

# THE SHE CURSE: WHY IT IS DANGEROUS TO BE FEMALE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

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## Intimate Partner Violence

For centuries, IPV has been an accepted way of life in Sub-Saharan Africa

Only recently have governments criminalized and labelled it a human rights violation

When IPV happens, it typically goes unreported

IPV accounts for 40% of homicides in Sub-Saharan Africa

Perpetrators typically buy their freedom at a small fee

The more children a woman has, the higher her chances of victimization

Majority of reported IPV incidents are severe or fatal

Bride price has turned women into expendable commodities

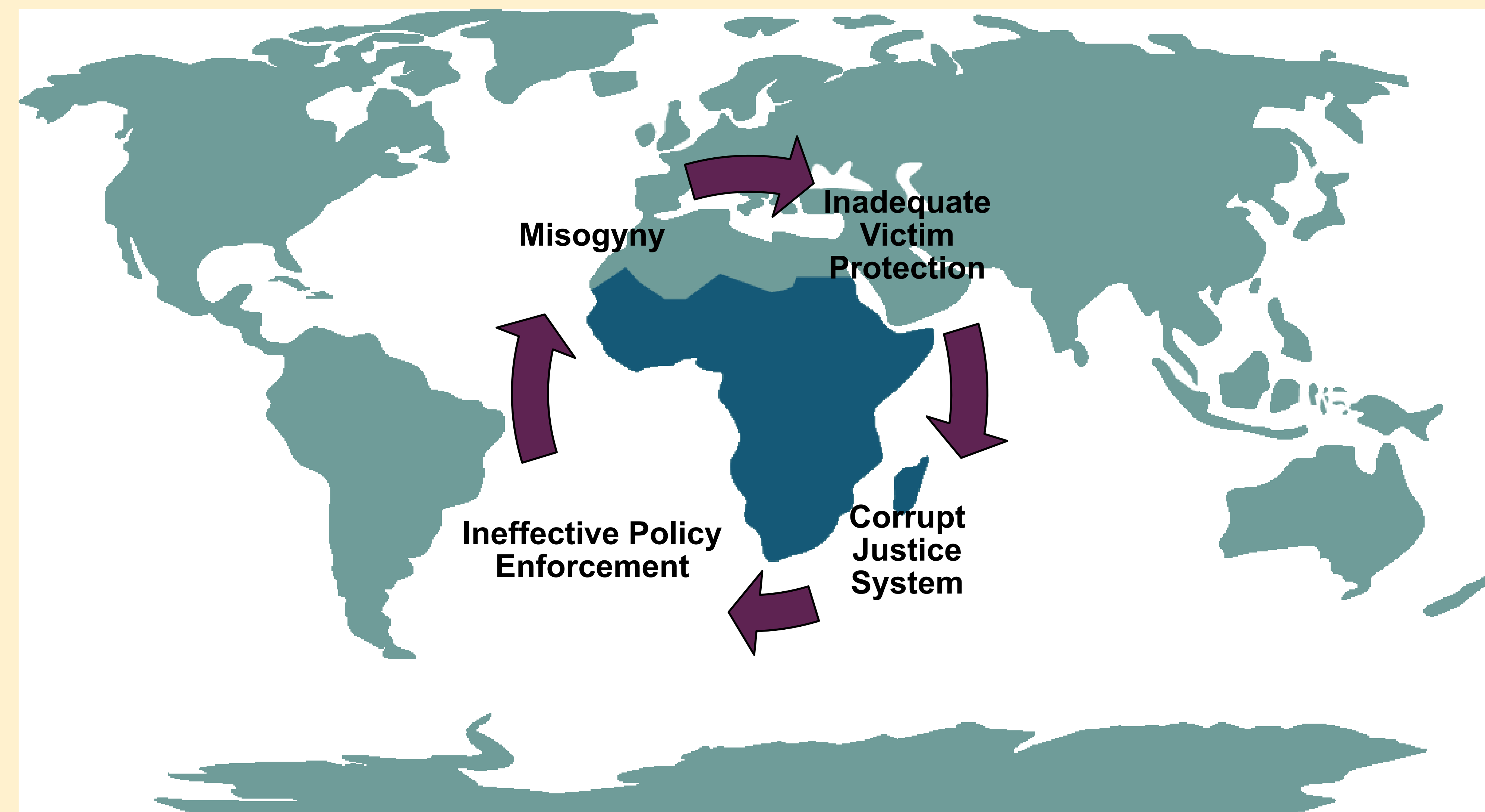
## Complicity of Sub-Saharan African Governments

“As a man, you need to discipline your wife. You need to... you know, tackle her and beat her...to really streamline her.”

