

Special Issue

Breaking Barriers: Unveiling Resistances to Overcoming Gender-Based Violence in Psychological Research Today

Message from the Guest Editor

Despite decades of advances in research, gender-based violence (GBV) persists, revealing deep resistances engrained within behavioural patterns in society. Psychological processes, as well as specific social structures and dynamics, play a role in shaping human behaviour that can support or challenge these patterns. Social norms around gender roles, victim-blaming narratives, and the normalization of aggression and silence continue to shape collective and individual perceptions, address, and report violence when it occurs. Breaking these barriers requires research that, on the one hand, foregrounds the structural conditions enabling violence, while exploring the psychological mechanisms that sustain complicity on the other, as well as research identifying and explaining the actions that promote the behavioural change that would lead to overcoming these resistances—hence contributing to overcoming GBV. In so doing, research can move beyond describing gender violence to actively dismantling the structures and beliefs that perpetuate it, fostering cultures of accountability and genuine solidarity and activating upstanders' support with victims and those who support them.

Guest Editor

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