Violence against women (VAW) is any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life. (UN General Assembly, 1993)

1 in 3 women has experienced physical or sexual violence at some point in their lives, while psychological abuse has still not received sufficient attention. However, in most countries, less than 40% women who experience violence seek any kind of help, and less than 10% seek help from the police.

In 2015, 125 counties have laws on sexual harassment, 119 countries have laws on domestic violence, and only 52 have laws on marital rape. In many countries, women still don’t have the right to decide whether or not to have sex, and their “no” is seldom taken seriously.

**Violence against Women (VAW) During the Life Cycle**
Any research on violence against women remains inadequate if it does not take into account the causes and consequences of violence when gender identities intersect with other identities based on sexuality, visibility, or occupation. This inadequacy results in the development of poor strategies—legal or otherwise—for combating violence, as they fail to take on board the lived experiences of women who are pushed to the margins of society, as well as in our collective imagination.

Source: Rashid, Sabina; Darwalla, Nayreen; Puri, Mabesh; et al. (2012) Count Me In! research report violence against disabled, lesbian, and sex-working women in Bangladesh, India, and Nepal, Bangladesh, India, Nepal: CREA.