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Baseline Study EU Support to CSOs - Promoting Feminist leadership to Combat Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Jordan (PFL)

Final Report

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Responsibility for the information and views set out in this Baseline Study lies entirely with the authors.

List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
AA	Action Aid
AA AR	Action Aid Arab Region
CBO	Community Based Organisation
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
FPD	Family Protection Department
GBV	Gender Based Violence
INGOs	International Non-Governmental Organisations
KAP	Knowledge, attitudes and practices
KI	Key Informants
NGO	Non- Governmental Organisation
PFL	Promoting Feminist Leadership
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Science
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
WG	Washington Group

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Executive Summary

Background

Women in Jordan are subjected to violence by men, ranging from explicit text messages over the phone, inappropriate remarks in public, sexual assault, rape, etc. However, they don't have recourse to justice and there is no law against gender-based violence (GBV) nor a legal definition of sexual harassment. This results in women not wanting to register a complaint in case of violence against them. Young women and their groups and Community Based Organisations (CBOs) also lack information on what gender equality is or how to combat sexual harassment, and how power relations between men and women keep the status quo intact.

ActionAid's 'Promoting Feminist Leadership' (PFL) to Combat Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) project, funded by the European Commission, contributes to women's human rights by strengthening the participation of women and girls and their CBOs in local and national development processes in Jordan. More specifically, the project aims to build the feminist leadership of young women and men to combat violence against women and girls in public spaces in Jordan.

This report supports the PFL project through providing a knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) survey to establish the baseline for the Project on the safety of women in public spaces harassment in two provinces: Zarqa (in specific covering the areas Awajan and Al Hussein), and Mafrq (in specific covering the areas Al Hussein and Al Janoubi). The study also draws on information collected from key informants and potential project beneficiaries on the general situation of sexual harassment violence against women in Jordan. As part of the assessment 5 individual interviews (4 with females, 1 with males), 4 focus group discussions (3 with females and 1 with males), and 312 surveys (222 female respondents, 90 male respondents) were completed.

Findings

Issues of sexual harassment and violence against women: Survey findings showed that harassment against women is common with the majority (38.1%) of respondents reporting that 'they are common' and 15.4% reporting that they are 'very common'. 'Offensive remarks' and 'being physically followed' were reported as the most prevalent types of harassment experienced by women in their areas. Moreover, most of the survey participants were aware of the different ways in which sexual harassment took place.

With regards to the age in which sexual harassment was most likely to be experienced, survey findings showed that females were believed to most likely experience harassment between the age of 12-40. Focus group participants believed that children under puberty and adolescent girls were at a higher risk of being subjected to sexual harassment. Survey findings highlighted that 'streets' were the most common places in which sexual harassment was experienced followed by stores and parks. Focus group discussions revealed similar findings highlighting streets as common places, as well as spaces where sexes are mixed such as places of work, transportation, areas around schools, and public parks.

Causes of sexual harassment and perpetrators: Survey findings showed that men were perceived as the main perpetrators of sexual harassment, where almost all the females surveyed reported that they were likely to be strangers. Moreover, perpetrators were generally believed to be between the

age of youth, adolescence and young adulthood. This was similar to focus group and key informant findings, which also revealed that perpetrators were believed to be generally adolescent and young men. However, there were also several reports of 'older men' being perceived as perpetrators of sexual harassment and specifically abuse, particularly in relation to practices such as child abuse within direct and extended family units and within communities.

As for the causes of sexual harassment, findings showed that victim blaming was commonly practiced in society, among both women and men. This was mentioned several times in focus group and key informant interviews and was confirmed by the survey findings. Survey results indicated that the highest female and male responses to causes of sexual harassment were for 'the way women behave' and 'the way they respond to harassment'. Key informants also highlighted some other causes such as poverty and unemployment; inability for men to marry at a young age due to financial constraints; exposure to 'western' media and greater accessibility to Internet; poor religious beliefs and practice, as well as patriarchal norms which consolidate men's unequal power over women and oppression towards women in the society.

Making public spaces safer: Overall, women reported feeling safe in public spaces. However, the majority of female respondents agreed or strongly agreed that sexual harassment is a serious problem, which needs to be addressed. During focus group discussions, women suggested placing police patrols, stricter sanctions on the perpetrators of sexual harassment, and recommended for educational reforms that focus on spreading notions of gender equality and mutual respect. Key informant interviews revealed similar findings in addition to recommendations such as establishing family parks, ensuring safer transportation networks, reinstating the role of mosque in the society, and supporting greater enforcement of the law to penalise perpetrators of sexual harassment.

Reactions when facing sexual harassment: Survey findings indicated that feeling 'embarrassed and ashamed' were the most common female reactions to experiences of sexual harassment. Most of the female survey participants mentioned that, if they were harassed, they would report to the police followed by 'ask a male relative to confront the perpetrator'. Women who were unwilling to report to the police mostly indicated that it was because of shame and family reasons. The latter coincides with the focus group findings, which highlighted that the 'culture of shame' prevented people from reporting.

Knowledge about legal procedures to report sexual harassment: The majority of women surveyed reported knowing where to report cases of VAWG and harassment, however they were divided in their knowledge of laws and regulations on sexual harassment in Jordan and procedures to report these incidents. When asked, most of the female survey participants (78.4%) reported their willingness to use an online application/tool to informally/formally report sexual harassment incidents. This was supported by focus groups findings, however, some Syrian focus group participants mentioned that they would not let their daughters use the Internet nor would they report sexual harassment incidents referring to the 'Arab culture' and fear of being negatively perceived by society.

Background

Promoting Feminist Leadership Project (PFLP)

Action Aid's (AA) 'Promoting Feminist Leadership' (PFL) to Combat Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) project contributes to women's human rights by strengthening the participation of women and girls and CBOs in local and national development processes in Jordan. More specifically, the project aims to build the feminist leadership of young women and men to combat violence against women and girls in public spaces in Jordan.

The PFL project is being implemented in Awajan and Al Hussein neighborhoods in Zarqa Governorate and Al Hussein and Al Janoubi neighborhoods in Mafraq Governorate. From the participatory vulnerability assessments that Action Aid conducted in Mafraq and Zarqa in 2016 and 2017, young women mentioned sexual harassment in public spaces as their main worry, and according to them, 'the situation is worsened by the fact that Zarqa and Mafraq also host Syrian refugees which brings other worries for women'.

Purpose of the Baseline

This baseline survey provides knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) data as a baseline for the PFL Project on safety of women in public spaces, with focus on sexual harassment in two provinces:

- 1- Zarqa (in specific covering the areas Awajan and Al Hussein), and
- 2- Mafraq (in specific covering the areas Al Hussein and Al Janoubi).

The baseline survey also draws on reflections and analysis from the desk research on the general situation of violence against women in Jordan. The purpose of the baseline is to contribute to the project team's ability to measure the results through the project indicators and the Arab Region's Women's Rights Programme Indicators at the end of the 3 years project. In addition, the baseline assessment provides guidance on the programmatic approaches used by AA Arab Region in addressing VAWG.

The sections below provide a brief overview of the baseline methodology, including the targeted groups, data collection methods, recruitment and sampling process, data analysis, ethical considerations and the evaluation limitations.

Methodology

A mixed methodology was used as an approach for this baseline study, in which data was collected using a mix of qualitative and quantitative methods. For the qualitative data, information was collected using semi-structured individual interviews with key informants, in addition to focus groups with female and male residents of Zarqa and Mafraq who are above 18 years of age. In addition to this, a KAP survey was used to collect quantitative data targeting women and men residing in Zarqa and Mafraq.

Target Group

The target group for this baseline was:

- Key informants (Government institutions, NGO and CBO Project implementers/partners in Zarqa and Mafraq).
- PFL Project potential beneficiaries (women and men residing in Mafraq and Zarqa who are above 18 years of age)

Data Collection Methods

The target group was reached with a mix of data collection methods. These comprised of qualitative, semi-structured individual interviews and focus group discussions (FGDs) as well as a KAP survey. The qualitative data was collected after the first day of the survey, so that initial findings produced could be discussed during the interviews and focus groups. Both qualitative and quantitative data was triangulated during the analysis phase.

Data collection took place between the 14th and 19th of August 2018. During this period 5 individual interviews (4 with females, 1 with males), 4 focus group discussions (3 with females and 1 with males), and 312 surveys (222 female respondents, 90 male respondents) were completed.

The section below provides an overview of methods employed for the baseline study.

KAP Survey

The survey was designed using a web-based platform called KoboToolbox. It was conducted via phone by 5 researchers (4 female and 1 male). The fieldworker asking the questions went through the required ethical procedures and then asked each beneficiary the survey questions. The questions were asked in Arabic.

The target population consisted of young women and men above the age of 18 and residing in Mafraq and Zarqa. Participants were randomly selected from lists of beneficiaries provided by Action Aid. Quota sampling was used in order to ensure an equal representation from each location with a target gender ratio of 70% for women and 30% for men. While the anticipated target was to achieve a total of 360 responses, 312 surveys were completed (222 female, 90 male). This reflects a completion rate of 86.7%, which is higher than the expected 75%. Findings of the survey are discussed in detail in the findings section of this study.

Parallel to this, an online survey was shared via the following media outlets: Action Aid's homepage, Facebook and twitter, as well as Q Team LinkedIn profiles. No responses were however received.

Focus Group Discussions

A total of four focus group discussions were conducted, two in Zarqa and two in Mafraq. The focus groups were designed to complement the survey with qualitative data and provide further insights on women and men's knowledge, attitudes and practices in relation to sexual harassment and violence against women. Recruitment of participants was carried out in collaboration with Action Aid and its partners. A combination of random and purposive sampling methods were used to recruit participants. Women and men residing in Mafraq and Zarqa aged 18 and above were targeted. Lists provided by Action Aid were used to recruit participants, through which participants were randomly selected. For the focus group with Jordanian females in Mafraq, recruitment was carried out through the CBO manager.

In total, 51 participants attended the focus groups of which 10 were males and 41 females. Of the 51 participants 36 were Syrian (30 female, 6 male) and 15 were Jordanians (4 males, 11 females).

The composition of the FGDs is listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1 Focus groups details

Location	Focus group	Number of participants
Mafraq	1 FG with Syrian females	15 females
	1 FG with Jordanian females	11 females
Zarqa	1 FG with Syrian females	15 females
	1 FG with Syrian and Jordanian males	10 (4 Jordanians, 6 Syrians)

Key Informant Interviews

In total five Key Informant Interviews were carried out in Amman, Mafraq and Zarqa. Key informants were identified through Action Aid and comprised of representatives from government organisations, CBOs and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The purpose of the interviews was to gather information from experts working on issues of sexual harassment and VAWG in Jordan, as well as their knowledge, attitudes and experiences regarding these issues. Table 2 shows KIIs details.

Table 2 Key Informant Interviews

Area	Organisation	No. of KI interviewees
Mafraq	Municipality of Mafraq - Planning and Regulation Authority	1 Key informant Interview
	The Organisation of the Arab Woman	1 Interview (2 key informants)
Zarqa	Municipality of Rusaifah	1 Key informant Interview
	The Association of Working Women	1 Key informant Interview
Amman	Arab Women Organization of Jordan	1 Key informant Interview

Data Analysis

Qualitative data from the interviews and focus groups was analysed thematically. The process was undertaken in iterative cycles whilst at the same time reducing the volume of data. Quantitative data was analysed descriptively using SPSS. Qualitative and quantitative data were cross-validated.

Ethical Considerations

All participants were asked for informed consent to participate in the research, and all were fully assured of their anonymity and the confidentiality of responses. All were informed of their right to withdraw from participation in the research at any point in time, without risk of repercussion or negative impact upon themselves, their households or their families.

Limitations

- **Limitations to generalisation of survey results** due to:
 - *Constraints in the sampling method used:* Random sampling was not conducted, as a complete sampling frame of the target population for the PFL programme could not be obtained. Instead, quota sampling was the chosen method, where potential survey participants were randomly chosen from the contact lists provided. The robustness and representativeness of the survey findings are therefore evaluated through the triangulation with the two other data sources (KII and FGD).
 - *Constraints in participant selection:* Selection of survey respondents was limited by lists provided by Action Aid and its partners. Moreover, some groups such as the disabled, are small in numbers to allow for findings specific to these populations.
- **Time constraints:** time constraints, willingness of people to participate in the survey, and inaccurate contact information limited the actual sample size used in the survey and the ability to achieve the quota exactly as intended.
- **FGD participants:** It was difficult to recruit a diverse group of participants for the focus group interviews, as three of them were organized through the research team and within a limited timeframe (1 day prior to the FGD).

Baseline Findings

The section below provides an overview of key findings of the baseline study based on a triangulation of qualitative and quantitative data gathered throughout the research process.

General Demographic Data of Survey Respondents

In total 312 surveys were completed mainly in Mafraq and Zarqa Governorates with equal distribution in both areas. Of the 312 respondents, 71.2% were women and 28.8% were male. Table 3 shows the sample distribution across gender and location. In Mafraq, 46 participants were from Al Hussein neighbourhood, 48 were from Al Janoubi and the remaining were from other areas. In the case of Zarqa, 26 people who responded to the survey were from Awajan neighbourhood, 42 were from Al Hussein, and the remaining respondents resided in other areas.

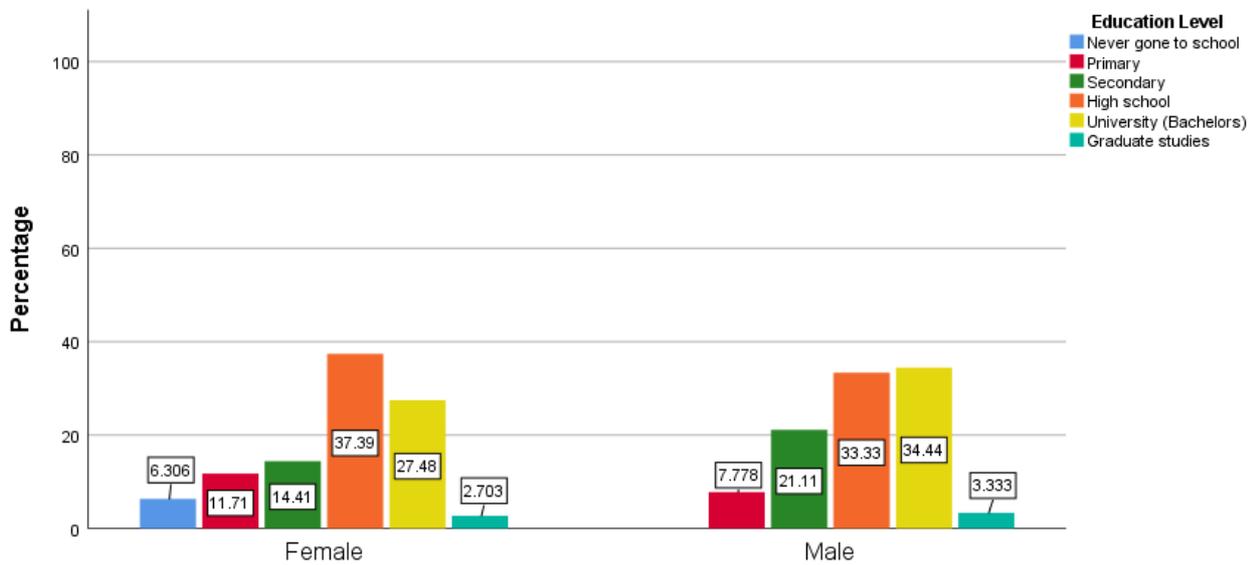
Table 3 Sample distribution across gender and location

		Location				Total
		Amman	Irbid	Mafraq	Zarqa	
Gender	Female	3	2	108	109	222
	Male	1	0	45	44	90
Total		4	2	153	153	312

Age, nationality and marital status: The majority of people surveyed (79.5% of the respondents) were between the age of 18 and 44. The age group of 25-34 had the highest number of participation amounting to 34.6% of the respondents. With regards to the nationality of respondents, 54.5%

(N=170) were Jordanian, 45.2% (N=141) were Syrian and 0.3% (N=1) were Palestinians. In terms of marital status 57.4% were married, 33% were single, 6.4% were widowed and 3.2% were divorced.

