

ROUTLEDGE STUDIES IN CRIME AND SOCIETY

# Understanding Gender Based Violence

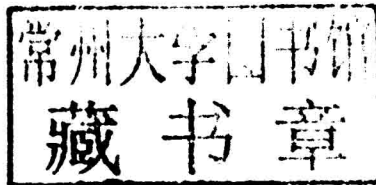
National and international contexts

Edited by  
Nadia Aghtaie and Geetanjali Gangoli

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'Activists and academics will find *Understanding Gender Based Violence* an invaluable and empowering resource, which presents a broad range of expert opinions from relevant specialities and disciplines, while setting gender-based violence in its historical, feminist and social context. This is a must-read for anyone concerned about social change, gender equality and responses to violence throughout the world. It is an impressively theorized collection, which brings fresh insights to dealing with the multifaceted nature of gender based violence and one that will challenge afresh many traditional assumptions in the "violence against women and girls industry".'

Dr. Aisha K. Gill, *Associate Professor in Criminology,  
University of Roehampton, UK*

'The rich collection of articles in this book provides a kaleidoscopic view of the many dimensions of gender based violence. The essays are based on rigorous research & advance theory.'

Dr. Veena Poonacha, *Director, Research Centre for Women's Studies,  
SNDT Women's University, India*

# Understanding Gender Based Violence

This book aims to bring together the pioneering research on gender based violence that has been conducted by the Centre for Gender and Violence Research at the School for Policy Studies, University of Bristol. Topics discussed include violence in young people's relationships, prostitution policy, disabled women's experiences of domestic violence, men as victims of domestic violence, feminist movements and methodological concerns. This book will have a wide appeal, as each individual chapter builds on and contributes to existing global and national concerns about gender based violence.

The book starts with an exploration of key theoretical, conceptual and methodological issues in researching gender based violence, then moves on to look at specific national (UK) based empirical studies. The final section brings together a wide range of research from diverse contexts, ranging from China, Iran and India to refugee camps in Rwanda.

The book will be an invaluable resource for researchers, students and practitioners who have an interest in this area, as well as for policymakers around the world. It will also be of interest to the general reader who wants to learn more about what is now a highly topical issue.

**Nadia Aghtaie** is a lecturer in gender based violence at the Centre for Gender and Violence Research at the School for Policy Studies, University of Bristol. She is currently working on a European comparative study on violence in young people's intimate relationships. Prior to this she has conducted a number of other research projects, such as comparative research on gender based violence in Iran and the UK, and criminal and civil codes of Iran in relation to domestic violence and rape.

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**This book is dedicated to survivors of gender based violence.**

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# Acknowledgments

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## **Part I**

# **Definitions and debates on gender based violence**





# 1 Key issues

## Researching gender based violence

*Nadia Aghtaie and Geetanjali Gangoli*

The endemic, universal and multifaceted nature of gender based violence (GBV) is what drives the work of the Centre for Gender and Violence Research (CGVR), at the School for Policy Studies, University of Bristol. While the Centre was formally created in 2009, members of the Centre have a long history of researching gender based violence at a local, national and international level, and feeding this into policy and practice. The CGVR grew organically from the Violence Against Women Research Group (2003), which emerged from the Domestic Violence Research Group (1990).

The CGVR works on all forms of GBV and interventions challenging it, and explores how violence, gender and power operate within intimate partner, interpersonal and structural violence. Some of the areas that we research include:

- domestic violence and abuse;
- prostitution and trafficking for sexual exploitation of women and girls;
- rape and sexual violence;
- domestic violence and disabled women;
- health and gender (including health impacts of domestic violence);
- gender based violence for black and minority ethnic communities, including domestic violence, forced marriage, crimes in the name of honour and female genital mutilation;
- perpetrator interventions;
- the impact of domestic violence on children;
- sexual abuse of young people, and sexual exploitation of young people;
- same sex domestic violence and abuse; and
- international and comparative research on gender based violence, in a variety of contexts, including China, Democratic Republic of Congo, India, Iran, Iraqi Kurdistan, Malaysia and Taiwan.

All the chapters in this book have contributions from current and former members of staff or postgraduate research students attached to the CGVR. The book aims to highlight the continuing, pervasive and varied nature of GBV in a range of Western and non-Western countries. The chapters in the