

# Understanding Masculinity is important for women's advancement

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(Conciliation Resources)



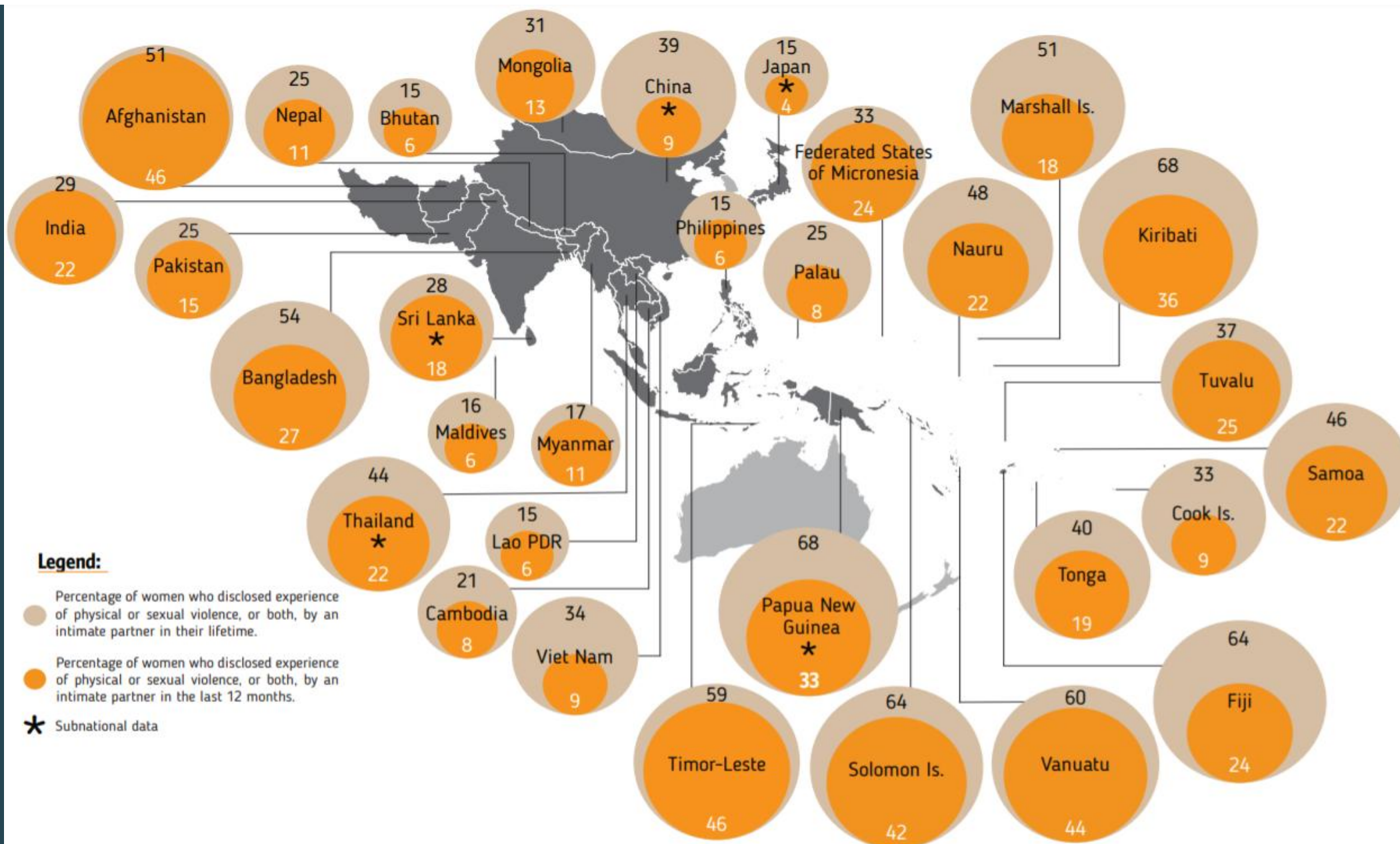
## Overview

- A global scope of the problem
- Factors that contribute to GBV and inequalities - social, cultural, economic and political
- The importance of understanding Pacific masculinity

# A global scope of the problem

- GBV is a global pandemic that affects one in every three women
- Women aged 15-44 years account for more GBV-related death and disability
- Globally, 38% of all murders of women are committed by intimate partners
- Women who are victims of domestic violence are 12 times more likely to attempt suicide
- During war and civil conflict, women and girls are often targeted for special forms of violence by men
- Only 40 per cent of women and girls seek help of any sort after experiencing violence
- Within Oceania region, the rates of violence in most Pacific island countries is higher than the global average of 31%
- Lockdowns during the COVID-19 pandemic and its social and economic impacts have increased the exposure of women to abusive partners and known risk factors, while limiting their access to services.





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# Factors that contribute to GBV and inequalities

## Social and Cultural

- The normalisation of violence in communities is common
- Expectations that society place on men to achieve certain standards of masculinities, endorse men's use of violence
- Reliance on the patriarchal system places pressure on men
- Gender inequality norms
- Therefore, masculinity-interventions must create spaces where men are encouraged to consider alternative versions of masculinity

## Economic

- Low income inequality and low economic development
- Precarious circumstances that lead to insecurity and vulnerability among men

## Political

- Militarisation and hyper-masculinities

# Importance of understanding Pacific masculinities

- “At the end of the day, while we are men, we also answer within the structures that we come from. We answer to our culture and to religion. There is pressure there and therefore you need a support system to cope with those pressures. While you are providing support within that system at the same time you need that support to mediate pressure, or else you’ll be left on the edge, and everything falls apart. If you are not considered a man in that structure, then your social capital or currency is gone”

(Suva participant, aged 31, interview April 2019)

