



# Contents

Foreword by Nigel Fisher, Director, UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia  
Author's Preface  
Acknowledgements

## **PART I: Problems and Prospects for Change**

<b>Chapter 1: Breaking the Earthenware Jar</b>	<b>1</b>
What the Book Covers	3
Basics: Some Definitions and Related Issues	5
Some Important Conventions	8
How South Asian Activists See Violence Against Women	10
"But Aren't You Exaggerating?"	13
The Question of Culture	15
Why Violence against Women and Girls?	16
The Family as a Site of Struggle	17
Prospects for Change	18
NGO Cooperation against Domestic Violence?	24
Outcome in the Balance: "Feminist Fantasy" or Responsible Activism?	26
Still Needed: Breaking the Silence	29
<b>Chapter 2: The Costs of Gender Violence for Women's Lives and Health</b>	<b>33</b>
Discrimination Can Kill	33
Little Care for Women's Health: Voices from South Asia	37
What about Wife Abuse? Impact on Health	39
The Hidden Pandemic	51
A Closer Look at the Dangerous Family	53
Why So Much Violence?	63
Response of the Medical System to Trauma from Domestic Violence	64
The Public Cost of Private Pain	67
Preventing Violence against Women: The Case of Maternal Mortality	69
Towards Prevention at the Village Level	71
Public Health Campaigns against All Forms of Domestic Violence?	74



**Chapter 3: Children Betrayed: Violence at Home**

79

Imagine	79
Reality	80
Sexual Abuse, Incest and Rape of Girls	83
The Family and Prostitution	91
Who Cares? Neglect and the Missing Millions	93
Foeticide and Infanticide	97
Dowry Demands and the Disposable Bride	101
Wife Abuse of Girl-Women	104
Indirect Abuse: Witnessing as a Form of Violence	110
Repeating the Violence	112
Nutritional Impact	112
What Happens When a Mother Tries to Leave Home	113
Glimmers of Hope	115

**PART II:****Excuses, Explanations and Challenges****Chapter 4: No More Excuses**

119

Popular Excuses for Men's Violence to Women	120
Women's Acceptance of Violence against Them:	
Excuses and Explanations	123
Excuses for Women's Violence to Other Women	125
Excuses for Society's Acceptance of Violence against Women	126
Beyond Excuses	129

**Chapter 5: Shadow and Sun: Femininity and Masculinity in South Asia**

131

Unequal Power Relations as a Cause of Violence	131
Equal Power	135
Norms for Femininity and Masculinity:	
The Antecedents of Gender Violence?	135
Some Factors behind Restrictive Gender Roles in South Asia	137
The Fragility of Masculinity	146
The Patriarchy: Source of the Problem	149
The "Language of Gender Violence" in the Patriarchy	150
Some Forces That Have Strengthened the Patriarchy in South Asia	152
Escaping from Hell	156
Is Gender Violence Inevitable?	158

**Chapter 6: The Woman Who Would Not Be Beaten**

163

"New" Models: Sources in Tradition and Modernity	163
Rani Padamsee, Bangladesh: Karate Black Belt	164
Kusuma, Sri Lanka: Refuses to Be a Victim	168
Sugani, India: The "Witch's Daughter" Who Heals	171
An Exceptional but Unnamed Woman, Pakistan: Fighting Back	174
Lalita, Nepal: The Woman Who Would Not Be Beaten	177



Nilufer, Afghanistan: "If You Think She Is Not Good, Let Her Become Something As a Bad Person" 181	
Diverse Lives, yet Common Concerns 184	
<b>Chapter 7: Men against the Patriarchy</b>	<b>187</b>
Kiran Tewari, Nepal: Make Decisions Together 187	
Dr. Lohiya, India: 192	
A Pioneer against Violence to Women in the Community	
Namal, Sri Lanka: "More Men Should Be Involved against Rape" 194	
Bai Sab, Policeman, Bangladesh: 195	
Devotion to Professional and Religious Duty	
Shaheed Mehmood Nadeem, Pakistan: 197	
From Prison to Writing and Public Affairs	
Mohammed, Afghanistan: "No Such Things Exist in Islam" 201	
Shared Views 203	
Interview with Shekar Kapur, India: "I Had Never Grappled with My Own Attitude to Violence" 205	
To Grapple with Identity 207	
 <b>PART III:</b> <b>Towards Solutions and Gender Peace</b>  	
<b>Chapter 8: Towards Gender Peace</b>	<b>209</b>
Basic and Interrelated Curricula on Gender 210	
It Starts at Home: The Family Curriculum 211	
Some CRC and CEDAW Curricula "Basics" 213	
Will Parents Support Girls' Education? 218	
Education for Equality and Gender Peace: It Is Not So Easy 222	
Formal Education for Gender Peace? Some Changes Are Needed 227	
The Community Curriculum: Jamkhed 233	
<b>Chapter 9: Work and Gender Violence</b>	<b>239</b>
The Most Exploited Women Workers 240	
Becoming Part of the Paid Labour Force: Problems and Solutions 250	
Sexual and Gender-Role Harassment: "You Are Asking for It If . . ." 259	
Childcare and Women's Work 263	
Husbands of Working Women 266	
The Home: A Dangerous Workplace for Women 267	
Macroeconomic Policies and Violence against Women 268	
Some Achievements and Ideas for Change 269	
<b>Chapter 10: Using the Legal System to End Violence against Women and Girls</b>	<b>273</b>
Questions about Legal Implementation 273	
Some Deterrents to Using the Law Against Gender Violence 274	
The Legal Framework 280	



Some Laws Related to Violence against Women and Girls	288
Some Obstacles to Effective Legal Remedy in Cases of Violence against Women	292
Women's Apparent Unwillingness to Seek Legal Remedy	304
More Success Needed	305
The Role of the Media	308
Many Recommendations	
Some Initiatives to Improve Effective Use of the Legal System by Victim - Survivors of Gender Violence	310
Lessons Learned	323
<b>Chapter 11: Building Movements to Stop Violence against Women and Girls in South Asia</b>	<b>329</b>
Links with the Past	329
Historical Highlights	332
Building Blocks for Movements to Stop Violence against Women	342
Reaching Rural Women	347
Analysis and Prospects	355
Questions for the Future	356
<b>PART IV: Conclusions</b>	
<b>Chapter 12: Violence against Women and Girls:</b>	<b>361</b>
<b>A Key Development and Human Rights Issue</b>	
The Need for Advocacy — and Concerted Action	361
Some Costs to Development of Violence against Women	362
Violence against Women and Girls: A Key Human Rights Issue	365
The Human Rights of Girls and Women: Complementarity or Conflict	367
State Accountability for Women's and Girls' Human Rights – Even at Home	371
What to Do? A Holistic and Integrative Approach above All	372
Where Does South Asia Stand?	374
Moving Forward	377
Still More Attention needed to Stop "the War in the Home"	384
Towards Non-violence	387
Taking "Gender" Even More Seriously	388
The Courage to Bring Rights Home	389
Risks and Possibilities in the New Millennium	391