



16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

One in three women experience **physical or sexual violence** at least once.

Violence against women and girls is one of the most prevalent and pervasive human rights violations. The solution lies in robust responses, including investment in prevention.

**We call on governments worldwide:
Invest in prevention to eradicate violence
against women and girls.**

25 NOVEMBER

International Day for the Elimination
of Violence against Women



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Technology-facilitated violence against women and girls

The lack of a common definition of technology-facilitated violence against women and girls impacts on the lack of comparable data at a global level. But available evidence collected at country and regional levels confirms high prevalence rates

10% of women in the European Union has experienced cyber-harassment since the age of 15, including having received unwanted and/or offensive sexually explicit emails or SMS messages, or offensive and/or inappropriate advances on social networking sites

In Uganda, in 2021, about half of women (49%) reported being involved in online harassment at some point in their lifetime

According to a 2016 survey by the Korean National Human Rights Commission, 85% of women experienced hate speech online

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26 NOVEMBER

Thinking about safe online spaces and technology-facilitated violence against women and girls



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Femicides – killing of a woman or girl because of her gender

In 2021, around 45,000 women and girls worldwide were killed by their intimate partners or other family members. This means that, on average, more than five women or girls are killed every hour by someone in their own family.

While 56% of all female homicides are committed by intimate partners or other family members, only 11 per cent of all male homicides are perpetrated in the private sphere.

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27 NOVEMBER

Remembering all those who lose
their lives because of their gender



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The impact of COVID-19 on violence against women and girls

The COVID-19 pandemic has intensified violence against women and girls (VAWG) and has also exposed and exacerbated deep structural inequalities, reversed decades of progress on women's participation in the labour market, raised the number of women living in extreme poverty, and increased the burden of unpaid care and domestic work, all of which exacerbates the risk factors and drivers of VAWG.

In 2021, since the pandemic began, 45% of women reported that they or a woman they know has experienced a form of VAWG. 70% of women said they think verbal or physical abuse by a partner has become more common. 60% felt that sexual harassment in public spaces has worsened.

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28 NOVEMBER

We need action today, tomorrow, and everyday.



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Laws on violence against women and girls

At least 162 countries have passed laws on domestic violence, and 147 have laws on sexual harassment in the workplace. However, even when laws exist, this does not mean they are always compliant with international standards and recommendations or are implemented and enforced.

In 2022, the Republic of Congo and Côte d'Ivoire enacted legislation protecting women from various forms of domestic violence, while the Republic of Congo, Indonesia, and Jamaica enacted legislation on sexual harassment in the workplace, including criminal penalties and civil remedies.

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29 NOVEMBER

Enforce the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)



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Reporting of violence against women

Less than 40% of the women who experience violence seek help of any sort.

In the majority of countries with available data on this issue, among women who do seek help, most look to family and friends and very few look to formal institutions, such as police and health services. Fewer than 10% of those seeking help reported to the police. We need law enforcement that doesn't re-victimise women, treats survivors with dignity, and respects the need for responsive action.

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30 NOVEMBER

Calling for Gender-responsive law enforcement and implementation of legal protections already in place



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736 million women – almost 1 in 3 – have been subjected to physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, or both at least once in their life

The rates of depression, anxiety disorders, unplanned pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections, and HIV are higher in women who have experienced violence compared to women who have not, as well as many other health problems that can last after the violence has ended.

24% of adolescent girls aged 15–19 has experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner or husband. 16% of young women aged 15–24 experienced this in the past year.

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1 DECEMBER
World AIDS Day



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Risk factors of violence against women and girls

A regional analysis of Women's Health Surveys conducted from 2016 to 2019 in five countries (Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago) found that women aged 15–64, who were in relationships with men who had attitudes and behaviours that reinforce men's dominant position over women and perpetuate gender inequality, were more likely to have experienced lifetime and current intimate partner violence. Behaviours intended to control women's bodies, autonomy, and contact with others are also strongly correlated with an increased risk of intimate partner violence.

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2 DECEMBER

Coercive Control is a form of violence,
and leads to higher rates of physical violence



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Sexual violence against women and girls

Globally, 6% of women report that they have been subjected to sexual violence from someone other than their husband or partner. However, the true prevalence of non-partner sexual violence is likely to be much higher, considering the stigma related to this form of violence.

Fifteen million adolescent girls worldwide, aged 15–19 years, have experienced forced sex. In the vast majority of countries, adolescent girls are most at risk of forced sex (forced sexual intercourse or other sexual acts) by a current or former husband, partner, or boyfriend. Based on data from 30 countries, only 1% have ever sought professional help.

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3 DECEMBER

Violence starts young, and all young people need education on consent, sexual safety, and positive behaviour.



