



# Words to Action:

## Newsletter on violence against women

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### News & Highlights

#### **Fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, UNHQ New York, 1-12 March 2010: 15-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (2000)**



Violence against women was a recurring concern at the session and was addressed in the Commission's panel discussions, outcomes and parallel events.

- In its resolution on "Ending female genital mutilation", the Commission urged States to condemn female genital mutilation, whether it is committed within or outside a medical institution; to take all necessary measures to prohibit female genital

mutilation and to protect girls and women from this form of violence, and to end impunity; and to complement punitive measures with awareness raising and education activities designed to promote a process of consensus towards the eradication of female genital mutilation.

- In its resolution on "Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS", the Commission urged Governments to strengthen and implement legal, policy, administrative and other measures for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls and to ensure that violence against women is addressed as an integral part of the national HIV and AIDS response.

The Commission also stressed that women and girls should be empowered to protect themselves against violence and that, in this regard, women have the right to have control over

and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including their sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence.

These resolutions are available at:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing15/outcomes.html>

- The Commission on the Status of Women held an interactive panel discussion on "Unite to End Violence against Women" on 11 March 2010. In his opening remarks, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon emphasized: "We all need to unite to demand accountability for the violations of the rights of women and girls. We all need to take concrete steps to end impunity. We must listen to and support the victims. We must address the roots of violence against women". The newly appointed Secretary-General's Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ms. Margot Wallström, also made a statement.

The archived webcast is available at:

<http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/ondemand/specialevents/2010/se100311am.rm>

More information about the panel, including the papers presented, is available at:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing15/ievents.html>

#### **8 March 2010: International Women's Day (IWD) - "Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities: Progress for All"**

IWD was celebrated at UNHQ on 3 March 2010 with panel discussions and other events. Many senior UN officials delivered messages to mark the occasion.

- In his message, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon reflected on the fifteen years since the Fourth World Conference on Women. He stated: "There are many examples of progress... Nonetheless, much work remains. Maternal mortality remains unacceptably high, too few women have access to family planning, and violence against women remains a cause for global shame".



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The Secretary-General highlighted that his “UNiTE to End Violence against Women” Campaign and Network of Men Leaders were striving to expand global advocacy efforts.

[http://www.un.org/en/events/women/iwd/2010/sg\\_message.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/events/women/iwd/2010/sg_message.shtml)

- The High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Navi Pillay, issued a statement for the Day on domestic violence and killing in the name of “honour.” She emphasized: “Honour killings are ... not something that can be simply brushed aside as some bizarre and retrograde atrocity that happens somewhere else. They are an extreme symptom of discrimination against women, which – including other forms of domestic violence – is a plague that affects every country.”

<http://www.un.org/en/events/women/iwd/2010/messages.shtml>

- In their statement on the occasion of the Day, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Ms. Rashida Manjoo, together with other United Nations independent experts, called for a new vision of women’s rights informed by the lessons learned from the 15 year review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=9877&LangID=E>

### **Secretary-General appoints Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict**

The Secretary-General’s Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ms. Margot Wallström, was sworn in on 11 March 2010.



The Special Representative promised a more coherent and effective battle against the scourge. “Sexual violence against

women is not cultural, it’s criminal. It’s not a women’s issue, it’s a human rights issue. It’s for both men and women to make sure that women have the right to their body,” the Special Representative told a news briefing in New York.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33723&Cr=sexual+violence&Cr1>

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2010/sga1220.doc.htm>

### **Launch of the African component of the Secretary General’s Campaign “UNiTE to End Violence against Women”, Addis Ababa, 30 January 2010**

The African component of the Secretary-General’s Campaign has identified 6 core areas to be targeted: intra-family violence against women and girls; rape and other forms of sexual violence in the broader community against young women and girls; harmful practices, including child marriage; violence against women in conflict-affected countries; linkages between violence against women and girls and HIV and AIDS; and violence in public spaces.

### **06 February 2010: International Day against Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting**

In a joint statement to mark the International Day, UNFPA Executive Director, Thoraya Obaid, and UNICEF Executive Director, Ann M. Veneman, emphasized that while there had been progress in reducing the incidence of female genital mutilation or cutting, three million girls continue to be at risk each year. They called for redoubled efforts to end this harmful practice within a generation.

