

The Next Step: Transnational indicators to measure violence against women and assess state responses

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Indicator project

- Human Rights Committee resolution on VAW (2004/46): develop consensus on
 - how to measure VAW
 - measures taken to eliminate it
- Tasks for project
 - Review current literature on measuring VAW and indicators
 - Consult with states, UN agencies, academics and NGOs
 - Produce a technical report with recommendations

Challenges

- States and other parties not on board with the VAW agenda
 - Much research and many PoA's limited to DV/IPV
- Limited understanding of technical aspects of prevalence research
- Limited progress on gender disaggregation of statistics
- Variations in legal systems and statutes makes harmonisation of surveys virtually impossible
- Vested interests in local definitions, own research tools
- Most international work on measuring VAW, relatively little on state progress
- Resources and capacities of states
- Number of indicators
 - Over/under inclusive

Defining terms: indicators

- OCHHR: Global HR Indicators
 - Anchored in HR norms and standards – respect, protect and fulfill rights
 - Structure, process and outcome
- “Robust, valid and reliable” (Walby, 2005)
 - Simplify and abstract from complex data
- Relevance to policy
 - Provide a norm or benchmark
 - Framework for measurement and monitoring of progress
 - Stimulate regular systematic data collection
 - Comparable across social groups and states

Are not substitutes for in-depth research

Measuring VAW

- **Inclusive definition of VAW**
- **Unbalanced knowledge base**
 - Most research IPV, some sexual assault and FGM/C, especially in Africa – serious gaps in global knowledge base
 - DV not the most common form, but the most measured
 - Incident or pattern of coercive control?
 - Seriousness and frequency only an issue for some forms – some are serious and have consequences by definition – FGM/C, forced/child marriage, acid attacks, rape
- **Unresolved debates**
 - Specialist surveys v modules – accuracy/regularity
 - Harmonised methodology – possible/desirable
 - Expectations of outcome indicators – provides baseline, but unlikely to see dramatic changes in prevalence in the short term

Proposal 1

- Comparable surveys, comparable modules, comparable questions or comparable data?
- New basis for common ground: agreement on 'grave VAW' as composite indicator
 - Only VAW which is a HR violation
 - Path through longstanding, and ongoing political, legal and technical debates
- States report on this over life time and last 12 months
 - Requires more in depth research to calculate
- Report makes proposals for its contours, but needs technical elaboration
 - Any incident of rape/serious sexual assault/sexual coercion in child or adulthood, FGM, child/forced marriage, trafficking and sexual exploitation.
 - IPV, stalking, sexual harassment inclusion on the basis of seriousness and/or frequency, building on the analytic definitions developed in existing studies
- Layered compliance
 - Layer 1: IPV, rape and sexual assault and FGM
 - Layers 2 and 3: harmful marriage practices; sexual harassment and stalking; trafficking and sexual exploitation; sexual abuse of girls.

Proposal 2: Femicide Index

- Is gravest form of VAW, but not captured by prevalence survey
- States would be required to create a femicide index, through sex disaggregating current homicide data and coding for 'sex-based' categories to track whether rates rise, stay the same or fall
 - Intimate partner violence
 - Men killing women
 - Women killing abusive men
 - Sexual murder
 - 'Honour' killings
 - Murders of women in prostitution
 - Local issues – Ciudad Juarez
- Could adapt to include other issues – dowry, female infanticide where locally relevant

Outcome indicators

- The outcome indicators
 - *Proportion of female population who experienced grave VAW in last 12 months (based on a population survey)*
 - *Proportion of female population who experienced grave VAW ever (based on a population survey)*
 - *The trend in female deaths due to femicide (using a national femicide index)*
 - *Evidence of decreasing tolerance of VAW (as measured by national surveys and analysed across key demographics)*

Assessing State Responses

- Foundations in international law: required to prevent, protect, prosecute and provide compensation
- Different histories and resources means same minimum advantages rich nations
 - Levels to weight expectations
 - Bi-annual reporting at national level, with links to CEDAW, MDGs and other international reporting mechanisms
- No separate academic debate on the parameters and approaches
- Structural indicators already in international law and policy – pull together and develop levels of response
- Process more complex as many possibilities – chose those with most extensive support in UN documentation