Ugandan **Male legislator**, March 8<sup>th</sup> 2018, marking the international day of the woman (The Guardian)

“I dreamed of being a powerful politician...full of hope...changing women’s lives, but I wonder if I’m in the right place...we are abused in parliament but can’t report it because we fear the consequences.”

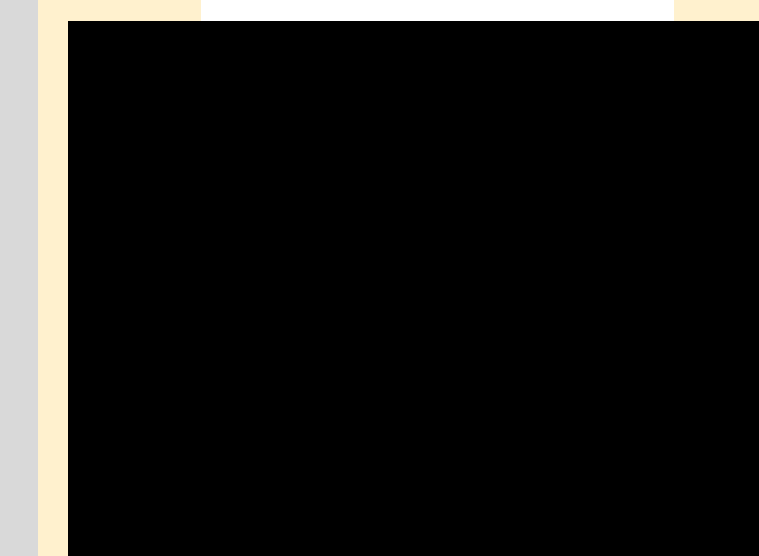
Ugandan **Female legislator**, March 2018 (Africa Renewal)