Education: The majority of respondents had some form of education as only 4.5% never went to school. Moreover, 29.5% reported that they obtained university level education and 36.2% had a high school degree. *In general, education levels were higher among the Jordanian respondents*, as only 10.6% of Syrians reported having university degree versus 45.3% of Jordanians.



illustrates educational levels of respondents by gender.

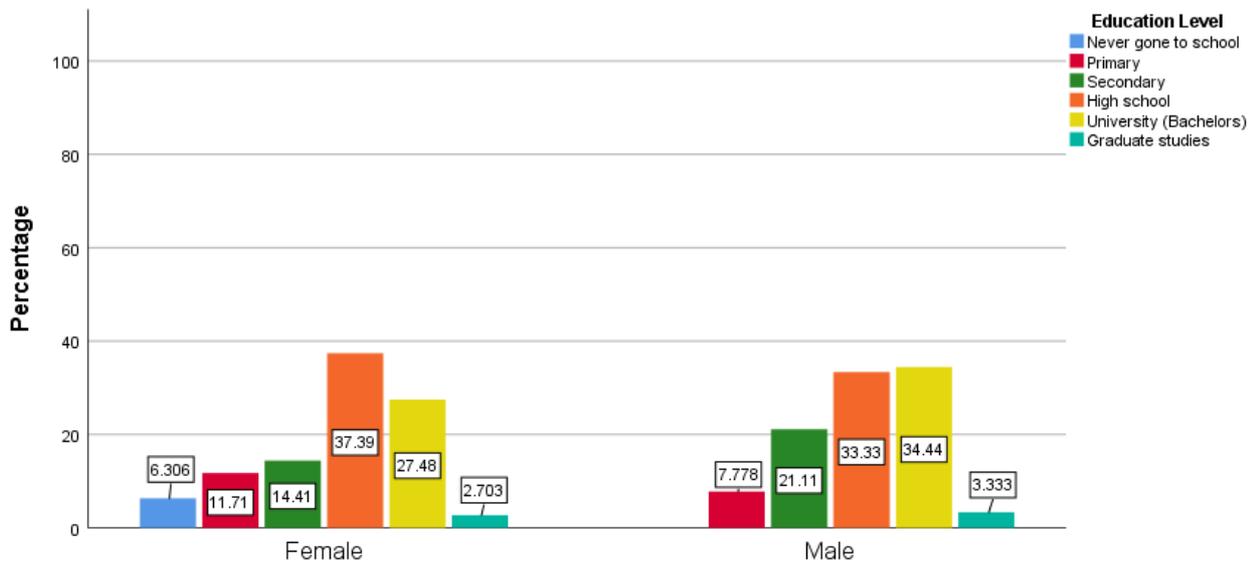
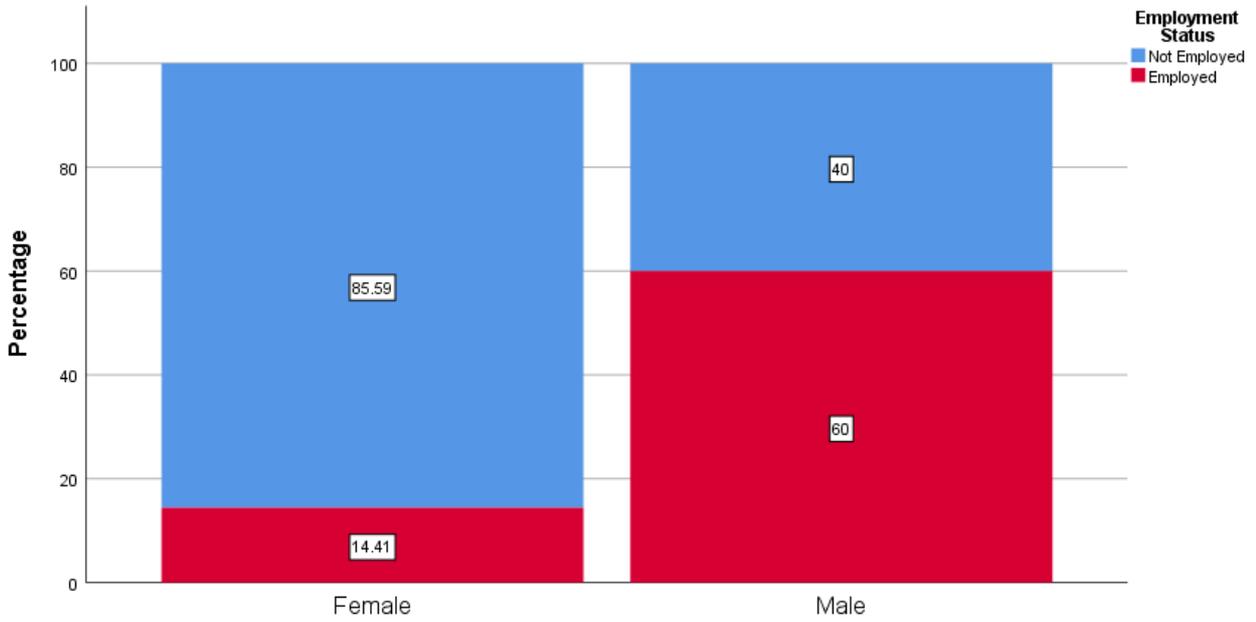


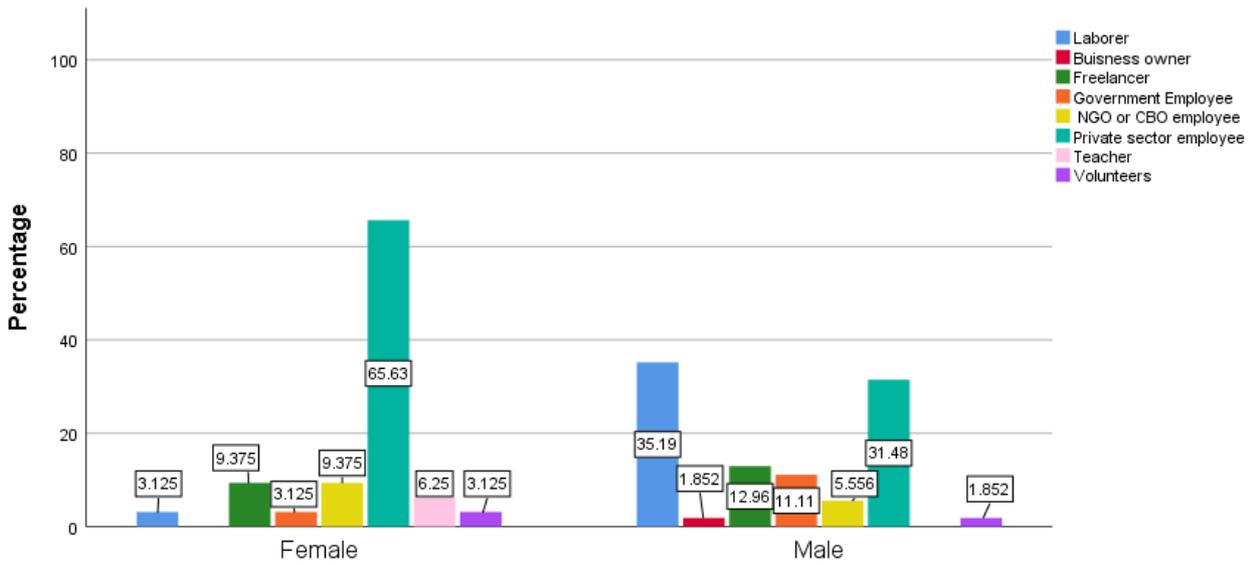
Figure 1 Education Level of survey participants by gender

Employment: *The majority of respondents did not have paid employment, and most were women.* 72.4% did not have paid employment, where around 85.6% of the females and 40% of males were not employed. Among those who reported having paid employment, the two highest-ranking occupations for the employed were private sector employees (44.2%) or labourers (23.3%). As for the unemployed respondents, 65% were staying at home (74.2% of the females and 16.7% of the males), 14.2% were looking for a job, 11.9% were students, and 5.3% were doing a training or an internship. Figure 2 shows the employment profile of survey respondents.

Employment Status by Gender



Occupation if Employed by Gender



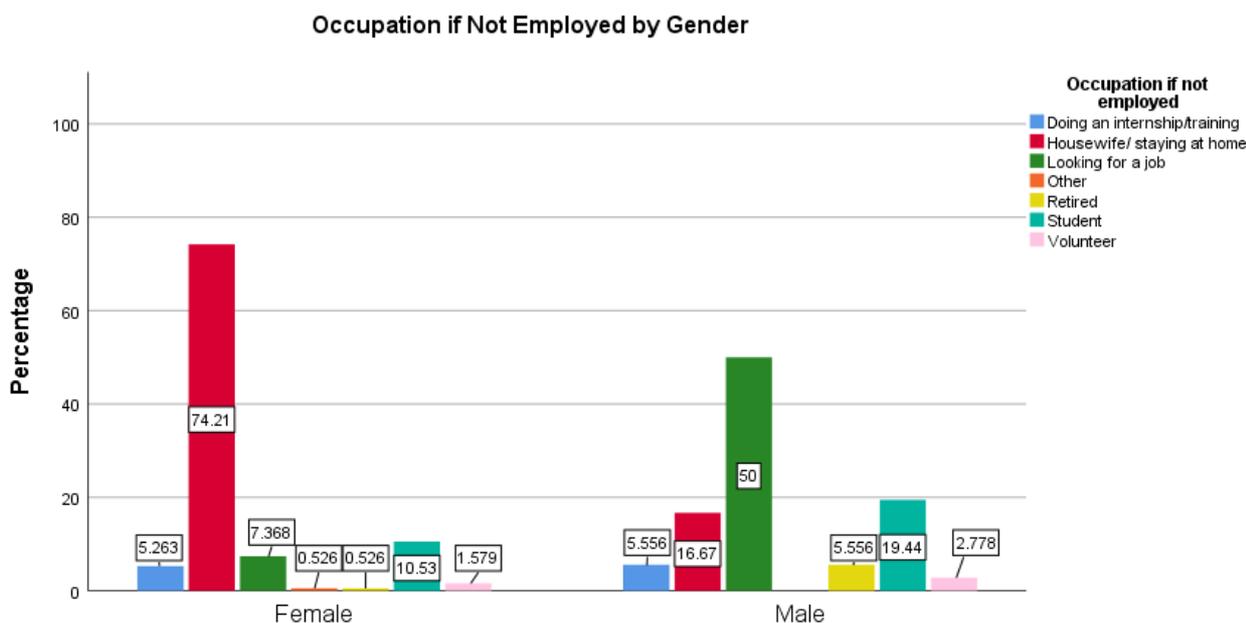


Figure 2 Employment profile of survey participants by gender

Disability: The survey used the Washington Group (WG) short set of questions to identify any disabilities (functional difficulties) within the survey respondents. **The majority of the participants did not have any disabilities.** Of the 312 survey respondents, 94.2% reported not having any disabilities and 5.8% mentioned that they had some form of disability. Of the people who responded having a disability, 15 had difficulties in self-care such as ‘washing all over’ or ‘dressing’, and 4 reported having other disabilities (as listed in Table 4)

Table 4 Other disabilities in Survey respondents

Psychological problems / epilepsy and depression (1)
Weak immune system (1)
Weak hand movement (1)
Difficulty breathing – Asthma (1)

Issues of Violence and Sexual Harassment against Women in Public Spaces

In general, **survey findings showed that harassment against women is common** with the majority (38.1%) of respondents reporting that ‘they are common’ (34.2% within females and 47.8% within males) and 15.4% reporting that they are ‘very common’ (16.2% within females and 13.3% males). Meanwhile, 25% of respondents mentioned that harassment is a ‘rare occurrence’ (24.3% of female and 26.7% of male respondents). Around 13.5% believed that sexual harassment ‘does not happen at all’ (15.8% within females and 7.8% within males). Survey findings highlighted that **‘offensive remarks’ and ‘being physically followed’ as most prevalent types of harassment experienced by women in their areas.**

Survey respondents seemed to be aware of acts of harassment. To assess people’s knowledge on sexual harassment in public spaces, participants were asked which behaviours they considered to be forms of sexual harassment from the following options:

- **Verbal:** such as offensive or suggestive remarks, unwanted propositions (for example, asking someone repeatedly to go into a car or a on a date after the person refuses), and making threats to harm or touch someone.
- **Physical:** such as inappropriate touching, sexual assault, and rape.
- **Visual or Psychological harassment:** such as being physically followed, and unwelcomed body gestures or language, as well as exposure (for example, being shown genitals).

Figure 3 and Figure 3 Knowledge on sexual harassment behaviors among female survey respondents

depict respondents’ knowledge on acts of sexual harassment by gender. The figures show that, for each of the examples given of acts of sexual harassment, over 85% of female and male respondents reported with ‘yes’, signifying that *the majority were aware of the different ways in which sexual harassment took place*. Regarding awareness of acts of sexual harassment, an interesting conversation came about during a discussion with Syrian women. Highlighting a situation that was perceived as sexual harassment, a woman mentioned that a young relative of hers was returning home one day and as he went up the stairs of the building to his parents’ apartment, he saw a boy having sex with a girl. By the end of the discussion however, it turned out that the boy and girl were sitting on the stairs and kissing.

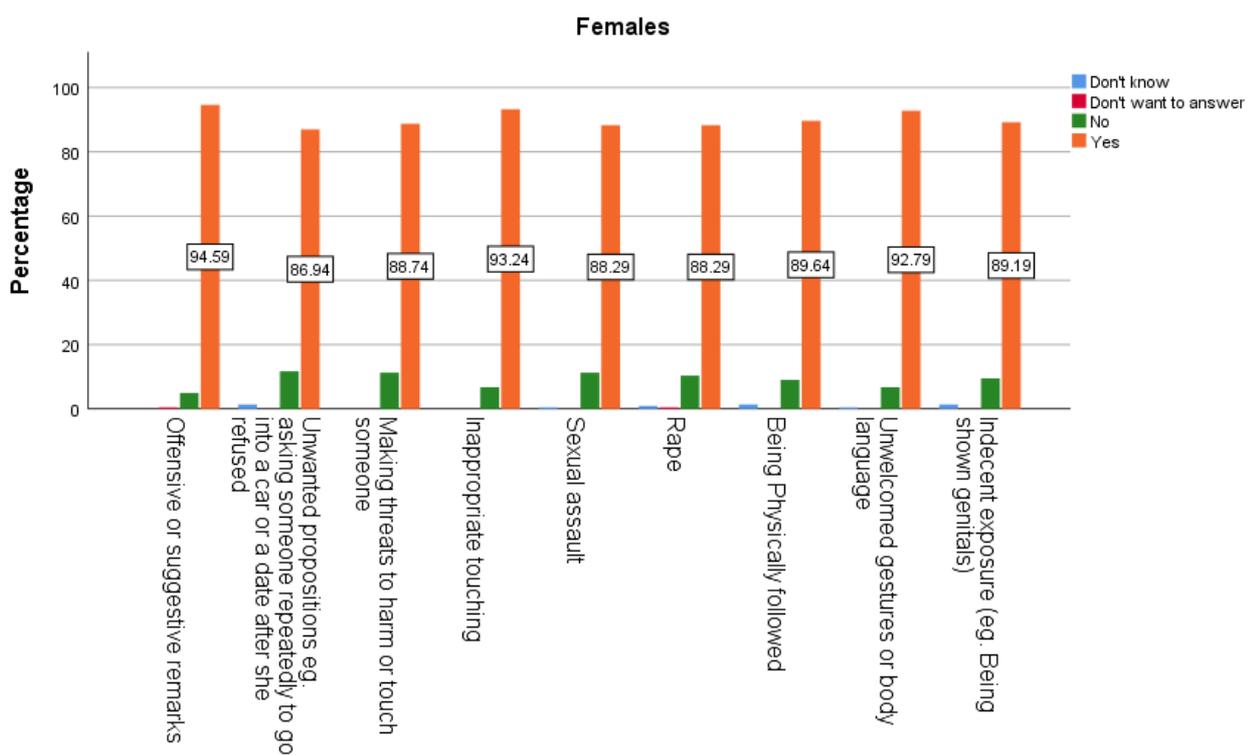


Figure 3 Knowledge on sexual harassment behaviors among female survey respondents

