



Research query: Feminist approaches to GBViE research, policy-making and programming.

An annotated bibliography of existing literature and resources to guide GBViE practitioners on feminist principles and approaches to GBViE research, policy-making and programming

Author: Sophie Read-Hamilton

Overview

The significant progress made over the last five decades in addressing gender-based violence (GBV) globally, including in humanitarian contexts, has largely been driven by feminist scholarship and activism (Baksh and Harcourt, 2015). Strong local, national and international women's movements have brought GBV, including in armed conflict and natural disasters, into the public domain as a development, human rights and public health issue. Since the 1990s in particular, feminist academics, researchers, activists and practitioners have drawn attention to the issue of GBV in humanitarian contexts, advocated for action and resources to address it, informed developments in national and international normative and legal frameworks, and led efforts to prevent and respond to GBV on the ground in emergencies.

Responses to GBV in emergencies have been significantly informed and shaped by feminist principles and approaches. Feminist scholarship and practice have generated evidence to prove the pervasiveness and prevalence of GBV in women and girls' lives across contexts and countries, drawing attention to the continuum of violence in women and girls' lives before, during and after emergencies. Global technical guidance and standards for preventing, mitigating and responding to GBV in humanitarian contexts are largely based on feminist principles and approaches. Established best practice for responding to survivors of GBV in humanitarian settings is based on feminist approaches that centre on the empowerment of survivors as well as their rights to safety, dignity and self-determination; this approach has been the cornerstone of the feminist-based responses to violence against women for half a century. A feminist perspective also informs understanding of the causes of and solutions to prevent GBV in humanitarian contexts, emphasizing the need for collective empowerment of women and transformation of the structural dimensions of women's inequality and subordination.

Over the past few years, ongoing efforts by feminists has led to feminist analysis, principles and strategies for addressing GBViE being formally adopted by governments and international organisations within humanitarian response. Countries including Canada, France and Sweden have committed to adopting feminist approaches to foreign and humanitarian policy.¹ International organisations including Oxfam, ActionAid, Women Deliver and IRC have adopted feminist analysis, principles and approaches within their organisational policies, advocacy efforts and programming.² And of critical importance, there is increasing recognition of the need to support local feminist and women's rights organisations and movements as fundamental for effective humanitarian response, including in efforts to address GBV.³ As identified through research undertaken in 2012, the presence of a strong and autonomous feminist movement is the single most important factor in catalysing action to recognise and address GBV in a country (Weldon and Htun, 2013). Providing support to local women's organisations and movements before, during and after emergencies may therefore be one of the most effective strategies that GBV practioners and policy-makers can implement to prevent, mitigate and respond to GBViE into the next decade of humanitarian response.

This annotated bibliography includes key literature and resources to help guide GBV practitioners to continue to embed feminist analysis, principles and practice within GBViE research, policy-making and programming, including through ensuring support to and empowerment of local women's rights movements and organisations.

The annotated bibliography includes resources related to four areas:

- [General resources](#)
- [Feminist approaches to GBViE research](#)
- [Feminist approaches to GBV policy-making in emergencies and beyond](#)
- [Feminist approaches to GBViE programming](#)

General resources

[Coalition of Feminists for Social Change \(2018\) *Feminist Pocketbook*, COFEM.](#)

This resource is designed to inform and empower GBV practitioners, researchers and activists in humanitarian contexts to implement feminist approaches to addressing GBV. The Pocketbook consists of 10 'tip sheets' on key topics related to addressing GBV in humanitarian and development settings. Each Tip Sheet provides a concise overview of the topic, highlighting key concepts and issues, and provides concrete recommendations for practitioners, researchers, policy-makers and donors to advance feminist and women-centred approaches to GBV.

