



## A PRACTITIONER'S TOOLKIT

Making water, sanitation and hygiene safer through improved programming and services

## Toolset 3-H

Advocacy materials and activities

# TS3-H-5 – The Gender and Development Network and WaterAid's submissions and response to the International Development Committee (UK government) inquiry on violence against women and girls

<b>Context</b>	In 2013, the International Development Select Committee held an inquiry into violence against women and girls.
<b>Implementing organisations</b>	WaterAid and the Gender and Development Network (GADN).
<b>Description of good practices</b>	<p>WaterAid submitted a response to the inquiry highlighting the links between water, sanitation and hygiene and violence against women and girls. It made recommendations for the Department for International Department (DFID) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster dialogue between the gender and WASH areas of technical expertise, to foster attention to safe access to water and sanitation in its programmes on violence against women and girls;</li> <li>• Ensure that a proportion of the £25 million research fund on violence against women and girls is invested to research this area further;</li> <li>• Note that the post-2015 goals or targets whose achievement can be influenced by access to WASH services – such as violence against women; women's empowerment; gender equity in education; and women's and maternal health – should include water and sanitation-related success indicators; and</li> <li>• Strongly encourage UK attendance and full participation in the 57th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women to highlight the relevance of WASH-related issues to violence against women and girls.</li> </ul> <p>It also noted that DFID's Theory of Change on violence against women and girls currently does not make reference to the link with WASH. It recommended that DFID should review its Theory of Change to incorporate these issues.</p> <p>The Gender and Development Network submitted a broader paper of evidence, which covered progress made on violence against women and girls since 2008 and a range of recommendations encouraging the Government of the United Kingdom to take leadership on the issue – particularly in relation to establishing the post-2015 agenda. The paper refers to the WaterAid response noted above, and recommends that DFID recognise violence against women and girls as a central issue within the context of WASH programming, including in emergency response.</p> <p>In response, the recommendations by the International Development Select Committee included those related to reducing violence against women and girls that link to WASH.</p>

**References/Links**

- UK Parliament, Commons Select Committee, Violence Against Women and Girls. Available at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/international-development-committee/inquiries/parliament-2010/vaw/> [accessed November 2013].
- Gender and Development Network (2013) *IDC Enquiry on Violence Against Women and Girls* (unpublished).
- WaterAid (2013c) *WaterAid's Response to the International Development Committee Inquiry on Violence Against Women and Girls*. Available at: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmselect/cmintdev/writev/934/contents.htm> [accessed 11 October 2013].

**VIOLENCE  
GENDER  
& WASH**

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