<http://www.unfpa.org/public/site/global/lang/en/pid/4830>

### **Regional Meeting on the Study on the Review and Implementation Status of the SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, Dhaka, 27-28 January 2010**

The meeting, organized by IOM Dhaka, with the support of the Asian Development Bank, was attended by approximately 50 persons, including government officials and experts from the SAARC countries as well as bilateral and multilateral agencies. Participants discussed and developed action plans for greater regional cooperation. A Joint Recommendations paper was drawn up at the meeting.

<http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/events/eventAS/cache/offonce?entryId=26945>

See: <http://www.un.org/ga/64/resolutions.shtml>



## Feature Item

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### **The United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women: strategic investments to end violence against women and girls**

The United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women (the UN Trust Fund) was established in 1996 by General Assembly resolution 50/166 and is managed by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) on behalf of the United Nations system. The UN Trust Fund is the only global, multilateral grant-making mechanism exclusively devoted to supporting local and national efforts to end violence against women and girls.

The UN Trust Fund receives voluntary contributions from United Nations Member States, non-profit organizations, foundations, the private sector and concerned individuals. Since its establishment, the Fund has supported 304 initiatives in 121 countries and territories with more than \$50 million dollars. Funding priority is given to initiatives that support the implementation of laws, policies and action plans on ending violence against women and girls with a focus on:

- developing multi-sectoral, holistic approaches and collaboration between various stakeholders;
- developing national capacities of relevant stakeholders to foster sustainability;
- investing in systematic and comprehensive documentation and evaluation aimed at generating and sharing knowledge;
- providing evidence of what works to end violence against women and girls.

Focus is also placed on supporting initiatives in line with the five key outcomes of the United Nations Secretary-General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign. Support has been given, for example, to initiatives that strengthen institutional capacity to implement national laws and action plans to end violence against women; mobilize men, youth, religious and community leaders; advocate for needed budget allocations; and set up data collection systems and indicators to monitor and track implementation.

#### **Grantees**

UN Trust Fund grantees include governmental actors, non-governmental organizations and UN Country Teams. Examples of activities of successful grantees include:

- In Democratic Republic of Congo, the non-governmental organization, Réseau national des ONG pour le Développement de la Femme, trained 300 civil society leaders to support and assist 1,500 women survivors of sexual violence, including many living with HIV, in accessing justice.
- In Nicaragua, a project of the Comisaría de la Mujer y Ninez strengthened links between State institutions and civil society in order to better address sexual and family violence. Under this project, police officers were trained on violence against women, including how to effectively assist victims and improve collection of data.
- In India, the international human rights organization, Breakthrough, reached over 124 million people in four months through a national television campaign Bell Bajao ("Ring the Bell!") to raise awareness, change attitudes and practices and call for concrete action, with a targeted focus on engaging men and boys.
- Oxfam Great Britain partnered with women's organizations in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen to devise methodologies for involving men and boys in prevention activities.
- In Ukraine, the non-governmental organization, Rozrada, contributed to the national action plan for the implementation of the domestic violence law, through training programmes that increased the capacities of 2,000 central and local service providers to detect abuse and provide psychological support to women survivors.



### **New grants**

Under the 14th Call for Proposals in 2009, grants will be made totaling \$20 million dollars for over 20 initiatives in more than 30 countries. Among other things, the new grantees will:

- work to end impunity, by supporting the enforcement of laws and the rule of law;
- ensure the access of women and girl victims of violence to safety, psychosocial, health, legal aid, and other services, including in the area of sexual and reproductive health;
- assist survivors of sexual violence, including in post-conflict situations;
- address the intersections of violence against women and girls and HIV;
- expand efforts to end female genital mutilation/cutting;
- empower women, especially vulnerable groups including adolescent girls, minority and indigenous women.

### **Strengthening grantee capacity**

Ending violence against women and girls also requires investment in knowledge sharing and evaluation, to provide a solid evidence base for determining “what works”. Towards this end, grantee training on evidence-based programme design, monitoring and evaluation is becoming a salient feature of UN Trust Fund grants. In partnership with the International Centre for Research on Women, the UN Trust Fund has developed a training curriculum that will be offered annually to all new grantees at the early stages of project design.

### **Resources**

While the UN Trust Fund’s resource base has been growing steadily, so has the demand and the Fund is able to satisfy under 5% of total global demand. In response to the Call for Proposals in 2009, 1,643 applications requesting a total of \$857 million in grants were received. This reflects an increase of 53% in the number of applications and 63% in the amount of funding requested in just one year.

