

# Violence against Girls in Home Settings in Asia-Pacific

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unicef   
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Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.



- Handbooks for Parliamentarians
- Regional Parliamentary Workshops
- Child-focused activities during bi-annual IPU assemblies

# Defining Violence

- **Physical Violence**
- **Sexual Violence**
- **Mental Violence**
- **Neglect or Negligent Treatment**



## Fact no. 1

The most common forms of violence against girls and boys occur at home

> **70%** of girls and boys age 2-14 regularly receive some form of violent discipline in Asia-Pacific

**(7 out of 8 countries with data)**

Afghanistan

Lao PDR

Vanuatu

Fiji

Kiribati

Solomon Islands

Viet Nam

## Fact no. 2

Perpetrators are known and near



## Perpetrators of forced sexual intercourse or other sexual acts against girls 15-19 years old

	<b>Current husband/ partner</b>	<b>Current/ former boyfriend</b>
<b>India</b>	<b>77%</b>	3%
<b>Nepal</b>	<b>27%</b>	6%
<b>Phillipines</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>40%</b>



## Fact no. 3

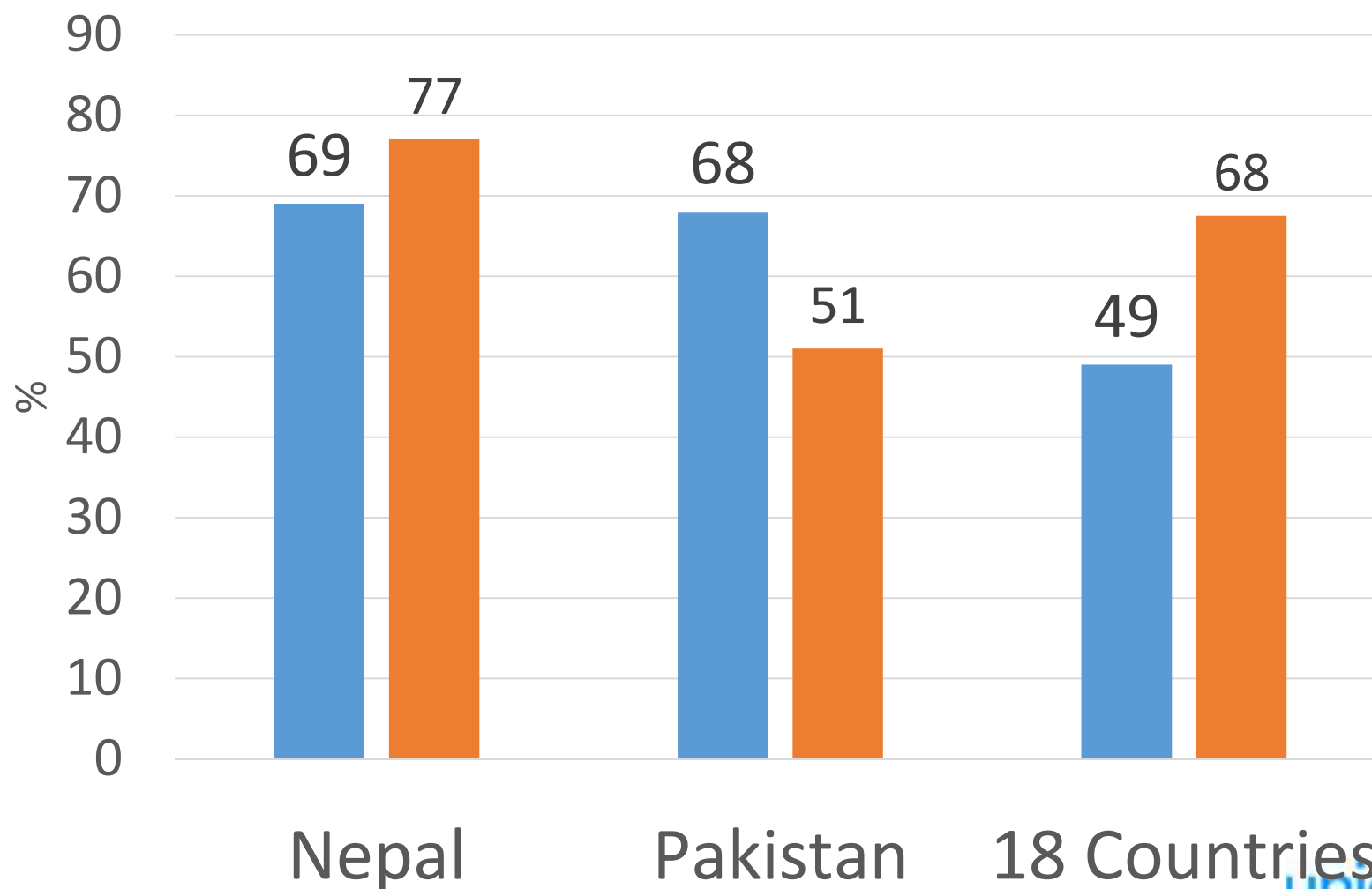
Most victims never  
disclose their  
experiences