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Economic costs of violence against women and girls

Violence against women can result in significant costs to the state, survivors, and communities. Costs are both direct and indirect, and tangible and intangible. For example, the costs of the salaries of individuals working at shelters are direct tangible costs. Costs are borne by everyone, including individual victims/survivors, perpetrators, the government, and society in general.

In Egypt, some 500,000 working days are lost each year due to marital violence, and the health sector bears more than US \$14 million in costs to serve just one quarter (600,000) of survivors

In 2021, gender-based violence across the European Union was estimated to cost around €366 billion a year. Violence against women makes up 79% of this cost, amounting to €289 billion

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4 DECEMBER

International Day of Banks. Every effort invested in preventing violence against women is a step towards a safer, more equal and prosperous world.



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Climate change and violence against women and girls

Climate change and slow environmental degradation exacerbate the risks of violence against women and girls due to displacement, resource scarcity and food insecurity and disruption to service provision for survivors

Following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the rate of rape among women displaced to trailer parks rose 53.6 times the baseline rate in Mississippi, USA, for that year

Nepal witnessed an increase in trafficking from an estimated 3,000–5,000 annually in 1990 to 12,000–20,000 per year after the 2015 earthquake

In Ethiopia there was an increase in girls sold into early marriage in exchange for livestock to help families cope with the impacts of prolonged droughts

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5 DECEMBER
World Soil Day



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Trafficking in women

In 2020, for every 10 victims of human trafficking detected globally, about four were adult women and about two were girls. Most of the detected victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation (91%) are women.

Analysis of court cases shows that female victims are subjected to physical or extreme violence at the hands of traffickers at a rate three times higher than males.

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6 DECEMBER

Trafficking is a global problem, and requires global action.

Support survivors, don't re-victimise them.



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Violence against girls

During the past decade, the global rate of child marriage has declined, with the global proportion of young women aged 20–24 years old who were married before the age of 18 decreasing from nearly one in four in 2010 to almost one in five (19%) in 2022. However, the profound effects of the pandemic are threatening this progress, with up to 10 million additional girls at risk of child marriage in the next decade due to the pandemic.

School-related gender-based violence is a major obstacle to universal schooling and the right to education for girls. Globally, one in three students, aged 11–15, have been bullied by their peers at school at least once in the past month, with girls and boys equally likely to experience bullying.

While boys are more likely to experience physical bullying than girls, girls are more likely to experience psychological bullying, and they report being made fun of because of how their face or body looks more frequently than boys.

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7 DECEMBER

Focus on Violence Against Girls



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Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting

At least 200 million women and girls aged 15–49 have undergone female genital mutilation in 31 countries where the practice is concentrated.

In sub-Saharan Africa, one in four women and girls has undergone female genital mutilation. But levels vary widely across countries.

There are still countries where female genital mutilation is almost universal, where at least nine in 10 girls and women, aged 15–49 years, have been cut, while it affects no more than 1% of girls and women in Cameroon and Uganda

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8 DECEMBER

Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting are forms of gender-based violence, hidden by taboo, fear, and shame



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Violence against women in public life

Across five regions, 82% of women parliamentarians reported having experienced some form of psychological violence while serving their terms. This included remarks, gestures, and images of a sexist or humiliating sexual nature, threats, and mobbing. Women cited social media as the main channel of this type of violence, and nearly half (44%) reported receiving death, rape, assault, or abduction threats towards them or their families. 65% had been subjected to sexist remarks, primarily by male colleagues in parliament.

A global survey showed that 73% of women journalists have experienced online violence. 20% said they had been attacked or abused offline in connection with online violence they had experienced. The reporting theme most often identified in association with heightened attacks was gender (49%), followed by politics and elections (44%), and human rights and social policy (31%).

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9 DECEMBER

We need more women in leadership roles locally, nationally, and globally – but there must be safety for those in those roles.



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Human Rights Day

10 December 2023 marks the 75th anniversary of one of the world's most groundbreaking global pledges: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). This landmark document enshrines the inalienable rights that everyone is entitled to as a human being – regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

“We must stand firm against rising intolerance and build a future of dignity, security, justice & human rights for all.”

UN Secretary-General António Guterres

Women's Rights are Human Rights

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10 DECEMBER

Human Rights Day



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Using these resources

ACWW has produced this pack for you to use for local advocacy – you can print them off (the PDF version will size to fit on any size of paper, wherever you are in the world) and use them as posters, you can share them on social media, you can use them to send to your local politicians, share with friends and family, take to local libraries... whatever you can do locally to raise awareness of gender-based violence.

This year's theme for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is:
Invest to prevent violence against women and girls

Please do share widely and, if sharing online, add the hashtag #WeAreACWW



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