A total of \$23.6 million dollars was received for grant-making in 2009 – the largest amount of resources in a single year to date. Sixteen Member States contributed, including the Trust Fund’s top donors, Spain, the Netherlands, Norway and the United States of America, as did private-sector and other donors, including Avon, Johnson and Johnson, Zonta International, and UNIFEM National Committees. A target of \$100 million annually by 2015 has been established as a benchmark for the UN Trust Fund’s grant-making, and included in the Framework for Action of the Secretary-General’s UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign.

For details on the UN Trust Fund and its grantees, see <http://www.unifem.org/untfevaw/>

*This feature was prepared by the UN Trust Fund in collaboration with the Division for the Advancement of Women.*



## Feature Resource



### UNIFEM's Global Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls

This web-based site aims to support practitioners around the world in effective design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes to end violence against women. It brings together lessons learned and recommended practices gleaned from initiatives on ending violence against women and girls, whether originating from the women's movement, civil society organizations, governments, the United Nations system or other actors. Currently, the knowledge centre features three modules on legislation, men & boys, and safe cities, as well as a programming essentials section. Several additional modules are in development. The centralized database is fully searchable and available in English, French and Spanish.

<http://www.endvawnow.org/>

### Other resources:

- **Fact Sheet No 241: Female Genital Mutilation, World Health Organization (WHO), 2010**

This fact sheet includes information about the types of female genital mutilation as well as consequences, causes and international response.

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs241/en/print.html>

- **Programming to Address Violence Against Women: 8 Case Studies, Volume 2 (UNFPA), 2009**

This is the second volume in a series that documents best practices in preventing and responding to violence against women. These eight case studies feature initiatives from Algeria, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe, implemented by governments and other partners with support from UNFPA.

<http://www.unfpa.org/public/publications/pid/1913>

- **Women's Safety Audit: What Works and Where? (UN-HABITAT), 2009**

The Women's Safety Audit is a tool that enables a critical evaluation of the urban environment. The Women's Safety Audit tool was first developed in Canada following the recommendations of the 1989 report on violence against women and has further been developed by UN-HABITAT in the cities of Cape Town, Johannesburg, Durban, Dar es Salaam, Abidjan, Nairobi and Warsaw.

<http://www.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=2847>

- **Fact Sheet No 22: European Human Rights Court - Gender equality (Council of Europe), 2010**

The fact sheet includes judgments delivered by the European Court of Human Rights on the protection of women against gender-based violence.

The fact sheet is available at: [http://www.coe.int/t/dc/av/Factsheets\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dc/av/Factsheets_en.asp)

- **Knowledge Fair on violence against women website (UNDP), 2009**

As a result of the Knowledge Fair on violence against women that took place in 2009, UNDP has created a virtual space containing information about best practices from Latin America and the Caribbean. Experiences identified through future Knowledge Fairs will continue to be included. This initiative is part of the Latin American component of the Secretary-General's Campaign "UNiTE to End Violence Against Women". The information is available in Spanish.

[http://www.americalatinagenera.org/es/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=103&Itemid=94](http://www.americalatinagenera.org/es/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=103&Itemid=94)





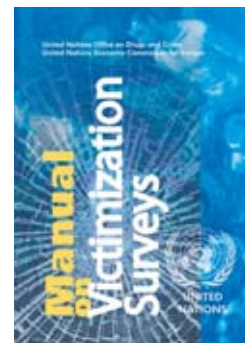
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- **Manual on Victimization Surveys (UNODC/UNECE), 2010**

This Manual presents methodological guidelines at the international level for the design of victimization surveys. It provides a comprehensive source of information for developing national victimization surveys. The Manual is available in English, French and Spanish.

The manual can be downloaded from:

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/Crime-Monitoring-Surveys.html>



### Upcoming Events

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- **21-23 April 2010: Regional seminar for Latin American countries - "Combating Violence Against Women: From Legislation to Its Effective Enforcement"**

The seminar is being jointly organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Legislative Assembly of Ecuador and will take place in Cuenca, Ecuador.

<http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/cuenca10.htm>

- **17-21 May 2010: 19th Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**

The deliberations of the Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting (IEGM) to review and update the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice will be discussed by the Commission. The session will take place in Vienna, Austria.

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/session/19.html>

### About Words to Action

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Words to Action is a newsletter produced by the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women. It disseminates information on actions by Member States and UN entities to address violence against women. The Division for the Advancement of Women in Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat supports the work of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations on gender equality and the empowerment of women. For more information, see [www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/) or contact [wordstoaction@un.org](mailto:wordstoaction@un.org).

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