

APPLYING A PEACEBUILDING FRAMEWORK TO GENDERED PARTNER VIOLENCE IN RURAL CANADA

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This article describes a case study into the perceptions of cultural and structural causes of gendered partner violence identified by research participants living rurally in one region of Eastern Canada. The research portrayed in this article is informed by a critical peacebuilding framework and feminist theory within a critical realist ontology. It explores the ways in which a peacebuilding framework may contribute to the study of gender-based violence by deepening and broadening an analysis of the causes of interpersonal violence.

INTRODUCTION

The term interpersonal violence has been defined as the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against another person or against a group or community that results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation¹. This broad definition of violence is gender neutral and therefore relevant to all members of the population. It acknowledges that childhood trauma can be caused by violence by adult males and females towards children. It also acknowledges that men can be violent towards other men, as well as to women, and that women can also be violent towards other women and to men. However, the violence addressed in this article is primarily focused on violence committed by men against women.

Marie Sinha² acknowledges that the scope and definition of violence against women varies widely, ranging from definitions related to specific forms of violence against women to the more inclusive definition adopted

PEACE RESEARCH

The Canadian Journal of Peace and Conflict Studies

Volume 51, Number 1 (2019): 7-42

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