



COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

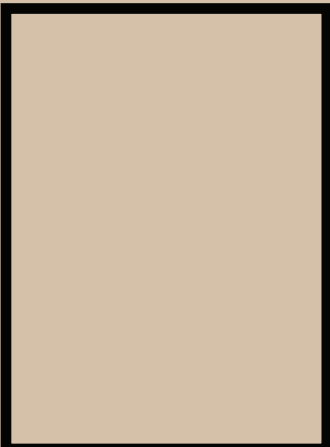
[Redacted text block]



[Redacted text block]

A SCOPING RESEARCH ON GBV IN DUTCH PRINTED MEDIA

[Redacted text block]



[Redacted text block]



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Author: Pleun Elsa Andriessen (Transform the norm)

Acknowledgements: Nieneke van den Akker (Cordaid) provided backstop support for the development of this report

Editors: Myrthe van Gestel (Fairspace) and Hannah Kabelka (KIT)

Editing and Graphic design: Tristan Bayly (KIT)

This report was commissioned by the Share-Net Netherlands' Community of Practice on Gender-based violence.



CONTENTS

4	INTRODUCTION
5	DEFINING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
5	ANALYSIS CHECKLIST
7	THE PERSPECTIVE OF JOURNALISTS
8	RESULTS AND FINDINGS The various forms of reporting on GBV Does the reporting avoid further harm/traumatisation Is the reporting accurate and appropriate Other
13	EXAMPLES Examples of 'Good Reporting' Examples of 'Bad Reporting'
16	CONCLUSIONS
18	ANNEXES Checklist 'Good Reporting' Explained Articles Included Per Newspaper Examples of Good Reporting Terminology Recommended for AD

INTRODUCTION

The way we think is greatly formed by the way information is delivered to us. In this, the media plays an important role. Existing stereotypes, such as gender norms, are maintained within the way media frames their stories, and continue to shape our perceptions and ideas about the role of women and girls in society. Moreover, they can address the same norms that cause and enable gender-based violence (GBV). Research shows that 46% of news stories reinforce gender stereotypes, while only 4% actively challenge them.

Gender inequality underpins GBV. The way that GBV is framed in the media directly affects the way society perceives and evaluates the phenomenon. This might create a conflict of interest; what makes a good headline or story for journalists, may not be in the interest of the survivor or gender equality. The representation of the complexity of gender inequality, the wider context of violence, the impact on survivors, and the competing narratives of 'victimhood' against the need to recognise the intersectionality and power dynamics underlying GBV, need to be handled with care, thought and specialist guidance.

Against this backdrop, the Share-Net Netherlands' Community of Practice on GBV working on knowledge generation and sharing on GBV prevention and response both in the Netherlands and internationally set out to gain a better understanding on the status of GBV reporting in Dutch printed media. This report reflects on the following research questions:

- How can GBV be framed in a way that is free from harmful gender norms and stigma?
- How is gender based violence currently being framed in Dutch printed media?

The findings are drawn from interviews with Dutch Journalists and a qualitative analysis of 112 articles from eight Dutch national newspapers covering the time frame of March to September 2021.

The newspapers included in this scoping research are:

- a. AD
- b. NRC
- c. De Trouw
- d. Het Parool
- e. De Telegraaf
- f. De Volkskrant
- g. Nederlands Dagblad
- h. Metro

1. UNICEF (2020). Responsible representation and reporting of violence against women and violence against children. Guidelines for media professional (Available online: <https://www.unicef.org/rosa/media/12401/file/Guidelines%20for%20Media%20Professionals.pdf>)

2. Mediasupport (2020). The crucial role of media in achieving gender equality (Available at <https://www.mediasupport.org/the-crucial-role-of-media-in-achieving-gender-equality/>)

3. More information about the Community of Practice on GBV: <https://share-net.nl/communities-of-practice/gender-based-violence/>

4. This period marked the last 6 months when the assignment started.

DEFINING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

As defined by the Istanbul convention⁵ and later reiterated by the European commission,⁶ “gender-based violence against women shall mean violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately”. Additionally, “violence against women is understood as a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women and shall mean all acts of gender-based violence that result in, or are likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”.

Though GBV and VAW are not to be mistaken as the same, they do often intersect as most violence against women is inflicted (consciously or unconsciously) for gender-based reasons, and gender-based violence affects women disproportionately.⁷

Taking into account the above explanation and the scope of this research, the term gender-based violence will be used throughout, with that not disregarding that the theme’s/violations discussed are also forms of violence against women. Additionally, the analysis includes reporting on the following themes/violations:

- Institutionalised/structural violence
- Physical violence
- Sexual violence
- Psychological violence
- Economic violence
- Intimate partner violence
- Forced marriage
- Hiding women/abduction
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Femicide.