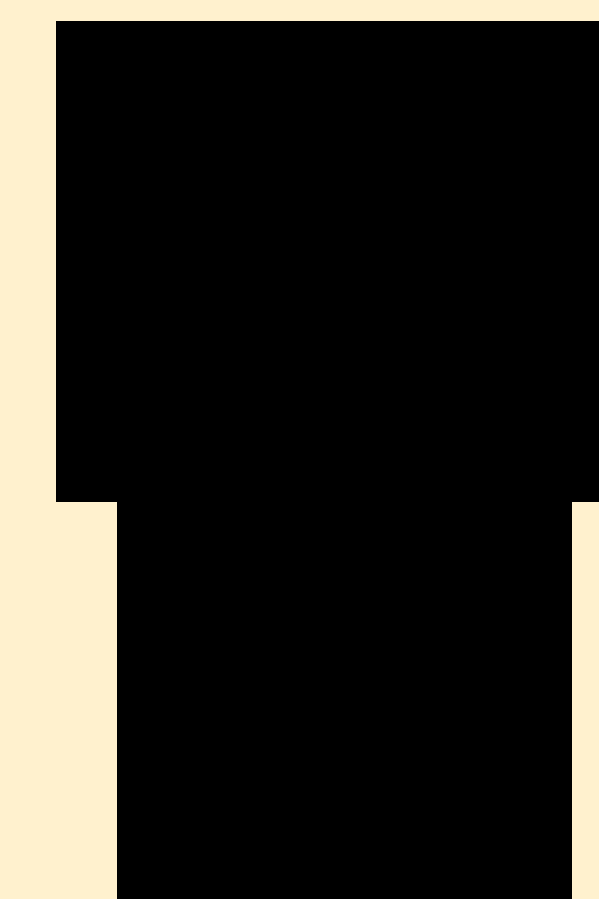
## Setbacks to She-Progress



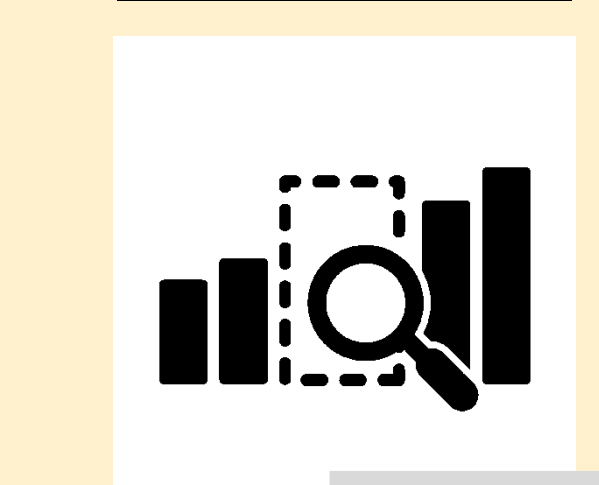
Cultural influences



Social stigmatization



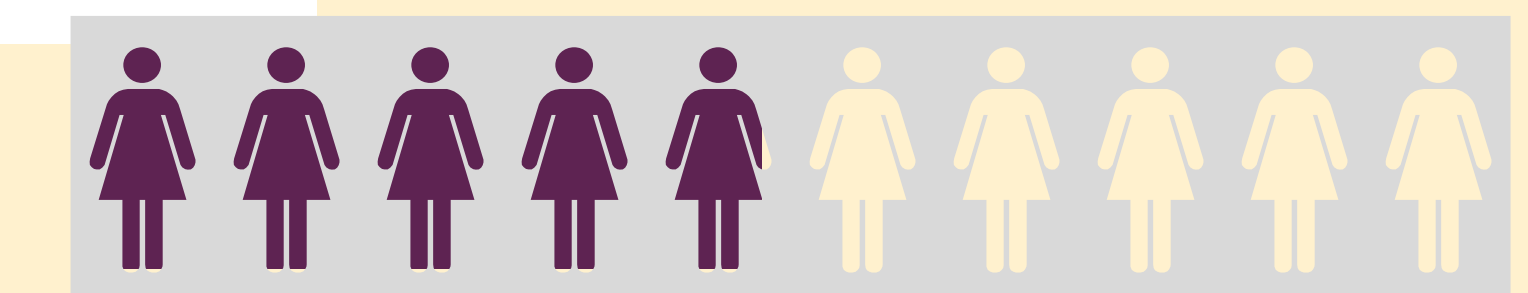
Misogynistic redress systems



Repeat victimization



Huge gaps in IPV data