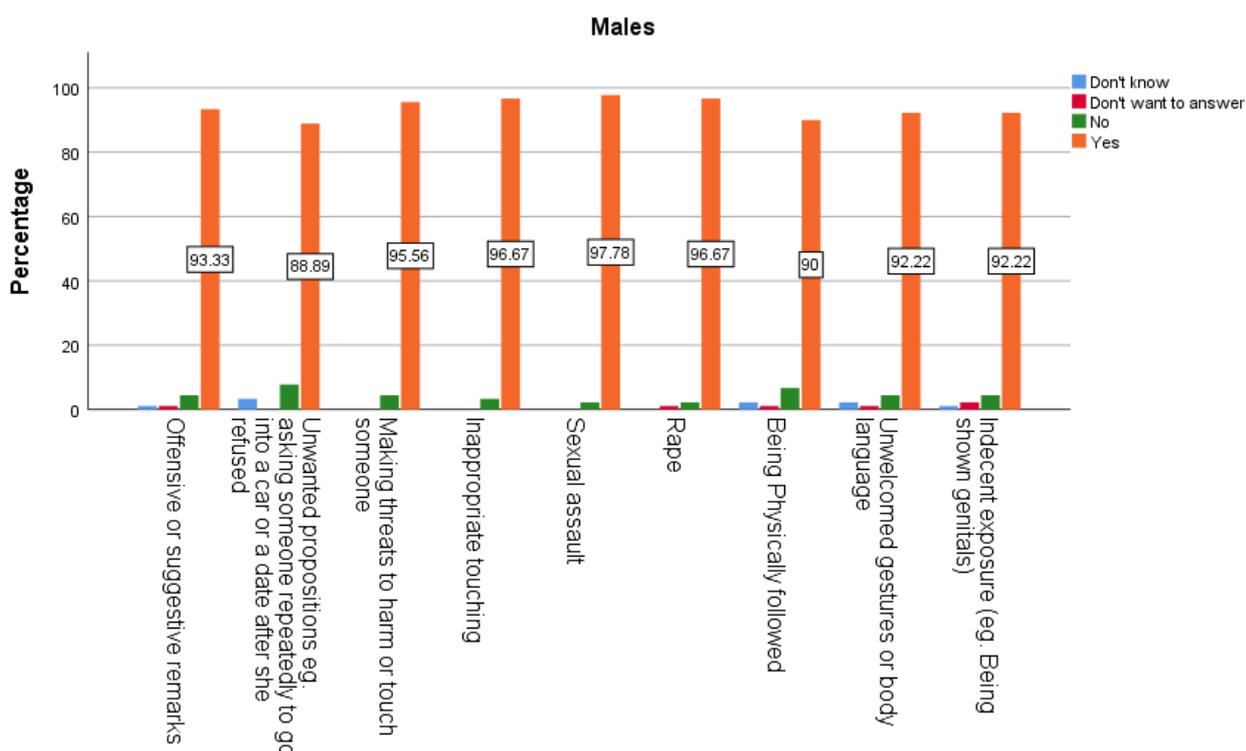


Figure 4 Knowledge on sexual harassment behaviors among male survey respondents

As for the prevalence of the different types of sexual harassment¹, 83.78% of females and 77.8% of males reported ‘*offensive or suggestive remarks*’ as most common in their areas. This is followed by ‘*being physically followed*’, which was perceived by 54.96% of female and 42.2% of male respondents as most common acts of sexual harassment in their areas. Figure 5 depicts the prevalence of each behaviour according to female and male respondents. Other responses regarding sexual harassment behaviours seen by participants are listed below in Table 5.

Table 5 Other answers to harassment types survey question

Harassment does not happen where I live (10)
Male Rape (1)
Male children showing their genitals to each other (1)
Simple comments (1)

Similarly during **focus group discussions**, several male and female participants from Zarqa and Mafraq reported that harassment, and specifically ‘verbal harassment’, was common in their areas of residence. The type of harassment varied depending on the public spaces, for example, during a

¹ For this survey question, respondents were able to choose more than one answer.

focus group with Jordanian women in Mafraq, ‘touching’ was mentioned as common the souks. One woman said,

There are is a lot of ‘Shabab’ [teenagers] who touch the girls or [purposefully] fall on her a lot (FGD, Mafraq, Jordanian females)

All of the female **key informants** agreed that harassment is common in their society. In contrast however, a male **key informant** believed that “harassment is an individual behavior not a big phenomenon in the society and it can be seen in particular places only” (KI, Male, Zarqa). Some **key informants** said that physical violence is not really an issue and that it is rare. Several interviewees also associated sexual harassment to issues of victim blaming, protecting perpetrators and giving them excuses, and families’ reactions after finding out their daughters were harassed.

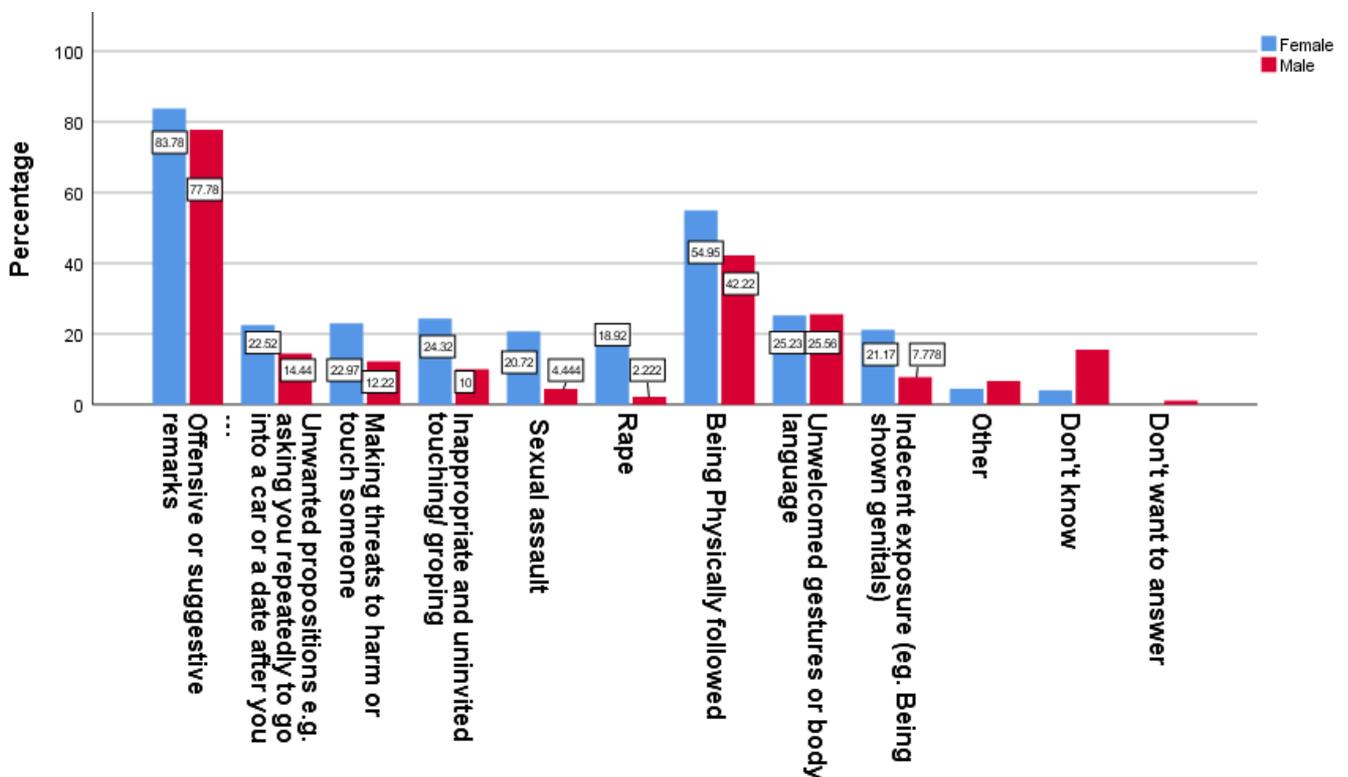


Figure 5 Opinions on sexual harassment behaviours prevalence by gender

With regards to the age in which sexual harassment is most likely to be experienced, survey findings showed that the percentages were high for females between the age of 12-40². In fact, 31.5% of females answered that girls under 11 years were at risk of being sexual harassed, 77.9% believed girls aged 12-17 are most likely to be, 81.1% believed it was for those aged 18-30, 47.7% for those aged 31- 40, and 22.5% of respondents believed that adults above the age of 40 were at risk.

² For this survey question, respondents were able to choose more than one answer.

In the case of the **focus group discussions**, several participants (both male and female) believed that children under the age of puberty as well as adolescent girls who were in the age of puberty were at greater risk of being sexually harassed. Some believed this was due to “*lack of adequate information on how to behave in such situations*”(FG, Syrian Females, Zarqa). Others mentioned that children under the age of puberty were at greater risk because of their lack of awareness and knowledge on what constitutes acts of sexual harassment. During a **focus group** with Syrian women in Mafraq, many participants believed that most Syrian mothers take their daughters out of school when they reach the age of puberty to protect them from GBV. Meanwhile, several Jordanian women claimed that women who were married and working in mixed environments were at greater risk of sexual harassment because, as one participant explained,

When they see a married woman working in a place with mixed [gender], they will flirt with her [they think that she is more likely to accept sexual invitations than a single woman because she already had sex and she has more freedom than a single woman who lives with her parents]
(FGD, Mafraq, Jordanian women)

Social media was also regarded as a key risk factor leading to GBV. This was particularly the case for youth and adolescents who are easily influenced by ‘western’ media. During a **focus group** with Jordanian women, cases were mentioned where photos of girls without their veils were found in the mobiles or laptops of males, which placed them at risk of GBV. Another participant recounted a story she heard of “*a guy in Mafraq who saw his sister’s picture on the phone of the guy, so he killed [Qataloh] him*” (FGD, Mafraq, Jordanian Females).

Key informants revealed that women [shabat] in schools and universities who have to go out often and use public transportation in addition to working women are most likely to be the target of sexual harassment. Others mentioned that all women are practically subjected to harassment especially ones who look young. Refugees and ‘weak women’ such as the disabled were also cited. One **key informant** stated that girls under 6 are also vulnerable to harassment inside the family.

Similar to focus group findings, the majority of survey respondents believed that ‘streets’ were the most common places in which sexual harassment took place³. In fact, 77.5% of female respondents believed that streets were most common public places of harassment, followed by: ‘stores’ and ‘parks’ (59% and 21.6%), ‘public transportation’ (20.3%), ‘places of education’ (17.6%), ‘workplaces’ (5.9%), ‘health facilities’ (4.1%), ‘sport clubs’ (0.9%), and ‘public libraries’ (0.5%). **Only 4.1% of women reported ‘homes’ as places where sexual was most common.** Other responses to places in which harassment is seen are listed in Table 6.

Table 6 Other responses to places of harassment

Around schools/ outside girls' schools during school days/when girls leave school at the end of the day (3)
Places with large crowds (1)
Closed spaces (3)
Empty spaces (1)
Remote/hidden places (3)

³ For this survey question, respondents were able to choose more than one answer.

Discussions with both Jordanian and Syrian women also highlighted work places with mixed gender environments as spaces in which women are at greater risk to sexual harassment, and particularly in the case of married women. Both Syrian and Jordanian women reported public transportation as a common place where sexual harassment is likely to take place. Another place where sexual harassment was mentioned to be common was in schools. This was reflected as a major issue during **focus groups** with Syrian and Jordanian women. Highlighting the gravity of the situation, one Syrian mother said, *“Our girls in schools don’t dare to go to the bathroom, because they say there are boys there”* (FGD, Syrian women, Mafraq). Other locations mentioned where sexual harassment was common was in public parks. During **focus groups** with women in both Mafraq and Zarqa, several participants mentioned parks to be common locations where harassment was common. One Jordanian woman gave the example of a park in Mafraq that was *“known to be for all the ‘zu’ran [delinquents]”*. Another participant said *“even if a girl goes with her family, she will go play and she may be prone to harassment, so parents prefer not to go”* (FGD, Jordanian women, Mafraq). When comparing the situation of females in Mafraq and Zarqa, a Jordanian woman believed that women were more protected in Mafraq because tribalism was more prominent there than in Zarqa. However, she continued *“sometimes because of the tribal issues a girl is scared to talk about it to her parents”* (FGD, Jordanian women, Mafraq).

Causes of Sexual Harassment and Perpetrators

For the majority of female and male respondents, men were perceived to be the main perpetrators of sexual harassment. 78.2% reported that ‘males’ were most likely to be perpetrators, where 86.7% of the male respondents and 74.8% of the females mentioned that. Meanwhile, 20.8% believed that there was an equal likelihood for perpetrators to be male or female (12.2% of male and 24.3% of female respondents). In the survey, some participants elaborated beyond gender citing answer shown in Table 7 below.

Table 7 Participants other responses to who is likely to be the perpetrator

Students between the age of 15-18 (1)
People with no/weak religion (4)
People with no education (2)
People with no morals (1)
Mentally ill people [morada nefsyen] (1)

Almost all of the females surveyed believed that strangers were the most common perpetrators of sexual harassment⁴. In fact, 92.3% of female respondents reported strangers as most common perpetrators followed by family members (28.8%). Figure 6 provides an overview of females and male respondents’ opinions on who perpetrators are most likely to be.

As for the age of perpetrators, around 90% of female respondents believed that perpetrators were usually ‘11 years and older’⁵, 10.4% believed that they were under 11 years of age, 55.9% believed that they were between 12-17 years, 84.7% reported the age to be between 18-30 years, 64.4% believed it was between 31-40 years, and 44.1% reported that the most common age for perpetrators was over 40 years of age. **Hence, perpetrators were generally believed to be between the age of youth, adolescence and young adulthood.**

⁴ For this survey question, respondents were able to choose more than one answer.

⁵ Ibid.

