

STATISTICAL INDICATORS FOR THE EVALUATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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Abstract. Violence against women is a widespread phenomenon in Georgia. Therefore, determining statistical indicators for assessing violence is very important and necessary.

The main goal of the research is to determine statistical indicators assessing violence against women in Georgia.

The research methodology includes the use of statistical observation, grouping, and analysis methods.

Conclusions: Violence against women remains an active problem in society. Psychological violence is common among different forms of violence. A large number of victims cite emotional excitement and societal influence as the provoking circumstances of violence. Based on legal regulations, the level of awareness about violence has increased. 24-hour hotlines are working. Statistics of victims of violence in shelters are also increasing. The population aged 25–44 prevails in perpetrators and victims.

Keywords: women, violence, victim, research, analysis.

JEL Classification: C1.

1. Introduction

In the wake of the development of democratic processes, the idea of gender equality is more and more active in the center of public attention, especially since gender imbalances are still a feature of the country. It is a fact that there is a pronounced inequality in the labor market, men predominate among the employed. Women's salary is 68% of men's salary, discriminatory approach towards women is still evident, old stereotypes of thinking still exist, although society's attitude towards violence has changed at the modern stage, legal acts have been adopted, women are actively supported by the state, there is a 24-hour emergency Hotlines, shelters are active, women's view of violence has been transformed, women are no longer shying away from publicizing such facts, there is an immediate response from law enforcement agencies upon detection of violence, but the problem of violence is facing society, it exists, it is serious and requires complex study.

Calculation of internationally comparable statistical indicators, improvement of the information base, etc. It is very important, necessary and timely, because it is necessary to determine the right policy at the state level under the conditions of the relevant legal regulation and to prevent as many facts of violence as possible, to avoid victims. Increasing socialization of victimized women, regulation and management of rehabilitation processes.

Every fourth woman in Georgia has been a victim of violence directly from her partner. 24% of women have experienced psychological violence, 8% – economic violence, 6% – physical violence, and 4% – sexual violence (UN Women Georgia, 2023).

Fewer and fewer people in Georgia believe that violence between husband and wife concerns only them, 21.4% of women and 37.2% of men still think that they should not interfere in other people's family affairs. In addition, the number of women who say that the most important role of a woman is taking care of the family

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has also decreased: if in 2017 this figure was 65.8%, now it is 59.9%. As for men, their attitudes have also changed a little: in 2017, 78% said that the most important role of a woman is to take care of the family, and now 74.7% think so (UN Women Georgia, 2023).

Although the public opinion on violence has changed, old stereotypes still remain, which hinders the increase of women's activity and, accordingly, their independence.

2. Literature review

In recent years, violence against women is one of the important, painful and urgent problems of society, not only in Georgia, but all over the world. Violence against women in Georgia can still be considered a taboo topic, because there are still cases of non-disclosure of violence for various reasons (Abesadze et al., 2019a). In general, the problem of violence is global. Violence against women, in its diverse forms and expressions, constitutes a fundamental violation of human rights and essential freedoms. This pervasive issue affects women globally, transcending boundaries of race, socioeconomic class, age, and ethnicity (Abesadze et al., 2019a). In the overwhelming majority of countries, adolescent girls face the highest risk of experiencing forced sexual encounters perpetrated by current or former husbands, boyfriends or partners. Data collected from 30 countries reveal that only one percent of these girls have ever sought professional assistance for such experiences (UNICEF, 2017). Violence against women and girls is one of the world's most prevalent human rights violations, taking place every day, many times over, in every corner of the globe. It has serious short- and long-term physical, economic and psychological consequences on women and girls, preventing their full and equal participation in society. As of today, Gender-based violence (GBV) or violence against women and girls (VAWG), is a global pandemic that affects 1 in 3 women in their lifetime (The World Bank, 2019).

It is a fact that any kind of violence is unacceptable in any form of manifestation, and the fight against it is not only one of the main priorities of each member of the society, but also of the state. Violence limits the involvement of women in social life and creates gender-based barriers in almost every type of activity (Abesadze et al., 2019b).