ANALYSIS CHECKLIST

What is a ‘good’ way of reporting on GBV in the Netherlands?

Taking into account the good practices identified in the first phase of this research,⁸ a number of factors are identified and translated into a so-called ‘checklist’ to help indicate whether the reporting on GBV is done in an accurate and adequate manner that avoids further harm. A short justification/explanation of each factor can be found in [Annex A](#).

With regards to *Section 1*, this data demonstrates the nature of the article, thereby identifying the angle, the types of GBV reported on, as well as the actors included in the article.

5. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=treaty-detail&treatynum=210>

6. Movisie Toolbox voor verandering: Uitleg over veelgebruikte begrippen

7. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/gender-matters/what-is-gender-based-violence>

8. An overview of the good practices included in designing this checklist can be found here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vW5X9Sq4vjI2QZ0KEP73hDoJF5bQ87-qeYrJDp-k2OE/edit?usp=sharing>

Section 2 helps identify the number of good practices used for the reporting. The more are included in the article,⁹ the more one can argue that the GBV is reported in an adequate manner that avoids further harm and stereotyping.

Section 3 is a more qualitative analysis of the language used, thereby looking at different wording, tone, and (underlying) message of the articles.¹⁰

Checklist good reporting:

Section 1: Defining the angle

- **Type of article**
 - News report
 - Opinion pieces
 - Story-telling/raising awareness
- **Topic(s)**
 - Institutional/structural violence
 - Physical violence
 - Sexual violence
 - Psychological violence
 - Economic violence
 - Intimate partner violence
 - Forced marriage
 - Abduction/Hiding women
 - Female Genital Mutilation
 - Femicide
- **Actor: Who is the subject in the article?**
 - Person who was subjected to violence
 - Person who was subjected and survived violence
 - Perpetrator of violence
 - Family of person subjected to the violence
 - Family of perpetrator
 - Witness to violence
 - Law enforcement police, judiciary, politicians
 - Experts
 - Theoretical/society

Section 2: Content analysis

- **Checklist good reporting¹¹**

Does the reporting avoid further harm/traumatisation? Does the article:

- Leave out harmful details?
- Leave out information that identifies the survivor?
- Name the violence for what it is?
- Does the imagery avoid stereotyping or further harm

9. After excluding the non-relevant factors for the specific article. i.e. some articles did not include an image or reported on individual cases, making those factors irrelevant.

10. This first draft includes the analysis of the Sections 1&2

11. (based on earlier defined requirements) find explanation in [Annex A](#).

THE PERSPECTIVE OF JOURNALISTS

Is the reporting accurate and appropriate? Does the article:

- Avoid making the events sensational?
- Use active language to describe the violence?
- Use respectful language?
- Include experts?
- Include statistics?
- Include useful information such as helplines?

Section 3: Narrative analysis, highlighting language nuances

- Detecting suggesting/implying language/tones
- Detecting judgemental language/tones
- Detecting language/tones reinforcing gender norms (stereotyping).

As part of this research, journalists working for the eight newspapers included were approached, as well as other stakeholders involved in ethical (GBV) media reporting.

Some key findings from this correspondence on GBV reporting in Dutch newspapers from the journalists perspective are the following:

- Newspapers work with style guides,¹² thereby providing the guidelines for writing within the scope of ethical journalism and in the scope of the newspaper. Though it refers to reporting on some complicated topics, the guidelines often remain general and do not directly mention GBV.
- The general understanding is that there are no guidelines on reporting on GBV or that the journalists are not aware of its existence. However, the same counts for many other types of violence.
- Recently, reporting on GBV has been a topic of discussion in the 'world' of journalism, The AD is now developing a guiding document for reporting on GBV. This still needs to be finalised.
- Journalists identified the need and interest to learn more about how to interview survivors and how to adequately use the information received.
- Other dilemmas raised when it comes to reporting on GBV are romanticisation of the violence, balancing reporting with readability, and the dealing with multiple actors and powers involved in developing the final article. Some of these will be discussed in the findings section.

12. Example style-guide of one of the included newspapers: <https://nrccode.nrc.nl/>

RESULTS AND FINDINGS

These results demonstrate the most significant trends identified by the analysis checklist.

Despite few explicit descriptions of violence being included, please note that some of the examples referred to in these results may be triggering.

The various forms of reporting on GBV

Most prevalent forms of GBV reporting:

1. 69% news reporting:
 - a. Court cases
 - b. Reporting on violence that took place
 - c. Political development, both nationally and internationally
2. 25% Opinion articles on:
 - a. The current available resources and systems dealing with GBV
 - b. Commentary on ongoing high profile cases or the development in dealing with GBV on a legal, societal and individual level
3. 9% Story-telling/raising awareness:
 - a. Often articles where survivors share their story on how they came out of/overcame the systemic violence in their lives
 - b. Raising awareness on ongoing cases, developments, campaigns, political affairs (nationally and internationally)

Does the reporting avoid further harm/traumatisation?