% of girls aged 15-19 who experienced physical and/or sexual violence and never told anyone.

% who never sought help



## Fact no. 4

Social norms and attitudes that condone violence place girls at risk



**In many countries in Asia-Pacific  
girls today often think wife  
beating is justifiable**

**50% +**

Bhutan  
India  
Kiribati  
Marshall Islands  
Tuvalu  
Solomon Islands  
Vanuatu

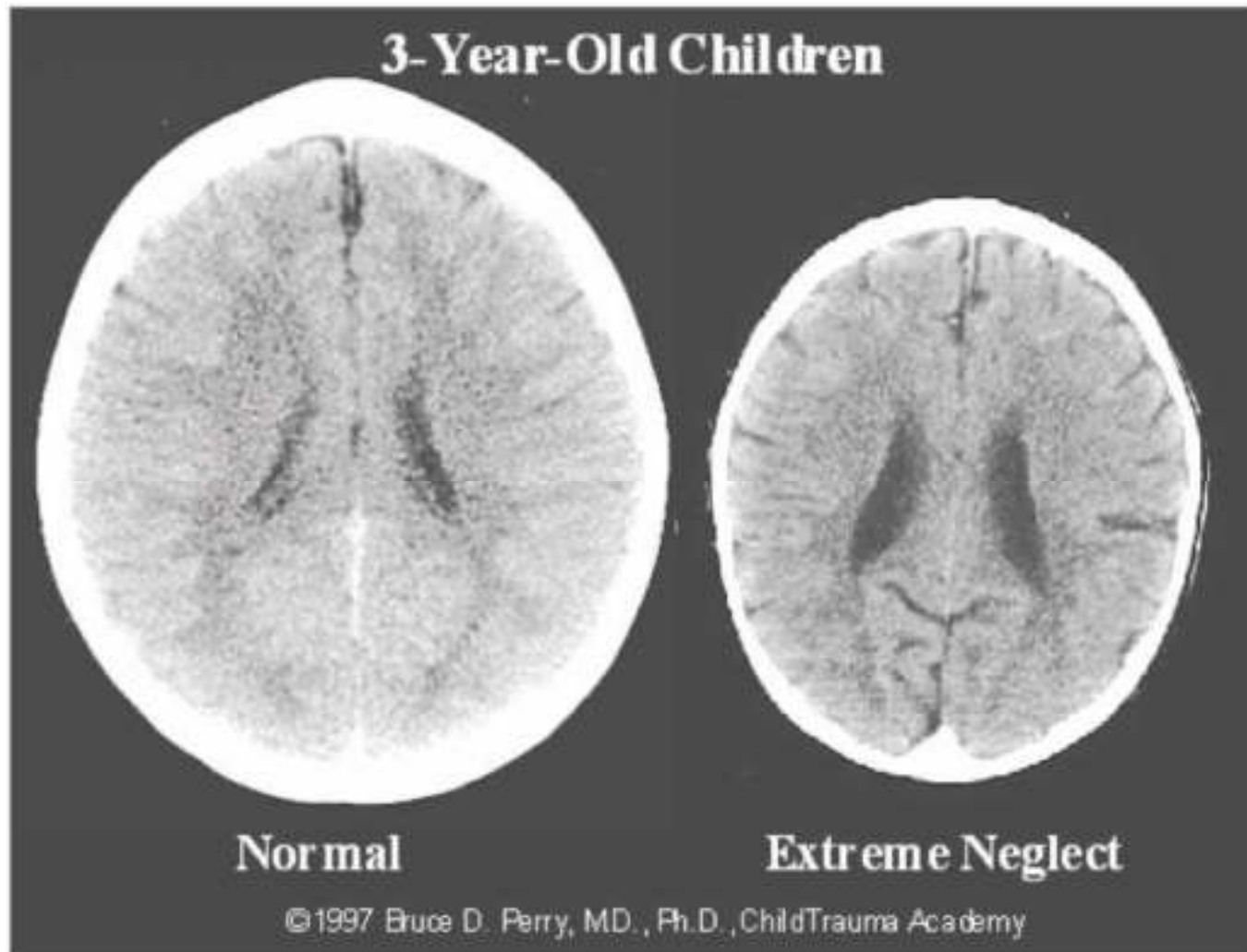
**80% +**

Afghanistan  
Timor-Leste

# **Violence against girls**

## **short-term and long-term consequences**

# Child Developmental Cost



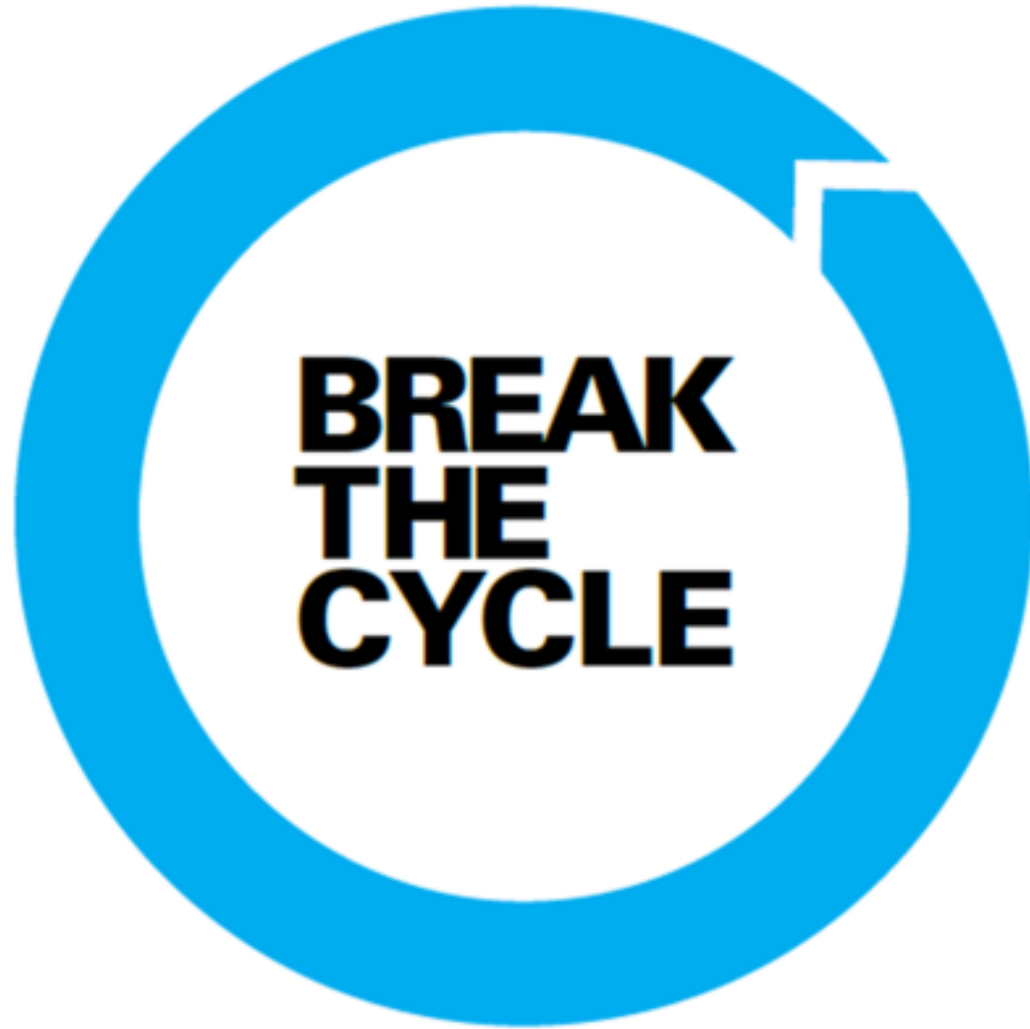
# Intergenerational consequences



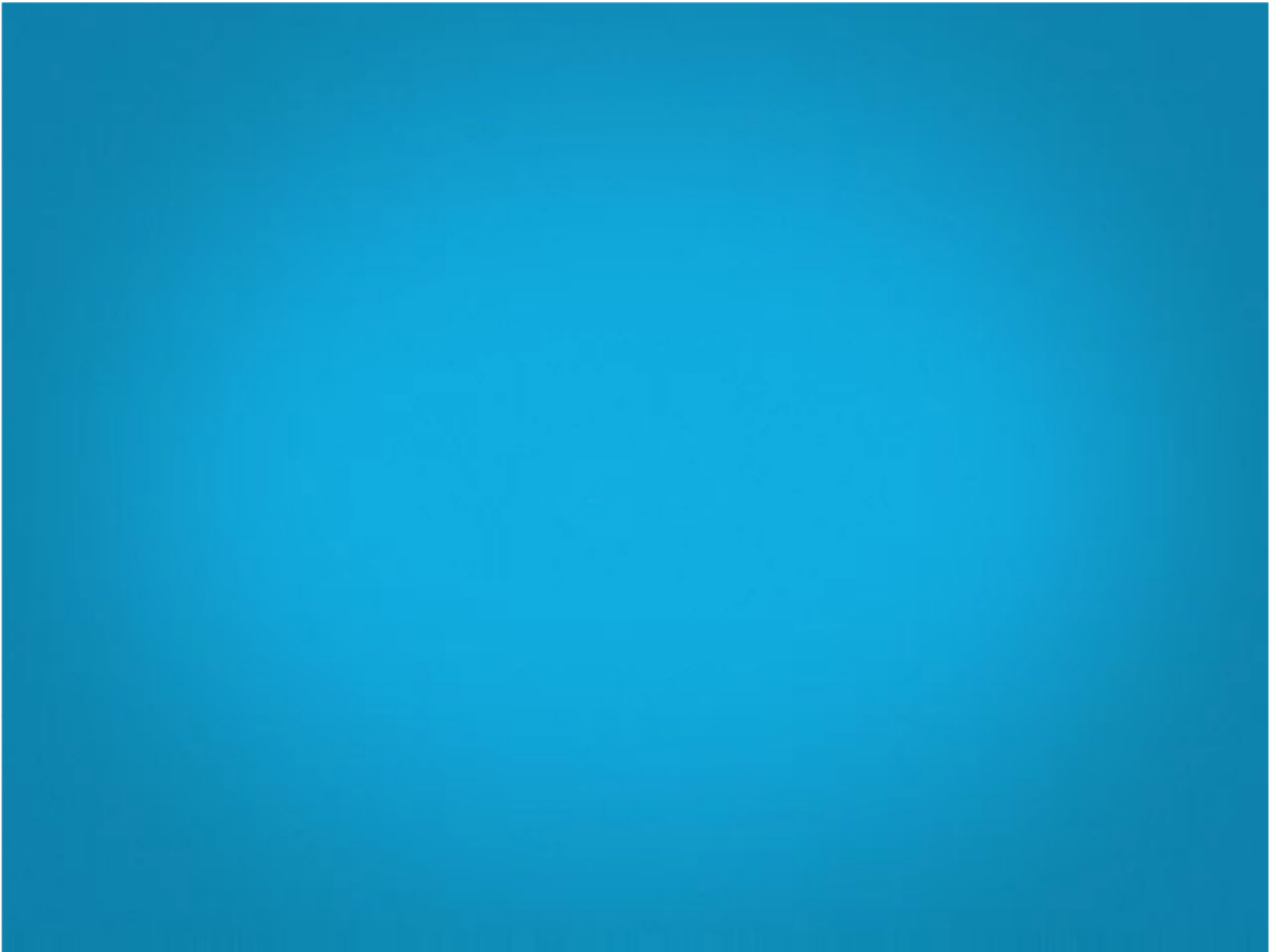
# Economic Cost

**\$150 billion/year,  
or about 2% of GDP, in  
East Asia and the Pacific**





**BREAK  
THE  
CYCLE**



# Six Strategies for those with the power to act

## Six strategies to prevent and respond to violence against children

### Strategy

# 1

#### Supporting parents, caregivers and families

Educating families, caregivers and parents on their child's early development increases the likelihood that they will use positive disciplining methods. This reduces the risk of violence within the home.

