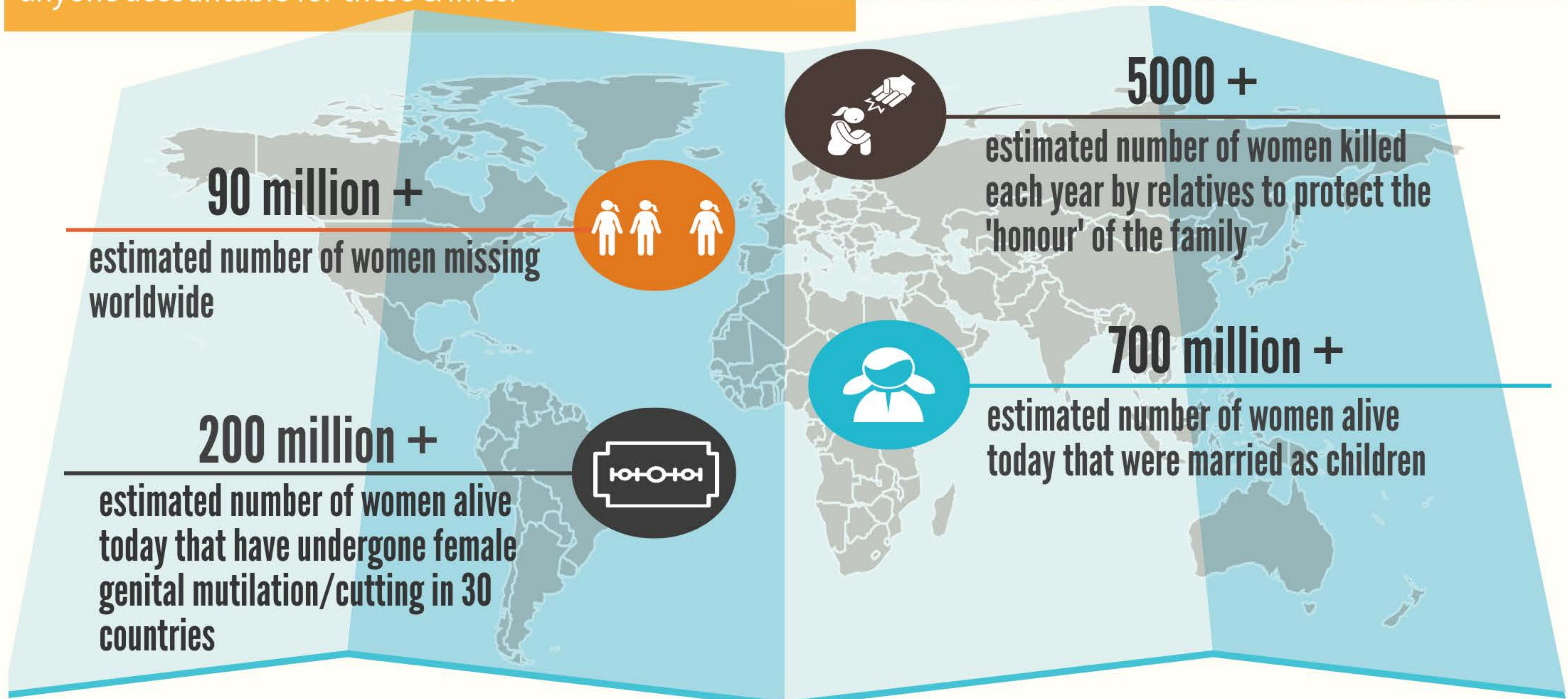
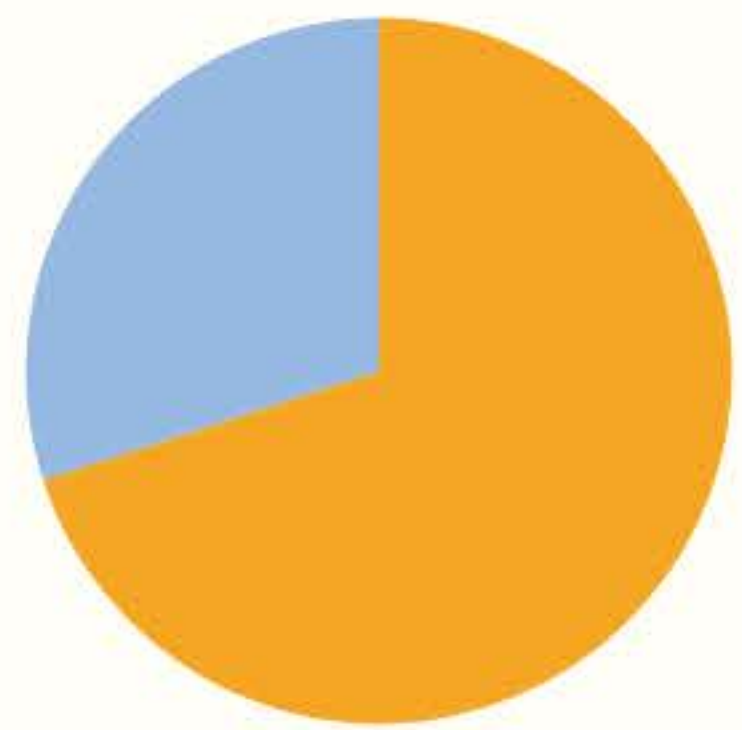


