

Myth or Fact?

X Myth

Preventing violence against women and gender equality is a Western concept.

✓ Fact

Throughout time, people all over the world, especially women, have actively challenged gender inequality, violence and oppression.

X Myth

Belonging to a culture means the same thing for everyone.

✓ Fact

Change is essential to culture! History is the story of cultures changing both dramatically and gradually, both by choice and because of circumstances.

Working together, we can change culture, and we can end gender inequality and violence against women.

X Myth

Cultures do not change.

Have you heard someone say something like: in my community, it has never been women's roles to be leaders or to make important decisions in families?

✓ Fact

Everyone experiences culture in a different way.

We shape culture by our everyday actions. For example, we can think about how we are similar and different to our family members, our friends and other members of our community.

Thank you to the Multicultural Centre for Women's Health, for permission to use the text above on myths and facts. This is part of their resource, Challenging myths and facts about culture and violence in migrant and refugee communities. (2020), available at: www.mcwh.com.au/challenging-myths-about-culture-and-violence-in-migrant-and-refugee-communities/

This handout is part of a conversation starter resource "Equality and respect for Hakka Chin and Mandarin speaking women in Melbourne's east" developed for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence in 2024, available to view and download at whe.org.au/tfer/16-days/