Violence against women and girls, prevalent in all nations, including Georgia, exerts both direct and indirect adverse effects on society. This issue spans various domains, encompassing social, economic, developmental, legal, educational, human rights, and health spheres, affecting both physical and mental well-being. Notably, violence against women represents a preventable contributor to morbidity and mortality among women. Despite its pervasive impact, the correlation between violence against women and mental illness remains inadequately explored, complicating the application of relevant laws in contexts involving mental health. Despite widespread

social and religious condemnation across cultures, this form of violence persists, highlighting the challenges in addressing and eradicating it effectively (Sharma, 2015). Despite the fact that a lot of people around the world are involved in the fight against violence against women and its prevention every day, quite a lot of financial and physical resources are spent, and active work is being done to eliminate and prevent violence, legislative acts are being improved, violence against women is still one of the most serious and painful problems. This is evidenced by the statistics of violence against women.

Regardless of their socioeconomic status, age, or level of education, women worldwide face various forms of violence including physical, sexual, psychological, and economic abuse (United Nations, 2015).

Unfortunately, the problem of sexual violence is also relevant in Georgia, especially against young people. Preformed attitudes that are more directly related to the context of sexual assault influenced the designation of sanctions applied to perpetrators and perceptions of guilt and responsibility (Chahal et al., 2022).

The criminal justice system is tasked with responsibility for protecting victims of domestic violence and abuse (Ebrary, 2024).

The situation is even more noteworthy and alarming in the background of the lack of information about violence, which is caused by the lack of complaints compared to the real facts, partial information, which is due to the reluctance of victims of violence to identify the perpetrator or talk about domestic violence. The reason for this may be economic dependence on the abuser, cultural or religious beliefs and opinions, fear of revenge, and others.

As a result of the conflict, the facts of violence against women and girls can be observed. It can be suicide, torture, sexual violence or forced marriage (United Nations, 2023).

Today, in Georgia, all manifestations of violence, regardless of its type and form, are tightened and controlled, in accordance with the direct directives of the United Nations. I fact that police response to domestic violence is gender-sensitive and raises awareness of gender-based violence in the country, these sample UN Women's work on ending violence against women and girls globally, together with partners (UN Women, 2021).

Therefore, it is practically impossible to record such cases and take them into account in general statistical data, which ultimately represents a serious challenge for statistics. That is why, in recent years, the question of the need to quantitatively study the increased facts of violence against women and children has become acute.

Therefore, establishing statistical indicators for assessing violence against women, identifying the causes and forms of violence according to age groups, analyzing the expected results, evaluating the intensity of violence, calculating internationally comparable statistical indicators, improving the information base, etc. It is necessary and timely to determine the right policy at the state level

under the conditions of the appropriate legal regulation and to prevent as many incidents of violence as possible, to avoid victims.

It is also important to increase the socialization of affected women, to regulate and manage rehabilitation processes. In the context of the National Advisory Council's efforts to combat violence against women, the development of a toolkit aimed at providing practical guidance to various stakeholders underscores the urgency of addressing this issue. The toolkit is designed to offer specific recommendations tailored to different audiences or environments involved in anti-violence initiatives, thereby enhancing prevention strategies and bolstering support services and advocacy for survivors (VAWnet, 2024).

Based on the above, the quantitative analysis of violence against women in Georgia is noteworthy and interesting, the results of which will contribute to the development of a conceptual and real policy for the prevention of violence against women, the protection and assistance of victims of violence, and the adoption of justified and optimal governance decisions. All these are important tools to reduce the number of victims of violence. Recognizing that only 40 percent of women seek assistance following experiences of violence underscores the critical need to prioritize and enhance access to comprehensive, multi-sectoral services. These services are indispensable for ensuring the safety, protection, and recovery of women and girls who have endured violence, particularly those who face intersecting forms of discrimination. By advocating for and supporting such services, we can effectively address the complex needs of survivors and facilitate their journey toward healing and empowerment (UN Women, n.d.).

The main goal of the paper is to determine the indicators of statistical assessment of violence against women in Georgia.

Based on the above, the object of the research is the violent facts against women in Georgia. The expected result involves the analysis of the distribution of victims of violence according to gender, age and regional characteristics, the formation of public opinion on violence, determination of preventive measures, etc. Special emphasis was placed on problematic regions based on the number of incidents of violence and on the modal age group of the victim in the age classification.

3. Methodology

The research methodology includes a set of known and proven quantitative methods, which means: selective observation, typological, structural and analytical grouping of data, the use of relative, average, variation, time series and correlation-regression analysis methods.