Romanticising GBV

The Dutch language is used to create distance around the topic of domestic violence. Referring to intimate partner violence as 'conflict in a private/home context' or 'crime passionnel' is an example of this. However, there were a significant number of articles that addressed the underlying issue of dealing with intimate partner violence within the private realm in which it takes place.

*Example of romanticising in a news reporting article of an ongoing court case on intimate partner violence and rape:

'Er volgt een woordenwisseling. Er valt een klap. Maar er wordt ook gezoend. En uiteindelijk is er seks'

Translation: '..the situation continues with an argument. There is a slap. But there is also kissing. And finally they have sex'

Naming the violence

The majority of articles (77%) were accurately naming the violence using the right terminology. Most cases where this was not the case were found in articles reporting on ongoing cases, where the perpetrator was not yet found guilty of the alleged violence. This avoidant reporting was mostly reflected in:

- Descriptive titles/explanations. When referring to GBV cases outside of the Netherlands, the descriptions were more graphic, whereas the Dutch cases were more likely to be described using more respectful language
- Romanticised/distanced framing of the violence
- Use of terms like 'misbruik' or 'grensoverschrijdend gedrag' (elaborated upon below).

*Example of this type of avoidant reporting:

Title: *'Amnesty: 1 op 10 Nederlandse studentes slachtoffer van seks zonder instemming'*

Translation: Title: 'Amnesty: 1 out of 10 Dutch students victim of sex without consent'

*Example of naming violence:

Title: *'Chinese webreus Alibaba schorst medewerkers na mogelijk seksueel misbruik'*

Translation: 'Chinese web giant Alibaba suspends employees after possible sexual abuse'

COVID-19

Another significant amount of the articles addressed the consequences of COVID-19 on existing and threats of intimate partner violence cases. Both the anticipation of rise in intimate partner violence and the difficulties of dealing with that as a consequence of COVID-19 restrictions were addressed. Interestingly, more space was given to articles that point out the problem, than to articles that address the measures taken to deal with the situation such as 'mask-19' or the creation of an intimate partner violence hotline in e.g. supermarkets.

Actors

63% of the articles included the survivors or victims of GBV as an actor and 57% included the perpetrator as an actor. Notably, in many articles the reporting focussed on the perpetrator and their (alleged) actions. A tendency that one can consider to be in line with the judicial system that is centred in responding to the crime (perpetrator) and not so much in acting from the needs of the survivor. Consequently, the vast majority of reporting included statements/responses with regards to the allegations or sharing of stories by the perpetrator, creating an unequal distribution where the space for the survivor to share was significantly less. Arguably, reporting

certain responses from the perpetrators adds to the level of sensational news and can be harmful for the survivor and/or readers who are survivors of GBV.

*An example of the latter is:

‘Hij ontkende dat hij de vrouwen onder druk zette om hun schulden af te lossen in natura. En ook dat hij dreigde met huisuitzettingen of het in beslag nemen van hun spullen. Hij had alleen seks met vrouwen met wie hij een klik had. En hij betaalde ze ervoor. “Ze moesten zelf weten wat ze met dat geld deden. Boodschappen doen, of schulden aflossen.”’

Translation: He denied that he pressured the women to pay off their debts through sex, and also that he threatened them with evictions or confiscation of their belongings. He only had sex with women he clicked with, and he paid them for it. “They had to know for themselves what to do with that money. Grocery shopping, or pay off debts pay.”

Sensation news/entertainment

The stories of domestic and sexual violence by celebrities were consistent in all the newspapers. This includes both Dutch and international cases. Two specific cases (Lil’ Kleine & Bilal Wahib) were repeatedly covered in the newspapers. Not only in reporting these specific instances, but also as an example or reference point for other news reports or opinion articles. Arguably, it seems that the inclusion of such examples increases the readability of such articles.

Detailed descriptions of violence

Another significant result of the research is the graphic description of the violence. Though it was more prevalent in a specific set of newspapers, it was a recurring pattern. Very graphic scenes surrounding intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and femicide were not only described in the titles, but also throughout the body text.

*Examples of detailed description of the violence:

International case:

“...En heeft haar meerdere malen verkracht. De vrouw was niet in staat zich te verzetten. Ze liep letsel op tijdens de urenlange aanval, onder meer omdat S. op haar pacemaker had geslagen.”

“...And he raped her multiple times. The woman was unable to resist. She was badly injured as a consequence of the multiple hour long attack, partly because S. had hit her pacemaker.”

Dutch case:

“Zo heeft de man een nijptang in de tong van zijn vrouw gezet en haar vervolgens langdurig door de woning getrokken. Ook heeft hij kokend water over haar borsten gegoten.”

