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ECONOMIC

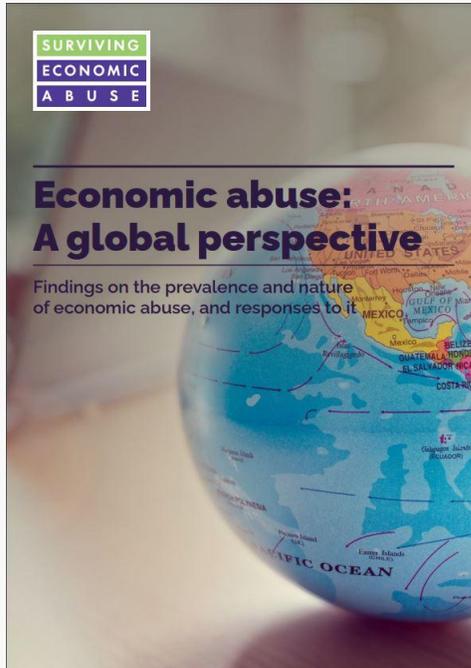
A B U S E

**What do we know about
economic abuse?
Findings from a global
study**

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Economic abuse: A global perspective



Economic abuse - A global perspective

Annex 1: Prevalence of economic abuse globally

This annex provides the full evidence that was found regarding the prevalence of economic abuse by each region and country. For countries where there were multiple or more detailed findings, these will be presented under their own heading, but for countries where there was less evidence, these will be grouped into a table under the region heading.

Africa	2	Iraq	40	Spain	64
Egypt	5	Jordan	41	Sweden	66
Ghana	6	Lebanon	43	Ukraine	66
Kenya	7	Nepal	44	United Kingdom	67
Malawi	8	Pakistan	44	North America and the Caribbean	82
Nigeria	10	Palestine	47	Canada	82
South Africa	12	Philippines	48	Mexico	90
Tanzania	18	Saudi Arabia	49	Trinidad and Tobago	90
Uganda	19	South Korea	49	United States	91
Zimbabwe	20	Sri Lanka	50		
		Turkey	51		
Asia (including the Middle East)	21	Vietnam	51	Oceania	110
Bangladesh	24	Europe	87	Australia	110
Cambodia	25	Croatia	60	New Zealand	122
China	29	Finland	61	Papua New Guinea	122
Cyprus	31	Italy	61	Central and South America	124
India	32	Lithuania	61	Colombia	126
Indonesia	37	Netherlands	63	Ecuador	126
Israel	38	Poland	64		
Iran	39				

- The full report, a briefing and an annex are available on our website
- The research was funded by support from the Oak Foundation

Why undertake a global review?

- Economic abuse was previously understood as a form of psychological or emotional abuse
- Despite a growth in interest in economic abuse, we still know relatively little about it
- We wanted to bring together a range of evidence to establish what is currently known about economic abuse, so this can inform future research and responses

Research questions

- What is known about the prevalence of economic abuse globally?
- What is known about the nature of economic abuse globally?
- What do policy responses to economic abuse look like at an international, national and regional level?
- What industry-based responses are there to economic abuse, and what does best practice in these areas look like?