Databases of random cluster sampling survey of violence against women, PC-AXIS of the National Statistical Service of Georgia and other administrative agencies were used for the formation of databases. Statistical analysis was carried out using the computer program SPSS.

A random cluster survey was conducted by us both online, with the help of social networks, and on the basis of direct interviews. A research design was developed, and the survey questionnaire was finally refined as a result of the pilot study. The study covered criminogenically active regions: Tbilisi, Adjara, Imereti, Kvemo Kartli. Women aged 15 and older took part in the research. A total of 400 female respondents were interviewed, whose answers determined the main directions of violence in the country.

For the analysis, one of the important sources of statistics on violence against women was also used – data from administrative records, which included data from health and medical services, social services, legal aid centers, research centers, as well as data from services focused on responding to violence against women. These are state or private shelters, financial and social rehabilitation centers for victims of sexual violence and rape, crisis telephone hotlines and others.

4. Results

It is an interesting fact that in 2022, 3135 cases of violence against women were reported on the hotline, which exceeds the data of the previous year by 101.5%. The publicizing of the facts of violence has been clearly more intense since 2013, therefore the average annual growth rate of the number of facts of violence against women on the hotline was calculated by us for the years 2013–2022. As a result, there was a 6.2% increase in the number of crimes recorded on the hotline every year between 2012 and 2022 (see Figure 1). However, this does not mean that during this period the crime facts increased, just the change in women's attitude and mood towards violence, improved legal environment, community support, etc. became a powerful weapon for women to protect themselves and fight against violence.

Accordingly, since 2013, there has been an increase in the number of victims. But since 2020, a decreasing trend is already evident. Over the last three years, the average number of victims decreased by 7%. Analysis by gender



Figure 1. Data of Hot Lines on Domestic Violence of women (Persons) (source: National Statistics Office of Georgia, 2024)

showed that the number of male victims decreased by 11%, and the number of female victims decreased by 7%. As a result, by 2022, the number of women victims will be almost 5 times higher than the number of men victims (see Figure 2).

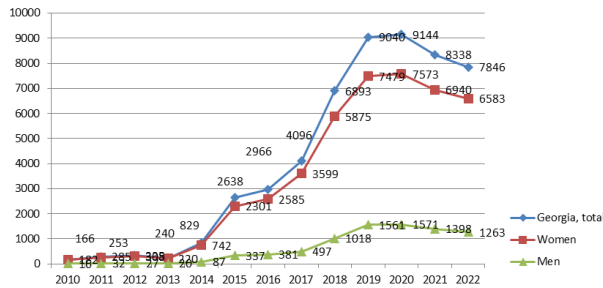


Figure 2. Data on the victims of the domestic violence (Persons) (source: National Statistics Office of Georgia, 2024)

Table 1. Data on the victims of the domestic violence by regions (Persons) (source: National Statistics Office of Georgia, 2024)

Regions	2022			Change in the indicator of 2022 compared to 2021		
	Taotal	Women	Men	Taotal	Women	Men
Tbilisi	3638	3119	519	102%	104%	91%
Mtskheta-Mtianeti	139	120	19	84%	90%	59%
Abkhazia	1	1	-	33%	33%	-
Adjara	637	580	57	80%	84%	55%
Guria	108	95	13	86%	88%	77%
Kakheti	812	616	196	93%	93%	90%
Imereti	586	482	104	79%	77%	89%
Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti	20	15	5	77%	68%	125%
Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti	423	350	73	80%	.80%	81.1%
Samtskhe-Javakheti	166	128	38	87%	82%	115%
Shida Kartli	429	348	81	91%	88%	111%
Kvemo Kartli	887	729	158	105%	103%	111%

The analysis of the regional structure of victims in Georgia (see Table 1) revealed an interesting picture. In all regions, except for Tbilisi and Kvemo Kartli, the number of victims has decreased.

This situation corresponds to the criminogenic situation of violence in the country as a whole. It should be noted that the population aged 25–44 and 45–60 years old especially prevails in both perpetrators and victims, whose share in perpetrators in 2022 is 58% and 27%, respectively, and among victims is 50% and 19%, respectively. The relative proportions are almost It has not changed compared to 2021, although the number of perpetrators and victims has decreased absolutely in 2022 for all age groups (see Figure 3).

