

## RESEARCH BASED TEMPLATE

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### **Development of a comprehensive, self-reported measure of reproductive coercion and abuse for global use**

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#### **Background:**

Reproductive coercion and abuse describes controlling behaviours used to undermine reproductive autonomy over contraception, pregnancy and abortion choices. Debate exists about how to measure this form of gender-based violence that overlaps with intimate partner, family, and sexual violence. Consequently, measurement approaches are inconsistent and a validated, comprehensive, and culturally sensitive measure is needed. To address this gap, our study aimed to develop a comprehensive, self-reported measure of reproductive coercion and abuse to estimate prevalence and evaluate interventions across global contexts.

#### **Methods:**

COSMIN guidelines informed the design of this mixed methods study grounded in intersectional and reproductive justice frameworks. Initial items were generated following a systematic literature review and formative qualitative study with lived experience and professional experts. A modified e-Delphi study was then undertaken to determine consensus on scale items. Global experts with research, clinical, and/or lived experience were recruited to the Delphi panel. The final item list was pilot tested using cognitive interviewing in English and following translation and back-translation, a sample of distinct other languages (Arabic, Dari, Spanish, Vietnamese).

#### **Results:**

Items were iteratively refined through each phase and intended to capture greater nuance and the spectrum of experiences, compared to prior measures. Thirty

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participants from ten countries living in Australia participated in the qualitative phase. A further 30 experts across global regions participated in the Delphi study, including Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, and Oceania. Of the initial 62 items, Delphi participants suggested 12 new items for a total of 74, 18 of which did not reach consensus. During pilot testing, we sought to recruit 7 participants minimum per language (n=35-45) to test the final 59 items.

### **Conclusion:**

Additional psychometric evaluation is required to further validate the scale. Findings contribute towards more robust measurement of reproductive coercion and abuse to strengthen the evidence, necessary to inform interventions and policy approaches.

### **Disclosure of Interest Statement:**

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