

# AmplifyHer: GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PREVENTION & RESPONSE Framework


OPEN KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

with support from

PLAN NIGERIA




## OVERVIEW

The Open Knowledge Development Initiative (OKDI) is a youth-led nonprofit organization dedicated to driving positive societal change. With a mission to empower individuals and communities, OKDI provides knowledge, tools, technologies, and resources to enable transformative action.

AMPLIFYHER, a flagship project of OKDI supported by PLAN International Nigeria, focuses on empowering girls in Gombe State to combat gender-based violence (GBV). Through a multifaceted approach, the project equips girls to lead GBV awareness and action within schools and communities. Key activities include:

- Developing a **GBV Protection** and **Response Framework..**
- Organizing **GBV Response Workshops** to create safer school environments.
- Conducting **Digital Advocacy** Training to amplify awareness.
- Establishing **Gender Clubs** in schools to promote gender equality and leadership.
- Engaging stakeholders through **collaborative sessions.**
- Hosting **radio programs** to extend outreach and education.

**AMPLIFYHER is a transformative initiative aimed at fostering safer learning environments and empowering girls to drive sustainable change.**

# ABOUT THE FRAMEWORK

The GBV Prevention and Response Framework is a step-by-step guide designed to equip young girls in schools with practical strategies to prevent and respond to gender-based violence (GBV). This framework is developed by the Open Knowledge Development Initiative (OKDI) with the support of PLAN International Nigeria to serve as a key resource for empowering students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to protect themselves. It outlines clear preventive measures, response mechanisms, and support systems to help girls address GBV-related challenges within their school environments.

The framework can be used in student training sessions and programs to ensure that young girls understand the risks associated with GBV so they can take action when faced with threats, thereby creating safer learning environments where girls can thrive without fear of violence or discrimination

## UNDERSTANDING

# Gender-Based Violence

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) refers to any harmful act perpetrated against a person based on their gender, often resulting in physical, sexual, psychological, or economic harm. It can occur in various settings, including schools, and affects persons of all genders, though girls and marginalized groups are disproportionately impacted. Perpetrators may include peers, teachers, school staff, or external individuals who interact with students.ction before the situation escalates.



## FORMS OF GBV

Recognizing the forms of GBV is important in preventing its occurrence and ensuring a safe learning environment. GBV can take various forms, some of which may be subtle but still harmful. Understanding them allows students, teachers, and school authorities to take action before the situation escalates.



Verbal GBV

Verbal GBV includes harmful words, insults, and degrading remarks based on gender. It can involve name-calling, spreading false rumors, or making dismissive comments that reinforce stereotypes. These words can create a hostile environment, lower self-esteem, and discourage students from participating in certain activities or subjects.

Physical GBV

Physical GBV involves any unwanted or harmful physical contact. This includes slapping, hitting, pushing, or other forms of aggression targeted at individuals because of their gender. It can also include actions that make students feel physically threatened or unsafe, such as intimidation, blocking movement, or using excessive force in punishments. Such violence can lead to fear, physical harm, and a reluctance to attend school.

Emotional GBV

Emotional GBV includes actions that manipulate, isolate, or humiliate someone based on gender. This can take the form of exclusion from group activities, discouraging students from pursuing specific interests, or making them feel incapable or inferior. Emotional abuse can have long-term psychological effects, affecting students' confidence, motivation, and academic performance.

Online GBV (Cyberbullying)

With the rise of digital communication, GBV has extended into online spaces. Cyberbullying involves harassment, threats, or public humiliation through social media, messaging apps, and other digital platforms. Students may face online abuse based on their gender, leading to embarrassment, anxiety, and in some cases, withdrawal from social and academic activities.

Sexual GBV

Sexual GBV includes any unwanted sexual advances, harassment, or coercion based on gender. It ranges from inappropriate comments and gestures to sexual assault and exploitation. Perpetrators can include fellow students, teachers, school staff, or others within the community. Sexual GBV violates bodily autonomy, often leaving survivors with lasting emotional trauma and discouraging them from engaging in education. Sexual GBV includes rape, sexual assault (unwanted touching or groping), forced exposure to pornography, female genital mutilation (FGM), virginity testing, sexual harassment (unwanted sexual advances, comments, or gestures), and sexual exploitation (coercion into sexual acts in exchange for favors, money, or opportunities).