### Strategy

# 2

#### Helping children and adolescents manage risks and challenges

Giving children and adolescents the skills to cope and manage risks and challenges without the use of violence and to seek appropriate support when violence does occur is crucial for reducing violence in schools and communities.

### Strategy

# 3

#### Changing attitudes and social norms that encourage violence and discrimination

Changing the attitudes and social norms that hide violence in plain sight is the surest way to prevent violence from occurring in the first place.

### Strategy

# 4

#### Promoting and providing support services for children

Encouraging children to seek quality professional support and report incidents of violence helps them to better cope with and resolve experiences of violence.

### Strategy

# 5

#### Implementing laws and policies that protect children

Implementing and enforcing laws and policies that protect children sends a strong message to society that violence is unacceptable and will be punished.

### Strategy

# 6

#### Carrying out data collection and research

Knowing about violence – where it occurs, in what forms, and which age groups and communities of children are most affected – is essential to planning and designing intervention strategies, and setting numerical and time-bound targets to monitor progress and end violence.

**What can parliamentarians do?**

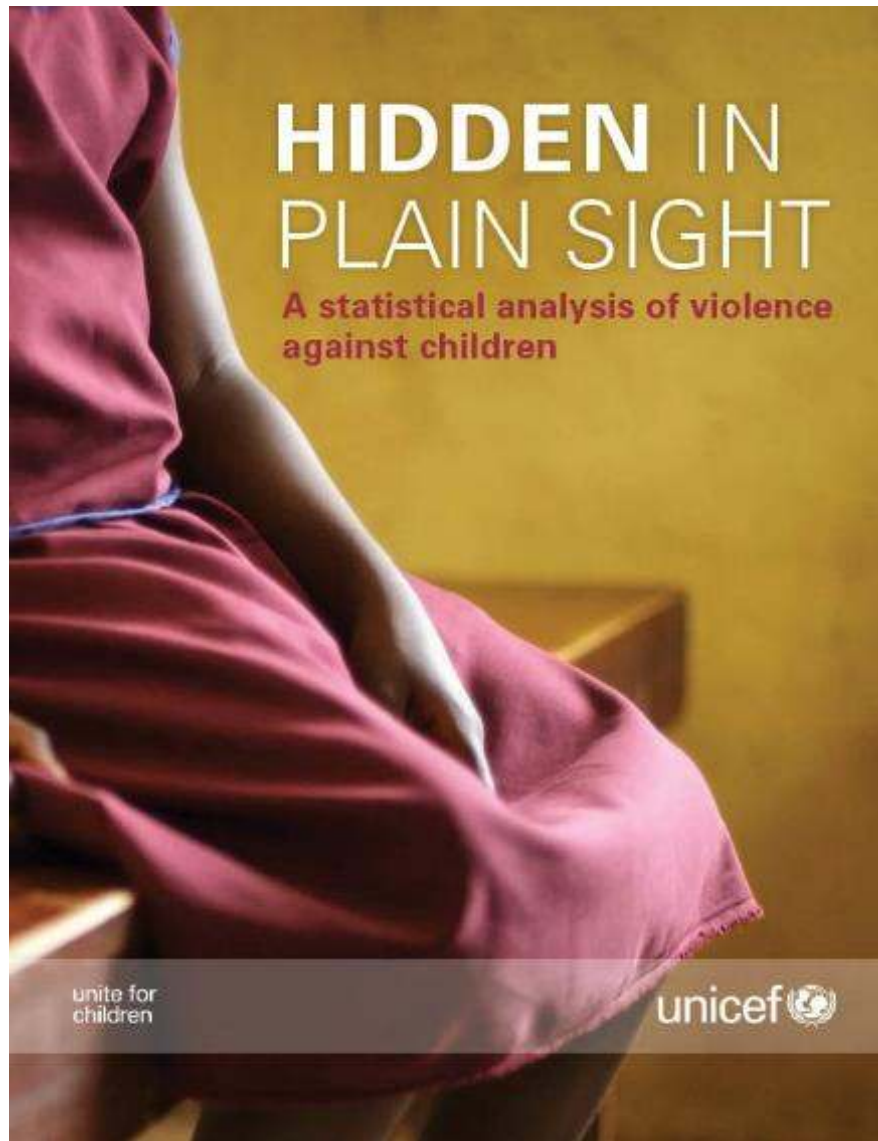
**1. Develop and promote a national strategy** to address violence against children within a set, achievable timeframe