“For example, the man put pincers in his wife's tongue and then pulled her through the house for a long time. He also poured boiling water over her breasts.”

Is the reporting accurate and appropriate?

Titles

Often the titles serve the purpose of drawing readers to the articles, thereby using harmful framing. It is important to note that in many cases, the authors of the articles do not get a say in what title is used. Examples of such harmful framing are:

- Explicit titles: Titles that include quotes of the perpetrator, or graphic descriptions of the violence.
- Unrelated titles: Use of ‘infamous’ cases (e.g. Bilal Wahib) to draw the reader's attention. The title then often refers to one line of the article and not at all to the topic or premise.
- Reusing articles: Some articles were used multiple times in the same newspaper, or sometimes even in different ones. A different title would be the only difference.
- Romanticising title: Narrating the violence in a ‘dramatic’ way that does not name the violence using the right term and/or avoids stigmatisation of the survivor/perpetrator relationship.

*Example of harmful such a romanticising title (not naming the violence and inactive language towards the violence):

‘De affaire die naaister Ichelle (29) het leven kostte; Toen Felix berichten van haar kreeg, was ze al dood’

Translation: ‘The affair that cost seamstress Ichelle (29) her life; When Felix got messages from her, she was already dead.’

Experts/statistics

Statistics were used, though mostly for longer articles which did not make up the majority of the analysed stories. More prevalent was the inclusion of experts, ranging from academics, police officials, and GBV health care workers. Articles that focussed on GBV from a more societal perspective or when addressing high profile cases tended to include experts. Femicide and forced marriage were the forms of GBV that were mainly discussed through a societal lens, whereas domestic violence and sexual violence were more prevalent in articles reporting on individual cases.

Other

Helplines and criticism

Only 7% of the articles included additional information for people to refer to if they were experiencing a form of GBV. Interestingly, criticising the resources for survivors to reach out to, and the judicial process when involving the police, was a recurring theme. Though some of these criticisms were expressed through storytelling by survivors, little to no effort was put into balancing that criticism by providing resources for others.

Example criticism:

Title: *'Verkracht? Wacht even met aangifte, zegt de politie nog steeds'*

Translation: *'Raped? The police continue to say to wait with filing a police report'*

A recurring theme: online sexual violence

Though not in a direct answer to the research question, one theme was addressed across all the newspapers. The rise of online sexual violence, and more specifically, the concern with addressing this type of violence was mentioned multiple times.

Terms

- Abuse vs. violence

The Dutch word for abuse (misbruik) is a way of not directly naming the violence. It is one of the most common terms when reporting on GBV, VAW or violence against children. Though it highlights a clear violation, it mitigates the gravity of the crime by not naming the gender/sexual/physical/psychological etc. elements of the violence.

- Grensoverschrijdend gedrag

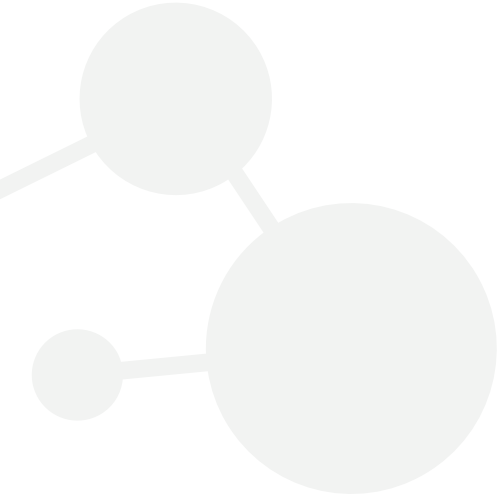
Another term that is continuously used in many articles is 'boundary passing behaviour' (grensoverschrijdend gedrag). This is often an inaccurate term as it is passive in nature and avoids naming the violence. It is an ambiguous term that continues to be used in the reporting; it does not describe the violence and it moves away from criminalisation of the act.

Stereotyping

Several forms of stereotyping detected throughout the set of articles:

- Victimising women, vulnerable people stereotypes
- Victim blaming example:

"De affaire rond Smeets leert ons dat het belangrijk is om schaamte te overwinnen en je verhaal wel te vertellen. Alleen als de feiten openbaar worden, kan er verandering optreden. Verzamel dus eerst al je moed en kom uit je schulp. Denk niet: ben ik nou gek, maar praat erover. Blijf er niet alleen mee zitten."



Translation: “The Smeets affair teaches us that it is important to overcome shame and tell your story. Only when the facts become public can change occur. So first gather all your courage and come out of your shell. Don't think: am I crazy? but talk about it, don't just sit there with it.”

