



Planet 50-50 by 2030  
Step It Up for Gender Equality



BAN KI MOON  
UN SECRETARY GENERAL

## MESSAGE FROM UN SECRETARY GENERAL

### BAN KI MOON

At long last, there is growing global recognition that violence against women and girls is a human rights violation, public health pandemic and serious obstacle to sustainable development. Yet there is still much more we can and must do to turn this awareness into meaningful prevention and response.

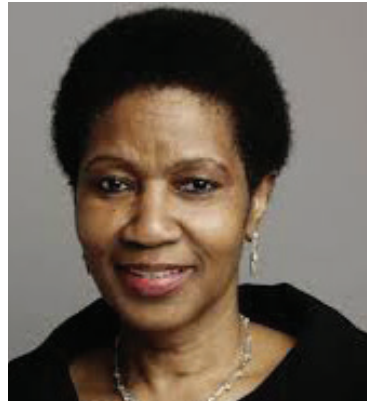
Violence against women and girls imposes large-scale costs on families, communities and economies. When women cannot work as a result of violence, their employment may be put at risk, jeopardizing much-needed income, autonomy and their ability to leave abusive relationships. Violence against women also results in lost productivity for businesses, and drains resources from social services, the justice system and health-care agencies. Domestic and intimate partner violence remains widespread, compounded by impunity for those crimes. The net result is enormous suffering as well as the exclusion of women from playing their full and rightful roles in society.

The world cannot afford to pay this price. Women and girls cannot afford it – and should not have to. Yet such violence persists every day, around the world. And efforts to address this challenge, although rich in political commitment, are chronically under-funded.

Since 2008, I have led the UNITE campaign to End Violence against Women, which calls for global action to increase resources and promote solutions. I call on governments to show their commitment by dramatically increasing national spending in all relevant areas, including in support of women's movements and civil society organizations. I also encourage world leaders to contribute to UN Women and to the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women. We look as well to the private sector, philanthropies and concerned citizens to do their part.

Today, we are seeing the world lit up in orange, symbolizing a bright future for women and girls. With dedicated investment, we can keep these lights shining, uphold human rights and eliminate violence against women and girls for good.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS



PHUMZILE MLAMBO-NGCUKA,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**"The price of no change is unacceptable"**  
— Executive Director

**Statement by  
Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka,  
Executive Director  
of UN Women on the  
International Day for the  
Elimination of Violence  
against Women,  
25 November, 2016**

We believe in and work for a world where women and girls can flourish and prosper peacefully alongside men and boys, sharing in and benefitting from societies that value their skills and accept their leadership. Violence against women and girls has a devastating impact on individuals and on the society.

Women and girls who experience violence lose their dignity, they live in fear and pain, and in the worst cases they pay with their lives. Violence cuts deeply into the liberties we should all have: the right to be safe at home, the right to walk safely on the streets, the right to go to school, to work, to the market or to watch a film. We should be able to expect that attackers will be punished, that justice will be done, and that we can get care and support for injuries.

Yet, still in many countries, the laws are inadequate, the police force is uninterested, shelters, health care and support are unavailable, and the criminal justice system is remote, expensive and biased against women and in the price of no change is unacceptable, favour of the male perpetrators. Change to these elements has a cost, yet

Experts are unanimous that the benefit of ending violence against women and girls would far outweigh the investment necessary. We know that even relatively small-scale investments that are timely and well targeted can bring enormous benefits to women and girls and to their wider communities. For example, in Timor-Leste a simple and very effective three-year programme to provide a package of essential services for women who had experienced violence cost a fraction of one per cent of GDP, but had significant impact on women's health and well-being. Practical changes in

market infrastructure, business training and provision of cashless payments transformed the environment, prospects and confidence of women stallholders in the markets of Papua New Guinea. In Uganda, a community programme brought together women and men, religious and community leaders, to change social norms, with a resulting reduction of 52 per cent in intimate partner violence.