## **2. Enact explicit legal bans on violence against children**

**3. Accompany policy initiatives and legal measures with greater efforts to discourage the social acceptance of child violence**



# Some Resources to Help Take Action



**Hidden in Plain Sight –**  
A statistical analysis of  
violence against  
children, UNICEF, 2014

**Ending Violence  
Against Children:  
Six Strategies  
for Action**

#ENDviolence



unite for  
children

unicef 

**Ending Violence Against  
Children: Six Strategies  
for Action, UNICEF, 2014**

EVIDENCE  
Strengthening Child Protection Systems

**Violence against Children**  
in East Asia and the Pacific  
A Regional Review and Synthesis of Findings

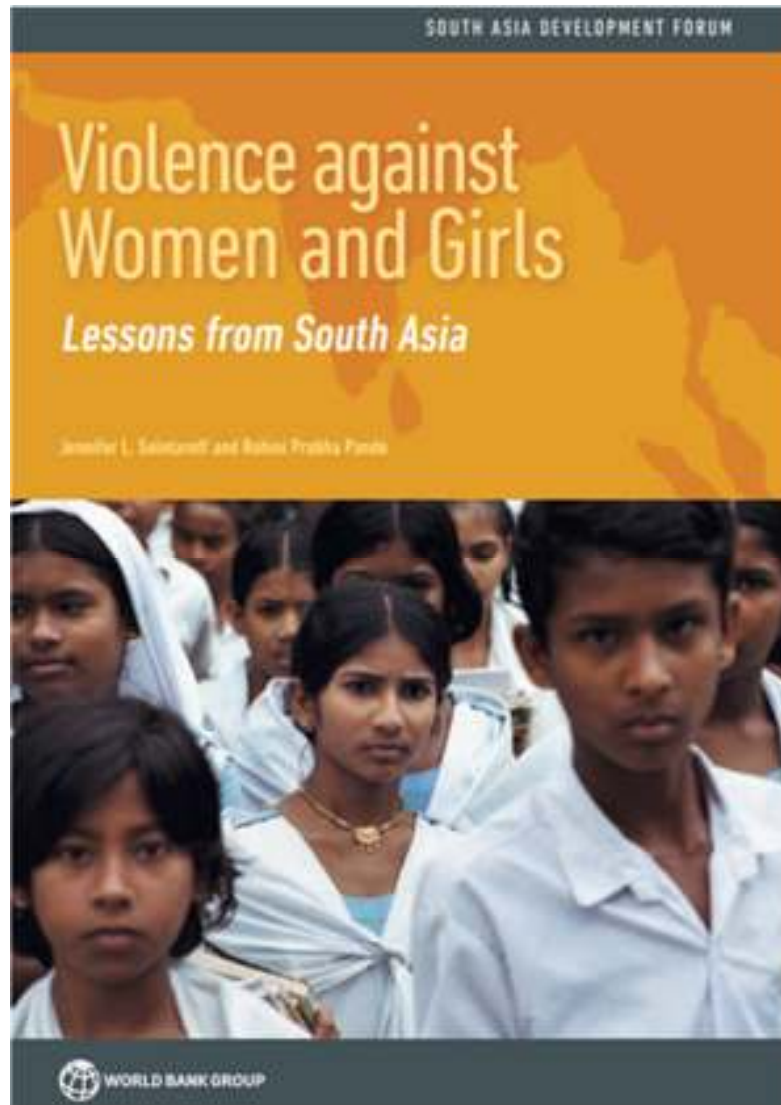


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# Violence against Children in East Asia and the Pacific

Regional Review and  
Synthesis of Findings



**Violence against  
Women and Girls,  
Lessons from South  
Asia, The World Bank  
Group, 2014**

# Ending violence against girls is in our hands

