

CREATING SPACES

DID YOU KNOW?

ALL SIX COUNTRIES Creating Spaces is active in have existing laws that protect survivors and prevent CEFM - but not all laws are implemented equally. Not all religious clerics, community elders and politicians make the prevention of VAWG a priority.



The **CREATING SPACES** project works with legislators, lawyers and influencers to advocate for stronger laws where required or the full implementation/enforcement of existing laws.

THERE IS A GENERAL AWARENESS of the prevalence of violence, but not the level and forms of violence, including non-physical violence.



Violence comes in many forms and the **CREATING SPACES** project works with communities to educate women and girls about different forms of violence, what their rights are, how to access services and work collectively to prevent violence.

THE MOST COMMON FORM OF VIOLENCE across all countries is domestic violence, particularly intimate partner violence.



OXFAM is working with communities to empower women to know their rights and to challenge cultural practices that deny or diminish the impact of violence in communities.

NOT ALL SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE KNOW that support services are available or where to access them.



CREATING SPACES works with local partners to map out services and has developed service directories for its project areas so that women know where to go for help.

IN ALL SIX COUNTRIES Creating Spaces is active in, the most common type of support services include informal or traditional community courts or justice systems, and organizations that offer counselling. The main challenge of community courts is that they are often outside the jurisdiction of provincial or federal law, and the implementation of national civil legislation may be ignored or dismissed.



CREATING SPACES works with community partners who are familiar with the cultural and religious context and coordinates with influencers, community advocates and religious leaders.

WOMEN AND GIRLS AFFECTED BY VIOLENCE may be hesitant to report to police and law enforcement, fearing that their cases will not be taken seriously and that police or other officials may perpetrate further violence.



CREATING SPACES conducts trainings for local police and other officials about gender equality and the harmful impacts of violence to improve accountability and support.

SOCIAL STIGMATIZATION impacts even the most influential people in society – and can dissuade them from speaking out.



CREATING SPACES recognizes the challenge of changing social norms. The project works with communities to increase discussion, information and advocacy to challenge customs that affect women and girls the most.

MEN, BOYS AND ELDERS in all six countries need to be informed about the harmful impact of CEFM – in their role as being both part of the problem and the solution.



CREATING SPACES works with men, boys and religious leaders to engage them as part of the solution to reducing VAWG and CEFM.

CORRUPTION AND BRIBERY can interfere with accountability mechanisms and the implementation of local laws.



CREATING SPACES is working with influencers and officials to inform them about the impact of violence, and how their roles as leaders can be used to reduce harm in their communities.

MEDIA COVERAGE often does not talk about the economic, psychological and social impacts of VAWG and CEFM on individuals and the broader community. Coverage of violence often blames the woman who has experienced violence.



By working with local media, journalists and reporters, **CREATING SPACES** is working to improve the reporting on VAWG and CEFM in each country. High profile cases of VAWG are helping to build momentum and public support for justice and change.

CREATING SPACES is an Oxfam Canada flagship project that works with local partners to take action to reduce violence against women and girls, including child, early and forced marriage in six countries: Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, and the Philippines.

Canada

CREATING SPACES IS UNDERTAKEN WITH THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA, PROVIDED THROUGH GLOBAL AFFAIRS CANADA



OXFAM