
INFORMATIVE BOOKLET ON

ABUSIVE MASCULINE BEHAVIOUR

AND GENDER-BASED GUN VIOLENCE





THIS BOOK

BELONGS TO:

IF YOU FIND THIS BOOK,

DO NOT OPEN IT,

IT BELONGS TO SOMEONE ELSE.

PLEASE SEND IT BACK TO:

WARNING:

We understand that this is a difficult topic to discuss because, although almost everyone agrees that violence and abuse based on someone’s gender are completely unacceptable, there are different understandings of what is meant by these words.

It is also difficult because unfortunately reliable information and data to explain patterns and causes of gun violence in different countries and contexts is often patchy. Perhaps your government does collect or publish comprehensive statistics and information on the possession of firearms and their misuse for violence and abuse, but many governments across the globe do not. Without comprehensive and accurate data on the characteristics of perpetrators, victims, survivors, and contexts of gun violence, it is hard to accurately identify the causes and to find lawful solutions that are effective. That is why IANSA includes the collection and publication of such data in the recommendations we make to governments.

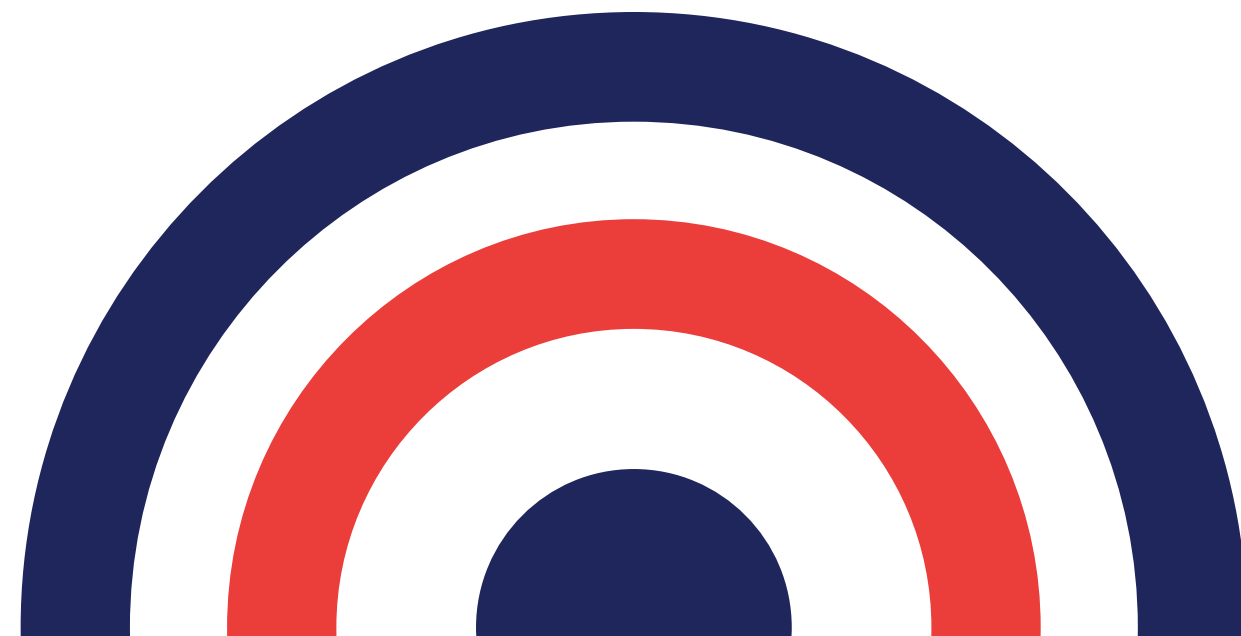
Meanwhile, we can use the patchy information and detailed case studies to carefully analyse which factors usually or often lead to gun violence and how different kinds of people are involved and affected. The United Nations and independent researchers make estimates which point to some key patterns, causes and possible solutions, and of course more needs to be done. That’s why we can to produce this interactive notebook containing key points, questions and activities, as well as space to write your own reflections on these problems and how best to tackle them.

