



The Secretary-General's Campaign to End Violence Against Women

In February 2008, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched his campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" – a multi-year effort aimed at preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls in all parts of the world.

"Violence against women is an issue that cannot wait. A brief look at the statistics makes it clear. At least one out of every three women is likely to be beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime," the Secretary-General said at the launch of his campaign. "There is no blanket approach to fighting violence against women. What works in one country may not lead to desired results in another. Each nation must devise its own strategy," he said. "But there is one universal truth, applicable to all countries, cultures and communities: violence against women is never acceptable, never excusable, never tolerable."

Stretching from 2008 to 2015 – to coincide with the target date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals – the campaign calls on governments, civil society, women's organizations, young people, the private sector, the media and the entire UN system to join forces in addressing the global pandemic of violence against women and girls. It builds on existing international legal and policy frameworks and harnesses the strong momentum around the issue, reflected in a growing number of initiatives by UN system partners, Governments and NGOs.

The Situation

- Today, at least one out of every three women is likely to be beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime.
- Worldwide, one in five women will become a victim of rape or attempted rape in her lifetime.
- More than 80 per cent of trafficking victims are women. Up to 130 million women have been genitally mutilated.
- Violence against women has enormous social and economic costs, and undercuts the contribution of women to development, peace and security, and human rights. It poses a serious threat to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

The Objectives

- The overall objective of the campaign is to raise public awareness and increase political will and resources for preventing and responding to all forms of violence against women and girls – in all parts of the world.
- The Secretary-General calls on governments, civil society, women's organizations, young people, the private sector, the media, the entire United Nations system, and individual women and men to join forces in addressing the global pandemic of violence against women and girls.
- The Campaign provides a collective platform to engage a wide range of stakeholders in an unprecedented level of global mobilization, linking their initiatives to the Secretary-General's efforts.

Expected Outcomes

Five key outcomes have been set as the benchmarks which the Campaign aims to inspire all countries to achieve by 2015:

- National laws are in place and enforced to address and punish all forms of violence against women and girls in line with international human rights standards.
- National plans of action are adopted that are multi-sectoral and adequately resourced, with implementation underway.
- Data collection and analysis systems are institutionalized and periodic surveys are undertaken on prevalence of various forms of violence against women and girls.
- National and/or local campaigns are launched and social mobilization engages a diverse range of civil society actors in preventing violence and supporting abused women and girls.
- Sexual violence in conflict situations is systematically addressed in all peace and security policy and funding frameworks and mechanisms for protection and prevention of systematic rape are implemented.

By 2015, the Campaign aims to make an impact in terms of an increased number of countries, at both national and local levels, with dedicated laws, action plans, and budgets in place and implemented, including programmes for prevention, and availability of integrated services for abused women and girls. The Campaign also hopes to make a significant contribution to awareness-raising and social mobilization to end all forms of violence against women and girls, and to engage men and boys in prevention and response efforts.

Resources

Secretary-General's campaign website: <http://endviolence.un.org>

UN Action against Rape and Sexual Violence in Conflict: www.stoprapenow.org

Say NO to Violence Against Women (UNIFEM): www.saynotoviolence.org

V-Day Campaign (supported by UNICEF): www.stoprapeindrc.org

16 Days of Activism (UNFPA): www.unfpa.org/16days

UN Special Advisor on Gender Issues & Advancement of Women: www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi

Media contacts for further information or for interviews:

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Or see UN System contacts at: <http://endviolence.un.org/factsheet>