This pyramid illustrates the continuum of violence against women. The continuum is not a linear progression, but rather demonstrates the cultural and structural factors that permits violence against women to occur, and how gender stereotypes underlie the violence. All layers are linked, and feed into one another.

Each layer of the pyramid is manifested in society in many subtle and not so subtle ways.

Whilst the link between gender stereotypes and the murder of a woman may be a hard concept to understand, this pyramid demonstrates its correlation. Levels of violence against women are significantly and consistently higher in in societies, communities, and relationships where there are rigid and stereotypical roles for men and women.