GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE DURING COVID-19

Young gender diverse people are most at risk for pre-existing and new COVID-19 related forms of gender-based violence. For females, cyber violence, sexual abuse, racism, domestic violence, and intimate partner violence severity have all increased since the onset of COVID-19.

- **Keep young people informed of the risks associated with isolation, such as virus-related threatening, trauma-bonding, and online sexual exploitation.**

- **Develop a safety plan should there be a need to flee a violent situation:**

- **Create and share a safe word or signal with the intent that typing or saying this word will imply a need for immediate help.**

- **Communicate on a daily basis with the intent that if communication does not occur one day, trusted people will know to further investigate safety;**

- **Make note of safe places to escape, such as unlocking a window in the basement.**

- **Memorize the name, number, or location of an involved case worker and/or local crisis shelter should emergency assistance be required.**

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