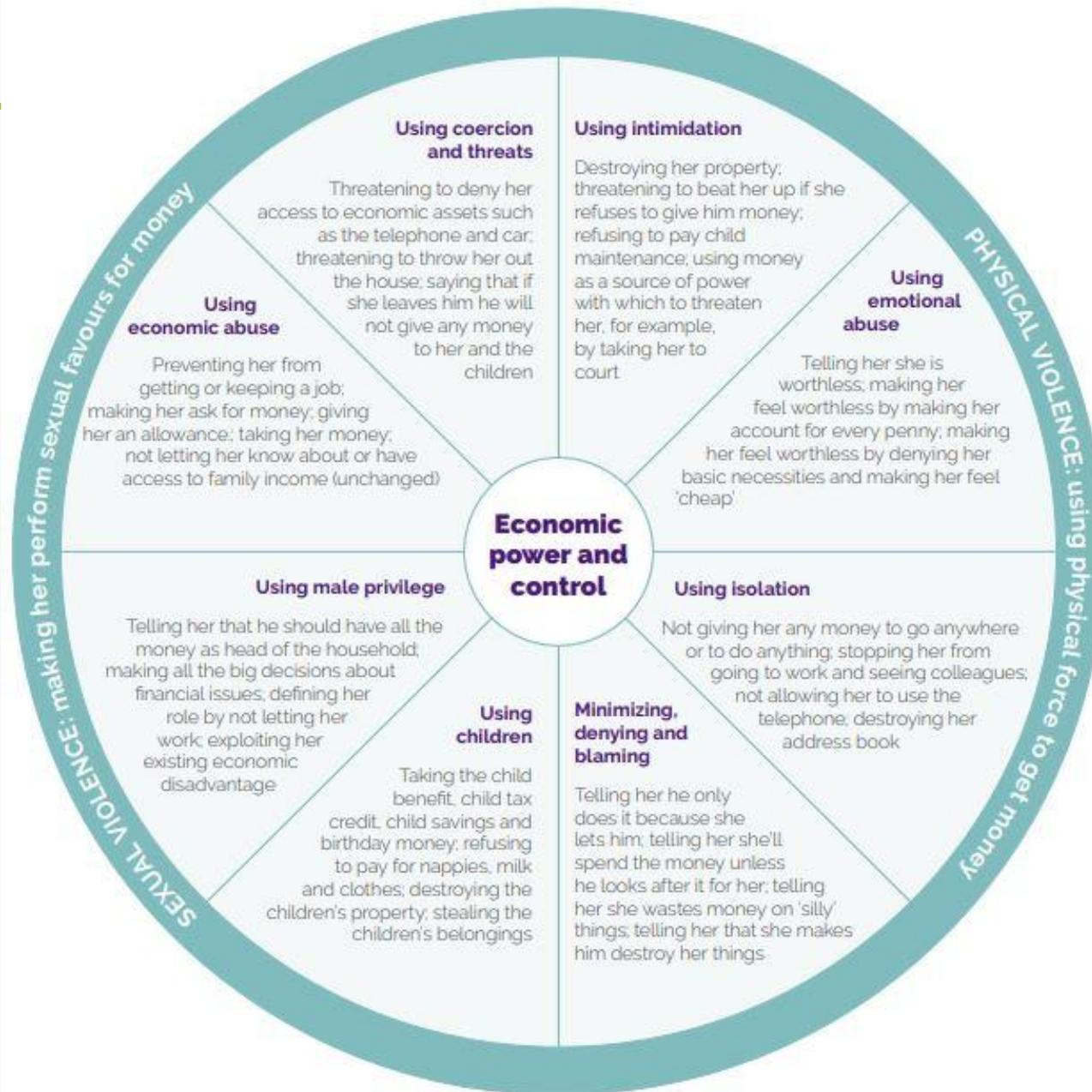
How we did the research

- Conducted a desk-based literature review of a wide range of sources
- Developed search terms used these across a range of databases
- Imported documents into qualitative analysis software (Nvivo) and developed a coding structure based on the research questions
- Analysed behaviours using economic restriction and exploitation (Adams et al) and economic control, economic exploitation, employment sabotage (Postmus et al)
- Limitations included language barriers, research scope, and the countries represented

Findings: Prevalence of economic abuse

- Prevalence varied hugely, depending on the population and the question(s) used in the research
- Evidence with victim-survivors of domestic abuse found rates as high as 100% experiencing a form of economic abuse
- A summary of findings is available in the full report, and full findings are in the Annex

The Economic Abuse Wheel (Sharp, 2008)