OUR AIM

We hope this will help young people envision a different future. This booklet is yours to write in. We hope you'll use the information to stimulate your thoughts and think of ways your country and community can use lawful methods to prevent gun violence and abusive conduct that can easily lead to violence with weapons. Always remember that whatever methods are chosen, to be really effective, they must increase respect for dignity and human rights.

Please watch the video before you move onto the next pages:

<https://iansa.org/iansa-video-all-voices-heard-united-against-gun-violence/>



A GLOBAL PROBLEM

Every minute in many countries across the globe guns are fuelling violence and crime. Gun violence is perpetrated on the streets, inside homes and battlefields undermining people's fundamental rights and shattering lives and livelihoods.

Poverty, state repression, injustices, gang violence and patterns of abusive and violent masculine behaviour are a few of the main factors that increase the risk of violence with weapons in different contexts. Always a key factor in a pattern of gun violence is the easy access to uncontrolled guns. Weak gun control laws with loopholes enable irresponsible actors to proliferate guns. Also, the failure to strictly enforce those laws by the authorities allows gun trafficking to criminal gangs and others who present a deadly danger. The lack of control and proliferation of guns leads to horrific misuses, life changing injuries, killings and even mass atrocities.



HOW CAN WE HELP?

How can you and we contribute to solutions? The problem seems so big. It is usually hard to challenge ourselves to think differently or have a renewed perspective on such topics especially if there is conflicting information, views and emotions which are difficult to speak about, or might go against our learned behaviours. But if violence with weapons is directly threatening you or affecting others you know personally, it is even more important to work out what can be done effectively and lawfully to stop it.

One first step we think is to reflect on the topic of abusive masculine behaviour and how that relates to violence with weapons and guns. There are other steps too. Acquiring knowledge about gun violence and understanding how it occurs is a way to discuss and encourage your friends and associates to develop activities that could persuade the leaders of your community and country to take concrete measures to curb and eradicate gun violence.

We realise that this booklet is just one among many published materials that contribute to discussions about tools, practices, and policies to help tackle threats of armed violence and its impacts.



WHAT IS VIOLENCE?

Violence can be physical and/or psychological, including sexual abuse, deprivation of care and neglect. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines violence as the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment or deprivation.

Excluded from the definition are unintentional incidents – such as most road traffic injuries and burns. The use of physical force or power can include neglect and all types of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse, as well as suicide and other self-abusive acts. The presence of an intent to use force does not necessarily mean that there was an intent to cause damage.



WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH YOUNG PEOPLE?

Data indicates that violence tends to increase:

- during sharp rises in the proportion of youth in society,
- especially of young males who are abused and isolated,
- in areas with limited education and employment opportunities
- with no avenues to solve disputes, and to seek justice
- whose communities suffer economic deprivation, exclusion, and organised crime.



WHAT ARE THE MAIN TYPES OF VIOLENCE?

Individuals, families, communities, businesses, government institutions, and economies are profoundly affected by the impact and consequences of sustained patterns of violence. The WHO distinguishes between:

- *Self-directed violence* - which includes suicidal behaviour and self-abuse.
- *Interpersonal violence* - that is either committed at home by family or household members, including intimate partners, or committed outside home by unrelated individuals in the community who may not know each other.
- *Collective violence* - that is perpetrated by states and groups for one or more political, social or economic motives, including in armed conflict and armed crime.

Violence at home includes child abuse, intimate partner violence and abuse of the elderly.

Community violence includes youth violence, random acts of violence, rape or sexual assault by strangers, and violence in institutional settings such as schools, workplaces, prisons and nursing homes.

Collective violence includes war crimes and acts of terrorism, as well as the deliberate denial of essential services, mob violence, state terror and other violence by political groups and criminal gangs.

