

Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response Brief

Advancing Safe, Survivor-Centred and Community-Led Responses Across Ghana

One Love Sisters Ghana (OLS) is committed to preventing and responding to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) through community-led, survivor-centred, and evidence-informed interventions that strengthen safety, wellbeing, and access to justice.

Across Ghana, many individuals continue to experience different forms of gender-based violence, including intimate partner violence, sexual violence, domestic abuse, emotional and psychological abuse, economic violence, online harassment, blackmail, coercion, and other forms of violence rooted in unequal power relations and discrimination. Many survivors face significant barriers to reporting incidents or accessing timely, confidential, and appropriate support.

OLS works to close these gaps by strengthening community awareness, expanding access to survivor support services, building referral networks, and generating evidence that informs policy and programming.

Our Approach

Our GBV programme is built around prevention, protection, response, and systems strengthening.

We work closely with communities, healthcare providers, psychologists, legal service providers, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to ensure survivors can access coordinated, confidential, and compassionate support.

Our interventions prioritize dignity, confidentiality, informed choice, and survivor autonomy at every stage of the response process.

What We Do

Community Awareness and Prevention

We conduct community education programmes that increase awareness of:

- Gender-based violence and its different forms
- Healthy relationships and consent
- Personal safety and risk reduction
- Available support services

- Community responsibility in preventing violence

These engagements help reduce stigma while encouraging early reporting and community accountability.

Survivor Support and Referrals

OLS provides confidential first-line support through our community support systems, connecting survivors to appropriate services, including:

- Psychosocial counselling
- Healthcare services
- Legal assistance
- Emergency safety planning
- Shelter and protection referrals
- Case management and follow-up support

Our role is to ensure survivors receive coordinated care while maintaining confidentiality and respecting their choices.

Capacity Strengthening

We work with community leaders, volunteers, service providers, and partner organizations to strengthen knowledge and skills on:

- Survivor-centred response
- Psychological first aid
- Safe referrals
- Confidentiality and safeguarding
- Trauma-informed approaches
- Ethical case management

Research and Evidence Generation

OLS continues to generate community-led evidence that documents barriers to accessing GBV prevention and response services.

This research supports:

- Improved programme design
- Evidence-informed advocacy
- Better resource allocation
- Stronger referral systems
- Policy development

Why This Work Matters

Gender-based violence has lasting effects on physical health, mental wellbeing, economic security, education, and community participation.

Preventing violence requires more than responding to incidents—it requires addressing underlying inequalities, strengthening community support systems, improving access to services, and ensuring survivors are treated with dignity and respect.

Community-led solutions remain essential to building safer and more resilient communities.

Our Impact

Through our GBV programme, OLS has contributed to:

- Increased community awareness of GBV prevention.
- Expanded access to confidential survivor support and referrals.
- Strengthened collaboration between community organizations and service providers.
- Improved knowledge of consent, healthy relationships, and personal safety.
- Increased access to psychosocial support for survivors.
- Stronger evidence to inform community interventions and advocacy.

Looking Ahead

OLS is expanding its GBV programme by strengthening integrated community response systems that combine:

- Community education
- GBV hotlines
- Tele-nursing services
- Mental health and psychosocial support
- Survivor referrals
- Community research
- Digital awareness campaigns
- Capacity strengthening for frontline responders

Our goal is to ensure that survivors can access timely, confidential, and coordinated support regardless of where they live.

A Call to Partners

Ending gender-based violence requires collective action.

One Love Sisters Ghana welcomes collaboration with government institutions, healthcare providers, civil society organizations, community leaders, academic institutions, donors, and development partners committed to strengthening survivor-centred services and preventing violence.

Together, we can build communities where everyone can live free from violence, access quality support services, and exercise their rights with dignity, safety, and confidence.