

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

History of the Day

Previously, 25 November was observed in Latin America and a growing number of other countries around the world as "International Day Against Violence Against Women". With no standard title, it was also referred to as "No Violence Against Women Day" and the "Day to End Violence Against Women". It was first declared by the first Feminist Encuentro for Latin America and the Caribbean held in Bogota, Colombia (18 to 21 July 1981). At that Encuentro women systematically denounced gender violence from domestic battery, to rape and sexual harassment, to state violence including torture and abuses of women political prisoners. The date was chosen to commemorate the lives of the Mirabal sisters. It originally marked the day that the three Mirabal sisters from the Dominican Republic were violently assassinated in 1960 during the Trujillo dictatorship (Rafael Trujillo 1930-1961). The day was used to pay tribute to the Mirabal sisters, as well as global recognition of gender violence.

The Mirabal Sisters

The three sisters, Patria, Minerva, and Maria Teresa were born to Enrique Mirabal and Maria Mercedes Reyes (Chea) in 1924, 1927 and 1935 respectively in the Cibas region of the Dominican Republic. All three were educated in the Dominican Republic, Minerva and Maria Teresa going on to achieve university degrees.

All three sisters and their husbands became involved in activities against the Trujillo regime. The Mirabal sisters were political activists and highly visible symbols of resistance to Trujillo's dictatorship. As a result, the sisters and their families were constantly persecuted for their outspoken as well as clandestine activities against the State. Over the course of their political activity, the women and their husbands were repeatedly imprisoned at different stages. Minerva herself was imprisoned on four occasions. Despite Trujillo's persecution, the sisters still continued to actively participate in political activities against the leadership. In January 1960, Patria took charge of a meeting that eventually established the Clandestine Movement of 14 June 1960 of which all the sisters participated. When this plot against the tyranny failed, the sisters and their comrades in the Clandestine Resistance Movement were persecuted throughout the country.

In early November 1960, Trujillo declared that his two problems were the Church and the Mirabal sisters. On 25 November 1960, the sisters were assassinated in an "accident" as they were being driven to visit their husbands who were in prison. The accident caused much public outcry, and shocked and enraged the nation. The brutal assassination of the Mirabal sisters was one of the events that helped propel the anti-Trujillo movement, and within a year, the Trujillo dictatorship came to an end.

The sisters, referred to as the "Inolvidables Mariposas", the "Unforgettable Butterflies" have become a symbol against victimization of women. They have become the symbol of both popular and feminist resistance. They have been commemorated in poems, songs and books. Their execution inspired a fictional account "In the Time of the Butterflies" on the young lives of the sisters written by Julia Alvarez. It describes their suffering and martyrdom in the

last days of the Trujillo dictatorship. The memory of the Mirabal sisters and their struggle for freedom and respect for human rights for all has transformed them into symbols of dignity and inspiration. They are symbols against prejudice and stereotypes, and their lives raised the spirits of all those they encountered and later, after their death, not only those in the Dominican Republic but others around the world.

Sixteen Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence came out of the Global Campaign for Women's Human Rights. In June 1991, the Centre for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL) with participants of the first Women's Global Institute on Women, Violence and Human Rights, a forum involving 23 women from 20 countries called for a global campaign of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence. The campaign would highlight the connections between women, violence, and human rights from 25 November to 10 December 1991. The time period encompassed four significant dates: 25 November, the International Day Against Violence Against Women; 1 December, World AIDS Day; 6 December, the anniversary of the Montreal Massacre, when 14 women engineering students were gunned down for being feminists; and 10 December, Human Rights Day.

