

Gender based violence policy & the inclusion of multiple inequalities

QUING Symposium on GBV policies in the EU
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Lancaster University

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Questions

- Do GBV violence policy debates take multiple inequalities into account?
 - Visibility and silencing of minoritised women
 - Processes and outcomes
- What explains previous invisibility?
- What explains potential visibility?



Questioning

- Previous findings on invisibility of multiple inequalities
- Previous finding on visibility and voice of minoritised women
- Too narrow concept of intersectionality
- Adjacent terms and concepts
- Degendering



Methods

- QUING issue histories for selection of debates
- Qualitative and quantitative analysis of policy debates
 - Laws and bills
 - Policy documents
 - Civil society texts
 - e.g. End Violence Against Women, Southall Black Sisters, Women's National Commission, IMKAAN



Selected debates

- Gender based violence
 - National GBV & VAWG plans
- Domestic violence
 - Act, consultations, strategies, progress reports
- Sexual violence
 - Act, 2003 overhaul and recent action plans
- Forced marriage
 - 2005-2010 Act, bill, consultations, unit



Inequalities

- ‘Single’ inequalities
 - gender; class; ethnicity/race; religion/belief; age; sexual orientation; disability
- ‘Composite’ inequalities
 - multiple disadvantaged women; most vulnerable women; under aged new entrants to the UK
- Degendered concepts
 - victims of domestic violence; perpetrators of sexual assault; lone parents



Findings: Visible inequalities

- Domestic violence
 - (Gender and): ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, class, religion, disability
- Sexual violence
 - (Gender and): age, disability, ethnicity
- Forced marriage
 - (Gender and): ethnicity, religion, age, sexual orientation, age



Findings: Intersecting groups

- Black and minority ethnic women
- Women in communities
 - Communities means religion and/or ethnicity
- Young women
- Migrant women
- Asylum seeking women
- Refugee children
- Asian men
- Economically disadvantaged women
- Lower skilled women
- (multiply) vulnerable women
- Disadvantaged women
- New women entrants
- Lone parents
- Lone mothers



Findings: summary

- Visibility of multiple inequalities
- Visibility of groups at point of intersections
- Differences between areas of violence
- Gender & ethnicity, age and religion as main intersections
- Voice of minoritised women: process & outcome
- Visibility success when simultaneously separate & mainstreamed in policy, machinery & civil society



Conclusions

- Consider the full range of concepts
- Degendering
- Possibility of dual strategy: mainstreamed and separate measures
- Visibility as process, not end goal
- Temporary hierarchies, competition or alliance
- Civil society structure and state/civil society interface
- Strengthening of GE project?



Dilemmas

Good or bad for the quality of GBV policy?

- Strategic silencing
- Degendering
- Mainstreaming
- What civil society?
- Invisibility of powerful/dominant voices

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The logo for the QUING symposium, featuring the word "QUING" in a stylized, pink, sans-serif font. The letter "Q" is significantly larger and more decorative than the other letters, which are in a smaller, bolder font.

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