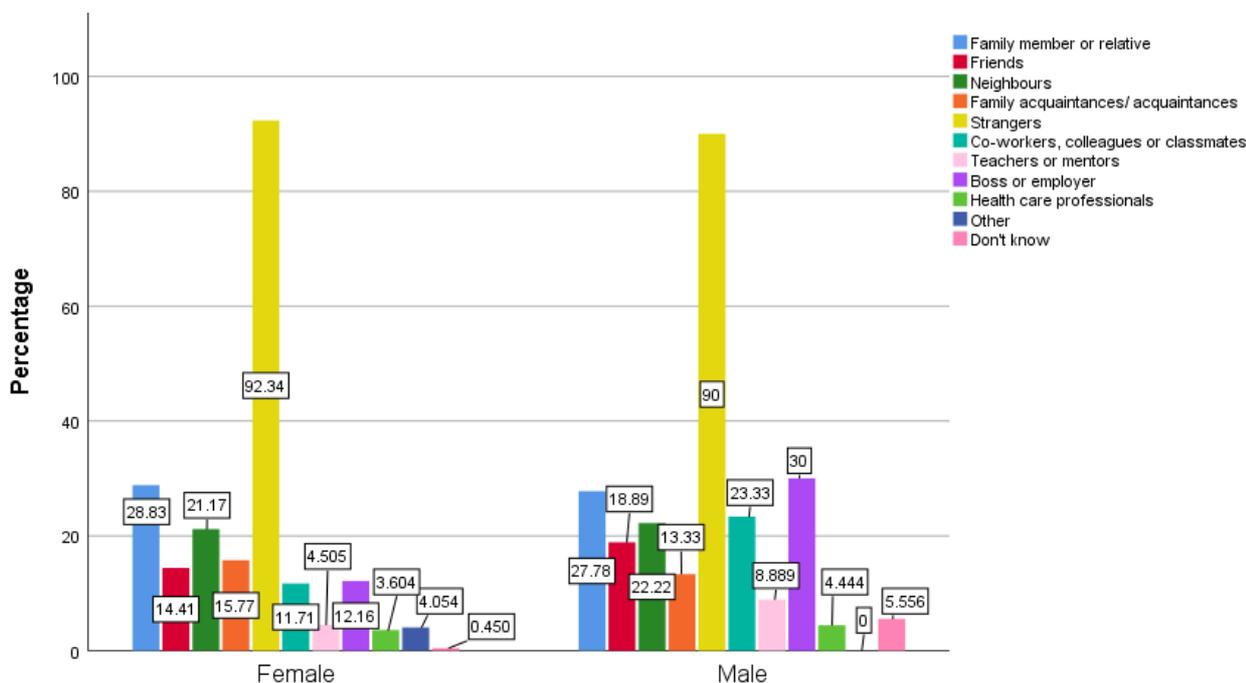


Figure 6 Opinions on common sexual harassment perpetrators by gender

In the case of **focus group** findings, the majority of participants believed that ‘shabab’ were the most common perpetrators of sexual harassment. Others believed that older men were also common perpetrators of sexual harassment, because “*when the guy is older he knows how to affect you*” (FGD, Jordanian women, Mafraq). While the majority of participants believed that strangers were the most common perpetrators of sexual harassment, during a **focus group** with Jordanian women, one participant claimed that children were at greater risk from perpetrators within the family, such as the “*3am or the Khal*” [uncle from father or mother’s side]” (FGD, Jordanian women, Mafraq).

Moreover, the majority of **key informants** believed that perpetrators are usually adolescents and young men (on average 16-30 years old). One interviewee reported that verbal harassment mainly comes from young men, whereas “*men over 40 commit physical harassment*” (KI, Female, Zarqa). Other **key informants** also confirmed that men over 40 (middle aged) commit harassment. Men with authority at work were also believed to be common perpetrators of sexual harassment.

In order to better understand people’s views on the causes of sexual harassment and violence against women and girls, survey respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed on a number of statements describing reasons for harassment. Figure 7 and Figure 8 illustrate the results for men and women, showing that the majority of men and women agree and strongly agree with most of the statements. Interestingly, **the highest female responses to causes of sexual harassment were for ‘the way women behave’** (32.4% agree, 43.2% strongly agree) **and ‘the way they respond to harassment’** (37.4% agree, 48.2% strongly agree). **Men also had similar responses** with 67.8% agreeing and 14.4% strongly agreeing that sexual harassment was related to ‘the way women behave’ and 73.3% agreeing and 16.7% strongly agreeing that it was related to they way the respond to sexual harassment. These findings were similar to those of **the focus groups and key informant**

interviews, where victim blaming was mentioned on several occasions during discussions with both females and males. In fact, the most common advice mentioned during **focus group discussions** was for the girl to ignore the harasser, because “*society will blame you*” (FGD, Jordanian women, Mafrq).

Key informant interviews also revealed some common answers, where most of the interviewees mentioned poverty and unemployment, inability of men to marry in a young age due to financial constraints, exposure to western media and internet, culture, social upbringing and lack of religion and morals as causes of sexual harassment. Some **KIs** blamed women for the way they dress and behave. However – this was contradicted by one female KI who stated that ‘*it is about the man who is not afraid to do anything as he know nothing will happen to him*’ (KI, Female, Amman). The same interviewee mentioned that harassment is linked to social norms, social upbringing and objectification of women in the media, men’s sense of entitlement and power and knowledge that the society supports them. Other responses associated harassment with refugees and the ‘*foreign customs*’ they brought to the society (KI, Female, Mafrq).

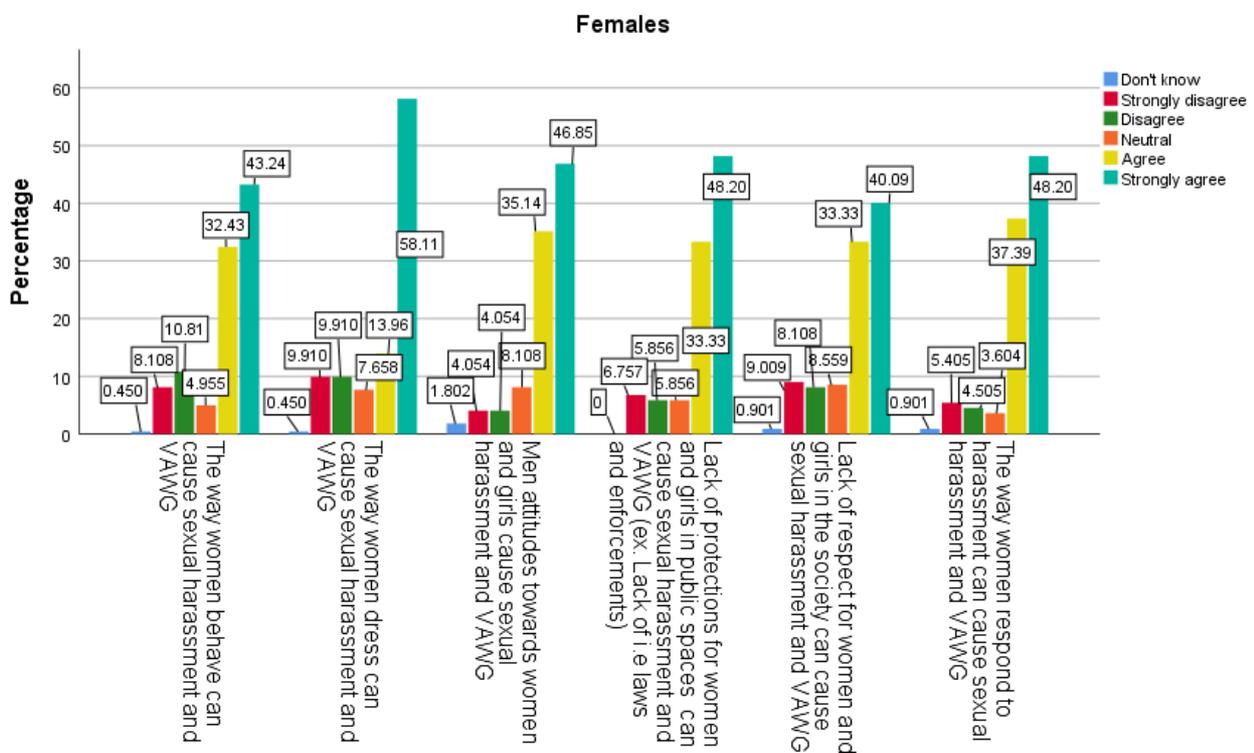


Figure 7 Female survey respondents opinions on causes of sexual harassment and violence against women

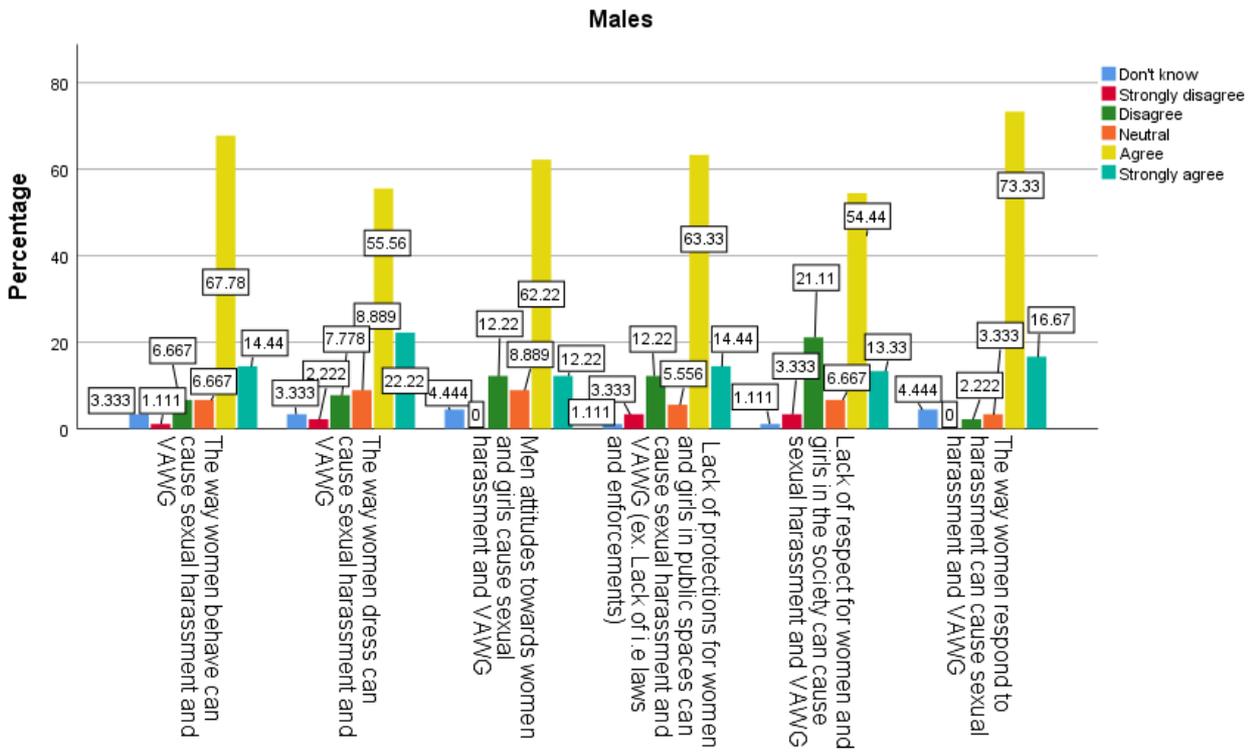


Figure 8 Male survey respondents opinions on causes of sexual harassment and violence against women

Making Public Spaces Safer

In general, most of the female respondents reported that they felt safe in public spaces. More specifically, Moreover, the majority of female respondents strongly agreed (38.7%) and agreed (29.7%) that sexual harassment is a serious problem, which needs to be addressed.

In order to gain a better understanding on how to make public places safer, survey respondents were asked to agree or disagree with statements related to public safety. Female opinions can be seen in Figure 9 which shows that the majority of responses agree or strongly agree with all suggestions such as increasing awareness, increasing access to information, having campaigns, making punishments harsher, teaching life skills, improving enforcement of the law, empowering girls and making the reporting process of sexual harassment easier.

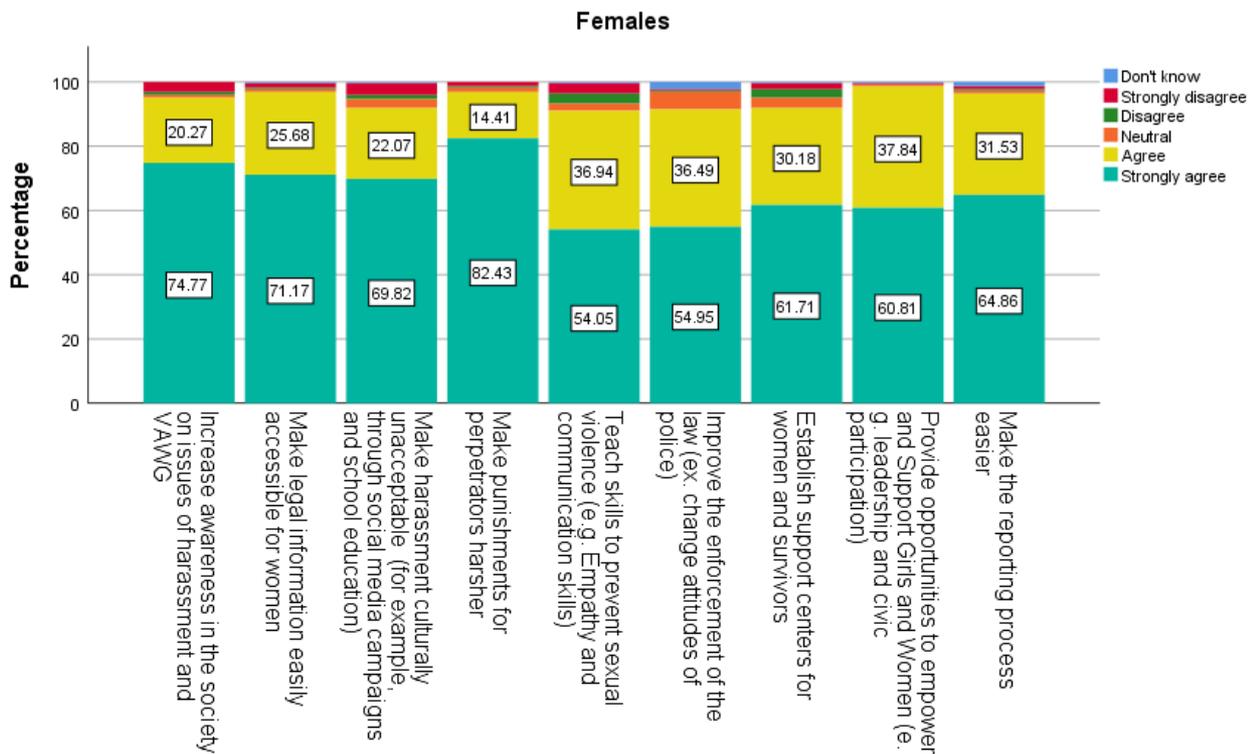


Figure 9 Women respondents' opinions of how to make public spaces safer

Meanwhile during **discussions** with Jordanian women in Mafrag, several participants mentioned that placing more “dawriyat” [police on patrol] would make public spaces safer for women and girls. Others however, reported cases where females were verbally harassed by policemen, highlighting the need to gender sensitive enforcers of law. As well having to improve the enforcement of the law, participants also highlighted the need to impose stricter sanctions on perpetrators of sexual harassment, rather than “*just make the perpetrator sign a ta3ahud [waiver] and that’s it*” (FGD, Syrian Women, Mafrag). The need to impose stricter sanctions on perpetrators was also reflected during a **focus group discussion** with Jordanian women, when a participant shared an experience saying,

Once something happened to me, when I was in school, one of the guys started harassing me, he bothered me a lot and embarrassed me, I saw police and they hit the guy and tied his hands and took him to the police station, and then a few days later I saw him in his car and he put music that said words insinuating that he will get revenge from what I did (FGD, Jordanian women, Mafrag)

Another suggestion to improve public spaces was through behavioural change interventions in schools that foster notions such as mutual respect, gender equality, non-discrimination. As for suggestions provided by **key informants** these included: establishing family parks, having separate spaces for men and women, awareness sessions, having stricter punishing laws, having a safe transportation network, police patrols, increasing the role of the mosque and worship places, and addressing the problem of crowded areas (stacked buildings with no public spaces)

Reactions When Facing Sexual Harassment

Survey findings indicated that *feeling ‘embarrassed and ashamed’ were reported as the most common female reaction to experiencing sexual harassment,*

illustrates the responses of female respondents, highlighting that 67.7% said that they would feel embarrassed and ashamed, and 30.63% reported that they would no longer feel safe in the place where they were harassed⁶. Other responses mentioned by females are listed in Table 8 (some of the answers were describing reactions rather than feelings).