Economic GBV

Economic GBV occurs when persons are denied financial resources, opportunities, or access to education and employment based on gender. In schools, this can manifest as restricting girls' access to scholarships, forcing them into early marriages for financial gain, or discouraging them from pursuing careers in male-dominated fields. Economic GBV limits financial independence,

# STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO GBV PREVENTION IN SCHOOLer-Based

## STEP 01 What You Can Do

**As a student, you should do the following:**

### 01 Protect Yourself

- Set clear boundaries – If someone makes you uncomfortable, say “Stop, I don’t like that.”
- Stay alert – Be aware of unsafe places like empty classrooms or bathrooms.
- Use the buddy system – Walk with friends in areas where bullying happens often.

- If someone tries to grab your bag or touch you inappropriately, firmly say “Don’t touch me” and walk away quickly.
- If you feel unsafe in certain school areas, avoid them when alone and inform a teacher.
- If someone makes repeated uncomfortable comments, report them to a trusted adult.

# 02 Speak Up Against GBV

- Call out bad behavior – If it's safe, tell the person, "That's not funny. It's harassment."
- Support victims – If a friend is being bullied, stand by them and offer to go with them to report it.
- Report incidents – Inform a teacher, school counselor, or a trusted adult if you see GBV happening.
  - If a classmate is making inappropriate jokes about another student, say "That's disrespectful. Stop it."
  - If you witness someone being harassed, offer to go with them to report it.
  - If a teacher ignores a report, seek help from a school administrator or another trusted adult.

# 03 Know Your Rights

- Familiarize yourself with school policies on bullying and GBV.
- Demand action – If your complaint is ignored, escalate it to higher authorities like the principal or child protection organizations.
- Learn about organizations that can help – Some NGOs and helplines specialize in GBV cases.
  - If your school fails to act after you report a case of GBV, talk to your parents or reach out to a youth rights organization such as the Open Knowledge Development Initiative (OKDI) through 07044354546
  - If you face discrimination, ask for a copy of the school's anti-bullying or gender equality policy.
  - If you feel unsafe reporting an issue alone, ask a friend or an adult to support you.

# STEP 02 What Your Teachers Can Do

**Your teachers can do the following:**

- Create safe spaces – Encourage open discussions about GBV without fear of judgment.
- Establish clear reporting channels – Make sure students know where and how to report cases.
- Take reports seriously – Investigate and ensure perpetrators face consequences.

  - When a teacher notices a student is withdrawn and or anxious. Instead of ignoring it, they should privately ask if something is wrong and offer a safe space to talk.
  - A school should sets up a suggestion box where you as students can report GBV anonymously.
  - A teacher should reinforce gender inclusion by encouraging all students to participate equally in activities.

# STEP 03 What Your School Can Do

**Your school should do the following:**

- Ensure Respect for all Genders – Promoting fairness and discouraging stereotypes.
- Education & Awareness – Organize workshops and anti-GBV programs during assemblies and in classes.
- Creation of GBV policy – Create a GBV Policy to ensure strict action and punishment against perpetrators.
- Gender and Safeguarding Counsellor: Dedicate a teacher to address all GBV related issues from students and act accordingly to preserve justice.

  - A school hosts a seminar where students learn about gender inclusion, respect, and safe reporting methods.
  - Principals and teachers should address GBV cases, menstrual hygiene, GBV prevention mechanisms, etc., during assembly where boys can listen so that they refrain.
  - The student clubs should organize campaigns encouraging everyone to speak up against GBV.

***Always Remember:***
***GBV thrives in silence. Speak up, stand together, and take action! Every student has the power to make school a safe space.***

# STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO GBV RESPONSE IN SCHOOLS

## 01 Immediate Response to GBV Incidents

### For Students

- Ensure Safety – Move to a safe location away from the perpetrator.
- Seek Help – Inform a trusted teacher, school counselor, or guardian.
- Support the Victim – Comfort and reassure them they are not alone.