As the analysis of statistical data showed, Tbilisi, Adjara and Imereti are the most criminogenic regions in Georgia.

In order to characterize the intensity of the spread of crime in general, we calculated the crime rate, which is one of the basic indicators of criminological statistical analysis. The crime rate is calculated by the formula:

$$K = \frac{D}{S} 10\ 000.$$

It should be noted that in relatively small settlements, small towns or regions, the crime rate is calculated per 10,000 or 1,000 people (Marshava & Mindorashvili, 2011).

The analysis showed that the criminogenic situation is the most acute in Tbilisi, Adjara and Imereti. In particular, in 2022, the highest number of investigated cases per 10,000 inhabitants was recorded in Adjara, where the criminality rate was 226 prodecile, followed by Tbilisi and Imereti, where the intensity rate was recorded at 186 and 154 per thousand. Kakheti region turned out to be the safest with 114 prodecile raters. Therefore, we can say that one of the indicators of the statistical assessment of crime is the intensity indicator-the crime rate.

In 2021, the highest number of investigated cases per 10,000 inhabitants was recorded in Adjara (259), Tbilisi (202) and Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti (146), and the lowest in Mtskheta-Mtianeti (99).

The observation of the data by years showed us that the highest rate of initiation of investigation is recorded mainly in Tbilisi and Adjara, and the lowest in Guria and Mtskheta-Mtianeti.

It is clear from the data that in 2013–2022 the number of registered cases generally increases in all regions,

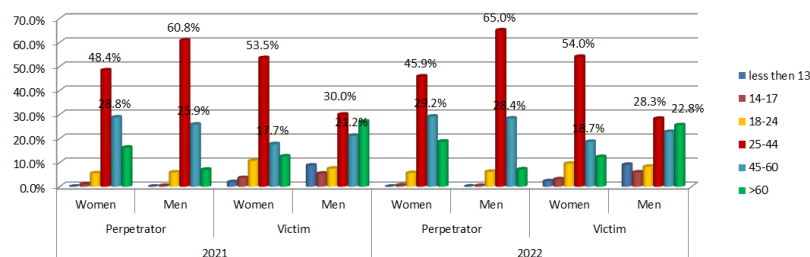


Figure 3. The data on the victims and perpetrators of the domestic violence by ages and sex (source: National Statistics Office of Georgia, 2024)

except for Kakheti and Tbilisi. In Kakheti, the number of cases under investigation decreases annually by 1.6%, and in Tbilisi by 1.2%. The highest increase was observed in Adjara (6.6%).

Since the Adjara region and Tbilisi are characterized by a pronounced upward trend in crime, it was interesting to determine whether this is related to the increase in the level of unemployment in the mentioned regions or the decrease in the average monthly income per capita. To establish these connections, we calculated Pearson's correlation coefficients. As a result, we found that the Pearson coefficient of correlation between the number of persons prosecuted for a committed crime and the level of unemployment in the Adjara region is 0.182, and the correlation between the number of persons prosecuted and the average monthly income per capita is 0.078. In both cases, there is a very weak connection, and we can say that the increase in the number of persons who have started persecution in the Adjara region is not related to the change in either the unemployment level or the average monthly income (National Statistics Office of Georgia, 2024).

In Tbilisi, the Pearson coefficient of correlation between the number of persons prosecuted and the level of unemployment was 0.407, which indicates a medium-level relationship, that is, the level of unemployment may affect the number of persons prosecuted for committing a crime. And the correlation between the number of persons who started persecution and the average monthly income per capita is -0.603 . That is, the correlation coefficient is quite strong, although it is inversely proportional, which means that the decrease in the average monthly income per capita will increase the number of persons who have started persecution in the Tbilisi region. Although the third most criminogenic district is Imereti,

but due to the correlation coefficient, we will focus on Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti, as one of the active and attractive tourist locations.

In the Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region, the Pearson coefficient of correlation between the number of persons who started persecution and the level of unemployment is equal to 0.694, so the relationship is quite strong, which means that the number of people who started persecution is greatly influenced by the level of unemployment. And the correlation between the number of persons who started persecution and the average monthly income per capita is 0.485, which indicates a medium-level relationship, that is, to some extent, the increase in average monthly income per capita may increase the number of people who started persecution in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region (National Statistics Office of Georgia, 2024).

