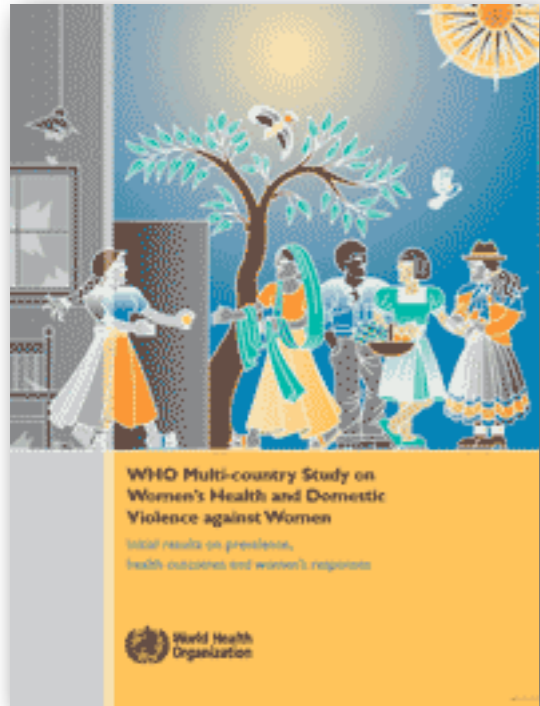


## Domestic Violence is Violence Against Women

“Prostitution is violence against women...”



June 20, 2013 CNN) -- “**One in three women experience sexual or physical violence - most likely from their intimate partner**, according to a report from the World Health Organization.

The report, called the first of its kind, estimates the global toll of such violence on women at 35.6%. In a statement, Dr. Margaret Chan, the director-general of WHO, described it as a "global health problem of epidemic proportions."

Women who have been physically and sexually abused are more likely to contract HIV/AIDS, to have an abortion, to get depression, injuries, alcohol use disorders and pregnancy complications, according to the WHO report.

**About 38% of all murdered women are killed by an intimate partner** (compared with 6% of all murdered men).”

The world population of women aged 15 to 65 and over, according to the CIA World Factbook (as noted earlier) is estimated to be **2,633,471,407**. If one out of three women is the victim of violence, that would be approximately **869,045,564 victims of violence- most victimizations from an intimate partner- in other words, domestic violence.**

There is no estimate of the number of female sex workers world wide, but surely, even if 100% of female sex workers experienced violence during the course of their work lives, the number would be a tiny fraction of the number of all women who experienced violence. Just as the majority of women - 2 out of 3- do NOT experience any violence at all, the majority of sex workers do not experience violence at the hands of their clients, employers or associates. Or they may very well experience violence in their personal relationships just as 1 out of 3 women world wide do.

With such a significant percentage of violence against women occurring across all borders and among all populations, violence against women cannot be attributed to a woman's profession. In other words, **violence in not inherent in prostitution**, it is inherent in human nature. If society doesn't plan to 'abolish' or 'eliminate' all relationships in which there is a risk of violence, why do governments and prostitution abolitionists use 'violence against women' as an excuse to continue to ban prostitution, rather than work with sex workers to make our work safer?

Given the latest estimates of violence against women world wide, it would seem to be use of scarce resources to allow victims to report the violence they may experience WHEN they experience it, rather than presume that all women are victims of violence all the time.