## **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

In 2012, PGTN was invited to participate in health training seminars in the Middle East (Cairo, Egypt), a region in the midst of challenging change. Some individuals are able to adapt psychologically to change easily while others may develop distress in the form of anxiety, sleep disturbances, mood changes, behavioral changes, and physical complaints (i.e. complaints without evidence of physical illness).

Violence may occur in settings undergoing significant social change and can have disastrous effects on the mental health of those victimized.

In Egypt, physical, psychological, and sexual violence against women have been and continue to be significant issues and local, national, and international organizations are making efforts to address the psychological consequences of these forms of abuse.



The Psychological Health Awareness Society in Egypt or PHASE (an Egyptian NGO associated with the European Union, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the World Psychiatric Association) sponsors and participates in conferences that address violence against women. In 2012, PHASE invited PGTN to aid in educating health workers on mental health issues and support associated with abuse of women and other vulnerable populations.