- Examples of depersonalising the survivor (often the woman) by naming the perpetrator and referring to the other by ‘the wife’, ‘the partner’
- Stereotyping women as facilitators of violence but not as perpetrators
- Intersection with culture and religion. One-sided reporting of including and highlighting religion/cultural components only when the perpetrator is identified as being part of the Islamic community. The only other reference made with regards to religion/culture, is GBV within the Catholic church (though only systemically, not individually).

Example of ‘good’ reporting

Most examples of ‘good’ reporting are not the articles that report on specific (court) cases of GBV. Opinion or storytelling articles are usually lengthier, include a more elaborate analysis of specific situations or phenomena, as well as input from professionals and the inclusion of helpful information. Considering the length of these articles, some excerpts can be found in [Annex C](#) that exemplify this sensitive and more holistic way of reporting.

- Leave out harmful details
- Name the violence for what it is
- Include data and professionals
- Avoids making the cases sensations
- Using active and respective language
- Identification of power structures
- Avoids stereotyping

Examples of 'bad' reporting

Newspaper: AD, 21-04-2021

Type: report on court case

Title: *We zien vaker bij huiselijk geweld: hij slaat maar is aardig voor de kat. laat hem maar terugkomen*

OOSTERHOUT - Een 43-jarige Oosterhouter drong de woning van zijn vriendin binnen, deelde klappen uit, greep haar bij de keel en verkrachtte haar. Tot zover de aanklacht. Tijdens de strafzaak zegt zij: "Vergeef hem maar. Hij heeft al genoeg straf gehad."

De verdachte ontkent niet dat hij hardhandig is geweest. Maar de seks was vrijwillig. Officier van justitie Mark de Graaf gelooft daar geen snars van. "Ze huilde, schreeuwde en duwde hem weg" Hij eist 36 maanden onvoorwaardelijk.

Overdreven

Het slachtoffer houdt wel staande dat de seks tegen haar wil was. Maar bij haar aangifte was ze emotioneel heeft ze 'misschien wat overdreven'. De verdachte is best een goeie vent: "Ik heb het moeilijk zonder hem." Ze vindt behandeling van zijn depressieve klachten belangrijker dan straf. Op zijn beurt zegt hij dat-ie helemaal niet terug wil bij haar. De verdachte zit bijna zes maanden in voorarrest voor de gebeurtenissen op 25 oktober vorig jaar. Hier is meer aan de hand. Mevrouw is nota bene op ons verzoek gehoord.

De relatie tussen beiden liep na zes jaar op z'n eind. De verdachte had het daar moeilijk mee. Dat blijkt uit mailtjes waarin hij afwisselend zegt seks te willen, maar ook schrijft: "Je bent geen mens, je bent een varken." Op de bewuste dag gooit hij 's ochtends zand door de brievenbus. De politie ziet ook poep, maar dat ontkent hij. 's Avonds komt hij terug. "Ik wilde met haar praten."

Er volgt een woordenwisseling. Er valt een klap. Maar er wordt ook gezoend. En uiteindelijk is er seks. Was dat na de mishandeling na dat hij haar bij de keel had gegrepen? Of ging de verdachte over de rooie toen na het vrijen op haar telefoon een berichtje met een hartje binnenkwam?

Kat

'We zien het vaker bij huiselijk geweld: hij slaat, maar is aardig voor de kat. Laat hem maar terugkomen'

Zijn advocaat Erik Thomas bestrijdt de mishandeling niet. Maar bepleit vrijspraak voor verkrachting. Het is volgens hem goed denkbaar dat zijn cliënt in zijn hunkering op het verkeerde baan is gezet door het zoenen. "We zien het vaker bij huiselijk geweld. Hij heeft klappen, maar is toch aardig voor de kat. Laat 'maar terugkomen. Maar hier is meer aan de hand. Mevrouw is nota bene op ons verzoek gehoord. Ze belt ook mij en zegt: Dit wil ik allemaal niet". Het finale woord is aan de rechtbank op 4 mei.

Analysis: An explanation of the highlighted parts is below.

Please note that this is an example and does not exclude the possibility that a particular example can exemplify multiples of the following attributes:

- **Harmful details:** Graphic description of violence, information that could identify the victim, not naming the violence for what it is
- **Inaccurate and inappropriate reporting:** sensationalising the event, romanticising the case, passive description of events (e.g. title)
- **Stereotyping:** Women as helpless victim, victim blaming

Additionally to the concrete examples given above, the tone of the article is one of 'novel-like' storytelling instead of reporting a crime. One could further argue that the article suggests that the survivor is not credible and holds some responsibility within these cases of violence.

Examples of imagery that are stereotyping and potential harmful

Newspaper: Telegraaf, 26-06-2021

Type: Raising awareness

Title: Enkeltje naar onbekende ellende



Newspaper: ND, 22-04-2021

Type: News report/raising awareness

Title: Bundle krachten tegen misbruik



CONCLUSIONS

In conducting this research, the Share-Net Netherland's Community of Practice on GBV aimed to unpack how GBV can be framed in a way that is free from harmful gender norms and stigma and shed more light on how GBV is currently being framed in Dutch printed media.

