthy relationships within their curricula, including practical exercises to build skills on couple communication, active listening, empathy and non-violent conflict resolution. Such skills also contribute to healthy parent–child relationships and complement the parenting skills participants learn. Programmes can also integrate content to promote caregivers’ mental health and well-being, itself a risk factor for and consequence of family violence.<sup>51</sup> We can also encourage programmes to support more equitable relationships by promoting

men's engagement in household tasks and men and women sharing household decision-making. Effective programmes create safe spaces for participants to learn and practise these new behaviours, and reflect on the benefits of adopting them. Facilitators can help parents and caregivers see how these skills can support them to achieve their mutual goals for their children and family. However, facilitator training and programme monitoring should ensure that efforts to promote healthy relationships do not unintentionally encourage women or girls to stay in abusive relationships or households.<sup>52</sup>

- **Support parenting programmes and caregivers to promote positive gender socialization:** Parents may intentionally or unintentionally socialize their children to inequitable gender norms through their words, actions and behaviour.<sup>53</sup> UNICEF and other organizations can promote positive gender socialization across the life course and support parents to raise children who are free from gender stereotypes and have equal care and opportunities for play, learning and education, regardless of their sex or gender identity.<sup>54</sup> Parenting programmes can integrate critical reflection activities for parents to become aware of and question how social and gender norms may negatively affect their children's well-being and future opportunities, and change these patterns of behaviour.<sup>55</sup> We can encourage parents to consider which toys and games they provide their children with, to engage their sons in household chores alongside their daughters, and to equally support girls' and boys' education and learning. Supporting positive gender socialization should occur alongside activities that help parents to adopt and model egalitarian relationships between partners – where they share power, decision-making and caregiving responsibilities. Parenting programme staff and facilitators – as well as service providers working with children and families – should be trained to support positive gender socialization and reinforce gender-transformative parenting practices<sup>56</sup> (see [Key resources](#) section). Social and behavioural change approaches with parents, caregivers and communities can further challenge these inequitable social and gender norms at the community level.

- **Strengthen and expand parenting programmes and their curricula to meet the needs of parents of adolescents:**

Relatively few parenting programmes are designed for parents of adolescents, and even fewer address the intersecting forms of violence that adolescents experience within and outside the family.<sup>57</sup> UNICEF can work with UN agencies (particularly UN Women and UNFPA), government institutions and civil society partners that promote the health and rights of adolescents, to develop, strengthen and scale up evidence-based programmes for parents of adolescents. UNICEF can support research with parents and caregivers of adolescents, and with adolescents themselves, to better understand their parenting needs and desires, and use this to inform programme design. Parenting programmes should support parents of adolescents with developmentally appropriate parenting skills, promote equitable and non-violent relationships between caregivers, and work with them to reduce adolescents' exposure to violence, including harmful practices such as child marriage, dating or intimate partner violence, and online or technology-facilitated violence (see [Brief 3](#)).<sup>58</sup> These programmes can include strategies designed to support positive mental health for both caregivers and adolescents.<sup>59</sup> UNICEF can support operational research to inform future programme adaptation and design, alongside the evaluation of these programmes to assess their effectiveness.

- **Adapt or develop new parenting programmes to meet the needs of hard-to-reach and vulnerable caregivers, including adolescent parents and caregivers:**

Adolescents may be parents themselves or play a caregiving role for their younger siblings. Adolescent caregivers (and their children) face unique challenges and increased risks of negative outcomes,<sup>60</sup> yet are often not reached by or may feel uncomfortable within existing parenting programmes.<sup>61</sup> UNICEF can support the design and testing of parenting programmes accessible to adolescent parents and tailored to their needs. In these efforts, we can collaborate with UNFPA colleagues working with adolescents to understand their needs as parents and what opportunities can be found to reach them. UNICEF can also support research to understand the needs of caregivers in diverse family structures and caregivers

and families who may be vulnerable or hard to reach – such as parents of children with disabilities, parents with disabilities, migrant labourers, families affected by migration or displacement, and families with a history of violence. We can support the development and testing of new and diverse approaches to provide these caregivers with parenting support. This may include using non-traditional avenues to reach them (e.g., workplace outreach), developing inclusive and accessible materials (e.g., videos with sign language and captions) or providing support (e.g., childcare or transport) to enable in-person participation in parenting programmes. More can also be done to leverage the health system to link parents and caregivers to parenting programmes – particularly in the perinatal period when many are already in contact with the health system, and women face an increased risk of intimate partner violence.<sup>62</sup>

