

LM in Action: In Recognition of #PurpleThursday & Domestic Violence Awareness Month, LM Reflects on the Persistence of Gender Based Violence and Our Efforts to Combat It

Despite progress in the movement to end violence against women, recent high-profile stories—such as those involving [Sean “Diddy” Combs](#), [Gisèle Pelicot](#), and [Rebecca Cheptegei](#)—remind us that gender-based violence (GBV) remains all too rampant, prompting us to question why this global crisis persists and what steps are necessary to address it more effectively.

Over the past several decades, the #MeToo movement, legislation like the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), and growing cultural awareness have increased support for survivors. However, these [advances have not resulted into a meaningful decline in violence](#). The allegations against Sean Combs are but the latest to demonstrate that powerful men continue to abuse their positions, while the cases involving Pelicot and Cheptegei reveal that women remain at risk. Indeed, as of this writing, cases of domestic violence continue to unfold all across the country, with recent, horrifying allegations out of [Connecticut](#), [Ohio](#) and [Tennessee](#).

Further, women of color, particularly [Black](#) and [Indigenous](#) women, [LGBTQ+ individuals](#), [undocumented survivors](#) and others who experience multiple marginalization face disproportionately high rates of violence. Survivors also often face an uphill battle to be believed, and even when their cases receive the attention they deserve, the legal process can be retraumatizing and slow. Moreover, our legal framework often fails to address the dynamics of [power and control](#) at the heart of GBV. Restraining orders and criminal charges do not dismantle the social forces that normalize violence.

Legal Momentum has long advocated for legislation, legal assistance, mental health services, and other supports for survivors. While these are critical and important steps, we must also embrace preventative approaches that target the root causes of violence, including through educational programming to counter the power structures rooted in patriarchy, racism and misogyny that continue to enable violence and abuse. This is why, through our [Rights Now!](#) initiative and other programming, we will continue to empower communities to challenge and reverse these norms.

By investing in prevention efforts, fostering cultural change, and centering an intersectional approach, we can make real progress in the fight against GBV. But this will require a sustained, collective effort that demands change at every level, and we invite you to join us.

[Learn more about our work](#) to address and prevent Violence Against Women and Girls.
[Read more about Purple Thursday.](#)