Firstly, to frame GBV in a way that is free from harmful gender norms and stigma, it is important to generate universal guidelines and restrictions that are implemented at every media-platform and that journalists are being held accountable against. Conversations with Dutch journalists suggest that most journalists were not aware of any guidelines on sensitive GBV reporting, however, the AD was developing a guiding document. The consultations further concluded that journalists identified a specific need and interest in learning more about how to interview survivors and how to adequately use this information. This report provided a checklist for respectful reporting in line with several guiding questions that can support journalists in defining the angle, as well as analysing the content and narrative. Further steps for sensitisation, guidance and exchange with journalists will be considered by the CoP on the way forward.

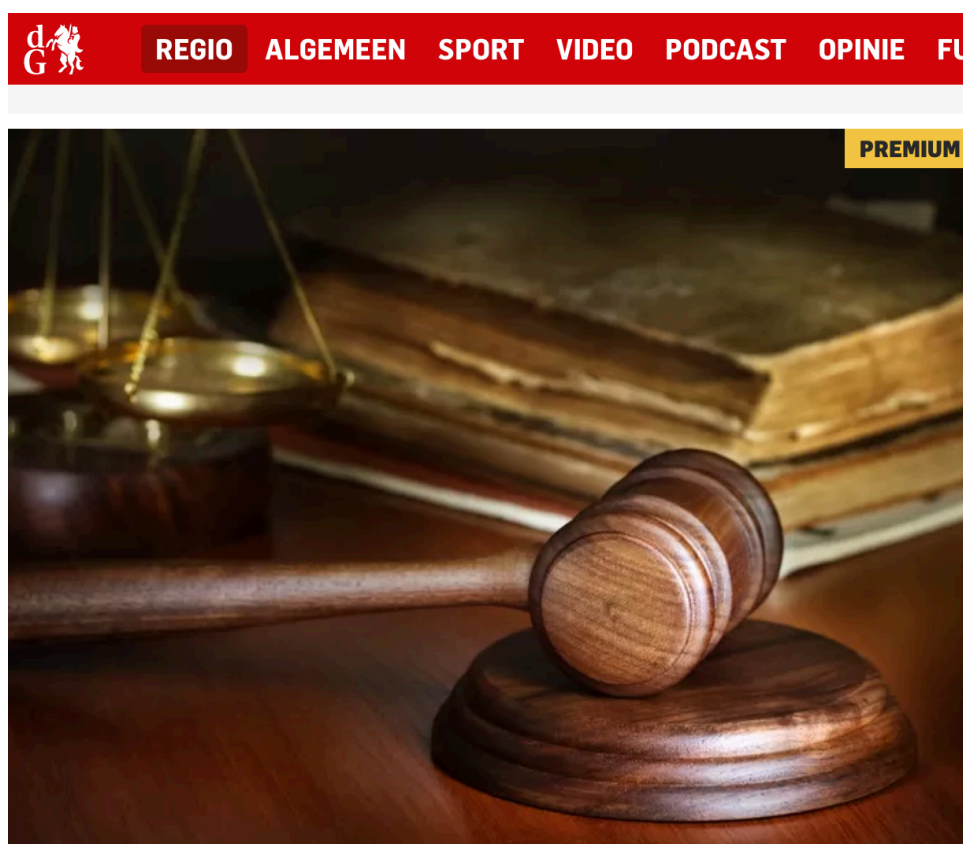
Secondly, the report discussed some identified 'bad practices' in GBV reporting. A recurring pattern was observed where violence was graphically described not only in the titles, but also throughout the text body intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and femicide. The titles often serve the purpose of drawing readers, thereby using harmful framing. The terms abuse and 'boundary passing behaviour' were used way more frequently than the term violence, which mitigate the gravity of the crime by not naming the gender/sexual/physical/psychological etc. elements of the violence. Stereotyping was detected throughout all the articles, namely: victim blaming, depersonalising the survivor, framing women as facilitators to the violence and one-sided reporting of religion/cultural components, only when the perpetrator is identified as being part of the Islamic community.

After the revelations of The Voice of Holland, OneWorld also analysed what words the Dutch media actually uses when they write about sexual abuse.¹³ Their main findings also correspond with this report, that all the media under review preferred to use the terminology of 'boundary passing behaviour' (seksueel grensoverschrijdend gedrag). While most media stayed away from sensationalist terms in the month under review, in the first days after RTL's statement, De Telegraaf (also) spoke of a 'sex scandal' and a 'sex riot'. But even after the events of The Voice, the 'sex riot' does not seem like a reporting taboo. Among other recent findings, OneWorld draws attention to AD's headline from March reading "Sex riot around pastor could cost Scottish Prime Minister Sturgeon his head" or, as Volkskrant columnist Jean-Pierre Geelen once wrote: "Of all the riots, the sex riot sounds by far the best. We like it a lot."