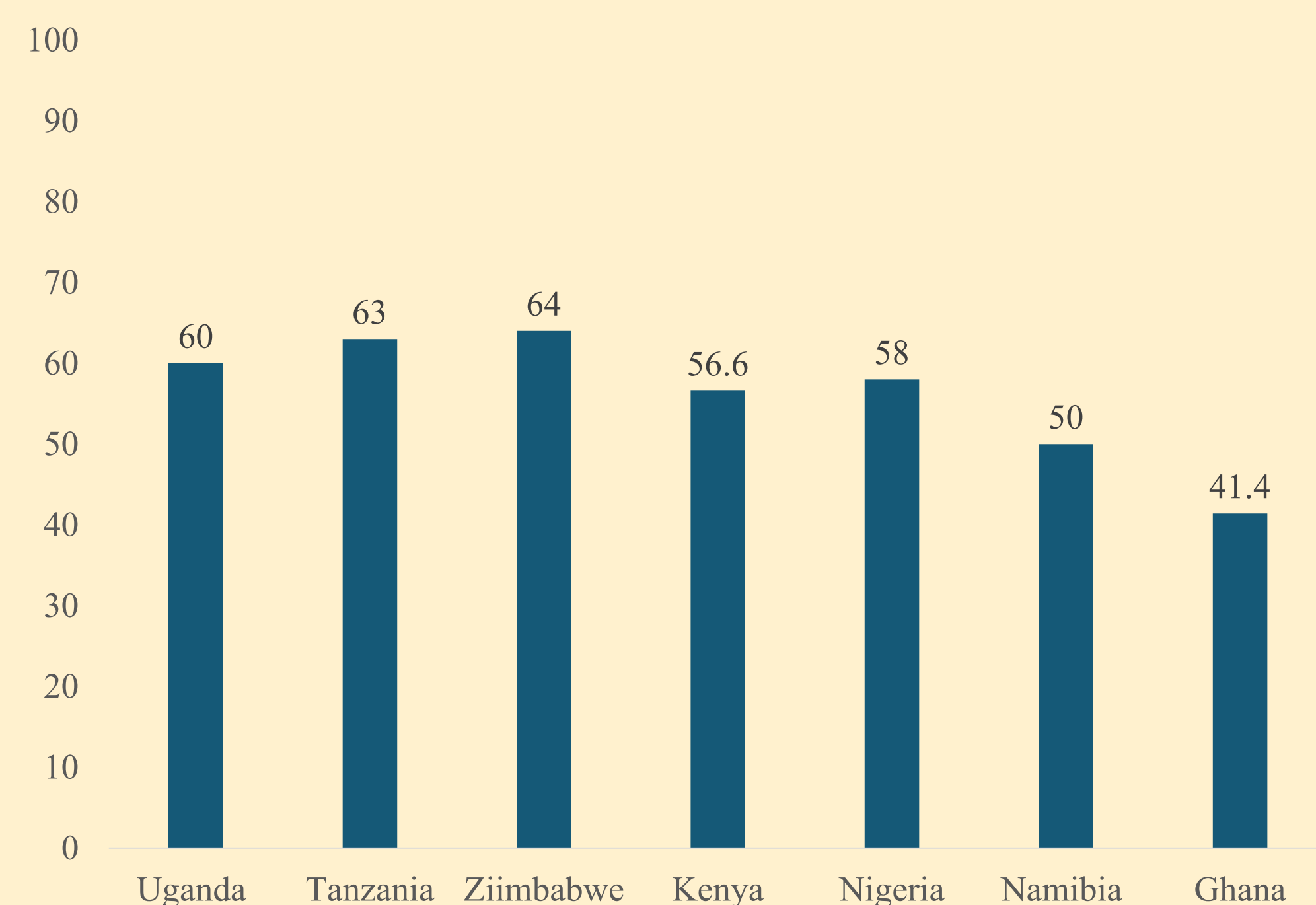


**5 in 10**

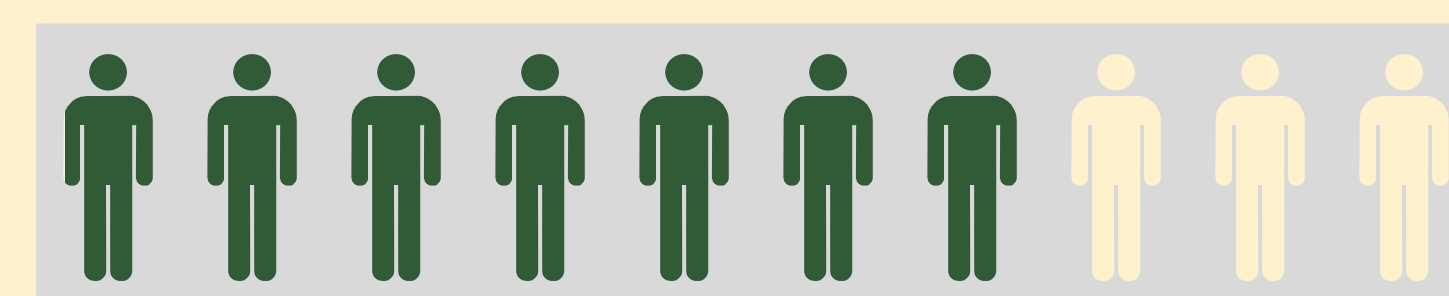
Women justify the violence against them

## Violence Is Prevalent Across Borders

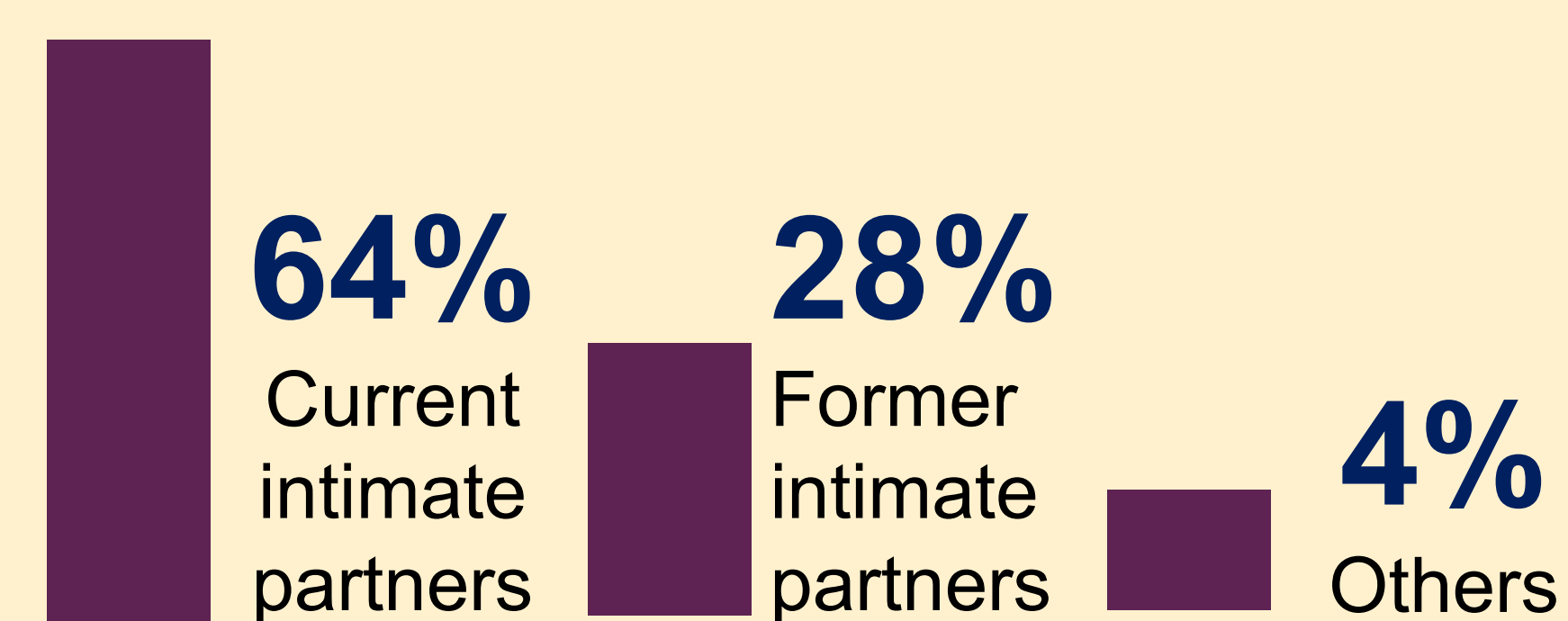
At Least 41% of Women Report Experiencing Intimate Partner Violence