These successes shed light on practical ways in which we can make progress. We can make inroads into the underlying issues of inequality and prejudice within our societies that enable and enflame violence against women and girls. We can scale up prevention and increase appropriate services. We can begin to bend the curve down and bring the scourge of violence against women and girls to an end. Doing so will take commitment, and investment, nationally and internationally.

The extent to which violence is embedded in the society means that proofing it is also a job for all of society. Changing the culture also means engaging allies, such as men and boys, religious groups and young people, using channels such as sports, arts, business, academia and faith to connect and convince.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development gives us tools with which to achieve this. Its ambitious targets demand innovative solutions and new partnerships to mobilize resources, including from national governments, overseas development assistance, private enterprise and philanthropic bodies and individuals. Today, on this International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, we recall this universal Agenda, universally agreed, we recognize the inextricable link between success in both, and commit again to achieving it.



HODAN ADDOU  
UN Women Country Representative

**Statement by  
Hodan Addou,  
UN Women Country  
Representative on the  
International Day to End  
Violence against women and  
girls**

Today, on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, we are uniting to call attention to the need to galvanize global and national attention and action. Today UN Women is urging governments, civil society, development partners, religious and cultural institutions and the private sector to back up national and international commitments geared towards ending all forms of violence against women and girls.

Globally, UN Women is advocating for robust funding which is critical to ending the pandemic of violence that pervades communities and families. Despite the growing recognition that the pandemic of violence against women is a gross human rights violation and a serious obstacle to development, concrete efforts on preventing and ending violence against women and girls continue to be of a low priority on international and national development agenda, with inadequate funding.

UN Women applauds the Government of Uganda for establishing national planning, implementation and monitoring frameworks for gender equality and congratulates His Excellency President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for launching the National Policy on the Elimination of Gender-Based Violence in Uganda. UN Women is committed to continuing its support to the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, women's organizations and other partners in the implementation of this important policy.

Despite the progress made in Uganda, we all appreciate the need to go an extra mile to free women and girls from all forms of violence and to enable them attain their full potential. Deep-rooted inequality in the roles, rights and opportunities of men and women, and attitudes and social norms that condone or normalize such violence, have made the problem persistent but not inevitable. With strong laws and institutions to protect women and punish perpetrators, provision of quality, accessible and affordable services to rebuild women's lives and comprehensive prevention that starts early, ending violence against women and girls can become a reality in Uganda. Robust and predictable funding to programmes focusing on prevention and response to violence against women and girls must be included annually in national budgets.

To be effective, prevention must address its root cause: gender inequality. We need to intensify education and advocacy about

the achievement of gender equality as a human rights principle in our schools, in our places of worship, our homes, our places of employment, in businesses and in our communities. Young people need to be included in advocacy efforts to raise awareness and show support on ending violence against women and girls.

Prevention cannot be a short-term effort, but rather an endeavor that requires long term commitment from government, civil society, development partners, private sector, religious and cultural institutions and ordinary individuals. Increased investment in gender statistics and research is critical to inform and monitor progress, and persistent action that addresses violence against women at its source.

There is substantive knowledge and good practices available in Uganda that can be drawn from to inform and upscale prevention and response interventions. The focus of all efforts should aim to address the root causes as well as risk and protective factors associated with violence against women and girls. When violence takes place, ensure access to essential services for all survivors, their families and communities in comprehensive and multifaceted approach that avoids secondary traumatization of survivors accessing these services. We must ensure that women and girls are safe and that perpetrators are held accountable for their crimes and brought to justice.

If we act with courage, conviction and commitment, we can change violence against women from being the most pervasive violation of human rights to being a rare occurrence that is considered unacceptable and no longer tolerated in Uganda.

Each one of us has responsibility and duty to act. But there is a special duty incumbent on the political, cultural and religious leaders to show that we not only listen but take the required actions in our own environments.