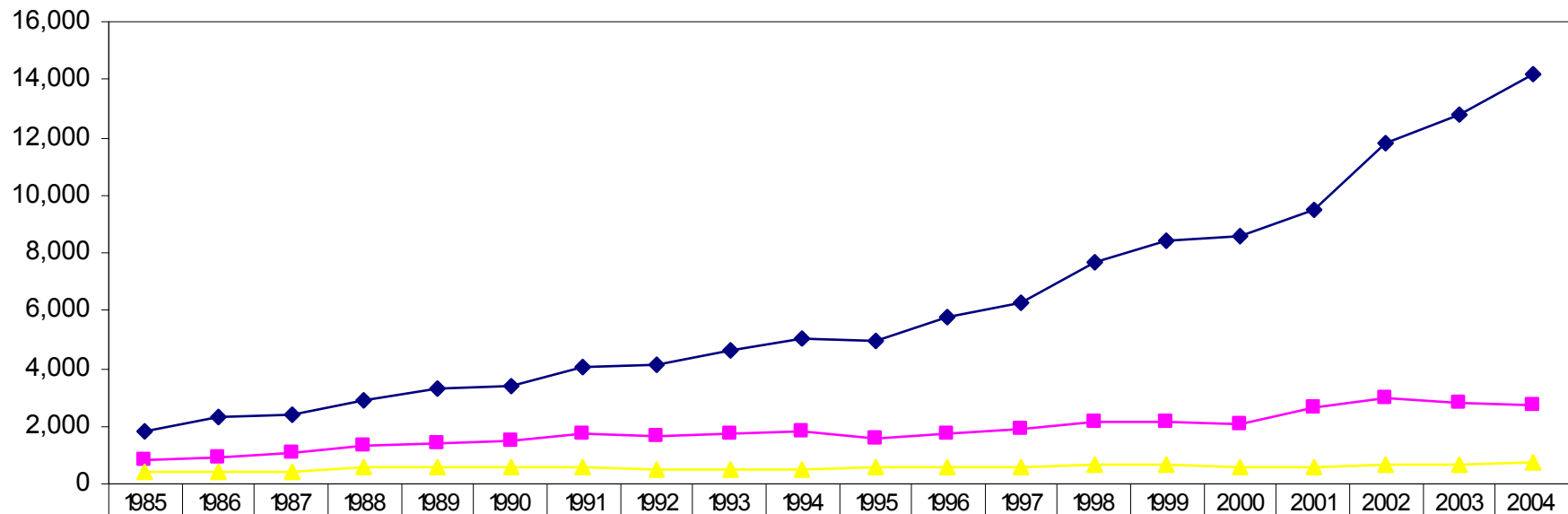
Examples of structural indicators

- *Ratification of CEDAW*
 - *Ratification of CEDAW without reservations*
 - *Ratification of the Optional Protocol*
 - *Ratification of CEDAW with few reservations*
 - *Ratification of CEDAW with significant reservations contrary to the object & purpose of CEDAW [i.e. reservations to Articles 2 & 16])*
 - *Still to be ratified*
- *Action Plan on VAW:*
 - *AP has sufficient resources to deliver implementation*
 - *AP covers all forms of VAW within an explicit gender analysis*
 - *AP covers some forms of VAW within an explicit gender analysis*
 - *AP is monitored by an independent external oversight body with specific VAW mandate (National Observatory, National Human Rights Institution with VAW mandate)*
 - *AP has clear time frames and targets*

Process indicators

- The basic process indicator will be case attrition – the proportion of reported cases that fail to result in any form of sanction. Tracking of reporting, prosecution and conviction rates on a year-by-year basis
 - Increasing reporting rates indicate decreased tolerance and increased exercise of the right to redress
 - Prosecution rates should mirror increases in reporting, and increase if legal and procedural reforms are having the desired impacts.
 - Conviction rates should at minimum stay constant and increase if procedural reforms are effective

Attrition in rape cases: England and Wales 1985-2004



◆ Reported	1,842	2,288	2,417	2,855	3,305	3,391	4,045	4,142	4,589	5,032	4,986	5,759	6,281	7,636	8,409	8,593	9,449	11,766	12,760	14,192
■ Prosecutions	844	927	1,048	1,288	1,400	1,467	1,711	1,648	1,704	1,782	1,604	1,696	1,880	2,185	2,169	2,046	2,651	2,945	2,790	2,689
▲ Convictions	450	415	453	540	613	561	559	529	482	460	578	573	599	675	659	598	572	655	673	751

