

What Works to Stop Violence Against Women?

Causal Evidence, Real World Impact



Friday, 16 May 2025

OECD Headquarters | 2 rue André Pascal, Paris, France

Château de la Muette, Room D

Concept note

Violence against women (VAW) remains tragically common. Worldwide, an estimated one in three women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime, with significant consequences to individuals, societies and economies. While many OECD countries are prioritising VAW policies and programmes, we remain a long way from understanding “what works” on the ground to address violence. Accurate estimates of the causal impact of policies are far from common, and are related to persistent data, funding and research gaps.

To help build capacity for accurate, outcome-focused policy evaluations – and to strengthen evidence for policymaking – the OECD’s Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs (ELS) is proud to partner with **WomEmpower**, a major European Research Council (ERC)-backed research project led by Professor Núria Rodríguez-Planas (Queens College, City University of New York (CUNY), and University of Barcelona), to host an **applied evaluation workshop connecting policymakers with leading economists conducting cutting-edge research on what works to prevent VAW**.

The workshop will be interactive and will feature:

- Presentations from leading researchers showing the policy implications of their research, outlining how policymakers can implement different types of causal evaluation in their national context, and discussing new data sources for VAW. Researchers will present research from social, justice, health and other policy domains, with a particular emphasis on research design and data needs for robust causal evaluations of what works
- An opportunity for policymakers to connect with researchers on future evaluations, and to connect with VAW counterparts across OECD countries; and
- A practical dialogue between policymakers, researchers, OECD and WomEmpower on what further knowledge and data are needed to strengthen policy on VAW.

Confirmed speakers include Dan Anderberg (Royal Holloway University of London); Sanna Bergvall (University of Gothenburg); Judit Vall Castelló (University of Barcelona); Gabriel Facchini (Royal Holloway University of London); Daniel Fernández-Kranz (IE Business School); Valerie Frey (OECD); Jorge García-Hombrados (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid); Jeffrey Grogger (University of Chicago); Mark Pearson (OECD); Elsa Pilichowski (OECD); Helmut Rainer (University of Munich) and Núria Rodríguez-Planas (CUNY and University of Barcelona).

Please register at <https://forms.office.com/e/0MA1wP4UMY>.



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Agenda

v. 3 April 2025

Welcome coffee	
08:30	Welcome to the OECD
Introductions and setting the scene	
09:00 – 09:20	Welcoming remarks and scene setting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mark Pearson, Deputy Director, OECD Directorate for Employment, Labour & Social Affairs (ELS)• Emma Armstrong, CEO of non-profit organisation I Choose Freedom (virtual)• Núria Rodríguez-Planas, Professor in Economics, Queens College, CUNY, and University of Barcelona, and Principal Investigator of WomEmpower: Why do we need causal inference to stop VAW?
09:20 – 09:45	Breakout session: What evidence do policymakers need?
09:45 – 10:10	Plenary session: Report back from breakout groups
Presentations: How can causal evaluations be implemented to measure programme outcomes?	
10:10 – 11:00	Economic empowerment, social protection and VAW <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dan Anderberg, Royal Holloway University of London: Overview of key findings/debate on economic empowerment vis-à-vis VAW, with findings from “Unemployment and domestic violence: Theory and evidence.” Co-authored with Helmut Rainer, Jonathan Wadsworth, Tanya Wilson.• Daniel Fernández-Kranz, IE Business School: “Bargaining under threats: The effect of joint custody laws on intimate partner violence.” Co-authored with Natalia Nollenberger and Jennifer Roff.• Núria Rodríguez-Planas, Professor in Economics, Queens College, CUNY, and University of Barcelona: “Intimate Partner Violence and Income: Quasi-Experimental Evidence from the Earned Income Tax Credit.” Co-authored with Resul Cesur, Jennifer Roff, and David Simon.
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 – 12:45	Access to justice and social services <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jeffrey Grogger, University of Chicago: “Criminal charges, risk assessment and violent recidivism in cases of domestic abuse.” Co-authored with Dan A. Black, Tom Kirchmaier and Koen Sanders.• Helmut Rainer, University of Munich: “Deterrence or backlash? Arrests and the dynamics of domestic violence.” Co-authored with Sofia Amaral, Gordon B. Dahl, Victoria Endl-Geyer and Timo Hener.• Núria Rodríguez-Planas, Queens College, CUNY, and University of Barcelona: “The Effectiveness of the Lethality Assessment Program.” Co-authored with Jennifer Roff and Wei Zheng.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jorge García-Hombrados, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid: “Specialised courts and the reporting of intimate partner violence: Evidence from Spain”. Co-authored with Marta Martínez-Matute and Carmen Villa.
12:45 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 14:05	Afternoon welcome Elsa Pilichowski, Director, OECD Public Governance Directorate
14:05 – 14:40	Access to healthcare and related supports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judit Vall Castelló, University of Barcelona: “Hit where it hurts: Healthcare access and intimate partner violence.” Co-authored with Caoimhe T. Rice, Cristina Bellés Obrero. Sanna Bergvall, University of Gothenburg: “Motherhood and domestic violence: A longitudinal study using population-wide administrative data.” Co-authored with Núria Rodríguez-Planas.
14:40-15:30	Data and measurement of VAW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valerie Frey, OECD ELS: What are governments missing in current VAW data? Gabriel Facchini, Royal Holloway University of London, “Insights into domestic violence: Google search data,” and “COVID-19 lockdown and domestic violence: Evidence from internet-search behaviour in 11 countries” Co-authored with Inés Berniell. Dan Anderberg, Royal Holloway University of London: “Quantifying domestic violence in times of crisis: An internet search activity-based measure for the COVID-19 pandemic”. Co-authored with Helmut Rainer and Fabian Siuda.
Lessons learned and closing plenary	
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 16:30	Breakout sessions: Lessons learned, opportunities and remaining challenges
16:30 – 17:00	Closing plenary discussion and closing remarks