## The Perpetrators



**7 in 10** Men endorse violence against women

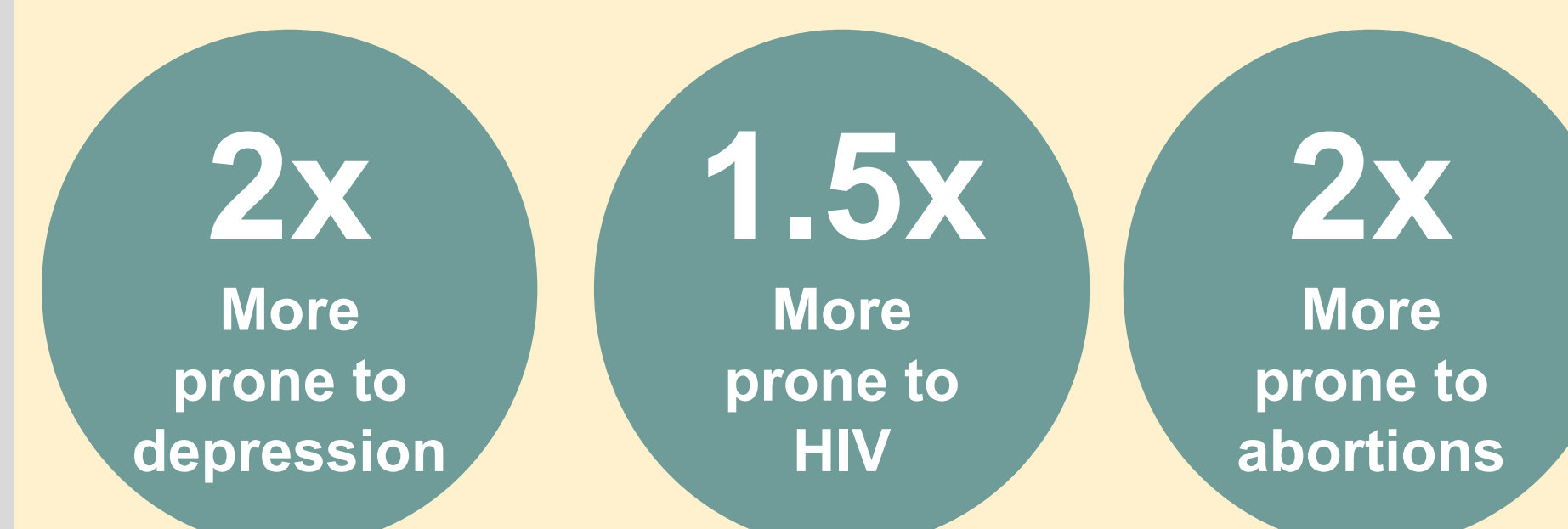


## Implications of IPVAW



**6 in 10** Women will experience IPV in their lifetime

Victims of IPVAW are:



## Way Forward

- Comprehensive and consistent IPV data collection
- Political commitment to gender equality and equity
- Modeling successful policy interventions
- Tackling systemic misogyny

*Could we be looking at a gendercide?*

## Acknowledgements

Joshua Sapatichne, Erika Rosebrook, Christina Dejong, April Zeoli