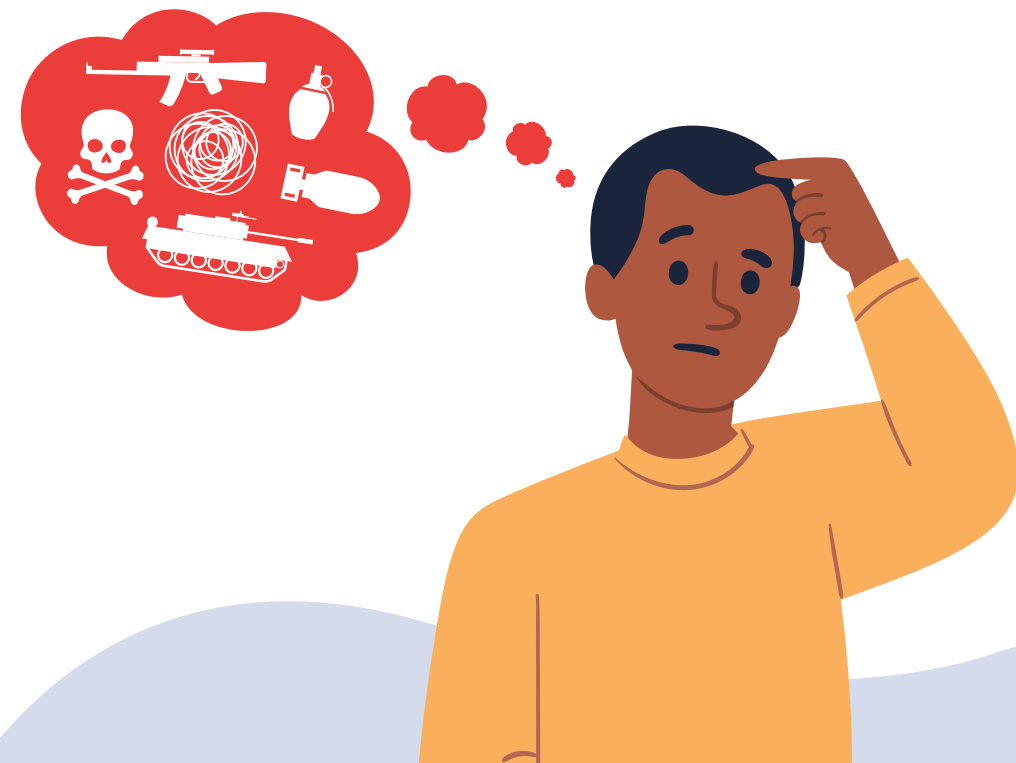
Individuals may suffer more than one type of violence. The causes of the violence usually vary with context and depend on several key factors. The prevalence of violence can vary more in severity and frequency between local areas in one country than between countries.

Overall reported deaths from violence are “the tip of the iceberg” and injuries, even those requiring medical attention, are not well reported in many countries. Reporting of sexual assaults of women, and injuries from fighting between adolescent males, is low and usually based on self-reporting. Such reporting is affected by cultural norms and a lack of effective policing and other avenues for reporting lead to underestimating the scale of the violence problem.

WHAT IS GUN VIOLENCE?

Gun violence is the use of a firearm to commit a crime or to inflict or threaten abusive or excessive force against someone. Such acts should always be unlawful no matter who the perpetrator is. Guns include pistols, shotguns, assault rifles, or machine guns. Gun violence can lead to a violation of the most fundamental human right: the right to life. Guns can also be used to deny people other fundamental rights such as the right not to be tortured or raped or be denied a job, education or healthcare because of your race, gender, nationality, or religion. Easy access to firearms – whether legal or illegal – is one of the main drivers of gun violence.

Deaths tend to be much more likely, and life-changing injuries tend to be more severe, when guns are used in acts of physical violence compared to other instruments of violence. Fatal or nonfatal firearm injuries can also happen while someone is cleaning or playing with a firearm or if they trigger an accidental firing without evidence of intentional harm.



Gunshot wounds are complex, violent, traumatic injuries. These are some of the typical serious injuries to human bodies and functions:

- **permanent tissue damage**
- **bone shattering**
- **limb amputation**
- **brain damage**
- **loss of sight**
- **haemorrhaging blood loss**
- **organ damage**
- **wound infections**
- **permanent disabilities**
- **post traumatic mental disorders**

The nature and severity of the injuries depend on the type of firearm used, the distance of fire, and the direction of fire, as well as the physical characteristics of the projectile or multiple projectiles, including the type and composition, shape, and tendency to fragment and deform.

