

Agenda Item 15. Ending violence against children through health systems strengthening and multisectoral approaches

The UK supports WHO's focus on integrating prevention and response of violence against children into health systems. In addition to country Ministries of Health, WHO should work with large health financiers such as the World Bank and Global Health Initiatives to urge integration of this issue into health programmes. WHO also has an important role to play in ensuring measurement of the extent of this issue through countrywide surveys.

There is a growing international consensus that greater collaboration is required between the fields of violence against children and violence against women. Increasing evidence points to shared risk factors and to effective ways to coordinate programming to address both forms of violence. Interventions are likely to have most impact when they identify common entry points to address multiple forms of violence that affect women and children. For example, better coordination of response services for children and women survivors of violence is vital; and schools, family planning, postnatal and vaccination clinics offer important entry points for both.

We welcome the global agenda for research on the intersections between violence against children and violence against women that was launched last year by WHO, UNICEF Office of Research Innocenti and the Sexual Violence Research Initiative. We encourage WHO to explore how future activities, including data collection, capacity-building, and the development of evidence-based strategies can encompass these two forms of violence.

The UK will continue to contribute to this evidence, particularly through the second phase of our What Works to Prevent Violence programme, which will scale-up proven violence prevention efforts and pioneer new scalable solutions in areas where evidence is lacking.