◆ Reported ■ Prosecutions ▲ Convictions

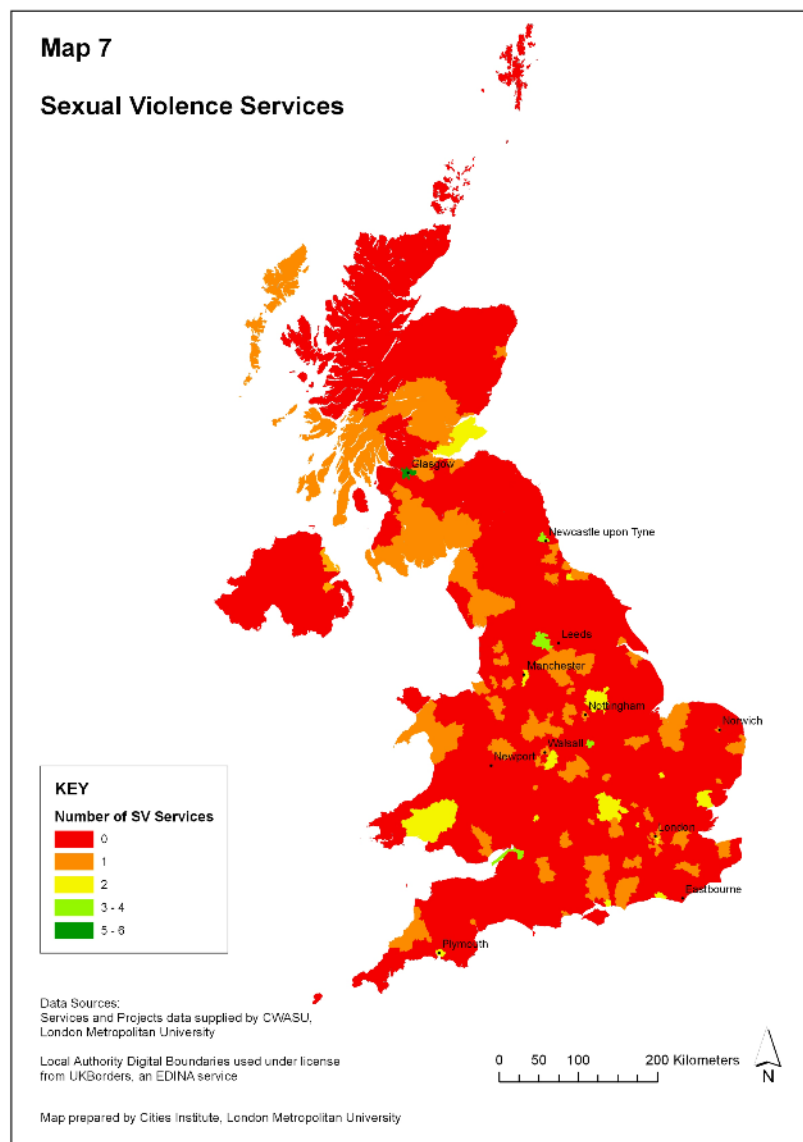
Process Indicators 1

Increased reporting rates (measured by administrative data from the criminal justice system)

- *Increased reporting across all forms of VAW*
- *Increased reporting across most forms of VAW*
- *Increased reporting of some forms of VAW*
- *Flat rates reporting for some forms*
- *Flat rates of reporting for most forms of VAW*
- *Decreased attrition rates for prosecution and conviction (measured by administrative data from the criminal justice system)*
 - *Increased rates of prosecution and conviction for all forms of VAW*
 - *Increased rates of prosecution and conviction for some forms of VAW*
 - *Flat rates of prosecution and conviction for all forms of VAW*
 - *Flat rates of prosecution and conviction for some forms of VAW*
 - *Decreasing rates of prosecution and conviction for some forms of VAW*

The right to redress, protection and rehabilitation

At national level an *index of support* - calculated using existing capacity of a range of VAW support services, population ratios and 12-month prevalence findings.



Process Indicators 2

- *An increase in the index of support services signifying an extension of specialized provision*
- Plus layers indicators on prevention and training
- AND possibilities for states to document implementation and outcomes of local promising practices