THE GLOBAL WORKING GROUP TO END SRGBV

In August 2014, a coalition of governments, development organizations, civil society activists, UN agencies and research institutions came together to collaborate on ending gender-based violence in and around schools.

The Global Working Group to End SRGBV has been a strong advocate to ensure that schools remain safe places for learning and that girls and boys have the opportunity to acquire the knowledge, skills and resources they need to reach their potential.

The Global Working Group to End SRGBV aims to:

- Promote the generation of knowledge, evidence and standards of response
- Undertake global and joint advocacy to highlight the issues around SRGBV and its implications for achieving the SDGs
- Disseminate and make accessible a wide range of tools and resources

To learn more about the group and its members, please go here: http://www.ungei.org/srgbv/index.html
SCHOOL RELATED GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

An estimated 246 million girls and boys are harassed and abused in and around school every year. SRGBV includes explicit threats or acts of physical violence, bullying, verbal or sexual harassment, non-consensual touching, sexual coercion and assault, and rape. Other implicit acts of SRGBV stem from everyday school practices that reinforce gender stereotyping and inequality, and allow for violent or unsafe environments especially against those who do not conform to mainstream conceptions of masculinity or femininity. Corporal punishment and discipline are also often used in schools in gendered and discriminatory ways.

SRGBV stems from deeply rooted gender norms, stereotypes, systemic inequalities and unequal power dynamics based on gender. Situations of protracted conflict, displacement and poverty exacerbate children’s vulnerability to SRGBV. While girls and boys can be both victims and perpetrators of violence, the extent and form differs. Incidents of SRGBV have been recorded in every region and country where it has been studied and cuts across cultures, regions, peoples and across economies.

SRGBV is a human rights issue and an education issue. A violation of human rights and a serious barrier to learning. It has long lasting consequences on children’s psychological, social and physical wellbeing and affects their ability to learn and stay in school.

ADDRESSING SCHOOL-RELATED GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Schools can play a transformative role in shifting harmful gender norms and discriminatory practices. Safe and secure schools provide the appropriate learning environment where children can learn to develop mutual respect, an understanding of gender equality and raise their voices against discrimination and gender-based violence.

The vision for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030 envisages:

“A world free of fear and violence. A world with universal literacy...a world, which invests in its children and in which every child, grows up free from violence and exploitation. A world, in which every woman and girl enjoys full gender equality and all legal, social and economic barriers to their empowerment have been removed.”

It is fundamental that putting an end to SRGBV is prioritized across the SDGs and a multi-sectoral approach is adopted.