Table 8 How would you feel if you were sexually harassed - other responses

I won't get to the stage where I would feel sad and I will defend my rights in such a situation (1)
Change the route where I was harassed (1)
Angry (1)/ I will feel angry and get ready to defend myself (1)/ Maybe anger and anxiety but in general I have a strong personality (1)
I will not go out alone (2)
I will yell (2)
Afraid (1) / Afraid if the perpetrator had a knife (1)
I will handle the situation (1) / I will handle the situation and I won't let it affect me (1)
Long-term psychological impact (1)
I will confront the perpetrator and won't be afraid as the law will be implemented (1)/ I will confront the perpetrator and won't be afraid (4)/ I will defend my right and I won't be afraid (2)/ I will defend myself (1)
I will not react (1)

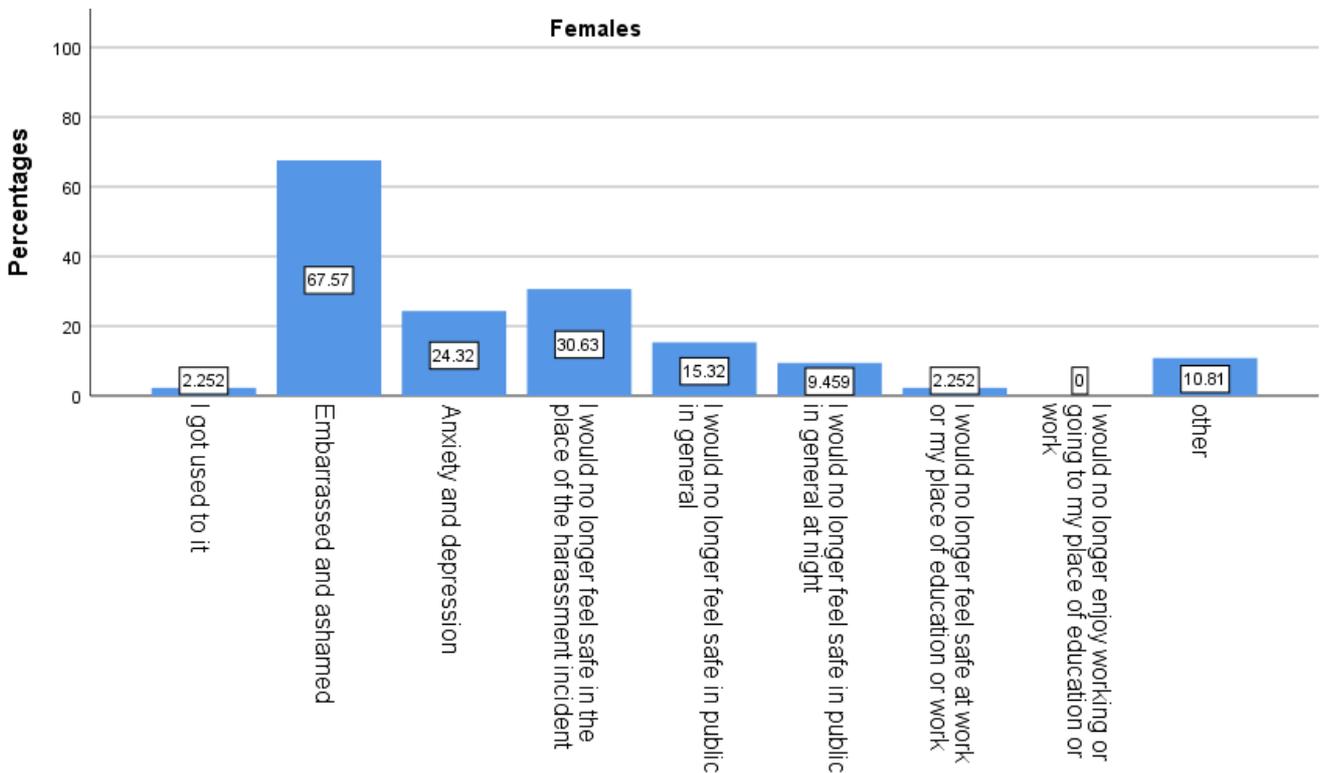


Figure 10 How women survey respondents would feel if they were harassed

⁶ For this survey question, respondents were able to choose more than one answer.

When asked what you would do when faced with situations where they were sexually harassed⁷, the majority of females reported that they would report the incident to the police. More specifically, 50.5% of female respondents mentioned that they would 'report the incident to the police', 30.2% would 'ask a male relative to confront the perpetrator', 14.9% would 'seek help from women organisations', 9% would 'change their route', 5.4% would 'do nothing', 0.5% mentioned that they would 'stop the activity in which the incident occurs', and the same percentage would 'change work or school' and 2.3% mentioned other reactions. Other reactions mentioned are recorded in Table 9 below.

Table 9 Female reaction to sexual harassment - other

If it was verbal I will confront the perpetrator, if it was physical I will tell my family and report to the police (1)
If it was verbal I will ignore it, if it was physical or sexual I will confront the perpetrator and report to the police (1)
It depends on the situation if it is a one-time verbal harassment I will avoid the harasser and ignore their behaviour, but if it was a repeated action from the same person I will change my route and ask my husband or brother face the offender (1)
If it was a repeated action I will report to the police (1)
If it was a repeated action I will confront the perpetrator and tell my husband or brother (1)

Regarding willingness to report harassment incidents to the police; 75.2% of the female respondents reported that they would report the incident, 21.2% mentioned that they would not, and 3.6% did not know whether they would or would not report it. These findings are higher than what was reported in respondents' reaction to sexual harassment, where 50.5% mentioned they would report the incident to the police. Such discrepancies in findings could be because the question was asked directly and more thought may have been given to it. **Most of women who mentioned they would not report the incident to the police indicated that they would not do so because of shame (68.1%) followed by 'my family will not let me' (14.9%) and 'I can handle the situation myself' (8.5%)⁸.** 14.9% of the females suggested other reasons as shown in Table 10.

Table 10 Other reasons unwillingness to report to the police as mentioned by female respondents

The process is complicated (1)
Fear of entering the police station (1)
Because of my age and the fact that I don't leave the house often I do not expect to be harassed. In addition, we as refugees do not resort to the police (1)/ As a Syrian I will never think of resorting to the police to avoid damaging my reputation (1)/ Because of my status as a Syrian refugee I'm afraid to resort to the police (1)
Don't want to create problems [ekhtisar el mashakel] (1)
The society is corrupt, it will not understand the situation and will blame me (1)
My husband will prevent me from leaving the house (1)

The latter could be linked to women's perceptions on the role of local authorities in preventing VAWG and supporting survivors.

depicts female respondents' opinions about these issues, showing that women do mostly agree that local authorities have a role in preventing sexual harassment and VAWG and in supporting survivors.

⁷ For this survey question, respondents were able to choose more than one answer.

⁸ For this survey question, respondents were able to choose more than one answer.

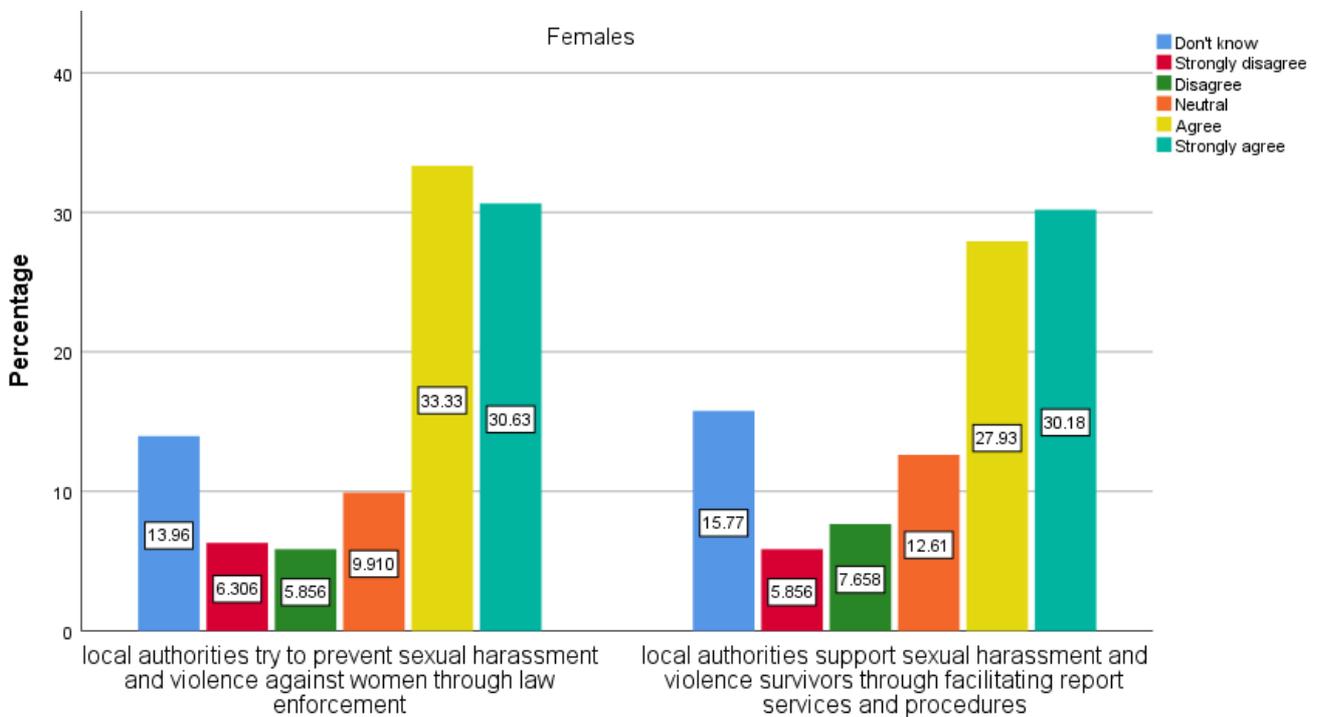


Figure 11 Women respondents opinion on the role of local authorities

As for **focus group** findings, the majority of women and men believed that most cases of sexual harassment are not reported because of the ‘culture of shame’. In fact, it was believed that survivors of sexual harassment were also less likely to report the incident to their parents because of the fear of being blamed in the way they dress and react to harassment. In the case of Syrians, many believed that they would not report incidents of sexual harassment because “we feel that we don’t have a right... we are scared if we complain it will get us into more trouble” (FGD, Syrian women, Mafraq).

One **key informant** mentioned that “I feel that reporting creates problems... I support reporting, but in reality, I have men in my family who are responsible for me” (KI, Female, Mafraq). She suggested alternatively, having a hotline where women could report incidents to the police with confidentiality would likely work better. Another interviewee stated “verbal harassment has to be ignored so it would not get more aggravated... If a woman received specific harassment to her, she should report” (KI, Male, Zarqa). Other **key informants** highlighted the need to encourage women to report sexual harassment cases to the police, however, for this to happen “they need to feel that the information they provide is secure [and kept confidential] and [they need to be] provide[d] psychological support” (KI, Female, Zarqa). Moreover, others mentioned that women must be trained on how to report harassment cases and that the procedures and laws should be improved and more secure.

Participants were also asked what they would do if someone close to them got verbally or physically harassed⁹.

shows the reaction of females and males in cases of verbal harassment, where it indicates that the majority of respondents will confront the perpetrator (62.7% of females and 60% of males) or report to the police (41% in females and 41.11% in males). Other responses included providing support to the survivor, escorting her and asking her to change the route.

⁹ For this survey question, respondents were able to choose more than one answer.

As for physical harassment, as Figure 12 Responses to ‘what would you do if someone close to you was verbally harassed’

illustrates, the likelihood of reporting to the police gets higher with 68.9% of females and 61.11% of males indicating so. Confronting the perpetrator is also one of the highest response, but interestingly, more respondents answered with ‘physically attack the perpetrator’ than in the case of verbal harassment – with 23% of females and 35.6% of males indicating so. In other responses, someone mentioned that they might kill the perpetrator. Other participants said that they will support the survivor and ask the family protection unit for help.

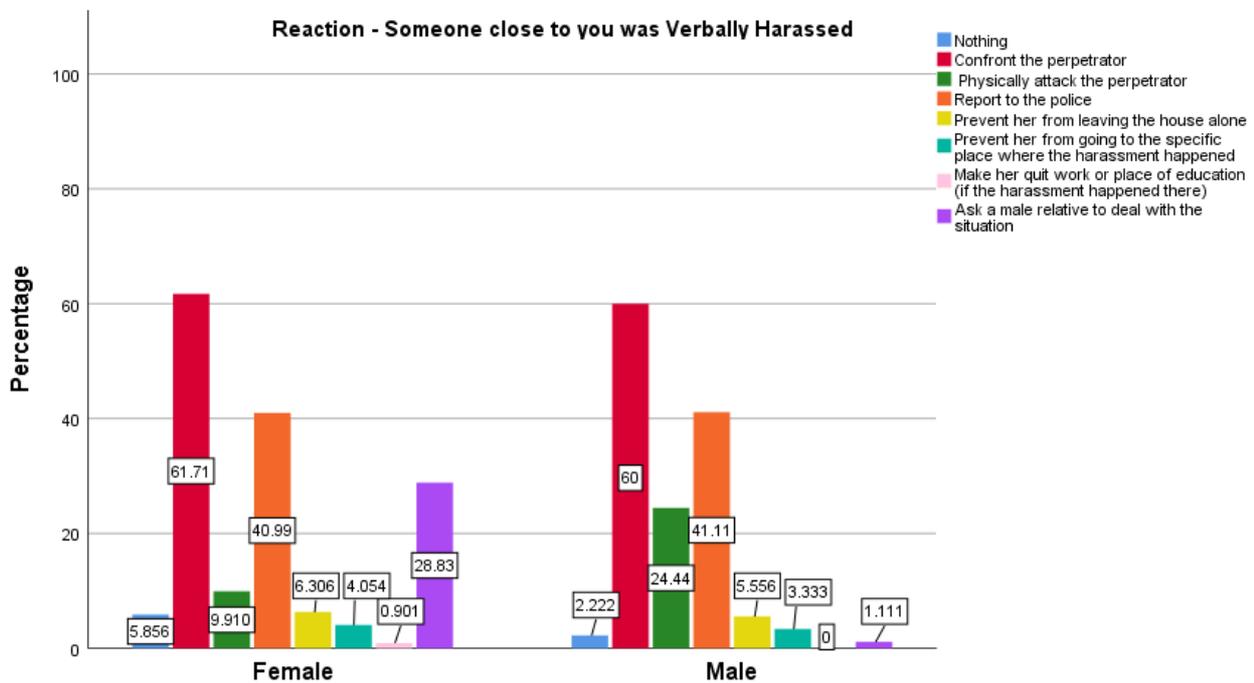


Figure 12 Responses to ‘what would you do if someone close to you was verbally harassed’

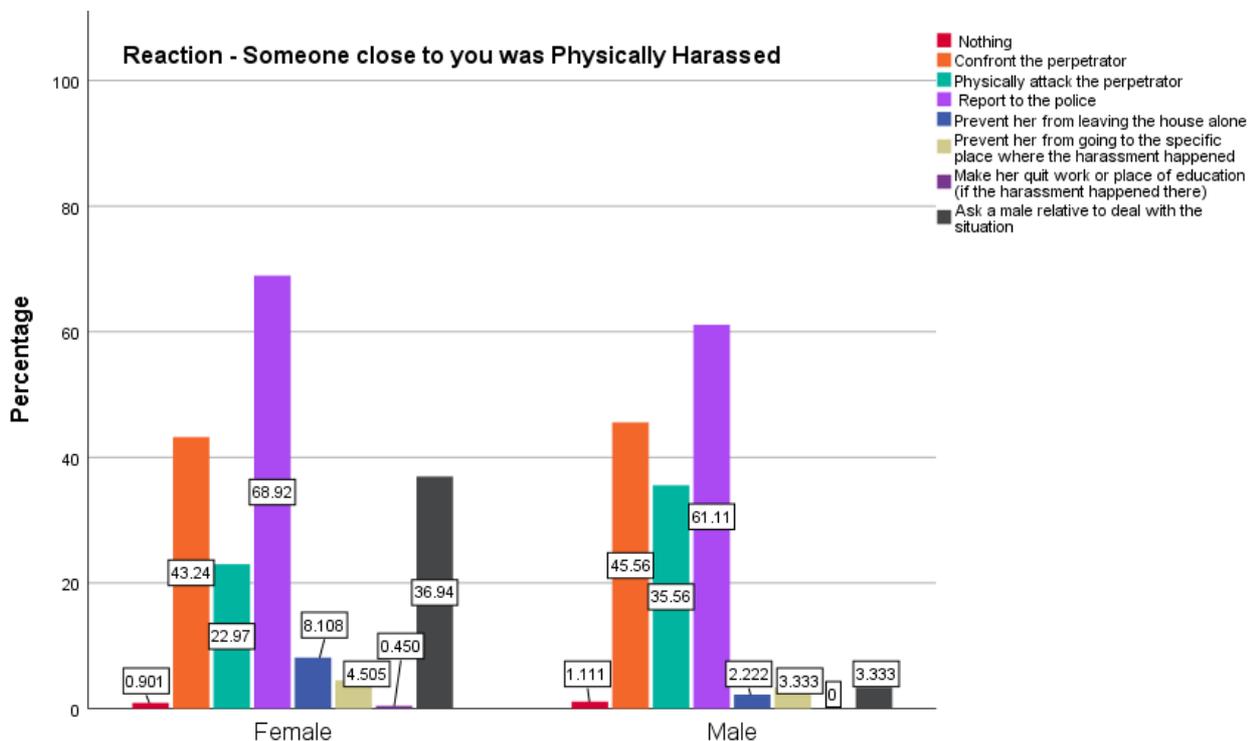


Figure 13 Responses to ‘what would you do if someone close to you was physically harassed’

