



## Violence and health: implications of the 2030 Agenda for South–North collaboration

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Through the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, the United Nations (UN 2015) invited the world to collaborate in an inclusive, long-ranging vision for the future. It highlights our interdependence and collective responsibility for human life on this planet. Preventing violence is at the heart of its ambitious agenda to “promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development” (UN 2015: Goal 16). Recognizing that violence not just causes death and disability but limits creativity, economic growth, and general well-being, it begins to conceive of a world without violence.

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In September 2015, the global campaign for violence prevention (GCVP), the World Health Organization (WHO) Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA) meeting, and the first VPA academic meeting converged in Geneva before the launch of the *2030 Agenda* to discuss “Linking Global Violence Prevention with Sustainable Development.” The meetings underscored that 90 % of global violence occurs in regions that contribute only 10 % of published research and led to this special issue. Compiling mostly scientific research, this issue complements the policy papers of a companion VPA special issue with the *Journal of Public Health Policy* (Lee et al. 2016).

The core of the WHO VPA’s mission lies in multisectoral collaboration and interdisciplinary integration. Contributions by member networks to this special issue range in discipline as well as research methods to offer cross-geographic and -cultural perspectives. In an invited editorial, Kjaerulf and colleagues of the VPA present an overview of the *2030 Agenda* and the need for researchers and interventionists to work boldly toward violence prevention. Eslami and colleagues then report on a large-scale study of European countries of variable income in a neglected area of research even for the Global North: the demographics of elder abuse.

For the rest of the issue, articles are divided by 2016 World Bank income classifications, with the most important category coming last. Goodall and colleagues from Scotland, Wathen and colleagues from Canada, and Johansen and Tjørnhøj-Thomsen from Denmark show how intricate data collection in the Global North could be a guide to studies in the Global South. We discover how using a public health framework to monitor alcohol use, distinguishing the different experiences and trajectories of intimate partner violence (IPV), and developing a broader approach to the oft-underestimated consequences of stalking can contribute to a more thorough understanding of violence.

Among high middle-income countries, Cervantes-Trejo and colleagues report Mexico's progress in road safety, demonstrating that reckless but noncriminal risk-taking behaviors, closely related to violence, are equally preventable. Mejia and colleagues address the important issue of transportability of interventions across cultures through a Panaman context. Among low middle-income countries, Jansen and colleagues study Vietnam, Urada and colleagues the Philippines, and Hansen-Nord and colleagues Honduras, demonstrating various interventions to protect those who are vulnerable to IPV, human immunodeficiency virus, and community violence, respectively.

In the final but important category, low-income countries, Uwizeye and colleagues open with Rwanda to assert that governmental policies on violent conflict need to incorporate gender-based violence. From Uganda, Wagman and colleagues show that IPV can contribute to union disruption and not only act as a protective factor. Vyas and Heise investigate the influence of socioeconomic standing and gender norms on women's risk of partner violence in Tanzania. Finally, Campbell and colleagues find that levels of IPV before and after the earthquake in Haiti do not reflect similar changes as after natural disasters in the USA.

Taken as a whole, this special issue draws on a variety of settings to show that violence, in all forms, is detrimental to society. By highlighting underrepresented work, especially in response to the *2030 Agenda's* call, it seeks to reflect more fairly the balance of the burden of disease. Above all, we hope that this WHO VPA special issue contributes to the globe's ongoing endeavor to reduce violence and to make our world a happier, healthier, and more peaceful place.

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