[Coalition of Feminists for Social Change \(2017\) *Feminist Perspectives on Addressing Violence Against Women and Girls* paper and video series, COFEM.](#)

¹ See for example: Government of Sweden *Handbook: Sweden's feminist foreign policy* and Government of Canada's *Feminist International Assistance Policy*: https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_developpement-enjeux_developpement/priorities-priorites/policy-politique.aspx?lang=eng

² See for example Sarosi and Fernandes (2019), Milliband (2019), Ruparel (2019)

³ See for example Lafreniere, Sweetman and Thylin (2019)

This collection of five papers articulate concerns about the shrinking space for feminist analysis in GBV efforts in development and humanitarian settings, and action needed to address those concerns. Each paper addresses a specific concern in relation to feminist perspectives on addressing GBV and provides an overview and analysis of the issue, highlight the implications and provides concrete recommendations for practioners, policy-makers, researchers and donors. Each paper is accompanied by a video interview that provides a snapshot of the key issues discussed in each paper.

[Hall, R. \(2015\) 'Feminist strategies to end violence against women', *Oxford Handbook of Transnational Feminism*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.](#)

This chapter of the *Oxford Handbook of Transnational Feminism* outlines three feminist anti-violence frameworks, exploring their intersections, contradictions, gains, and shortcomings. It then discusses current challenges in the anti-violence landscape, assessing the potential of those frameworks for transformative change. Canada is used as a case study, drawing on comparisons with countries from both the global North and South. The chapter also discusses feminist action through international forums.

[Safier, C., Wakefield, S., Harvey, R. and Rewald, R. \(2019\) *Oxfam's Guide to Feminist Influencing*, Oxford: Oxfam International.](#)

The *Oxfam Guide to Feminist Influencing* aims to support Oxfam staff to apply feminist principles and practices to campaigning, policy, advocacy and influencing. It provides practical step-by-step guidance and tools to translate the concept of putting women's rights into practice to transform unequal gender and power relations. While not specific to either GBV or emergency contexts, the ideas, strategy and tools presented in the guide are applicable to any issue, including GBV, and can be used to either integrate gender, or create gender-focused work, across themes and issues. Staff at all levels and in any role can use this guide to make their influencing work more feminist.

[Wakefield, S. \(2017\) *Transformative and Feminist Leadership for Women's Rights* Oxfam America Research Backgrounder series, Oxfam America.](#)

This research backgrounder provides an overview of the practices of, and programs in, organizations that support transformative leadership for the realization of women's rights. The research includes analysis of trends and challenges on setting a transformative agenda for realizing women's rights.

Feminist approaches to GBViE research

[Better Evaluation, *Feminist Evaluation* \(n.d.\)](#)

Better Evaluation is an organisation set up to improve the theory and practice of evaluation. The Feminist Evaluation section of the Better Evaluation website provides a concise overview of principles of and approaches to feminist evaluation. The website gives examples of feminist project evaluations and includes additional helpful resources.

[Boesten, J. and Henry, M. \(2018\) 'Between fatigue and silence: The challenges of conducting research on sexual violence in conflict', *Social Politics* 25\(4\): 568–88.](#)

This article draws on experience from Liberia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and other humanitarian contexts to argue for the adoption of a reflexive, feminist perspective to enable researchers to question the need and context for interviewing GBV survivors on their personal experiences of violence. The authors argue such a perspective is critically important because of the ‘research fatigue’ and trauma suffered by individuals and communities from sustained research interest in what the article calls a ‘hyped’ area of international concern.

[Global Women’s Institute \(2017\) *Gender-based Violence Research, Monitoring, and Evaluation with Refugee and Conflict-affected Populations: A Manual and Toolkit for Researchers and Practitioners*, Washington DC: The George Washington University.](#)

This resource is a comprehensive package to support researchers and members of the humanitarian community in conducting ethical and technically sound research, monitoring and/or evaluation on GBV within refugee and conflict-affected populations. The manual’s step-by-step approach enables readers to make appropriate ethical and methodological decisions when collecting data with refugee and other vulnerable populations. Feminist research principles are embedded throughout the manual, and section 4 in particular overviews key feminist considerations when researching GBV among refugee and other conflict-affected populations.

[Hesse-Biber, S. H. \(2011\) *Handbook of Feminist Research: Theory and Praxis*, Thousand Oaks: Sage.](#)

This book provides an in-depth overview of feminist research theory, practice, and issues. The first chapter discusses the development of feminist thinking in relation to social research and covers topics such as the difference between and debate about qualitative versus quantitative research, and feminist standpoint theory which argues that research should be undertaken from the standpoint of women or particular groups of women.