# Violence Against Women Around the World

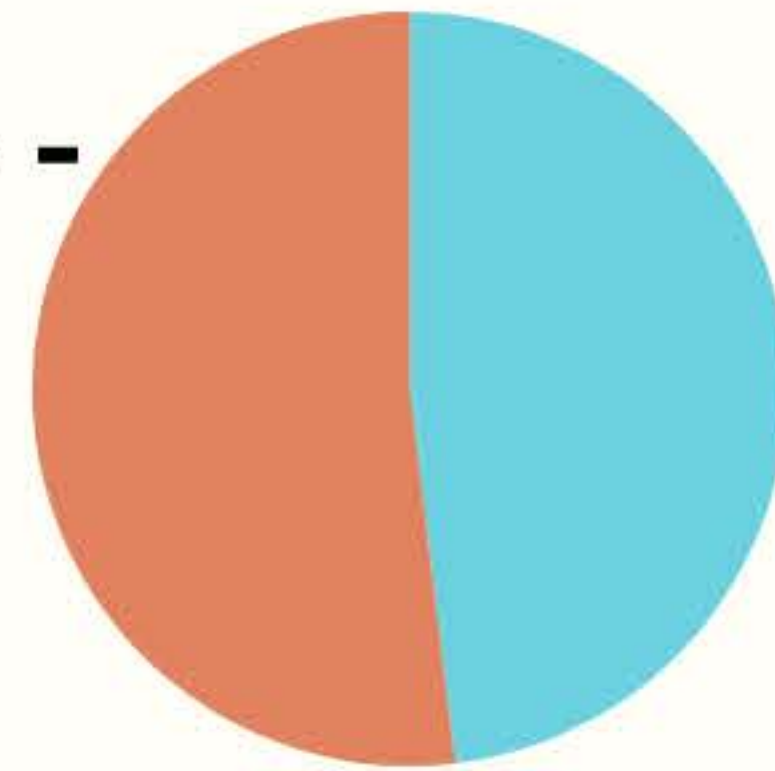
In a global environment which often holds women as second class citizens, or non-citizens, women are frequently the victims of the most shocking violence imaginable, including murder, trafficking, sexual violence and harassment, female genital mutilation/cutting, under-age and forced marriages, honour killings, dowry deaths, acid/burn violence, and female infanticide. This violence rarely results in the punishment for the perpetrators. Violence against women is a global crisis with little evidence of a political will to hold anyone accountable for these crimes.





Up to 70% of women worldwide have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime

Of all worldwide female homicide victims, more than half were killed by an intimate partner or family member



## Sheltering around the world

In the majority of countries where data is available, less than 40% of women who experience violence seek help. Less than 10% of those seeking shelter for intimate partner violence sought help by appealing to police.

There are a number of United Nations initiatives that address the global epidemic of violence against women. The convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the 1994 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the United Nations International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women, the UN Secretary-General's UNITE Campaign to End Violence Against Women, and the UN Virtual Knowledge Centre on Sheltering (developed by Canadian Network of Women's Shelters and Transition Houses) indicate a growing international acknowledgment of the unacceptability of the conditions under which many women live. International movements and human rights groups such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International take an active role in monitoring the situation of women worldwide and attempt to hold governments accountable for the discrimination and abuse of women which occurs in their country.

In developed countries where the sheltering movement began in the 1970's, most women can access a safe shelter, although in rural and isolated communities accessibility can still be challenging. In developing countries, the women's shelter movement began in 1990s. Currently, some countries have only one shelter which serves a population of several million women. The need for safe and supportive residential services for women is now being recognized by governments in all regions of the world. Women activists are speaking out everywhere about the violence experienced by their sisters. The movement to end the abuse of women has become a global one that is voicing the need for government to take action to protect women and to do everything possible to end the violence that they endure.