RELIABLE STATISTICS ARE HARD TO FIND – HERE IS SOME DATA FROM THE UN

Outside armed conflicts: (2018 is latest reliable UN data)

- 223,200 people were killed intentionally with firearms
- 54% of global homicides were committed with a firearm
- 92% of those killed with firearms were men and boys
- 8% were women and girls
- One out of five killings were by an intimate partner or other family member
- The highest number of homicide deaths globally occurred among people 20-24 years old,

Inside armed conflicts: (2020 rough estimates)

- 390,000 civilians were killed
- 105,300 civilians were killed with small arms and light weapons
- One out of seven civilians killed were women or children

Wider effects caused by armed conflicts and violence include:

- An estimated 1.11 million civilian deaths on average each year from 1990 to 2017
- 100 million people forcibly displaced: 32 million refugees, 59 million internally displaced and 4 million asylum seekers.
- Denial of access to health, education, employment, and other essential services.
- Women, the elderly, children, and other vulnerable population groups are massively affected.

GUN VIOLENCE IMPACTS MEN AND WOMEN DIFFERENTLY.

Men and older boys commit most gun homicides and killings in armed conflicts. The UN estimates that over 90 % of gun violence victims are males. Large numbers of young men and boys are forcibly recruited to be soldiers or gun-carrying gang members, while others join voluntarily. Companies selling guns target mostly men but in some countries also women. Yet most men and boys don't have guns.

Women and girls are also hugely affected. Many of the 50 million women and girls forcibly displaced are fleeing armed violence. Yet they are not equally involved in gun control work with men.

More often, they suffer sexual assault and lack of access to healthcare, schooling, and employment because of armed conflict and violence. Such assaults and denial of access to essential services also affects boys and men.

When a firearm is in a home it greatly increases the risk of a lethal outcome from male domestic violence.

Gun violence against people because of their gender identity can be directed against anyone, including LGBTQ+ people.



GUN VIOLENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY – EXERCISE

Do you know if there are people in your community that have been affected by gun violence? Can you describe the perpetrators as well as the victims and survivors? Were they male or female? Were they children, or youths or adults or elderly people? What do you think were the reasons for the gun violence? Was it related to their racial, ethnic, national, religious, sexual orientation or social class identities?

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WHAT IS GENDER?

Gender refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviours, activities, and attributes associated with a particular biological sex in a particular sociocultural context.

For example, the term 'masculinity' refers to the roles, behaviours and attributes that are associated with maleness and considered appropriate for how men should behave and look. There are some masculinities or forms of masculinity that are rooted in male domination, sexism, discrimination against others and in aggression or even violence, but other forms of masculine behaviour with sets of values and attitudes that reject abusive masculine behaviour.

Traditional notions of masculinity expressed in male domination can lead to physical harm and violence being perpetrated by men and boys against others, including women and girls, who are expected to be subservient and submissive.

LGBTQI+ people are those who are 'lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex' where the "plus" is to include additional identities. Because their sexual orientation or gender identity does not correspond with social and cultural norms in many contexts, LGBTQI+ persons risk being subjected to specific kinds of armed violence. For more information on this you can refer to UN Free and Equal:

UN Free & Equal (unfe.org)