[Jenkins, K., Narayanaswamy, L. and Sweetman, C. \(2019\) ‘Introduction: Feminist values in research’, *Gender & Development*, Volume 27, Number 3.](#)

This introductory article to the Gender & Development issue on Feminist Values in Research overviews the evolution of feminist research in international development, its links to feminist activism, and critical elements of feminist research—including the feminist principle and practice of reflexivity regarding a researcher’s position in relation to research participants, and the notion that feminist praxis demands that researchers try, where possible, to equalise this relationship.

[Leung, L., Miedema, S., Warner, X., Homan, S. and Fulu, E. \(2019\) *Making feminism count: Integrating feminist research principles in large-scale quantitative research on violence against women and girls*, *Gender & Development*, Volume 27, Number 3.](#)

This article explores how researchers can practically engage in an explicitly feminist undertaking such as ending GBV when accepted research practices employ methods that are historically not informed by feminist praxis. The authors argue that quantitative research and feminist research approaches are not mutually exclusive, but rather, they overlap. Drawing on five decades of combined experience conducting quantitative studies on violence against women and girls in low- and middle-income countries, the authors highlight the challenges and

opportunities for incorporating feminist research principles throughout the research process – from design, community engagement, data collection, analysis, dissemination, and policy influence. They draw on practical examples from Timor-Leste, Kiribati, and Sri Lanka among others, to illustrate that it is not only possible to apply feminist research principles to large-scale, quantitative survey research on violence against women and girls (VAWG), but that this should become a priority for good development practice.

[Lokot, M. \(2019\) 'The space between us: Feminist values and humanitarian power dynamics in research with refugees', *Gender & Development*, Volume 27, Number 3.](#)

In this article the author draws on research with Syrian refugees and humanitarian workers in Jordan to explore the research and monitoring and evaluation practices of international humanitarian agencies. The author argues that international humanitarian and development agencies striving to promote gender equality and women's empowerment sometimes neglect to recognise the power hierarchies present in their own engagement with communities. While the article does not focus on research or data collection on GBViE, it uses GBViE as an example where data collection has become the end itself--rather than the means to an end--suggesting that monitoring and evaluation "can morph from being merely part of the process, to being the outcome itself." Lokot argues for a shift away from transactional engagement with refugees to relational engagement in line with feminist values, such as proximity and reflexivity. Feminist values, it is concluded, offer rich and useful insights for engaging with refugee communities within research and monitoring and evaluation processes. Feminist values can also catalyse critical reflection and analysis on power, humanitarianism, and the space between refugees and humanitarian staff.

[Napier-Moore, R., Wardarina, Chakma, T., Pedersen, H. and FPAR partner authors \(2017\) *Changing Development from the Inside Out: Feminist Participatory Action Research \(FPAR\) for Development Justice in Asia and the Pacific*, Chiang Mai: Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development.](#)

This report details a Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR) approach developed by Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APFWLD), which involves supporting women to undertake research on issues relevant to their lives, and to use the research to collectively organise and mobilise to catalyse systemic changes. The report overviews FPAR and includes case studies from ten Asian countries where women's groups have put FPAR into practice, including in Bangladesh with stateless Urdu-speaking women living in the Kurmotola Camp (KTC) in Dhaka. Through the research, women identified rampant GBV including sexual harassment and abuse and child marriage, among other issues they face, and also identified strategies to address different forms of GBV. FPAR was used in this context to build awareness about women's rights and to empower and organize women and girls to stand against GBV and challenge the restrictive fundamentalisms and patriarchy at household, community, and national levels.