- **Ensure that programmes prioritize children’s and women’s safety and are equipped to refer them to services:** Parenting programmes adapted to address violence against children and violence against women need to consider how to respond to disclosures of intimate partner violence, which parenting practitioners may feel ill equipped to handle safely. UNICEF can build parenting practitioner capacity to understand violence against women, map available services and referral pathways, and provide referral using a survivor-centred approach. We can draw on expertise from UNICEF gender-based violence programming, other UN agencies, and government and civil society partners working on gender-based violence programming, particularly those leading case management systems in locations where parenting programmes operate. We can support programmes to develop or strengthen safeguarding policies and protocols, provide participants with information on available services, and set up safe and accessible reporting channels.<sup>63</sup> Referral processes should align with existing community or national referral systems where they exist, and must meet the needs of marginalized and high-risk children and women, such as those with disabilities. Where referral systems do not exist, we can be guided by the knowledge of local civil society organizations and UN agencies supporting gender-based violence case management

to develop them, including adapting international guidance to the local context.<sup>64</sup> Where feasible, we can implement parenting programmes where UNICEF is strengthening child protection systems and referral mechanisms and/or UNFPA is implementing gender-based violence services for parents. We can ensure that parenting programme staff and facilitators are adequately trained on how to refer children and women to support and response services, including local health, legal, justice and community-based psychosocial support services. In settings with mandatory reporting laws, we can work with parenting practitioners to assess how to report safely and in the best interests of children and their female caregivers, and ensure that facilitators are well trained in how to do so.<sup>65</sup>

- **Support parenting programmes to identify, mitigate and monitor potential risks and unintended consequences:**

Parenting programmes need to be developed based on a gender and power analysis, to map out the risks and understand the drivers of violence against children and violence against women in communities.<sup>66</sup> Programmes that challenge entrenched and inequitable gender norms and address violence may carry risks for participants (including the risk of increased violence) or create backlash (such as ridicule or ostracism by family, friends or community members), particularly when not implemented well.<sup>67</sup> Poor-quality implementation can also reinforce harmful gender stereotypes or power imbalances – for example, efforts to engage men may unintentionally increase men’s power over women’s and children’s lives.<sup>68</sup> UNICEF and other organizations can work with parenting practitioners to identify potential risks to children, women and their families, and take action to mitigate them. We can promote high-quality programme monitoring, which gathers routine data to assess whether risks or unintended consequences are occurring (e.g., through pre- and post-surveys, real-time feedback mechanisms and facilitator debriefs), and whether they are a direct result of programme participation.<sup>69</sup> Programmes can track any adverse events, the follow-up steps taken, the referral of children, women or families to services, and any mandatory reporting – including assessing any negative effects on children and their mothers or female caregivers.<sup>70</sup>

Timely data collection can inform programme modifications and course corrections and enable the design and implementation of safer, more effective programmes.

- **Evaluate parenting programmes and their impact on violence against children and violence against women, to build the evidence base:** More research is needed to understand parenting programmes' effectiveness at reducing violence against children and violence against women, and how change is achieved. UNICEF can invest in the evaluation of parenting programmes, to assess whether they lead to the intended reductions in both types of violence and/or their shared risk factors. We can support partners to use consistent and validated measures of violence (and other outcomes, including protective factors) to be able to compare programme impacts. We can encourage research partners to use evaluation designs capable of assessing the added value of different approaches – for example, engaging fathers and male caregivers, including complementary activities for children of participating caregivers or using a gender-transformative approach. This is essential to understand whether (where and for whom) such programmes are more effective at reducing violence and improving parenting, relationship and child outcomes. Evaluations should also include measures to assess whether there are any potential risks or unintended consequences of programme participation (e.g., negative shifts in women's participation or agency in household decision-making).<sup>71</sup> We can also support researchers to collect data from children to better assess programme impacts. Qualitative research with programme participants, children and facilitators is essential to explore whether programmes achieve change – and if they do, how – and can provide key insights to improve participant recruitment and retention.<sup>72</sup> Lastly, UNICEF can support dissemination of the evidence among UN agencies, government institutions, researchers and civil society, to strengthen our understanding of what works, and for whom, to prevent violence against children and violence against women in different settings.