Moreover, 51% of respondents (60% of males and 47.3% of females) answered that they will try to stop harassment if they witnessed it, 35.6% said it depends on the situation and 13.5% indicated that they will not stop it. From those who indicated that they would try to stop it; 10.5% of females and 33.3% of males said that they would attack the perpetrator, and 39% of females and 22.2% said that they would ask someone near to help. On the other hand, respondents who answered no to trying to stop harassment selected the following reasons for not acting:

- I might get harassed, attacked or threatened: 59% of females and 33.3 %of males
- Interfering in such a situation is not acceptable in our society: 38.5% of females and 0% of males
- Maybe she deserves it: 28.2% of females and 33.3% of males

Knowledge About Legal Procedures to Report Sexual Harassment and Willingness to Use Online Tools

Generally, women in the survey seemed to be divided in their knowledge of laws and regulations on sexual harassment in Jordan and procedures to report these incidents. However, **the majority reported knowing where to report cases of VAWG and harassment.** Table 11 lists the female responses on questions related to sexual harassment laws, legal procedures and organisations. Similarly, **focus group** findings showed that many participants mentioned that they would report incidents of sexual harassment to the police or Family Protection Department (FPD). Interestingly, while Syrian women reported that the procedures for reporting such incidents for Syrian refugees is through the UNHCR, the majority of Syrians mentioned that they would report incidents to the police. During a discussion with Jordanian women, a participant believed that survivors of sexual assault were likely to inform their mothers of the incident, “*when the relationship between the girl and her mother is strong, and [then] the mother will make the decision.*” The participant continued saying,

I am a mother, the first thing I will do is take her to the doctor [not just a shar3i doctor a psychologist too], then I will tell my husband and the police (FGD, Jordanian women, Mafraq)

Table 11 Female survey respondents' awareness on laws, legal procedures, and organisations

	No	To some degree	Yes
Are you aware of any laws or regulations regarding sexual harassment in Jordan?	42.8%	18.0%	39.2%
Are you aware of legal procedures to report sexual harassment incidents?	41.0%	15.3%	43.7%
Do you know where to report cases of violence and sexual harassment in your area?	33.3%	0.0%	66.7%
Are you aware of any organisations supporting sexual harassment and violence survivors in your area?	49.5%	9.5%	41.0%

As for the willingness of survey respondents to use an online application/tool to informally/formally report sexual harassment incidents; 78.4% of female respondents reported that they would, 16.2% said they would not, and 5.4% did not know. **Despite the majority of survey respondents reporting that they would consider using an online application, focus group findings highlighted mixed responses.** The advantages of having an online tool to report incidents was highlighted during a discussion with Jordanian women in Mafraq, when one woman said,

I would think it is easier [to report incidents online rather than physically at a police station], because they don't have to go to the police, it's like the online police, now we have to go to Amman and this is a long distance for us, and it is also not convenient and embarrassing because its less confidential (FGD, Jordanian women, Mafraq)

Meanwhile, during discussions with Jordanian and Syrian men in Zarqa, the majority of participants believed that having an online tool to report incidents was *"not realistic because technologies are not reliable and cannot ensure confidentiality. There is also the possibility where information provided is inaccurate and cannot be accounted for"* (FGD, Jordanian and Syrian men, Zarqa). Similarly, during **focus group discussions** with Syrian women in Mafraq, several participants reported that they would not let their daughters use the Internet nor would they report incidents of sexual harassment because *"as Arabs, we are afraid of what society will say so we rather keep things quiet than report them"* (FGD, Syrian women, Mafraq).

Action Aid Arab Region Women's Rights Programme Learning Questions

Strengthening the Feminist Movement & Promoting Solidarity

Jordan has experienced significant progress in promoting gender equality on a policy level through, for example, gender mainstreaming the country's National Agenda. The Jordan National Commission for Women (JNCW) and National Strategy for Women (2006 2010, extended to 2011) also include

principles which focus on promoting women's active role in society as well as eliminating all forms of discrimination against them.¹⁰

Despite efforts made to promote gender equality in Jordan challenges remain¹¹. Examples include women's economic participation, which is lowest worldwide, on a policy level, there is no law to criminalise harassment in Jordan and traditional beliefs and cultural norms further challenge women's economic, social and political participation. Moreover, violence against women and girls is common in Jordan and it is under reported due to social pressure. National statistics and research on the topic is also lacking. The influx of Syrian refugees has also added further economic and social burden on the country.¹²

The government is the main entity that is responsible for protecting people from violence. Nevertheless, humanitarian organisations as well as NGOs and CBOs play an important role in supporting systems that work towards eliminating violence in the country. Although several organisations in Jordan are working towards the promotion of women's rights, there are views that the majority work on issues that address government needs (such as meeting global targets and indicators), rather than those of women and girls. Consequently, such organisations lack grassroots support and are not able to create an impact on the lives of women and girls.¹³

Key informant interviews also highlighted a need to for greater collaboration between the different organisations involved in promoting gender equality in Jordan. Others suggested that interventions aimed to reduce sexual harassment target men and boys in order to promote behavioural changes that have a significant impact. There were however reports from both **key informants and focus group beneficiaries** of the common perception that *"feminist movements are about women having worse morals and [about] breaking the cultural norms"* (AWO, KI, Amman). For this reason, a **key informant** suggested that work on gender equality issues be carried out in a gradual manner and in accordance with the cultural context. From a legal perspective, she mentioned that there no is national effort to end the sexual harassment in Jordan and there is no coordination. However, there are some small lobbying groups working to raise awareness and improve the laws. She emphasised the need to come up with a unified legal definition in order to establish a law for harassment.

Nevertheless, survey findings also showed that female respondents see themselves as able to engage in local and national level dialogues and public campaigns around women issues on women safety - 46.4% strongly agrees with the idea and 31.5% agreed. Moreover, women mainly agreed or strongly agreed that women organisations provide support to sexual harassment and violence survivors (check **Table 12** **Error! Reference source not found.**). The majority of women also expressed their willingness to participate in activities such as awareness sessions on women's rights, projects that empower women, and campaigns to address sexual harassment (see Figure 14).

These findings indicate that women in Mafraq and Zarqa were engaged or willing to engage in public dialogue and campaigns to reduce VAWG, and that there is support from organisations in the area. However, reflecting on their perceptions on the prevalence of sexual harassment and VAWG in their

¹⁰ See: http://www.cecl.gr/jordan/Documentation/Natiomal_strategy_women.pdf

¹¹ The Global Gender Gap Report 2017, <https://www.weforum.org/reports/the-global-gender-gap-report-2017>

¹² See: <https://www.usaid.gov/jordan/gender-equality-womens-empowerment>

¹³ Whitman, E., (2014) *Social media platforms are enabling women to speak out anonymously and show that harassment exists – but that hasn't resulted in culture change.* <https://www.thenation.com/article/jordanian-women-leave-home-sexual-harassment-reaches-unprecedented-levels/>

areas, it is clear that dialogues on such issues need to be enhanced. As well as engaging local authorities in the process of awareness raising on women’s rights and VAWG issues, shared platforms need to be established to facilitate more effective coordination mechanisms between the different stakeholders.

Table 12 Female respondents opinions on public engagements and organizations VAWG support

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Women/girls in my area are able to engage with public officials in local and national level dialogues and public campaigns around women issues on women safety	46.4%	31.5%	4.1%	3.2%	4.1%	10.8%
community and women organisations provide good support (i.e psychological and legal support) to sexual harassment and violence Survivors	36.0%	35.6%	7.2%	5.0%	5.0%	11.3%

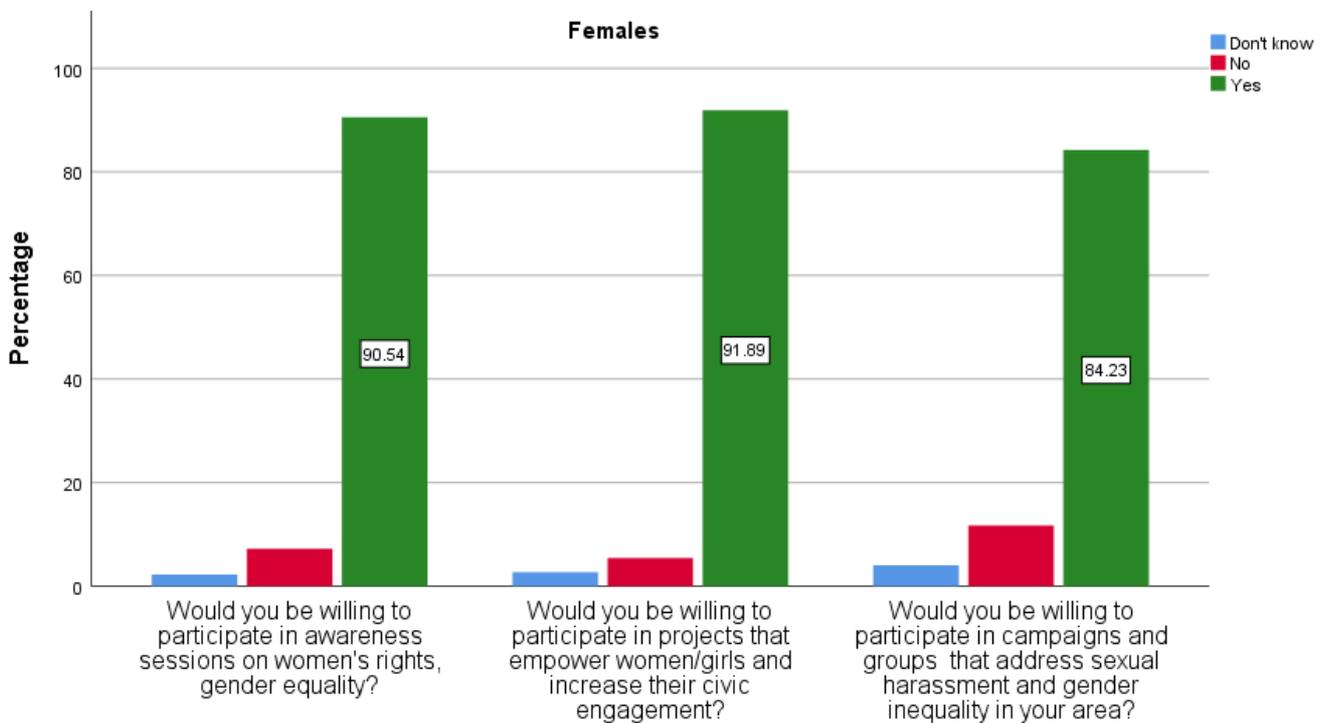


Figure 14 Female respondent willingness to participate in sessions, projects and campaign related to empowerment and VAWG

Women and Girls as Drivers of Change & Learning on Change Processes

According to the survey findings (see Table 13 **Error! Reference source not found.**), the majority of men and women believed women and girls are able to lead change in the society regarding sexual harassments.

Table 13 Survey respondents' attitudes towards women's ability to lead change

		Gender		Total
		Female	Male	
Women and girls are able to lead change in the society regarding sexual harassment behaviours and attitudes?	Strongly agree	56.8%	13.3%	44.2%
	Agree	31.1%	77.8%	44.6%
	Neutral	4.1%	5.6%	4.5%
	Disagree	0.5%	1.1%	0.6%
	Strongly disagree	5.0%	1.1%	3.8%
	Don't know	2.7%	1.1%	2.2%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

In the case of the **focus group discussions**, the most common advice for women and girls who are subject to harassment was to ignore and avoid confronting the perpetrator. Nevertheless, there were a few reports where women gave examples where they reported incidents or advised victims to confront their perpetrators. This was reflected during a **focus group** with Syrian women when women

reported that they would advise a girl being sexually harassed to 'shout' for help and use force against her perpetrator.

Findings from *focus group discussions* and *key informant interviews* highlighted a critical and urgent need to address the problem of victim blaming in society at all levels, and this includes men and boys and women and girls. This could be done through awareness raising interventions in communities that focus on changes in the attitudes that are structured by patriarchal norms and which victim-blame females experiencing sexual harassment. Other suggestions were given during interviews with *key informants* to strengthen the agency of women and girls. These included recommendations such as ensuring girls' access to education, raising their awareness on their rights as well as raising the awareness of females and males on the legal implications of harassment, building the confidence of females through leadership and life skills training opportunities, as well as working with men and boys to support women and girls in achieving their rights.

Contribution of the PFL Project to Increasing Social Cohesion and reducing VAWG

The **Overall Objective** of the PFL Project to contribute to women's human rights by strengthening the participation of women and girls and their CBOs in local and national development processes. By strengthening the participation of women and girls and their CBOs in local and national development processes, the Project will aim to create greater public recognition on the importance of women's public safety and to be highlighted in the agenda of public officials.

As for the **Project's Specific Objective**, it is to build the feminist leadership of young women and men to combat violence against women and girls in public spaces in Jordan. By improving the capacities of local CBOs of young women and men in Zarqa and Mafraq on feminist leadership, the project will promote greater awareness and understanding of feminism and equality among women and men. Establishing women to women support groups and providing safe spaces that allow young women to speak up and support one another will also facilitate in building a sense of community and solidarity among them. It will facilitate an enabling environment for women's agency to challenge patriarchy and oppression. Moreover, building women's awareness of international instruments governing human rights and women's rights will also strengthen their agency to challenge discrimination and inequality. *Focus group discussions* highlighted a need to raise the awareness of marginalised groups such as refugees and particularly women, on their rights so that they can better advocate for them.

Establishing safe spaces where dialogue can be created between women and local authorities (including police) as well as other community members on women's issues was also considered as necessary during *focus group discussions*. Moreover, the importance of creating spaces of dialogue can also provide opportunities for communication between Syrians and Jordanians in order to promote social cohesion. *Focus group* findings as well as interviews with *key informants* reflected a common perception of negative impact of the Syrian influx on the host population. Examples were given of where Jordanian women associated increased violence in public spaces due to the increased number of Syrians in their areas. During a *focus group* with Jordanian females a woman explained,

Now women started scared [after the Syrian conflict and the influx of more refugees].... Some Syrians came who are widows, or young and alone so they are at greater risk, [they will accept to have sex for money, so when guys see this, they will think that they can have sex with women] so this affected us [as Jordanian women] (FGD, Jordanian women, Mafraq)to get

The PFL Project can also facilitate in raising people's awareness on the problem of sexual harassment in public spaces as well as encouraging the development of agents of change to support women's equality and the elimination of violence against women girls through campaigns that actively engage women and girls as well as men and boys. Such awareness campaigns should also target police and other local authorities to ensure proper implementation of the law and protection of women and girls.

Moreover, by promoting Arab feminist values, the PFL project supports notions such gender equality as well as challenges notions of patriarchy, which consolidate female subjugation and oppression, such as notions that associate women to vulnerability, shame and subservient to the male.