[Reddy, D., Hollowell, C., Aresto, L.L.C., Nyabol, G., Joseph, M.B., Ker, J. A., Lado, J. and Kiden, M. \(2019\) 'Using feminist 'reflexive practice' to explore stress and well-being of local researchers in South Sudan', *Gender & Development*, Volume 27, Number 3.](#)

This article discusses using feminist methods of reflexive practice to support and learn about the well-being of researchers working on GBV research in South Sudan. In line with feminist research values, the article focuses on personal reflections on emotional challenges the researchers faced, including the impacts on South Sudanese team members undertaking GBV research in their own country. The authors share findings, personal reflections and recommendations for improving fieldwork. These include the need for more culturally diverse feminist research tools, and for better recognition of the crucial role played by national researchers in international research projects.

[Wakefield, S. and Koerppen, D. \(2017\) *Applying Feminist Principles to Program Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning*, Oxfam Discussion Paper, Oxford: Oxfam International.](#)

This discussion paper, developed for Oxfam staff, focusses on Oxfam's feminist principles for monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning (MEAL). The paper first highlights challenges in evaluating gender transformational change before detailing feminist principles and their application to program monitoring, evaluation and learning. Three case studies are presented to demonstrate the application of the principles to practice, and to highlight lessons learned. While none of the case studies are GBViE program-specific, the lessons and recommendations captured in section 6 pertaining to the application of feminist principles to programme monitoring, evaluation and learning are relevant to GBViE programming.

Feminist approaches to GBV policy-making in emergencies and beyond

[Anderson, K. \(2017\) *Now is the Time: Research on Gender Justice, Conflict and Fragility in the Middle East and North Africa*, Oxford: Oxfam International.](#)

This report presents findings of a study on gender justice in fragile settings in the MENA region. The aims of the study were: to inform and influence discourse and programmes on gender justice in fragile and conflict-affected settings; inform policy recommendations to national governments and regional bodies in relation to the implementation of commitments on gender equality and WPS in conflict-affected states; and provide policy and programmatic recommendations to international development actors on mitigating the negative effects of conflict and advancing gender justice in fragile and conflict-affected settings in the MENA region. Advocacy and activism by local feminist women's organisations are highlighted throughout the report, including their efforts to address GBV. The report includes specific recommendations for governments and the international humanitarian community regarding policies in relation to support to local women's rights organisations and GBV programming.

[Cagna, P. and Rao, N. \(2016\) 'Feminist mobilisation for policy change on violence against women: insights from Asia', *Gender & Development*, Volume 24, Number 2.](#)

This article explores how women's movements in China, India, and Indonesia have mobilised to influence processes of legal reform on violence against women and girls. The authors argue that legal change is a complex process, in which both state and non-state actors negotiate and bargain in the 'policy space', bringing different interests and needs to bear. The three countries featured in the research differ in many ways, including population size, political system, and diversity, including ethnicities and religions. A comparative study such as this offers important potential for understanding policy change on VAWG, the role of women's movements in this, and the obstacles to change.

[Fletcher-Wood, E. and Mutandwa, R. \(2019\) *Funding a Localised, Women-Led Approach to Protection from Gender Based Violence: What is the data telling us?*, London: ActionAid International.](#)

This document reports on findings from a baseline study that aimed to understand more about global GBV funding in emergency contexts. It reviewed current data as well as gaps, investigating the extent to which current funding trends facilitate and support women-led, localised approaches to GBV mitigation and response. The study included a comprehensive review of existing reports and publications, as well as interviews with a range of key stakeholders in humanitarian protection. The report presents findings and recommendations and highlights three key challenges in relation to protection funding:

- 1) The protection cluster remains significantly underfunded in humanitarian response, particularly for GBV prevention and response;
- 2) Current funding tracking mechanisms do not provide a means to report and monitor how much funding is targeted for women and girls;
- 3) Localised GBV funding is still relatively small, despite commitments to increase global humanitarian funding to local and national responders.

[Government of Canada \(2019\) *A Feminist Approach: Gender Equality in Humanitarian Action.*](#)

This policy document provides guidance on what Canada aims to achieve through its humanitarian action as outlined in its Feminist International Assistance Policy. The policy guides Canada's humanitarian assistance programming, and advocacy and strategic policy efforts, through targeted and crosscutting approaches. It lays out how Canada pursues its efforts to increase the gender-responsiveness of humanitarian action through targeted and crosscutting approaches in four key areas, one of which is GBV.