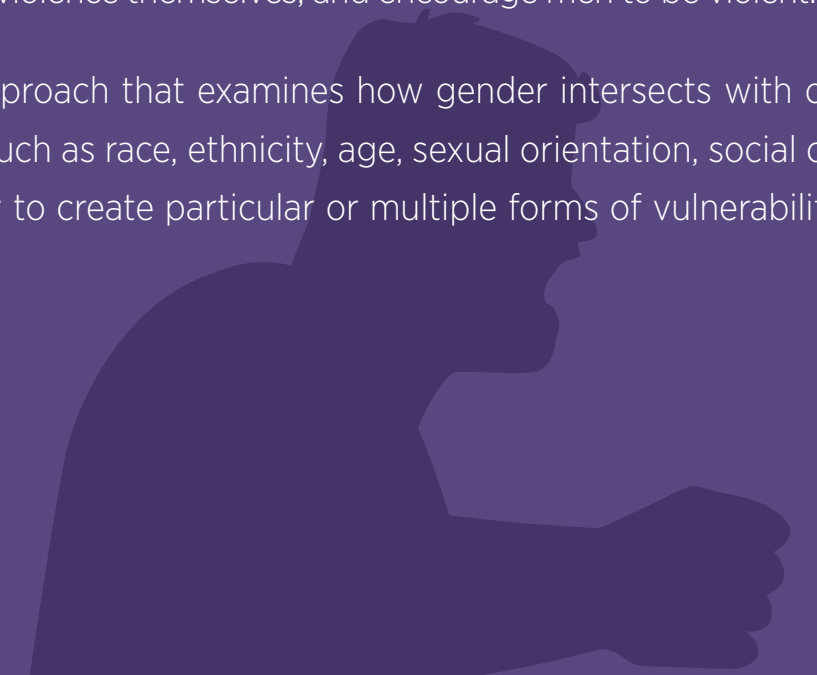


WHAT IS GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE?

Gender-based violence is the use and abuse of power and control over another person and is perpetrated against someone based on the perception of their gender identity, gender expression, or behaviour. Violence against women is regarded as the main form of gender-based violence and 'femicides' are the most severe manifestation narrowly defined as "the intentional murder of women because they are women".

Gender-based violence by men and boys is not confined to violence against women and girls but can sometimes be directed against men and boys, as well as members of the LGBTQIA+ community, when they are targeted as victims of violence because of their gender. Examples are when men and boys are raped, which is frequently the case in armed conflicts and amongst criminal gangs, or when boys are forcibly selected or conscripted to be armed fighters or criminal gang members. Research data also shows that women also commit violence themselves, and encourage men to be violent.

Intersectionality is an approach that examines how gender intersects with other forms of social identity such as race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, social class, nationality, and disability to create particular or multiple forms of vulnerability or oppression.



BULLYING – EXERCISE

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SEXIST ATTITUDES, STEREOTYPING AND “MACHISMO”

Sexism is a systemic form of prejudice, stereotyping, or discrimination against people based on their gender. While it can affect anyone, it primarily affects women and girls, which reinforces the patriarchy and helps ensure male dominance in society. Sexism exists in a myriad of ways: interpersonal and institutional. Moreover, sexism is usually thought of as mainly affecting women and girls. However, what is less understood and mostly not acknowledged is the impact of sexism on concepts of masculinity and male culture.

Machismo is a set of persistent sexist attitudes that defend and justify the superiority and dominance of men over women. Under the term machismo, men are characterised as aggressive, independent, and dominant, and women are characterised as weak, dependent, and submissive. In most societies these attitudes have become ‘hegemonic masculinity norms’ and were built throughout history in many cultures as socially more desirable and powerful than alternative masculinities, femininities, or gender identities across a wide spectrum of gender diversity. Today we can reflect to see it is not the case.

In relation to armed violence, dominant masculinity norms can often be linked to militaristic status symbols, such as the glorification of weapons and the use of violence to resolve disputes. Machista attitudes can be related to beliefs that justify violence, aggression or acceptance of violence. For example, the belief that ‘sometimes you have to be violent to show that you are a man’; and “real men” are not afraid of fighting.

Acceptance of violence is associated with the normalisation of violence as part of everyday life. It includes attitudes that justify aggression, attributes guilt to victims, and understates the impact and severity of violence as a problem behavior. Some studies have shown that acceptance of violence was a predictor of dating violence in adolescents.



VIOLENT VIDEO GAMES – EXERCISE

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THE EXAMPLE OF JAPAN – EXERCISE

It is evident that sexist abuse and violence against women in Japan is common and so is patriarchy. See for example:

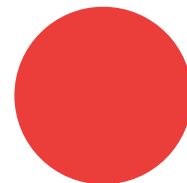
- <https://metropolisjapan.com/japan-safe-for-women/>
- <https://globalvoices.org/2021/08/31/train-attack-in-japan-exposes-misogyny-and-gender-violence/>

At the same time, Japan has one of the lowest rates of gun crime in the world. In 2014, there were just six deaths attributed to the use of a firearms, compared to 33,599 in the US. If you want to buy a gun in Japan you have to attend an all-day class, take a written exam and pass a shooting-range test with a mark of at least 95%. Applicants must also undergo a mental health and drugs tests. Your criminal record is checked, and police look for links to violent extremist groups. Then the authorities check your relatives too - and even your work colleagues.