Furthermore, despite the negative feedback obtained from several *focus group* participants on the idea of an online tool to report incidents of sexual harassment, there were also encouraging responses from other participants. Moreover, discussions with *focus group* participants highlighted the importance of taking into account aspects such as confidentiality, anonymity, building trust and using a survivor centred approach when developing such a tool.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

This report presented results of a KAP survey that establishes a baseline for the PFL Project on the safety of women in public spaces, with focus on sexual harassment in two governorates: Zarqa (in specific covering the areas Awajan and Al Hussein), and Mafraq (in specific covering the areas Al Hussein and Al Janoubi). Survey data was triangulated with findings of focus group and key informant interviews conducted with beneficiaries and projects partners and stakeholders.

Data collection took place between the period of 14 and 19 August 2018, during which 5 individual interviews (4 with females, 1 with males), 4 focus group discussions (3 with females and 1 with males), and 312 surveys (222 female respondents, 90 male respondents) were completed.

Findings showed that sexual harassment against women was perceived as a common problem in the Jordanian society with the majority of survey participants indicating that it is a serious problem that must be addressed. In the survey women reported that females between the age of 12-40 were usually subjected to sexual harassment, while focus group participants stated that children under puberty and adolescent girls were at a greater risk of being harassed.

Findings also revealed that harassment usually takes the form of offensive remarks or physically following girls, happening most of the time in streets, in addition to areas surrounding schools, public

parks, as well as places of work and transportation. To make public spaces safer, some focus group participants suggested police patrols, stricter punishment for the perpetrators and education reforms.

Perpetrators of such acts were generally perceived as adolescent and young men, however, it should be noted, that there were also reports of perpetrators being older men. Victim blaming was common amongst survey and focus group participants and even mentioned in key informant interviews. Other factors associated to sexual harassment that were highlighted during key informant interviews included poverty and unemployment, inability of men to marry in a young age, exposure to 'western media' and greater access to the Internet, as well as social norms and upbringing, lack of religion, and men's sense of entitlement and power.

Overall, findings showed that women are willing to report incidents of sexual harassment to the police or the Family Protection Department. However, women in focus groups cited shame as one of the reasons that would prevent them from reporting. The latter was confirmed by survey findings, which highlighted that the women who were not willing to report cases, referred to shame and their families forbidding them as main reasons.

Finally, the study revealed that the women mostly knew where to report VAWG and sexual harassment incidents, however their knowledge of laws and regulations on sexual harassment in Jordan and procedures to report these incidents was weak. In general, participants reported a willingness to use an online application/tool to informally/formally report sexual harassment incidents. However, upon further discussion with focus group participants, it is clear that several factors need to be seriously taken into account when developing such a tool, such as issues of anonymity and confidentiality, and security of data, as well as accessibility, particularly in relation to most vulnerable populations.

Looking at feminist literature on gender and violence in the MENA region, scholars have highlighted the role of patriarchal tradition and the conservatism of religion in subjugating women's voices and further consolidating male domination over females. From childhood, girls and boys are socialised in different ways depending on the roles that are prescribed on them by society.¹⁴ Furthermore, women's vulnerability to violence increases in patriarchal societies, where women are systematically denied their human rights. Although the region has seen improvements in relation to women's greater self-awareness and their knowledge of their rights, more efforts are needed to develop culturally sensitive interventions that work towards changing attitudes of women and men towards gender-based violence.¹⁵

Recommendations

Based on the findings presented in this report, the following recommendations are presented, with the aim of informing the design of PFL activities and providing guidance on the programmatic approaches used by AA Arab Region in addressing Violence against women and girls (VAWG).

¹⁴ Kikoski, C.K. EdD (2000) Feminism in the Middle East. *Journal of Feminist Family Therapy*, 11:4, 131-146.

¹⁵ Garcia-Moreno C, Riecher-Rossler, A (eds): Violence against women and mental health. Key Issues Ment Health. Basel, Karger, 2013, vol 178, pp 12–23.

Awareness raising and transformative empowerment to promote positive changes in social norms

Increasing young women's awareness on their rights so that they are more able to challenge discrimination and advocate for gender inequality within their communities. This is especially the case for Syrian women, as focus group findings highlighted their particular vulnerability due to aspects such as their 'refugee' status as well as socio-economic reasons. Awareness raising should also target females of all ages and those from different socio-economic backgrounds including local authorities and policy-makers.

- **Strengthening the agency of women to advocate for their rights**, by raising their awareness on procedures to report harassment and VAWG, as well as building their confidence through leadership and life skills trainings. CBOs can be used as access points to inform women and girls on procedures to report harassment and VAWG. As important is the need for CBOs to ensure that women reporting incidents of sexual harassment are guaranteed anonymity, confidentiality and their safety is prioritised throughout the process. The importance of increasing young women's awareness on their rights and strengthening their agency to advocate for their rights has also been highlighted in the literature.^{16, 17,18}
- **Engaging men and boys** in the dialogue surrounding sexual harassment and ensure that outreach and awareness targets men effectively so that they can become male champions and supporters of gender equality. It is important to work with men and boys to change behavioural attitudes towards women, especially when it comes to victim blaming. As important is the need to address practices of victim blaming with women and girls, as findings showed that this was prevalent among both females and males.^{19, 20,21}
- **Challenging social constructions of gender that are based on patriarchy** within institutional settings such as schools and work places through interventions that seek to gender sensitise females and males as well as promote changes at an institutional level that ensure gender equality. Addressing gender inequalities within the private sphere is also an issue that needs to be considered, and can be carried out through, for example, parenting interventions that promote gender equality within the family unit and challenge social conceptions of gender which are based on patriarchy.²²
- **Conducting widespread awareness campaigns (through online and off line outlets)**, that are sector specific as well tailored according to target groups. These campaigns should work

¹⁶ UN Women, *Increasing knowledge and awareness*. Online <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/increasing-knowledge-and-awareness>

¹⁷ Heisecke, K. (2014) *A collection of papers on the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence*. Online <https://rm.coe.int/168046e1f1>

¹⁸ Ward, J., & Marsh, M. (2006, June). Sexual violence against women and girls in war and its aftermath: Realities, responses and required resources. In *Symposium on Sexual Violence in Conflict and Beyond* (Vol. 21, p. 23).

¹⁹ Barker, G., Ricardo, C., Nascimento, M., & World Health Organization. (2007). Engaging men and boys in changing gender-based inequity in health: Evidence from programme interventions.

²⁰ See ODI, *A promise of tomorrow. The effects of UNHCR and UNICEF cash assistance on Syrian refugees in Jordan*, (London: ODI, 2017), accessed May 22, 2018. <http://www.unhcr.org/5a1d1b7b4.pdf>;

²¹ CARE and Promundo, *Men and boys in displacement. Assistance and protection challenges for unaccompanied boys and men in refugee contexts*, (Rio de Janeiro: CARE and Promundo, 2017), accessed May 22, 2018. https://promundoglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/FINAL_CARE-Promundo_Men-and-boys-in-displacement_2017-1.pdf

²² Nasser Eddin, N. *Negotiated Masculinities: The case of Iraqi Refugees in Jordan*.

towards consolidating notions of gender equality and women's rights as well as tackle notions of patriarchy, shame and female oppression. Awareness campaigns should also target authorities and law enforcers such as policies to ensure that proper measures are taken to ensure that women and girls are protected, and their needs addressed in a gender sensitive manner.

Collaboration, coordination, and dialogue platforms to promote female leadership

Encouraging the development of spaces where large-scale multi-sectoral collaboration and coordination can take place between a diverse range of stakeholders, including local authorities, CBOs, NGOs, gender experts, feminist activists, and the general public, with focus on female presence and leadership - particularly those who are most vulnerable- in order to ensure that their 'voices are heard'. As well as encouraging better collaboration between relevant stakeholders, these spaces will allow them to better understand how to address sexual harassment and VAWG at all levels through a gendered lens.

- **Establishing women to women support groups and safe spaces** to help women share experiences and strengthen their collective agency to address gender inequality. The presence of gender experts within these groups and safe spaces can also be used to promote feminist leadership and their empowerment. These spaces can also allow foster a sense of community and solidarity among women.
- **Improving the capacities of local CBOs and local activists** on feminist leadership to better advocate for gender equality within their communities. This should include training on existing sexual harassment laws; as well as the empowering CBOs to address sexual harassment cases in a manner that is survivor centred and which prioritizes the safety of women and girls. The importance of building the capacities of relevant stakeholders and promoting multi-sectoral response to combating GBV has also been highlighted in the literature as a best practice.^{23, 24}

Legal advocacy and research

- **Supporting the establishment of institutional mechanisms** (online/offline) that can facilitate reporting of sexual harassment through a survivor centred approach and in a manner that ensures and prioritise the safety of women.
- **Strengthening the capacities of law enforcers (including police, judges, local authorities) so that cases of sexual harassment are taken more seriously and proper measures are taken to ensure that perpetrators are punished.** This could be through training of women and men police officers on sexual harassment reporting and putting in place mechanisms that insure the confidentiality and anonymity of survivors; and conducting behavioural change interventions among enforcers of law so that they adopt a survivor centred approach when dealing with cases of sexual harassment. Most importantly, is the need to build reporting mechanisms that ensure issues of anonymity and confidentiality in order to gain the support and trust of families. Moreover, procedures in which women must go through when reporting

²³ Plan and WV presentation in Amman for the regional NLG Donor Briefing on GBV Programming Modalities

²⁴ Gerome, R. (2011). Women, Gender and Gun Violence in the Middle East. IANSA (*International Action Network on Small Arms*) http://www.iansawomen.org/sites/default/files/newviews/iansa_wn_mena_paper_2011.pdf.

sexual harassment and VAWG need to be reviewed to ensure that the process is survivor centred, gender sensitive, as well as less tedious and traumatic.

- **Conducting research on behavioural change interventions** to promote feminist leadership within Arab societies and which effectively challenge social constructions of gender, which are based on patriarchy at a macro, meso and micro level.
- **Studying how improvements in Jordan's legal system** can be made to further promote women's legal rights and ensure that they are protected by law from sexual harassment.
- **Conducting research on how the general public perceives sexual harassment** and developing culturally sensitive awareness raising toolkits based on findings of such research.

Annexes

Annex I: Survey Tool

Objective

To explore knowledge, Attitudes and Practices survey (KAP) regarding sexual harassment and violence against women in public spaces among people in Zarqa (in specific covering the areas Awajan and Al Hussein) and Mafraq (in specific covering the areas Al Hussein and Al Janoubi).

Presentation of the survey and consent

My name is [xx] , and I am working with Action Aid Arab Region on a project concerning women's safety in public spaces.

We are conducting a survey to learn about people's knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding violence and sexual harassment towards women in public spaces. The information you provide will remain strictly anonymous and confidential. Your name will not be written on the questionnaire or be kept in any other records, and this phone call will not be recorded. Your participation is voluntary, and you may choose to stop the interview at any time. You can also choose not to answer any particular question/s.

This survey will take about 10-15minutes.

Consent:

Do you have any questions to ask?

Do you agree to take part in this survey?

Can we start the questionnaire?

Questions

Pre-collection information

Name of the surveyor	
Survey questionnaire date	____ (d)/____ (m) /18

General and Demographic Questions

1. Where do you live?

- Zarqa - Awajan neighborhood
- Zarqa - Al Hussein neighborhood
- Mafraq – Al Janoubi
- Mafraq – Al Hussein
- Other ----- (Please write down the governorate and the neighborhood)
- Don't want to answer

2. What is your gender?

- Female
- Male

- 3. What is your age group?**
- a. 18-24
 - b. 25-34
 - c. 35-44
 - d. 45-54
 - e. 55-64
 - f. Above 65
 - g. Don't want to answer
- 4. What is your nationality?**
- a. Jordanian
 - b. Syrian
 - c. Palestinian
 - d. Iraqi
 - e. Egyptian
 - f. Other: -----
 - g. Don't want to answer
- 5. What is your marital status?**
- a. Single/Never married
 - b. Married
 - c. Divorced
 - d. Widowed
 - e. Don't want to answer
- 6. What is the highest level of education you have completed?**
- a. Never gone to school
 - b. Primary
 - c. Secondary
 - d. High school
 - e. University (Bachelors)
 - f. Graduate studies
 - g. Don't want to answer
- 7. Do you currently have paid employment?**
- a. Yes
 - b. No
- 8. If you are working, what is your occupation?**
- a. Farmer
 - b. Laborer
 - c. Government Employee
 - d. Private sector employee
 - e. Teacher
 - f. Freelancer
 - g. Business owner

- h. Volunteer
- i. Other: _____
- j. Don't want to answer

9. If you are not working, what do you do?

- a. Housewife/staying at home
- b. Retired
- c. Student
- d. Looking for a job
- e. Doing an internship/training
- f. Volunteer
- g. Other: _____
- h. Don't want to answer

10. Do experience any of the following difficulties (Functional) you can select multiple answers)

- a. Difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses
- b. Difficulty hearing, even if using a hearing aid
- c. Difficulty walking or climbing steps
- d. Difficulty remembering or concentrating
- e. Difficulty with self-care such as washing all over or dressing
- f. Difficulty using your usual (customary) language, do you have difficulty communicating, for example understanding or being understood
- g. I don't have any difficulties
- h. Other
- i. Don't want to answer

Knowledge

11. Which of the following behaviors do you consider as sexual harassment?

Verbal harassment

- 11.1. offensive or suggestive remarks
- 11.2. unwanted propositions eg. asking someone repeatedly to go into a car or a date after she refused
- 11.3 Making threats to harm or touch someone

Physical harassment

- 11.4. inappropriate touching
- 11.5. Sexual assault
- 11.6. Rape

Visual/ Psychological harassment

- 11.7. Being Physically followed
- 11.8. Unwelcomed gestures or body language
- 11.9. Indecent exposure (eg. Being shown genitals)

(Every question should be answered by selecting any of the following)

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Don't Know
- d. Don't want to answer

12. Which of the following behaviors towards women could be seen in your area? (you can select more than one answer)

Verbal harassment

- a. offensive or suggestive remarks
- b. unwanted propositions e.g. asking you repeatedly to go into a car or a date after you refused
- c. Making threats to harm or touch someone

Physical harassment

- d. inappropriate touching
- e. Sexual assault
- f. Rape

Visual/ Psychological harassment

- g. Being Physically followed
- h. Unwelcomed gestures or body language
- i. Indecent exposure (e.g. Being shown genitals)
- j. Other: -----
- k. Don't know
- l. Don't want to answer

13. How common do you think sexual harassment acts are in your area?

- a. Very common
- b. Common
- c. Rare
- d. Does not happen at all
- e. Don't know
- f. Don't want to answer

14. At what age do you think women experience sexual harassment and/or violence in your area? (you can choose more than one answer)

- a. Under 11
- b. 12-17
- c. 18-30
- d. 31-40
- e. Older than 40
- f. Don't know
- g. Don't want to answer

15. Where do you think women experience sexual harassment or violent acts in your area? (you can select more than one answer)

- a. Street
- b. Park
- c. Stores (e.g. Restaurant, movie theatre, mall)
- d. Public Library
- e. Workplace
- f. Place of education or training (e.g. University/ college / school)
- g. Public transportation (e.g. Bus, taxi)
- h. Health facilities
- i. Sports club or gyms
- j. Home
- k. other location: -----
- l. Don't know
- m. Don't want to answer

16. Perpetrators are most likely to be?

- a. Male
- b. Female
- c. Both
- d. Don't know
- e. Don't want to answer

17. In your opinion, who are the most common/likely perpetrators of sexual harassment? (you can select more than one answer)

- a. Family member or relative
- b. Friends
- c. Neighbours
- d. Family acquaintances/ acquaintances
- e. Strangers
- f. Co-workers, colleagues or classmates
- g. Teachers or mentors
- h. Boss or employer
- i. Health care professionals (doctors, etc.)
- j. Other: -----
- k. Don't Know
- l. Don't want to answer