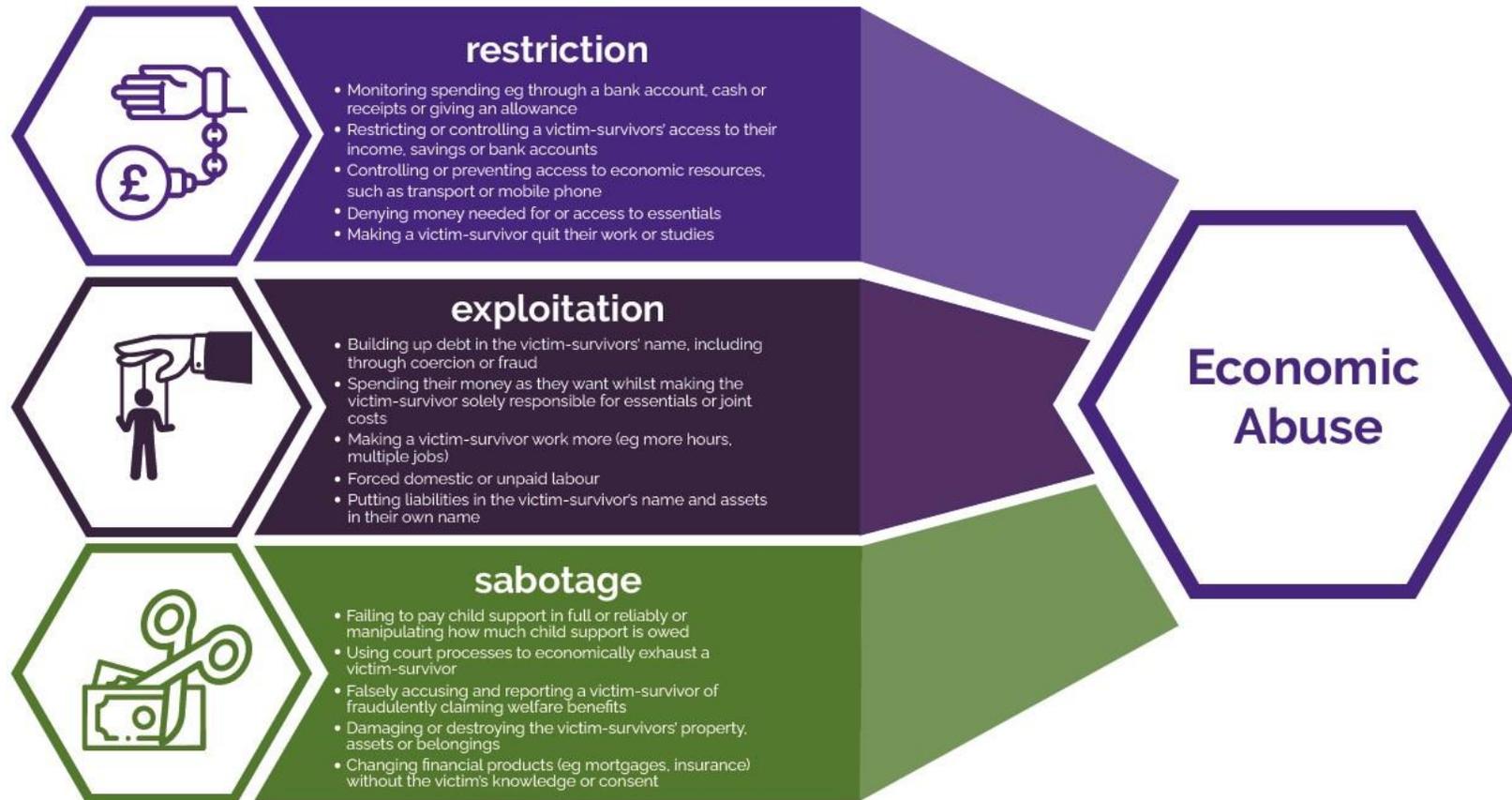


Findings: nature of economic abuse

- Evidence about a range of impacts, including:
 - Ability to leave an abuser
 - Risk of further abuse and homicide
 - Employment and education
 - Health
 - Debt and credit
 - Bank accounts and financial products
 - Criminal offences
 - Housing
 - Child support and impact on parenting and children
 - Economic self-sufficiency, confidence and knowledge

Findings: Nature of economic abuse

Understanding economic abuse



Findings: Policy responses to economic abuse

- Only 113 countries have laws in place to protect women from economic abuse
- Almost 1.4 billion women are not protected against economic abuse
- Economic abuse is missing from international and national plans of action on domestic abuse

Findings: Industry responses to economic abuse

- Responses from:
 - Financial services (including banks, creditors and mortgage providers)
 - Utility providers
 - Domestic abuse services
 - Financial counsellors/money and debt advice
 - Government bodies (including the police, courts, child support and social security/welfare benefit agencies)
 - Legal professionals
 - Employers and educators
 - Housing