[Htun, M. and Weldon, S. \(2012\) 'The Civic Origins of Progressive Policy Change: Combating violence against women in global perspective, 1975–2005', *American Political Science Review*, Volume 106, Number 3.](#)

This article presents research that identifies feminist movements within and across national borders as the primary drivers of change in government policies and action to address VAW, because they articulate social perspectives, disseminate new ideas and frames to the broader public, and demand institutional changes to advance feminist interests. The authors identify that feminist activism has shaped policies on violence not only through domestically focused activism but also through transnational advocacy and explore the impact of feminist advocacy on agenda setting through international and regional norms, for example for the inclusion of VAW in international agreements on human rights.

[Lindley-Jones, H. \(2018\) *Women Responders: Placing local action at the centre of humanitarian protection programming*, London: CARE International UK.](#)

This report details finding from a study that aimed to identify concrete ways in which humanitarian actors can strengthen collaboration with, and support to, women responders in the context of protection interventions. The research examined what 'protection' means to women and girls as individuals and those responding to protection risks; the ways in which women responders are taking actions to mitigate and respond to protection risks; how collaborating with women responders can ensure a contextualised and effective humanitarian

response; the extent to which international humanitarian actors collaborate with and support women responders in protection programming, and how they do this; and challenges that international humanitarian actors and women responders face in this collaboration and suggested ways forward. While not explicitly focussed on GBV programming or on feminist approaches, the research identified that the largest number of examples of women responders mitigating and responding to protection risks were of women-led organisations leading GBV prevention and response. In contexts affected by recurring natural disasters, GBV prevention and response activities may be directed by women-led organisations which provide ongoing, long-term services, but which then adapt activities or initiate them in a new location if a crisis emerges.

[Marsh, M. \(2019\) *Where is the Money?: How the humanitarian system is failing in its commitments to and violence against women and girls*, New York: International Rescue Committee.](#)

This report details findings from a review of current funding to tackle GBV in emergencies, drawing on a global survey, interviews with key humanitarians, and analysis of almost 3,000 individual project sheets and Humanitarian Response Plans. Key findings of the study include:

- Violence against women and girls remains an underfunded area of humanitarian response;
- A lack of GBV expertise inhibits the prioritization of GBV services within humanitarian response plans;
- Progress toward localization of humanitarian action, including GBV response, has been slow;
- It is difficult to find consistent, reliable information about levels of investment to address GBV in emergencies.

Focussing in the issue of SEA, the report argues it is critical that all actors in the humanitarian system acknowledge that women and girls must remain at the centre of efforts to prevent SEA and sexual harassment and that institutional change processes must be informed by survivors, by female technical GBV experts, and by feminist analysis that seeks to redefine and redistribute unequal power relationships. The report contains key findings and recommendations largely targeted at humanitarian policy makers.

[Oxfam Canada \(2018\) *A Feminist Approach to Localization: How Canada can support the leadership of women's rights actors in humanitarian action*, Feminist and Foreign Policy Series, Ottawa: Oxfam.](#)

This report presents findings from research with women's rights actors involved in humanitarian action. It is intended to contribute to discussions on how to apply feminist principles to aid and foreign policy. The research suggests that despite differences in the contexts in which women's rights actors are working, there are often commonalities in what they see as challenges and barriers, as well as priorities for change. Barriers include the lack of recognition and prioritization of gender equality and women's rights in humanitarian action, where issues such as VAW and sexual and reproductive health and rights are not considered 'life saving' interventions. Where funding is available for their work, women's rights actors report it is rarely long term, flexible or able cover their core running costs, making it hard to

build and maintain capacity and be effective and innovative in programming. Due to the nature of their work, women's right actors also face particular security threats and restrictions on their leadership. These challenges are further hampered by the lack of policy coherence between humanitarian, conflict and development work.