- **Scale up evidence-based parenting programmes designed to reduce violence against children and violence against women:** Depending on the context, UNICEF can advocate for the scale-up of universal parenting support and/or targeted approaches designed to meet the needs of diverse populations and vulnerable families.<sup>73</sup> Parenting programmes should be designed with scale in mind, regardless of whether they are home-based, group-based, fully in-person, digital or hybrid approaches, or include parallel sessions for children.<sup>74</sup> This requires making programming decisions (e.g., duration, intensity and cost) that balance what we know is required to effect change with what can be sustainably implemented at scale. Of course, scaling up effective programmes may seem challenging, given the short-term and results-oriented nature of funding and programme cycles.<sup>75</sup> We can design phased approaches – gradually testing, refining and building the evidence required to fundraise for and expand effective programmes. Where the political will exists, UNICEF can work with government, UN agencies and civil society to advocate for public funding and to institutionalize effective parenting programmes within existing government systems and services. Pathways to scale may be through health, education, child or social protection sectors, but should be determined by context, existing opportunities and the potential for sustainability. However, other approaches may be required for caregivers who are not being reached through these existing services. While the political will to fund parenting programmes at scale may not be present in all settings, it is more likely to occur when we engage government early in programme design, implementation and evidence generation, and work across sectors.<sup>76</sup>
- **Explore opportunities to work at other levels of the socioecological model:** Parenting programmes are well placed to address shared risk factors for violence at the individual and family levels, and support changes in caregiver attitudes and behaviour. Sustaining these positive changes requires that we also change the environment around parents, to ensure these individual-level changes are met with supportive norms, policies and institutions.<sup>77</sup> UNICEF can collaborate with UN agencies, government institutions,

civil society and other partners to support work at all levels of the ecosystem. We can also encourage coordination across sectors and explore opportunities to converge multiple approaches – for example, with families, communities, services and systems – in one location, as a way of potentially working synergistically to achieve change. For example:



**Communities** can be mobilized to challenge inequitable social and gender norms, adopt new behaviours and uplift norms that support healthy, non-violent family relationships, through evidence-based and gender-transformative social and behavioural change approaches.



**Services and systems** can be strengthened to promote gender-equitable and non-violent family relationships that can help prevent violence. Service providers in health, disability, social protection, justice and social services, or in early childhood education, can be trained to engage men as parents and caregivers, support gender-transformative parenting practices and provide case management services when required. Opportunities to implement parenting programmes in coordination with, or as part of, social protection interventions can be explored, as a way of addressing economic risk factors for violence. Evidence-based violence prevention programming with teachers and students can also be scaled up in schools.



**Laws and policies** can be developed or strengthened to be gender-responsive and support violence prevention, including to end corporal punishment, provide paid parental leave, and establish coordinated national violence against women and violence against children action plans.

# Key resources

These resources are available to guide UNICEF staff and others working to address the intersections between violence against children and violence against women within parenting and caregiver support programmes:

1. UNICEF, [‘What Works to Reduce Violence Against Children and Women in the Home in Low- and Middle-Income Countries? A review of parenting programmes, informed by Social and Behaviour Change \(SBC\) strategies’](#), Evidence-to-Policy Brief, UNICEF Innocenti – Global Office of Research and Foresight, 2023
2. UNICEF, [Designing Parenting Programmes for Violence Prevention: A guidance note](#), 2020
3. World Health Organization, [WHO Guidelines on Parenting Interventions to Prevent Maltreatment and Enhance Parent–Child Relationships with Children Aged 0–17 Years](#), 2022
4. UNICEF, Prevention Collaborative, Equimundo, [Parenting Programmes to Reduce Violence Against Children and Women: Brief series](#), 2023
  - [Brief 1: Why it is important](#)
  - [Brief 2: What gender-transformative programmes look like](#)
  - [Brief 3: How to adapt programmes to address both types of violence](#)
  - [Brief 4: How to measure change \(forthcoming\)](#)
5. UNICEF, [‘Gender-Responsive Parenting: Technical Note’](#), 2021
6. UNICEF, [‘Tip Sheets on Gender-Responsive Parenting’](#), 2021
7. UNICEF and World Health Organization, [‘Nurturing Care and Men’s Engagement: Thematic Brief’](#), 2022
8. UNICEF and International Step by Step Association, [Resource Package and Training Modules for Promoting Gender Transformative Parenting](#), 2023
  - [User Guide](#)
  - [Resource Modules](#)
  - [Slide Decks](#)
9. UNICEF, [Parenting of Adolescents](#), 2021

# Endnotes

- 1 Guedes, Alessandra, et al., 'Bridging the Gaps: A global review of intersections of violence against women and violence against children', *Global Health Action*, vol. 9, no. 1, 2016, 31516, <<https://doi.org/10.3402/gha.v9.31516>>; United Nations Children's Fund, *Gender Dimensions of Violence Against Children and Adolescents*, UNICEF, New York, 2020, <<https://www.unicef.org/documents/gender-dimensions-violence-against-children-and-adolescents>>, accessed 17 September 2024.
- 2 United Nations Children's Fund, *Child Protection Strategy 2021–2030*, UNICEF, New York, 2021, <<https://www.unicef.org/media/104416/file/Child-Protection-Strategy-2021.pdf>>, accessed 17 September 2024; United Nations Children's Fund, *Prevention of Violence Against Girls, Boys and Women: A paradigm shift in the new Child Protection Strategy*, UNICEF, New York, March 2023.
- 3 United Nations, Convention on the Rights of the Child, United Nations, New York, 1989, article 19, paragraph 1, <<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child>>, accessed 17 September 2024.
- 4 United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF Data: Violent discipline, updated June 2024, <<https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/violence/violent-discipline/#data>>, accessed 17 September 2024.
- 5 United Nations, Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, United Nations, New York, 1993, article 1, <<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/eliminationvaw.pdf>>, accessed 17 September 2024.
- 6 World Health Organization, *Violence Against Women Prevalence Estimates, 2018: Global, regional and national prevalence estimates for intimate partner violence against women and global and regional prevalence estimates for non-partner sexual violence against women*, Executive summary, WHO, Geneva, 2021.
- 7 United Nations Children's Fund, *Designing Parenting Programmes for Violence Prevention: A guidance note*, UNICEF, New York, 2020.
- 8 UNICEF Innocenti – Global Office of Research and Foresight, *Working at the Intersections of Violence Against Children and Violence Against Women: Why it matters for children's protection and well-being*, UNICEF Innocenti, Florence, October 2024.
- 9 Guedes et al., 'Bridging the Gaps'; Pearson, Isabelle, et al., 'The Co-Occurrence of Intimate Partner Violence and Violence Against Children: A systematic review on associated factors in low- and middle-income countries', *Trauma Violence Abuse*, vol. 24, no. 4, 2023, pp. 2097–2114, <<https://doi.org/10.1177/15248380221082943>>; Bott, Sarah, et al., 'Co-occurring Violent Discipline of Children and Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean: A systematic search and secondary analysis of national datasets', *BMJ Global Health*, vol. 6, no. 12, 2021, e007063, <<https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjgh-2021-007063>>; Fulu, Emma, Sarah McCook and Kathryn Falb, *What Works Evidence Review: Intersections of violence against women and violence against children*, What Works to Prevent Violence, 2017, <<https://www.whatworks.co.za/documents/publications/116-vac-vaw-evidence-brief-new-crop-1/file>>, accessed 17 September 2024.
- 10 Guedes et al., 'Bridging the Gaps'; *Gender Dimensions of Violence Against Children and Adolescents*.
- 11 Guedes et al., 'Bridging the Gaps'; Fulu, McCook and Falb, *What Works Evidence Review*.
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