As well as having the power to deny anyone a gun licence, police also have sweeping powers to search and seize weapons. Handguns are banned outright. Only shotguns and air rifles are allowed. The law also restricts the number of gun shops. In most of Japan's 40 or so prefectures there can be no more than three shops with permission to sell guns or ammunition, and you can only buy fresh cartridges by returning the spent cartridges you bought on your last visit. Police must be notified where the gun and the ammunition are stored - and they must be stored separately under lock and key. Police will also inspect guns once a year. And after three years each licence is no longer valid, at which point the gun owner must attend the safety course and pass the tests again. Mass shootings in Japan are extremely rare. When mass killings occur, the killer most often wields a knife.

Can you find any other factors for why gun violence is so low in Japan?

Here is a video animation on Japan's gun control
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tPLoW4eFwiM>

[illegible]

MAJOR RISK FACTORS LINKED TO GUN VIOLENCE – EXERCISE

Choose one or more countries from the two lists below, then consider which of these risk factors are most important in high totals and high rates of gun killings – you can try to rank the risk factors in an order of importance if you have enough time to search for facts:

- weak gun control systems
- extreme inequality and poverty
- abusive masculine behaviour
- persistent corruption
- ethnic conflict and discrimination
- lack of political freedom
- unresolved grievances/injustices
- repeated violations of fundamental human rights by police or soldiers.

Countries with the Highest Total Gun Deaths from all causes (including suicide) in 2019

1. Brazil — 49,436
2. United States — 37,038
3. Venezuela — 28,515
4. Mexico — 22,116
5. India — 14,710
6. Colombia — 13,169
7. Philippines — 9,267
8. Guatemala — 5,980
9. Nigeria — 5,103
10. Iraq — 4,424

Countries with the Highest Rates of Violent Gun Killings per 100,000 residents in 2019

1. El Salvador — 36.78
2. Venezuela — 33.27
3. Guatemala — 29.06
4. Colombia — 26.36
5. Brazil — 21.93
6. Bahamas — 21.52
7. Honduras — 20.15
8. U.S. Virgin Islands — 19.40
9. Puerto Rico — 18.14
10. Mexico — 16.41

[illegible]

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR IDEA OF AN IDEAL NON-VIOLENT PERSON?

[illegible]

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS FOR LOCAL YOUTH ACTION

- Are there ways to report acts of gender-based violence in your school and community? If not, how could you contribute to the creation of such services?
- How can you contribute to the creation of safe, nurturing, and healthy environments and relationships to prevent adults from adopting violent behaviours that serve as role models for children and youth?
- How can you help adults learn to promote a culture of human rights where respect for human dignity, tolerance, and equality are core values in guiding behaviours?
- How can you help promote healthy relationship skills that decrease youths' acceptance of traditional gender role norms and dating violence?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper is set against a light gray background, and there are purple corner tabs at the top-left and bottom-right corners.

SPEAK OUT AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND GUN VIOLENCE!

Gun violence and gender-based violence affects millions every day. Urgent action must be taken.

How can we work together to prevent gun violence and keep everyone safe?

We must ensure ALL voices are heard. This requires the full and equal participation of men and women, and effective representation of communities affected by gun violence, in all disarmament and security decision-making processes.

We also need to ensure that the impact of gun control initiatives on women and other underrepresented groups is considered at every stage.

Get involved in the campaign against gun violence. It starts with you!



INFO ABOUT IANSA

The International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) is the global movement against gun violence, linking civil society organisations working to stop the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons. It represents the voices of civil society on the international stage, for example in the UN process on small arms, and draws on the practical experience of its members to campaign for policies that will protect human security.

IANSA campaign-actions: <https://iansa.org/campaigns/>

Aim for Change: <https://iansa.org/aim-for-change-campaign/>

Be Yourself! Colouring book: <https://iansa.org/be-yourself-coloring-book-2021/>

IANSA Women's Network: <https://iansa.org/womens-network/>

 <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3zHsET2VapLNKeMmiFTvOQ>

 https://www.instagram.com/iansa_network/

 <https://twitter.com/IANSAnetwork>

 <https://www.facebook.com/IANSAnetwork>



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