[Standing, K., Parker, S. and Bista, S. \(2016\) 'Grassroots responses to violence against women and girls in post-earthquake Nepal: Lessons from the field', *Gender & Development*, Volume 24, Issue 2.](#)

This article provides evidence from Nepal, a country where progress has been made on gender equality but VAWG remains an endemic problem, on the way in which grassroots women activists and non-governmental organisations have mobilised to challenge and address VAWG in the aftermath of disaster. It offers lessons for humanitarian and development workers and organisations for how humanitarian response can challenge and address VAWG in emergency situations.

[Women Deliver \(2019\) *Feminist Humanitarian System Building Block I: Advancing Gender-Transformative Localization*, New York: Women Deliver.](#)

This action brief is the first in a series produced by Women Deliver that puts a feminist lens on humanitarian action and promotes the core actions needed to better support girls and women in emergencies by shifting the power dynamics that currently underpin the way aid is delivered. By breaking down the concept of a feminist humanitarian system into a set of tangible actions for girls and women that all humanitarian actors must prioritize (the building blocks), this effort can provide a blueprint of what is needed to drive change. Through these building blocks, Women Deliver aims to provide a clear, coordinated pathway and the concrete actions necessary to achieve a feminist humanitarian system. *Advancing Gender Transformative Localisation* outlines the challenges and opportunities for shifting more power to women-focused civil society organisations in humanitarian settings. This action brief outlines the first building block, dedicated to a topic that must be a cornerstone of a feminist humanitarian system: gender-transformative localization. An action brief outlining the challenges and opportunities for shifting more power to women-focused civil society organizations in humanitarian settings, and why this is key for building a feminist humanitarian system.

Feminist approaches to GBViE programming

[Farrington, M. \(2019\) 'Social and feminist design in emergency contexts: The Women's Social Architecture Project, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh', *Gender & Development*, Volume 27, Issue 2.](#)

This article provides an account of the progress of Oxfam's Women's Social Architecture Project among refugees in Cox's Bazaar, which worked with women and adolescent girls, alongside female architects with a background or interest in social or feminist design and architecture, to add a feminist perspective into the design and siting of Oxfam's WASH facilities. The project consisted of formative research with Rohingya women and girls, and design workshops with architects in which Rohingya women co-created designs that tackle the safety and other issues they face in relation to WASH facilities.

[FemLINKpacific, Women's Weather Watch](#)

Women's Weather Watch is a model for monitoring approaching storms, and improving disaster management in communities by providing real-time information. FemLINKPACIFIC's seeks to address the overlooked area of the involvement and consultation of women before, during and after natural disasters. FemLINKPACIFIC campaigns for the inclusion of women in all aspects of disaster preparation, management and rehabilitation which requires equal participation of women, to ensure evacuation strategies are gender inclusive, particularly to ensure the safety and protection of women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly.

[Hendessi, M. \(2019\) *A Feminist Approach to Cash Transfer Programming*, London: ActionAid UK.](#)

This report explores the transformative potential of cash transfer programming in emergencies, looking at the emerging practice and evidence regarding cash transfer programming on women's empowerment, safety and gender relations. The article concludes by recommending further research to understand how cash transfer programming impacts women's empowerment, gender equality and protection in humanitarian contexts.

[Hendessi, M. and Higelin, M. \(2019\) *A Feminist Approach to Safe Spaces for Women and Girls in Humanitarian Response*, London: ActionAid UK.](#)

This ActionAid think piece sets out the rationale for a feminist approach to safe spaces for women in humanitarian settings. It provides an overview of ActionAid's approach to safe spaces illustrated by case studies, and outlines the principles, steps and risk management considerations adopted by ActionAid when establishing safe spaces.

[International Rescue Committee \(2013\) *Engaging Men Through Accountable Practice \(EMAP\)*](#)

This gender transformative primary prevention program is based on an evidenced-based curriculum and best practices which aims to reduce violence against women and girls by addressing gender inequality and the patriarchal norms and beliefs that shape how individuals and groups are socialized. EMAP is a ten-month individual behaviour change intervention created with conflict-affected communities to address GBV by engaging men in transformative individual behaviour change in a post-conflict context, guided by the input and realities of the women in their communities.