Findings: Industry responses to economic abuse

- Financial sector
 - Victim-survivors had mixed experiences with financial services
 - Industry-led guidelines for best practice
 - Collaboration with domestic abuse services
- Government bodies
 - Systems can facilitate economic abuse
 - Agencies lack understanding and ability to recognise economic abuse
 - The infrastructure to support best practice policies was mixed

Emerging strategic framework for understanding and responding to economic abuse

Economically abusive behaviours by perpetrators

Economic restriction

Including:

- Monitoring spending, eg through a bank account, cash, receipts or an allowance.
- Controlling a victim-survivors' access to their income, savings or bank accounts.
- Controlling or preventing access to economic resources, such as transport or mobile phone.
- Denying money needed for essentials.
- Making a victim-survivor quit work or studies.

Economic exploitation

Including:

- Building up debt in the victim-survivors' name, including through coercion or fraud.
- Spending their money as they want whilst making the victim-survivor solely responsible for essentials or joint costs.
- Making a victim-survivor work more (eg more hours, multiple jobs).
- Forced domestic or unpaid labour.
- Putting liabilities in the victim-survivor's name and assets in their own name.

Economic sabotage

Including:

- Failing to pay child support in full or reliably, or manipulating how much is owed.
- Using court processes to economically exhaust a victim-survivor.
- Falsely accusing a victim-survivor of fraudulently claiming welfare benefits.
- Damaging or destroying the victim-survivors' property, assets or belongings.
- Changing financial products without the victim-survivor's knowledge or consent.

Broad recommendations for stakeholders

Financial sector

Promising practice needs to be adopted and adapted. Responses must involve and be informed by specialist domestic and economic abuse services. Organisations should ensure responses to victim-survivors are consistent and follow the policies in place.

Researchers

Scales measuring the full extent of economic abuse must be included in IPV prevalence surveys. More research with diverse communities is needed, including on the prevalence and nature of economic abuse. Longer-term research on the impacts of economic abuse. More work on how economic abuse overlaps with other forms of abuse and how it is facilitated by systems and structures.

Policy-makers

Economic abuse in IPV needs to be recognised at all levels (including international, national and regional) of policy. Economic abuse must be defined in a way which recognises the range and complexity of behaviours. Policy needs to be supportive of responses, including in government bodies.

Government agencies

Agencies need the infrastructure to support any policies around economic abuse. Agencies must be able to recognise and respond appropriately to victim-survivors. Agencies must prevent perpetrators from using systems to perpetrate economic abuse, including by changing systems which facilitate abuse. Agencies must remove processes which punish victim-survivors.

Domestic abuse services

Economic abuse and safety must be included in approaches to intimate partner violence. Services should seek to further their awareness and understanding of economic abuse. Services should be aware that economic abuse requires specific responses which include both physical and economic safety, and seek to deliver these.

Promising practice by and with stakeholders identified in the research

Financial sector

Codes of conduct for responding to financial abuse within the financial services sector. Collaboration with specialist domestic abuse services. Trained economic abuse teams responding to victim-survivors, including those with coerced debt.

Researchers

The development and use of scales designed specifically for economic abuse which are developed for or adapted to local contexts. The growth of research which includes and understands economic abuse as a distinct form of IPV.

Policy-makers

Economic abuse is recognised in the legislation of 113 countries. Laws which allow for prosecuting perpetrators of economic abuse, such as those specifically on economic abuse, or on coercive control. Research-informed policy.

Government agencies

Specialist training on recognising economic abuse for police officers. Countries where child support payments are enforced and owed to the state, rather than directly to the victim-survivor.

Domestic abuse services

Collaboration with non-traditional stakeholders to ensure responses are safe for and informed by victim-survivors. Evaluations of jointly delivered and located services for victim-survivors, eg legal services and financial advice. Use of research-based and evaluated economic abuse screening tools with victim-survivors to inform support.

Get in touch

Visit our website:

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International network mailing list:

<https://survivingeconomicabuse.org/getinvolved/international-network/>

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