- 18. In your opinion, what age are the perpetrators of sexual harassment usually? (you can choose more than one answer)**
- a. Under 11
 - b. 12-17
 - c. 18-30
 - d. 31-40
 - e. Older than 40
 - f. Don't know
 - g. Don't want to answer
- 19. Are you aware of any laws or regulations regarding sexual harassment in Jordan?**
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Don't want to answer
- 20. Are you aware of legal procedures to report sexual harassment incidents?**
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. To some degree
 - d. Don't want to answer
- 21. Do you know where to report cases of violence and sexual harassment in your area?**
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Don't want to answer
- 22. Are you aware of any organisations supporting sexual harassment and violence survivors in your area?**
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. To some degree
 - d. Don't want to answer
- 23. Generally, do you feel safe in public areas and at work?**
- a. Always
 - b. Most of the time
 - c. Sometimes
 - d. Never
 - e. Don't want to answer

Attitudes

24. Causes of sexual harassment - How much do you agree/disagree with the following statements

- 24.1. The way women behave can cause sexual harassment and violence against women and girls
- 24.2. The way women dress can cause sexual harassment and violence against women and girls
- 24.3. Men attitudes towards women and girls cause sexual harassment and violence against women and girls
- 24.4. Lack of protections for women and girls in public spaces can cause sexual harassment and violence against women and girls (ex. Lack of laws and enforcements)
- 24.5. Lack of respect for women and girls in the society can cause sexual harassment and violence against women and girls
- 24.6. The way women respond to harassment can cause sexual harassment and violence against women and girls

(All questions should be answered by selecting one of the following options)

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neutral
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree
- f. Don't Know
- g. Don't want to answer

25. How can we make public spaces safer for women/girls - How much do you agree/disagree with the following statements?

- 25.1. To make spaces safer for women and girls, we should increase awareness in the society on issues of harassment and violence
- 25.2. To make spaces safer for women and girls, we should make legal information easily accessible for women
- 25.3 To make spaces safer for women and girls, we should make harassment culturally unacceptable (for example, through social media campaigns and school education)
- 25.4. To make spaces safer for women and girls, we should make punishments for perpetrators harsher
- 25.5. To make spaces safer for women and girls, we should teach skills to prevent sexual violence (e.g. Empathy and communication skills)
- 25.6. To make spaces safer for women and girls, we should improve the enforcement of the law (ex. change attitudes of police)
- 25.7. To make spaces safer for women and girls, we should establish support centers for women and survivors
- 25.8. To make spaces safer for women and girls, we should provide opportunities to empower and Support Girls and Women (e.g. leadership and civic participation)
- 25.9. To make spaces safer for women, we should make the reporting process easier

(All questions should be answered by selecting one of the following options)

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neutral
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree
- f. Don't Know
- g. Don't want to answer

26. How much do you agree/disagree with the following statement - Sexual harassment and violence against women is a serious problem in my area and needs to be addressed

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neutral
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree
- f. Don't Know
- g. Don't want to answer

27. How much do you agree/disagree with the following statement - local authorities try to prevent sexual harassment and violence against women through law enforcement

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neutral
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree
- f. Don't Know
- g. Don't want to answer

28. How much do you agree/disagree with the following statement - local authorities support sexual harassment and violence survivors through facilitating report services and procedures

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neutral
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree
- f. Don't Know
- g. Don't want to answer

29. How much do you agree/disagree with the following statement – Women/girls in my area are able to engage with public officials in local and national level dialogues and public campaigns around women issues on women safety.

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neutral
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree
- f. Don't Know
- g. Don't want to answer

30. How much do you agree/disagree with the following statement - community and women organisations provide good support (i.e psychological and legal support) to sexual harassment and violence survivors

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neutral
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree
- f. Don't Know
- g. Don't want to answer

31. How much do you agree/disagree with the following statement - Girls are able to lead change in the society regarding sexual harassment behaviours and attitudes?

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neutral
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree
- f. Don't Know
- g. Don't want to answer

32. How would you feel if you were harassed?

- a. I got used to it
- b. Embarrassed and ashamed
- d. Anxiety and depression
- e. I would no longer feel safe in the place of the harassment incident
- f. I would no longer feel safe in public in general
- g. I would no longer feel safe in public in general at night
- h. I would no longer feel safe at work or my place of education or work
- i. I would no longer enjoy working or going to my place of education or work
- j. Other: -----
- k. Don't want to answer

33. Would you be willing to participate in awareness sessions on women's rights, gender equality?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Don't Know

d. Don't want to answer

34. Would you be willing to participate in projects that empower women/girls and increase their civic engagement?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Don't Know
- d. Don't want to answer

35. Would you be willing to participate in campaigns and groups that address sexual harassment and gender inequality in your area?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Don't Know
- d. Don't want to answer

36. If an online application/tool was available, would young women consider using it to informally/formally report sexual harassment incidents?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Don't Know
- d. Don't want to answer

Practices

37. What would be your reaction if you faced sexual harassment or violence? (you can choose more than one answer)

- a. Nothing /Ignore the behavior
- b. Avoid the perpetrator
- c. Confront perpetrator
- d. Ask a male relative to confront perpetrator
- e. Change Route
- f. Stop activity in which I faced this problem (I,e hobby, education, participating in religious activities)
- g. Change work or school
- h. Seek help from women associations
- i. Seek mental health help
- j. Report to the police
- k. Other
- l. Not Applicable to me
- m. Don't want to answer

38. If you were harassed, would you report the incident to the police?

- a. Yes
- b. No

c. Don't want to answer

39. If not, why? (police) (you can choose more than one answer)

- a. I can handle the situation myself
- b. I don't think it is important
- c. I don't trust that the police will help me/ I don't believe that anything will be done about it
- d. I don't think the police will believe me
- e. I don't feel safe at the police station/ I will not be treated well
- f. I don't think the existing laws would support me
- g. I don't think that the perpetrator will be held accountable
- h. Even if the perpetrator was found guilty the punishment is too weak
- i. The police would blame me
- j. My family would not let me
- k. Fear of shame or damage to reputation
- l. Other
- m. Don't want to answer

40. If your someone close to you was verbally harassed, what would you do (you can choose more than one answer)

- a. Nothing
- b. Confront the perpetrator
- c. Physically attack the perpetrator
- d. Report to the police
- e. Prevent her from leaving the house alone
- f. Prevent her from going to the specific place where the harassment happened
- g. Make her quit work or place of education (if the harassment happened there)
- h. Ask a male relative to deal with the situation
- i. Other: -----
- j. Don't know
- k. Don't want to answer

41. If your someone close to you was physically harassed, what would you do (you can choose more than one answer)

- a. Nothing
- b. Confront the perpetrator
- c. Physically attack the perpetrator
- d. Report to the police
- e. Prevent her from leaving the house alone
- f. Prevent her from going to the specific place where the harassment happened
- g. Make her quit work or place of education (if the harassment happened there)
- h. Ask a male relative to deal with the situation
- i. Other: -----
- j. Don't know
- k. Don't want to answer

42. If you witnessed a woman/girl being harassed, would you try to stop it?

- a. yes
- b. no
- c. It depends on the situation
- d. Don't want to answer

43. If yes or if the situation permits how would you try to stop it?

- a. Confront the perpetrator
- b. Physically attack the perpetrator
- c. Report to the police
- d. Ask someone near to help
- e. Other: -----
- f. Don't know
- g. Don't want to answer

44. If not, why? (you can choose more than one answer)

- a. It is not my responsibility
- b. Maybe she deserves it
- c. I might get harassed, attacked or threatened
- d. Interfering in such a situation is not acceptable in our society
- e. Other : ----
- f. I don't know
- g. I don't want to answer

Annex II: Key informants Interview Guide

Background

Name:

Position:

Organisation:

Gender:

Time and date of interview:

Place of Interview:

Questions

Core questions

1. What is the role/mandate of your organisation in protecting women and girls against sexual harassment and violence in public spaces? Can you tell me about your projects in Jordan, and Mafraq and Zarqa in specific?
2. What are the existing regional and national agendas that address women and girls' safety in public places?
3. In your experience, what are the main issues of violence against women and girls in public spaces in Jordan, and Mafraq and Zarqa in specific?
4. What are the existing laws and regulations that protect women and girls from sexual harassment in public spaces in Jordan? How are they currently being implemented and enforced? Would you suggest improvements? If so how?
5. In your opinion how can feminist organisations in Jordan be strengthened to reduce violence against women and promote gender equality in Jordan?
6. Are there any risks/unintended consequences in working towards strengthening feminist organisations in Jordan?
7. In your opinion, can women and girls able be better supported so that they become drivers of change towards gender equality?

Optional Questions

8. In your opinion, what are the main causes of sexual harassment in public spaces in Jordan?
9. Are all women equally vulnerable to sexual harassment? If not/so Please elaborate.
10. In your opinion, who do you think are the main perpetrators of sexual harassment in public spaces in your Jordan?
11. What would encourage women to report incidents of sexual harassment?
12. How can we make public spaces safer for women and girls in Mafraq/Zarqa/Jordan?

Annex III: Interview Guide for Beneficiary FGDs

Background information

Name	Residence	Jordanian or Syrian	Pseudonym	Gender	Age	Marital status	With or Without disability?	Education Level	Employment status	If working type of work	Breadwinner of Family

Discussion points

1. What are issues of violence against women and girls in public spaces in Jordan?
2. What are the main issues of violence against women and girls in public areas in your area?
3. What aspects and situations place young women at risk of sexual harassment in your area?
4. What do you think are the main causes of sexual harassment in public spaces in your area?
5. Are all women equally vulnerable to sexual harassment? If not/so Please elaborate.
6. Who do you think are the main perpetrators of sexual harassment in public spaces in your area?
7. How can we make public spaces in your area be safer for women? What about in Jordan in general?
8. What do young women do when faced with sexual harassment in public spaces in your area?
9. Would young women consider reporting such incidents to the police? If so, Why? (how do they go about this, what encourages them to do so?) If not, why not? (What discourages them?)
10. Imagine a young woman is sexually harassed when walking in the street. How do you think she would go about reporting the sexual incident? What would encourage women to report incidents of sexual harassment? (Who are more likely to report? Who are more likely to 'stay quiet'?)
11. If an online application/tool was available, would young women consider using it to informally/formally report sexual harassment incidents?
12. How can women organisations be more encouraged to fight for their rights? (what would make them more powerful in advocating for women's rights?)

Annex IV: Key Informant/ Partner Information Sheet

You are being invited to participate in an interview. Please read this sheet and take time to consider the information before deciding whether to take part.

My name is [researcher's name] and I am a consultant working on a Baseline survey for ActionAid. I would like to invite you to take part in this Baseline survey, which examines the knowledge, attitudes of people on the safety of girls and women in public spaces in Jordan. This survey will act as a baseline for ActionAid's "Promoting Feminist Leadership" Project, which is being carried out in Mafraq and Zarqa.

Our team will be interviewing key informants in Amman, as well as Mafraq and Zarqa where the project is being implemented. We are interested in understanding the knowledge, attitudes and practices of women and men on women and girls' safety in public spaces in Jordan in general and Mafraq and Zarqa in specific. You do not have to take part in this interview. If you decide to take part, you can change your mind and stop being involved at any time during the interview.

I am looking for interviewees who would be willing to share their views and experiences in working on issues relating to women's safety in public spaces, particularly sexual harassment. The interview will be recorded and transcribed only if you give your permission. The interview will last around 45 minutes, depending on how much you would like to say. During the interview you are free not to answer any questions that you choose. You can also drop out of the interview at any time without giving a reason.

Anything you tell me is confidential. Your name will be removed from the transcript and tape recording. All data collected will be kept securely with ActionAid. The information collected will be written up as part of a baseline survey for ActionAid. The findings may be presented at conferences, written up in journal articles or policy reports.

If you agree to take part you will be asked to complete the attached consent form. Please consider the issues mentioned above and discuss any concerns you have with me before deciding whether or

not you wish to take part in the interview. Thank you for considering taking part in this interview. If at any time you have any complaints that you would like to discuss, please contact:

[Focal point at ActionAid]

[Position]

Telephone:

Email:

Participant identification number

CONSENT FORM

Project Title: 'Baseline Consultancy, EU Support to CSOs – Promoting Feminist Leadership to Combat Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Jordan (PFL)'

Name of researcher:

I confirm that I have read and understood the information sheet dated:

I have had the opportunity to ask questions and have had these answered satisfactorily.

I understand that taking part is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw my consent from taking part at any time.

I consent to the following: *[please initials the boxes below]*

Take part in an interview

I agree to my interview being tape recorded

I agree for any information collected about me during my interview, including

the taped transcript, to be used in this baseline survey

I would like to be the data used from my interview to be anonymised so that I cannot be identified.

I agree to take part in the above evaluation.

Name of Interviewee: _____

Title: _____

Organisation: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Researcher

Date

Signature

Annex V: Focus Group Beneficiaries Information Sheet

You are being invited to participate in this focus group discussion. Please read this sheet and take time to consider the information before deciding whether to take part.

My name is [researcher's name] and I am a consultant working on a Baseline survey for ActionAid. I would like to invite you to take part in this Baseline Study, which examines the knowledge, attitudes of people on the safety of girls and women in public spaces in Jordan. This survey will act as a baseline for ActionAid's "Promoting Feminist Leadership" Project, which is being carried out in Mafraq and Zarqa.

Our team will be conducting discussions with women and men in Mafraq and Zarqa in order to get a better idea about their views on this topic. You do not have to take part in this focus group discussion. If you decide to take part, you can change your mind and stop being involved at any time during the focus group discussion.

We are looking for individuals who would be willing to share their views and experiences on women's safety in public spaces, with specific focus on harassment. The focus group discussion will be recorded and transcribed only if you give your permission. The focus group discussion will last between 1 to 1 ½ hours, depending on how much you would like to say. During the discussion you are free not to answer any questions that you choose. You can also leave at any time without giving a reason.

Anything you tell me is confidential. Your name will be removed from the transcript and tape recording. All data collected will be kept securely with ActionAid. The information collected will be written up as part of a baseline survey for ActionAid. The findings may be presented at conferences, written up in journal articles or policy reports.

If you agree to take part in this focus group discussion you will be asked to complete the attached consent form. Please consider the issues mentioned above and discuss any concerns you have with me before deciding whether or not you wish to take part in the interview. Thank you for considering taking part in this focus group discussion.

If at any time you have any complaints that you would like to discuss, please contact:

[Focal point at ActionAid]

[Position]

[Address]

Telephone:

Email:

Participant identification number

CONSENT FORM

Project Title: 'Baseline Consultancy, EU Support to CSOs – Promoting Feminist Leadership to Combat Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Jordan (PFL)'

Name of researcher:

I confirm that I have read and understood the information sheet dated:

I have had the opportunity to ask questions and have had these answered satisfactorily.

I understand that taking part is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw my consent from taking part at any time.

I consent to the following: *[please initials the boxes below]*

Take part in an interview

I agree to my interview being tape recorded

I agree for any information collected about me during my interview, including the taped transcript, to be used in this baseline survey

I would like the data used from my interview to be anonymised so that I cannot be identified.

I agree to take part in the above focus group discussion.

**Name of
Interviewee**

Date

Signature

Researcher

Date

Signature

FOCUS GROUP GROUND RULES

- We encourage you to have your voice. We are interested in hearing everyone's views and experiences. It is safe for you to freely express your opinions without any consequences.
- We encourage everyone to express new ideas. There is no such thing as a bad idea!
- We would like everyone to speak in turn.
- We will engage in constructive dialogue and feedback.
- We discourage separate conversations, or negative body-language like eye-rolling, name calling etc.).
- Focus group members can respectfully disagree openly with each other.
- Focus group members have the right to constructively challenge, or disagree with other people's point of view during the discussion.
- Focus group members have the right to ask for clarity if there is something they do not understand
- We encourage everyone to give honest answers.
- Focus group members will respect other people's experiences and views.
- Focus group members will kindly not talk about the discussion once the focus group has finished.