[Kemitare, J., Were, J. and Eoomkham, J. \(2019\) 'Feminist practice: Local women's rights organisations set out new ways of working in humanitarian settings', *Humanitarian Exchange Magazine*, Number 75.](#)

This article explores the role of local women's rights organisations in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls in humanitarian settings. The authors highlight obstacles and challenges facing women's rights organisations which include lack of sustainable, direct funding, limited operational capacity, and unequal partnerships and argue that effective response to VAWG in emergencies will require a more radical shift and application of feminist principles across humanitarian work in order to facilitate a new understanding of the relationship between international agencies and local actors, particularly women's rights organisations .

[O'Leary, M. \(2019\) *Safety with Dignity: A women-led community-based protection approach in humanitarian and protracted crises*, Johannesburg: ActionAid International.](#)

This manual sets out ActionAid’s feminist women-led community-based protection approach to promote, enable and support the role, agency and leadership of women in humanitarian action. The approach emphasises the essential role of women leaders - in preparedness, response, connecting to longer-term development – as critical to strengthening community resilience. It advocates for women’s rights and women-led response in all interventions, with the underpinning of safety and dignity for all.

[Pillay, A. \(2018\) *Harnessing gender transformative opportunities within humanitarian crises: A field note from north-east Nigeria.*](#)

This article presents a feminist analysis on humanitarian response efforts to address disparities in the needs and vulnerabilities of women, girls, men and boys in north-east Nigeria through the collection and analysis of information on the needs of the women, girls, boys and men to ensure that the affected communities can access and benefit from assistance and support that caters to their different needs and experiences, with particular focus on highlighting the needs and experiences of women and girls. The author highlights the way in which patriarchal ideology of oppression and subordination of women and girls that existed before the conflict has been a major factor in the attention paid to women and girls within this crisis situation, and gives rise to the high levels of different forms of violence against women and girls within this crisis. The author contends that to bring gender dynamics and issues to the fore in the largely male-dominated humanitarian sphere, the feminist political project on gender equality was delinked from patriarchal power relations in order to be made palatable to the mainstream humanitarian system. The author argues that humanitarian assistance must do more than apolitical gender mainstreaming: it must take into consideration the historical context of gender discrimination rooted in law and cultural practice, and note how the insurgency has further affected women in various ways – from sexual abuse to lost economic opportunities.

[Raising Voices \(2019\) *Preventing Violence Against Women: A primer for African women’s organisations, Kampala: Raising Voices.*](#)

This primer provides an overview of key terms, trends, approaches, and evidence used to frame violence against women (VAW) prevention programming. It is designed to strengthen programming, advocacy, and research for evidence-based violence against women prevention in Africa. The primer is intended for African women’s organisations, African women’s funds, and allied philanthropic actors to broaden their understanding of the trends in the rapidly evolving field of VAW prevention. The primer also serves to increase the participation of African women’s organisations, researchers, activists, and programme developers in advancing evidence-based work on VAW prevention grounded in feminist politics.

[Raising Voices, *SASA!: Activist Kit for Preventing Violence against Women and HIV, Kampala, Raising Voices.*](#)

SASA! is a feminist-informed community mobilization intervention that seeks to change community attitudes, norms and behaviours that result in gender inequality, violence and increased HIV vulnerability for women. SASA! was designed by Raising Voices and was initially trialled in Kampala, Uganda, but is now being adapted globally, including in humanitarian contexts.

[Raising Voices, *Get Moving! Facilitator's Guide and Participant's Workbook*, Kampala: Raising Voices.](#)

Currently being adapted for use in humanitarian contexts, Get Moving! Is a reflective process developed by the GBV Prevention Network to strengthen the understanding and commitment of individuals and organizations to the core values of violence prevention work—equality and non-violence.

[UN Women, UNDP, UNODC and OHCHR \(2018\) *A Practitioner's Toolkit on Women's Access to Justice Programming*, New York, United Nations.](#)

This toolkit presents options for responding to improving women's access to justice programming and aims to meet the growing demand for technical assistance in this area. While not explicitly feminist, this toolkit is premised on feminist aims of improving women's practical and strategic needs and rights through creating an enabling environment for women's access to justice; creating effective, accountable and gender-responsive justice institutions; and legally empowering women. Module 3 focusses on ending violence against women and girls, including addressing the protection of women from GBV during the transition from crisis to post-conflict and development. Examples of feminist organisations engaged in promoting women's access to justice are included throughout.