13. OneWorld (2022). Waarom media 'seksueel wangedrag' schrijven als het over verkrachting gaat. (Available at: <https://www.oneworld.nl/lezen/analyse/waarom-media-seksueel-wangedrag-schrijven-als-het-over-verkrachting-gaat/>)

In conclusion, this preliminary scoping research demonstrated that reporting on GBV in Dutch print media is not yet free from harmful gender norms and stigma. While this report provided a first checklist for good reporting and addressed some of the recurring shortcomings of reporting practices, the GBV CoP is open to hearing more suggestions and ideas for co-creating learning on the matter.

Example newspaper article on GBV from De Gelderlander – the headline was changed after receiving lots of criticism



▲ © Thinkstock

Gedwongen seks tussen neef (18) en nichtje (14) verscheurt familie

ARNHEM - Twee gezinnen van een Turkse familie in Arnhem zijn verscheurd geraakt nadat een neef van 18 seks had met zijn nichtje van 14. Tot teleurstelling van het meisje en haar vader houdt de officier van justitie het bij een voorwaardelijke gevangenisstraf en een 'forse taakstraf'.

Henk van Gelder 08-04-21, 17:35 Laatste update: 09-04-21, 18:46

Annex A. Checklist 'Good Reporting' Explained

Does the reporting avoid further harm/traumatisation? Does the article:

- Leave out harmful details?
 - Personal details, very detailed description of violence, tones that can come across as suggestive for 'guilt'
- Leave out information that identifies the survivor?
 - The personal information of the survivor but also specifics of the crime such as use of weapon, location or perpetrator details
- Name the violence for what it is?
 - Not using vague and avoiding descriptions but using the right terminology of the violence: violence against women', 'family violence', 'psychological violence',
- Does the imagery avoid stereotyping or further harm?
 - Avoid images that disempower or infantilise survivors, such as 'clenched fists' or 'cowering women'

Is the reporting accurate and appropriate? Does the article:

- Avoid making the events sensational?
 - Headlines/images that portray the seriousness of the violence
- Use active language to describe the violence?
 - Example: 'man assaults wife' instead of 'woman assaulted.'
 - In Dutch: 'Man mishandeld zijn vrouw' in plaats van 'vrouw is mishandeld'
- Use respectful language?
 - Tones that can come across as suggestive for 'guilt' by the survivor
- Include experts?
 - Such as: survivors advocates, academics, relevant organisations
- Include statistics?
 - For example on the prevalence of the violence
- Include useful information such as helplines?
 - For examples helplines were others can go to receive help

Annex B. Articles included per newspaper

Link to the spreadsheet with all the articles included in this research:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1cmXeaUepn5idwtqZdXct2yIm2LuJ2A3F4rsykpKqYWg/edit?usp=sharing>

Annex C. Examples of good reporting

1.

Newspaper: NRC, 15-03-2021

Type: Opinion piece/news report

Title: 'Seksuele vorming op school vaak heterogericht'; Seksueel geweld

... Dat online dating voor veel jonge homo's een belangrijke bron is om seksuele ervaringen op te doen, bleek ook uit het artikel dat NRC zaterdag publiceerde in samenwerking met Het Parool. Daarin beschuldigen twintig jonge mannen de directeur van cultureel platform Moam in Amsterdam van gewelddadig en **seksueel** grensoverschrijdend gedrag.

...Uit het meest recente Seks onder je 25ste-rapport, een periodiek onderzoek door Rutgers, het Kenniscentrum seksualiteit, en Soa Aids Nederland, kwam in 2017 naar voren dat 44 procent van homojongens tussen de 17 en 24 jaar recent seks had via een datingapp. Bij heterojongeren was dat 6 procent.

...Aan de basis van **seksueel geweld** bij online dating ligt vaak een groot machtsverschil, waarbij daders hun leeftijd, sociale positie of mentaal dan wel lichamelijk overwicht uitspelen. De twintig mannen die de Moam-directeur beschuldigen, noemen daar diverse voorbeelden van. De in de meeste gevallen aanzienlijk oudere modeman zou hen in zijn huis hebben opgesloten, zijn positie in de modewereld hebben uitgespeeld of hen anderszins tot seks hebben gedwongen.

2.

Newspaper: AD, 25-08-2021

Type: News report

Title: Tilburgse kappers gaan op blauwe plekken letten, primeur in aanpak huiselijk geweld

Kappers in de regio Tilburg gaan helpen om huiselijk geweld te signaleren. De aanpak is nieuw in Nederland. Kappers ontmoeten hun klanten regelmatig, vaak jaren op een rij en hebben daardoor een relatie opgebouwd. Zij zien dus als het met iemand niet goed gaat, stellen Sterk Huis en de Taskforce Kindermishandeling.