Examples:

- A student witnesses a classmate being harassed and immediately alerts a teacher while ensuring the victim is safe.
- As students, form a group of friends and walk with a victim to the principal's office to report an incident.
- As students help your classmate who happens to be a victim to find a quiet place to calm down after an assault and then report the case.

### For Teachers

- Intervene Immediately – Stop the incident and separate the involved parties.
- Provide First Aid – If there are physical injuries, ensure immediate medical attention.
- Document the Incident – Write a brief report with details of what happened. But make it anonymous to avoid exposing the victim.

Examples:

- A teacher sees a student being bullied and immediately steps in to stop it while ensuring the victim gets emotional support.
- A school should provide first aid to a student injured in a GBV-related fight.
- A counselor should write a detailed report of a student's harassment case and submits it to the administration.

## 02 Reporting Mechanisms

### For Students

- Use School Reporting Channels – Report incidents to school authorities.
- Maintain Confidentiality – Respect the victim's privacy when reporting. Do not mention names, exposing sensitive or embarrassing narratives about the victim
- Seek External Support – If school authorities fail to act, contact a trusted organization or helpline like OKDI.

Examples:

- Any student who faces repeated harassment but sees no school action can contact their parents or a local child protection NGO like OKDI for help.
- A student writes an anonymous note detailing an incident and leaves it in the designated reporting box.
- Students gather evidence and present it to the principal to ensure action is taken.

### For Teachers

- Create a Safe Reporting Space – Ensure students feel comfortable reporting GBV.
- Maintain Transparency – Clearly explain the reporting process to students.
- Take Reports Seriously – Investigate and ensure the appropriate actions are taken.

Examples:

- A school counselor should ensure that all reports of GBV are followed up confidentially and appropriately.
- A teacher should reassure a student that their complaint will be taken seriously and not ignored. And report the case to the Police, Rights Protection Organizations like OKDI or any relevant authorities.
- The school administration should set up an anonymous GBV Reporting Box or an online form for students to report GBV incidents safely.

# STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO GBV RESPONSE IN SCHOOLS

## 03 Investigating the Incident



### For School Authorities

- Gather Evidence – Speak to witnesses and document statements discreetly.
- Protect the Victim – Ensure the student is safe and supported throughout the process.
- Take Swift Action – Apply disciplinary measures in line with school policies.

Examples:

- A principal sets up an emergency meeting to review GBV reports and takes immediate corrective measures.
- A disciplinary committee interviews witnesses and examines evidence before taking action.
- The school provides a temporary schedule adjustment to protect the victim from further harassment.

## 04 Providing Support for Victims

### For Students

- Offer Emotional Support – Be a friend and listen without judgment.
- Encourage Professional Help – Suggest speaking to parents, counselor or therapist.
- Help with Daily Tasks – Assist the victim with schoolwork if they need time to recover.

Examples:

- A classmate accompanies a friend to the school counselor for emotional support.
- A student offers to share class notes with a friend struggling with trauma.
- A group of friends includes a victim in their activities to help them feel safe and welcomed.

### For Teachers & Trainers

- Provide Counseling – Ensure victims have access to trained professionals.
- Implement Follow-ups – Regularly check on the victim's well-being.
- Engage Parents – Inform guardians and involve them in the healing process.

Examples:

- A teacher schedules regular check-ins with a victim to monitor their recovery.
- A school organizes a support group for GBV survivors.
- A counselor works with parents to develop a home support plan for a struggling student.

***Always Remember:***
***A school free from GBV is possible when everyone works together! Speak up, support each other, and take action.***

#AMPLIFYHER

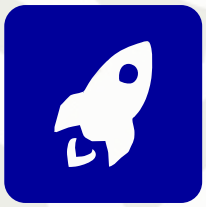
# OPEN KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Open Knowledge Development Initiative is a nonprofit organization established in 2020 with a broad mission to facilitate positive societal change. Our primary objectives involve empowering individuals and communities by equipping them with the knowledge, tools, technologies, and resources necessary to derive change.



## OUR VISION

We envision a more informed, empowered, and accountable society that transcends boundaries.



## OUR MISSION

We are dedicated to empowering communities with the tools, knowledge, and voice they need to drive positive change.


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