Today as we start the 16 days of activism to end violence against women and every day, let us individually and collectively pledge to do all we can to promote and protect women's rights so that every girl and woman can live free of violence and discrimination. UN Women invites you to join the "orange your world campaign" to demonstrate your support, by using the hashtags #orangetheworld and #16days.

Today and every day, let us all say No to violence against women and girls.-

# VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



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## A HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION OF PANDEMIC PROPORTIONS

Whether at home, on the streets or during war, violence against women is a HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION that takes place in PUBLIC and PRIVATE spaces.

### FORMS OF VIOLENCE



Physical



Sexual



Psychological

### INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

#### Fast Facts



1 in 3 women worldwide have experienced physical or sexual violence — mostly by an intimate partner.

In 2012, 1 in 2 women killed worldwide were killed by their partners or family. Only 1 out of 20 of all men killed were killed in such circumstances.

#### Are there laws to protect women?



Two-thirds of all countries have outlawed domestic violence.

**32 countries**

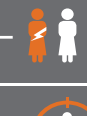
exempt rape perpetrators from prosecution when they are married to or subsequently marry the victim.

### SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Sexually violent acts can take place in different circumstances and settings. These include, for example:

- Rape (within marriage and relationships, by strangers, and during armed conflict)
- Unwanted sexual advances or sexual harassment, including demanding sex in return for favours
- Sexual abuse of children
- Forced marriage or cohabitation, including child marriage

#### Fast Facts



In some countries, up to one-third of adolescent girls report their first sexual experience as being forced.



In the European Union, 45% to 55% of women have experienced sexual harassment since the age of 15.

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



"I wasn't even allowed to cry. If even one tear fell they beat me. I used to think it was better to die than to live like this."  
— Meena Hasina, a survivor of sex slavery, India

#### WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?



Human trafficking is the acquisition and exploitation of people, through means, such as force, fraud or deception. The practice ensnares millions of women and girls into modern-day slavery, many of whom are sexually exploited.

#### Fast Facts

**4.5 million**  
of the estimated 21 million people in forced labour are victims of sexual exploitation.

**98%**  
of them are women and girls.

### FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION/CUTTING



"Once you know that everyone has a right to be free from all forms of violence, and that you yourself have a responsibility to help them achieve that right, you don't look back."  
— Sister Fa, Senegalese hip-hop star

#### WHAT IS FGM/C?

FGM/C includes procedures that intentionally alter or cause injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. Beyond extreme physical and psychological pain, the practice carries many health risks, including death.



#### Fast Facts

At least **200 million** women and girls alive today have undergone FGM/C in 30 countries where representative data is available.

**Age 5**

In most of these countries, the majority of girls were cut before age 5.

### CHILD MARRIAGE



"Since forever, I have learned to say yes to everything. Today I have decided to say no."  
— Nujood Ali, Yemeni advocate

#### Fast Facts

**700 million**  
**2.5X**

women alive today were married before 18 — more than one-third were married before 15.

poor girls are more likely to marry in childhood than wealthy ones.

#### WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF CHILD MARRIAGE?



Child marriage usually means an end to girl's education, vocation and her right to make life choices. Research confirms that girls who marry in childhood are at greater risk for intimate partner violence than girls of the same age who marry later.

**Statistics:** Ending Child Marriage: Progress and Prospects, UNICEF, 2014; Global and regional estimates of violence against women, WHO, 2013; Global Study on Homicide, UNODC, 2013; Hidden in Plain Sight: A Statistical Analysis of Violence against Children, UNICEF, 2014; Violence against women: an EU-wide survey, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, 2014; Women, Business and the Law 2016, World Bank Group, 2016; World report on violence and health, WHO, 2002; ILO Global Estimate of Forced Labour, ILO, 2012; Female genital mutilation/cutting: A global concern, UNICEF, 2016.

**Quotes:** Half the Sky, Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women, Sheryl WuDunn, Nicholas Kristof, 2009; "My battle against female genital cutting," The Guardian, 2012; I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced, Nujood Ali, Delphine Minoui, 2010.