Reden om ze te betrekken bij de aanpak van huiselijk geweld of kindermishandeling. Want dat hoort volgens de instanties niet alleen op het bordje te liggen van de zorgprofessionals. Samen met Coördinatiepunt Trainingen vindt in oktober de eerste training plaats bij kappersbedrijf John Beerens. Hij zet zich als vrijwilliger al jaren in voor Sterk Huis en werkt graag mee aan het initiatief. "Zodat ik kan helpen om geweld binnen gezinnen te stoppen." Gewoon babbelen, niet te zwaar maken...

..Jaarlijks hebben in Nederland tussen de 200.000 en 230.000 mensen te maken met ernstig of herhaald huiselijk geweld. Ruim 100.000 kinderen

per jaar zijn slachtoffer van kindermishandeling. Haans: “En dat is nog maar het topje van de ijsberg, heel veel is niet bekend. Slachtoffers zitten vaak in een afhankelijkheidsrelatie en hebben iemand anders nodig om ze eruit te halen.” Een kapper kan zo iemand zijn. Uit onderzoek door Sterk Huis onder slachtoffers van huiselijk geweld wordt de kapper vaak genoemd als iemand die ze vertrouwen en aan wie ze hun verhaal willen doen. In de toekomst wil het Coördinatiepunt Trainingen, waar Sterk Huis onderdeel van is, de training ook aanbieden aan andere beroepsgroepen zoals schoonheidsspecialisten, tandartsen en fysiotherapeuten.

3.

Example of imagery that avoids further harm and stereotyping

Newspaper: De Trouw, 19-04-2021

Type: News report

Title: Tijd voor nationaal actieplan tegen seksueel geweld



Annex D. Terminology Recommendation for AD

*Please note that this text below cannot be published or used for anything else. This is a recommendation to be incorporated in the style guide of the AD newspaper. On 27-01-2022, this recommendation was not yet accepted/included.

Femicide/vrouwenmoord

Naar aanleiding van een verzoek van de hoofdredactie heeft de stijlboekcommissie zich gebogen over de vraag welke omschrijving we gebruiken voor de moord op een vrouw in onze publicaties.

Volgens critici, bijvoorbeeld onlangs in de Rotterdamse gemeenteraad, blijft het verschijnsel momenteel onderbelicht doordat media, zoals onze kranten, stelselmatig verbloemende termen gebruiken, als ‘gezinsdrama’, ‘familiedrama’, ‘tragedie’ of ‘crime passionel’.

Eenzijds hoeven wij als krant ons qua woordkeus niet te richten naar de wensen van bijvoorbeeld belangengroeperingen die bepaalde zaken onder de aandacht willen brengen, of juist niet (zie de bijgevoegde column van Leon van Heel). Aan de andere kant snijdt de kritiek wel hout: de bovengenoemde termen zijn inderdaad verbloemend en suggereren dat het gaat om een drama waar alle betrokkenen door worden getroffen, terwijl doorgaans sprake is van een dader en een slachtoffer en het gaat om moord of doodslag (zie de column van Linda Akkermans).

In principe is de beschrijving ‘moord’ in alle gevallen adequaat: er is in principe geen verschil tussen een moord op een vrouw of op een man. Het gaat om hetzelfde misdrijf.

Aan de andere kant blijkt uit recente berichtgeving dat de moord op vrouwen, met name gepleegd door ex-partners, een reëel maatschappelijk probleem is. Het omgekeerde, de moord op een man door een vrouwelijke ex-partner, komt veel minder vaak voor. Hier is dus sprake van een maatschappelijk fenomeen, waarover we dus ook berichten. In dat kader is het dus te verdedigen om hiervoor een speciaal woord te gebruiken: dit kan vrouwenmoord zijn, of femicide.

Ons advies is:

- Vermijd gezinsdrama, familiedrama en crime passionel als het gaat om moord op een vrouw en/of kinderen.
- ‘Moord’ of ‘doodslag’ is een term die altijd adequaat is als het om dit misdrijf gaat.
- Het woord ‘vrouwenmoord’ of ‘femicide’ (evt ter afwisseling) kan ook worden gebruikt, zeker als het niet gaat om een specifiek geval, maar om het fenomeen dat vrouwen door (ex-)partners of familie worden gedood.

Share-Net
Netherlands
The Knowledge Platform on
Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights



Mauritskade 63
1092 AD Amsterdam
The Netherlands

P.O. Box 95001
1090 HA Amsterdam

T: +31 (0) 20 56 88 701
E: info@share-net.nl
www.share-net.nl