



Associated Country
Women of the World

137
too many

Every day, 137 women die at the hands of a family member

243 million women experienced sexual and/or physical violence from an intimate partner in the last year

1 in 4 girls aged 15 - 19 have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner

The primary way that ACWW can address domestic violence and the policies and systems that allow it to thrive is through advocacy. Advocacy means that we take the issues facing rural women, like increased risk of domestic violence, death at the hands of an intimate partner, and lack of access to resources, and present these to international and national policy-makers and legislators. Last year, we were able to raise the issue of domestic violence while at the Eurasian Women's Forum in Russia, both through speeches and directly with government ministers. If you want to support our advocacy work, please donate to the Rural Women in Action Fund, the lifeblood of ACWW.

Educate Boys

Protect Girls

Invest in programmes and resources to help women be more financially independent

Challenge misogynistic talk and 'jokes'

Challenge cultural, religious, and traditional attitudes that perpetuate inequalities

Look inward: think about the beliefs you have about yourself and other women that are based in misogyny

We won't tolerate violence in our communities.

Rural Women deserve better



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ACWW

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What can we do in our communities?

Raise good men

to respect, honour, and celebrate women in all their diversity and to view women as peers, colleagues, and friends rather than only potential spouses, sexualised objects, or surrogate caretakers

Challenge “everyday sexism”

When you see someone being treated unfairly at work, school, or church, don't let it go unchallenged. This can be as simple as creating discomfort by asking someone to explain a sexist joke, or it can mean reporting harassment to appropriate authorities

Believe and support survivors

Familiarise yourself with the support mechanisms for people fleeing domestic abuse, and investigate whether they are sufficient to keep them safe, so that you know exactly what to do if someone confides in you.



What should governments do?

- 1** Give girls and women the support they need to leave abusive situations
 - Financial security
 - Mental Healthcare
 - Physical Protection
 - Community
- 2** Secure financial independence for women through education, loan advice, capacity building, and career advancement opportunities
- 3** Ensure continuity of education and opportunities for further education
- 4** Place qualified women in leadership roles in the community, to ensure that the interests of women are safeguarded
- 5** Give girls female role models and teachers, who are empowered themselves and can teach young women the importance of education and self-sufficiency.



Raising awareness is vital, but the responsibility for change lies with policy-makers and legislators, law enforcement and judiciary systems, and ultimately the perpetrators themselves. Unless we see systematic cultural shifts that prioritise the eradication of violence against women and girls, we will find ourselves in the same place a decade in the future - very aware of a problem that hasn't been fully addressed.

FROM 16 TO 365

Pressure your local and national governments. Gather statistics and stories from support services in your area, and then find out how your local government is prioritising addressing violence against women and girls.

If you need help writing letters, finding the right people to talk to, or support from your international network or Rural Women in Action, reach out to Central Office.

and please remember...

When making a presentation or doing a talk on these topics, your audience will be full of women from all walks of life. It is important that they are aware of the subject matter before your talk, so that they can decide for themselves whether they want to listen. It is usual to offer a content warning when discussing domestic violence, sexual violence, or abuse in general. When you offer a content warning, you could say something like this:

“My talk will include mentions of domestic violence, sexual violence and assault, and domestic abuse. If you don't feel that you want to engage with the subjects as they are presented, please feel free to disengage in a way that feels comfortable for you.”

Please ensure that attendees are aware of the content of your talk in advance of the meeting and directly before you start your presentation or talk. After giving your content warning, give attendees a chance to take action by asking them to talk among themselves while you make final preparations. This gives them opportunity to leave without undue awkwardness or embarrassment.