[Zulver, J. \(2016\) 'High-risk feminism in El Salvador: Women's mobilisation in violent times', *Gender & Development*, Volume 24, Issue 2.](#)

This article introduces 'high-risk feminism' – an original framework that applies a gendered lens to a composite of social movement theories – in order to highlight the uniquely gendered dimensions of women's mobilisation in El Salvador. It argues that women's experiences of violence in El Salvador – a country made fragile by civil war - are often invalidated by wider society for violating a normalised culture of 'patriarchal privacy.' Yet despite widespread violence, Salvadoran women have created opportunities and avenues for mobilisation in defence of their safety and well-being. This article showcases these efforts, with a focus on the various forms of agency that women adopt, create, modify, and employ to counteract fragility in their daily lives.

References

Baksh, R. and Harcourt, W. (2015) *The Oxford Handbook of Transnational Feminist Movements*, Oxford: Oxford University Press: <http://eltalondeaquiles.pucp.edu.pe/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Oxford-Handbooks-Rawwida-Baksh-Wendy-Harcourt-The-Oxford-Handbook-of-Transnational-Feminist-Movements-Oxford-University-Press-2015.pdf>

Government of Canada (2019) *Feminist International Assistance Policy*: https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_developpement-enjeux_developpement/priorities-priorites/policy-politique.aspx?lang=eng

Government of Sweden (2014) *Handbook: Sweden's Feminist Foreign Policy*: <https://www.government.se/4a7853/contentassets/fc115607a4ad4bca913cd8d11c2339dc/handbook---swedens-feminist-foreign-policy>

Lafreniere, J., Sweetman, C. and Thylin, T. (2019) 'Introduction: Gender, humanitarian action and crisis responses', *Gender & Development*, Volume 27, Issue, 2. : <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/13552074.2019.1634332?needAccess=true>

Milliband, D. (2019) *Next steps in the drive for gender equality in crisis settings: How a feminist approach can help*: <https://www.rescue.org/press-release/next-steps-drive-gender-equality-crisis-settings-how-feminist-approach-can-help-speech>

Ruparel, S. (2019) *Why ActionAid promotes women's leadership in emergencies*: <https://actionaid.org/opinions/2019/why-actionaid-promotes-womens-leadership-emergencies>

Sarosi, D. and Fernandes, S. (2019) *Feminist Aid: A call for g7 leaders to beat inequality*, Oxford: Oxfam International: <https://www.oxfam.org/en/research/feminist-aid-call-g7-leaders-beat-inequality>

Weldon, L. and Htun, (2013) 'Feminist mobilisation and progressive policy change: Why governments take action to combat violence against women', *Gender & Development*, Volume 21, Issue 2: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/13552074.2013.802158?needAccess=true>

Women Deliver (2019) *Does Humanitarian Aid Need a Feminist Facelift?*
A Women Deliver Side Event at the Commission on the Status of Women: <https://womendeliver.org/humanitarianicsw/>

The GBV AoR Help Desk

The GBV AoR Helpdesk is a technical research, analysis, and advice service for humanitarian practitioners working on GBV prevention and response in emergencies at the global, regional and country level. GBV AoR Helpdesk services are provided by a roster of GBViE experts, with oversight from Social Development Direct. Efforts are made to ensure that Helpdesk queries are matched to individuals and networks with considerable experience in the query topic. However, views or opinions expressed in GBV AoR Helpdesk Products do not necessarily reflect those of all members of the GBV AoR, nor of all the experts of SDDirect's Helpdesk roster.

Contact the Helpdesk

You can contact the GBViE Helpdesk by emailing us: enquiries@gbviehelpdesk.org.uk, and we will respond to you within 24 hours during weekdays.

The GBViE Helpdesk is available 09.30- 17.30 GMT, Monday to Friday.