One of the important factors that led to the increase in the publicity of the facts of violence against women is the increase in the number of shelters and crisis centers. Therefore, one of the statistical indicators of the assessment of violence against women can be considered the absolute number of people in shelters and the average and relative indicators calculated on its basis. Since 2010, the number of female victims in shelters has been systematically increasing for all age groups. Most women aged 24–43 apply for shelter, which in a 13-year period far exceeds the number of women of other ages. It is enough to note that in 2022, 51.4% of women in shelters were women aged 24–43, and then girls aged 18–23 with 22.2%. But after 2018, which saw a decline in referrals of female victims to shelters, it increased in 2022 and reached a 13-year high, almost equaling the 2018 peak. On average, over the last 10 years, the number of women in shelters has increased by 17%, and the number of men by 12% (see Figure 4).

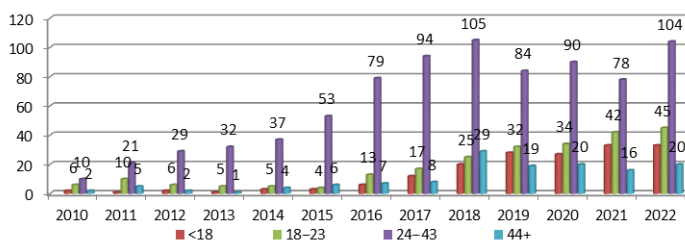


Figure 4. Number of victims in shelters under domestic violence (Persons women) (source: National Statistics Office of Georgia, 2024)

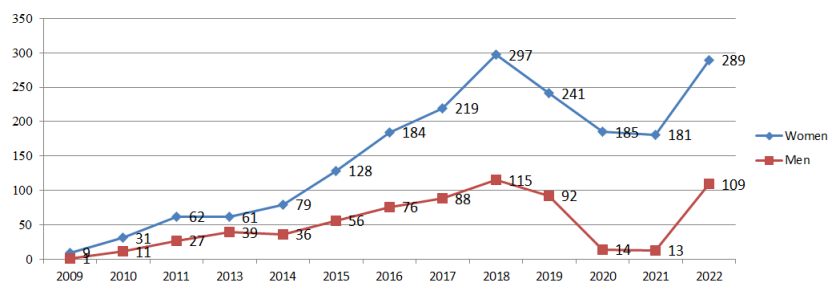


Figure 5. Statistics on accommodation of victims of domestic violence (Persons) (source: National Statistics Office of Georgia, 2024)

This does not directly mean an increase in violence. This points to the freedom of women, the change of attitude towards the issue, the ability to decide her own future, freedom from dependence on a family member, etc. Which often became the reason for staying in the family, considering the acute forms of violence.

Tbilisi, Imereti, Shida/Kvemo Kartli, Kakheti stand out according to the number of women in shelters by the regions. In 2022, the number of women registered in the shelter was distributed among these regions as follows: 27%, 23%, 22% and 17% (see Figure 5).

Today, the situation regarding violence against women has changed dramatically in Georgia. Women feel the support of the society and the government. A large part of them is informed about the legal acts of violence and the issues of regulation of violence. The growth of women's labor activity in the labor market has simultaneously increased women's economic independence, their views have been transformed, they have become more self-confident and bold. Despite the existing gender imbalances in the labor market, established trends indicate an increase in the active participation of women. At present, national economies are placing significant emphasis on resource efficiency. Within this framework, gender equality emerges as a pivotal factor for unlocking the economic potential of nation-states and driving economic growth. Gender equality extends beyond the realm of human rights protection; it also plays a crucial role in fostering economic efficiency and facilitating economic development (Sepashvili, 2019).

Furthermore, it's essential to recognize that gender equality is not only a fundamental human right but also a vital cornerstone for fostering a prosperous, peaceful and sustainable world. While there have been advancements in this area over the past decades, current trajectories indicate that the world is not on course to achieve gender equality by 2030. Girls and Women, comprising half of the global population, also embody half of its potential. However, pervasive gender disparities persist worldwide, hindering social progress and stifling the realization of this potential (Sustainable Development Goals, 2023).

The transformation of women's views was confirmed by the survey we conducted with the help of social networks, with an application built into Google Drive. At first, the response rate was not high, women avoided answering the questionnaire, and at the beginning of the research, the women's population of all regions was included as much as possible, but as a result of analyzing official statistical data, the emphasis was placed on the regions that are characterized by the facts of violence. The youth of the selected regions helped us to get information.

A database was created from the received data, on the basis of which the statistical indicators of violence were reported. After crosstab analysis, conclusions were formulated.

According to the data of the research conducted by us, 33% of the women participating in the research declare that they have been victims of violence at least

once. This is quite a high rate, especially considering that gender-based violence is a public safety and public health crisis (White House, 2023).

58% of respondents who were victims of violence did not report the fact of violence. For those respondents who stated the fact, they most often encountered the problem of public opinion and lack of information. Among the forms of violence, as a result of the research, the most common form is psychological violence (80%). A large number of victims cite emotional excitement (40%) and the influence of the family/society where the perpetrator lives/grew up (36%) as the provoking circumstances of violence. Economic dependence on the abuser (15%) and staying because of common children (13%) are leading among the reasons for staying with the abuser. 43% of women who started talking about the fact of violence say that the people around them stood by them and helped them in every way. In the case of 32%, the victim was called to adapt to reality (Abesadze & Ebanoidze, 2021). Georgia is experiencing a significant transformation in the field of human rights. Intensive campaigns against gender-based violence are taking place in the country including the following:

- Programs for prevention and the fight against violence are being implemented.
- Human rights institutions are intensively working on the detection of different forms of violence and discrimination.
- Methods to combat all forms of violence are being developed and enhanced.
- Gender mainstreaming and related facilitating activities are being implemented on all levels of state structures, as well as with the effort and participation of international organizations and civil society (Jashi, 2018).

Georgia is undergoing significant transformation in the field of human rights protection. Intensive campaigns against gender-based violence are underway in the country, including: prevention and combating violence programs; Human rights institutions work intensively to reveal various forms of violence and discrimination; Methods of combating all forms of violence are developed and improved; Gender mainstreaming and supporting measures related to it are carried out at all levels of state structures, as well as with the efforts and participation of international organizations and civil society. It is also a fact that the development of Gender Institutional mechanisms and their functioning is marked by a number of intricate differences in various countries (Jashi, 2005).

5. Conclusions

It can be said that Georgia is undergoing a significant transformation in the field of human rights protection. Despite the intensive efforts of the state and society, violence against women remains an active problem of society. But it is a fact that on the basis of implemented legal acts and sophisticated legal regulations, the level of

awareness about women's violence has increased. This led to a significant increase in the number of registered cases of violence against women after 2013. Against the background of ongoing structural changes in the labor market, under conditions of reduction of gender imbalances, the labor activity of women has increased, which has become the basis for economic independence from their spouses or partners. Women have become more active, self-confident, persistent, and bold. They no longer hide the violence against them. Human rights institutions, both state and non-state, work intensively to expose various forms of violence and discrimination. A 24-hour hotline is available. Shelters and crisis centers are functioning. Statistical data confirm the increase in the number of victims here.

According to the research of the United Nations Women's Organization, every fourth woman in Georgia has been a victim of violence directly from her partner. 24% of women have experienced psychological violence, 8% – economic violence, 6% – physical violence, and 4% – sexual violence.

Fewer and fewer people in Georgia believe that violence between husband and wife concerns only them. In addition, the number of women who say that the most important role of a woman is only taking care of the family has also decreased.

The research showed that the Mtskheta Mtianeti region was the safest in terms of crime in Georgia.

As a recommendation, it can be said that since the issue of public opinion and family/society's influence on violence against women is still quite acute, campaigns should be actively conducted to further raise public awareness. In addition, the respondents mention economic dependence on him as one of the main reasons for staying with the abuser. Accordingly, it would be appropriate to develop special vocational training programs for women victims of violence so that they can find employment and achieve economic independence.

There are organizations around the world to support women. We think it is effective to have such an organization that consolidates donations, ensures targeted use to protect gender equality. So for example The Women's Empowerment Principles Secretariat values financial contributions from companies and individuals to help support its expanding catalogue of learning materials, case studies, and its global outreach (Women's Empowerment Principles, 2024). This donation will ensure that we continue to grow and serve the progress of gender equality and women's empowerment in the workplace, marketplace and community at a global scale.

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