Coordinated by the Center for Women's Global Leadership, 2000 marks the tenth annual campaign, and is observed globally by activities at the local, national, regional and international levels. Activities include radio, television and video programming; press conferences; film screenings; workshops, seminars, panels and other meetings; demonstrations, protests, marches and vigils; photo, poster, art and book exhibitions; lectures, debates, testimonies and talks; petition drives; public education campaigns; concerts, plays and other theatre performances; street dramas and other community programmes; distribution of posters, stickers, leaflets, information kits and other publications;

The tenth anniversary of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign is inspired by the strength and commitment of the movement that works tirelessly to eliminate gender-based violence in the home and in the world. Over the years, the 16 Days network has multiplied and now includes participation from more than 800 organizations in over 90 countries. The growth of the Campaign exceeded initial expectations - not just in the numbers of those participating but also in spirit. The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence has become an annual event in many towns, states and regions. Women's human rights activists have used this

16-day period to create a solidarity movement which raises awareness around gender-based violence, works to ensure better protection for survivors of violence and calls for its elimination. The 16 Days solidarity network welcomes those who join the campaign annually by coordinating activities in their own regions.

The organizing strategies employed by groups during the Campaign vary and are reflective of the region and its current political situation. In 2000, the Center urged that organizations link to global events such as the recent five-year review of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing +5) and the upcoming World Conference Against Racism, Racial

Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (31 August - 7 September 2001 in South Africa) to pressure local and national governments to implement promises made and increase their commitment to women's human rights in the future. The Center encourages activists to use this 16-day period to raise awareness in student, local, national and regional communities by coordinating events such as tribunals, workshops, festivals, etc.

Third Committee Action

On 19 October 1999, at the 17th meeting of the Third Committee during the 54th session of the General Assembly, the representative of the Dominican Republic on behalf of itself and 74 Member States introduced a draft resolution (document A/C.3/54/L.14) calling for the designation of 25 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

The matter was taken up again at the 30th meeting of the Third Committee on 3 November 1999, when the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women" (document A/C.3/54/L.14/Rev.1), by which the Assembly would decide to designate 25 November as that International Day. The draft was sponsored by 79 States.

By the text on the International Day, the General Assembly would invite worldwide organization of activities on that day to raise public awareness of the problem of violence against women. The draft expressed alarm that endemic violence against women was impeding women's opportunities to achieve legal, social, political and economic equality in society. The Assembly would reiterate that the term "violence against women" would refer to acts capable of causing physical, sexual or psychological harm, whether in public or private life.

The Third Committee approved the draft resolution without a vote, in which the date of 25 November would be designated the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

General Assembly Action

On 17 December 1999, the General Assembly at its 83rd plenary meeting of the fifty-fourth session, on the basis of the Report of the Third Committee (A/54/598 and Corr. 1 and 2), adopted Resolution 54/134 on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

Resolution 54/134. International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/104 of 20 December 1993, and its resolution 52/86 of 12 December 1997, entitled, Crime prevention and criminal justice measures to eliminate violence against women,

Rights,² the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,

Taking note of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women adopted by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States at its twenty-fourth regular session, held in Belém, Brazil, from 6 to 10 June 1994, and general recommendation 19 on violence against women adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its eleventh session,

Concerned that violence against women is an obstacle to the achievement of equality, development and peace, as recognized in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, which recommended a set of integral measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women, and to the full implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Concerned also that some groups of women, such as women belonging to minority groups, indigenous women, refugee women, migrant women, women living in rural or remote communities, destitute women, women in institutions or in detention, the girl child, women with disabilities, elderly women and women in situations of armed conflict, are especially vulnerable to violence,

Recognizing that violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of their full advancement, and that violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into subordinate positions, compared with men,

Recognizing also that the human rights of women and of the girl child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights, and recognizing further the need to promote and protect all human rights of women and girls,

Alarmed that women do not fully enjoy their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and concerned about the long-standing failure to protect and promote those rights and freedoms in relation to violence against women,

Recognizing with satisfaction the cooperation provided by the relevant agencies, bodies, funds and organs of the United Nations system to different countries in the fight to eradicate violence against women, in fulfilment of their respective mandates,

Recognizing the efforts made by civil society and non-governmental organizations that have contributed to creating a worldwide social conscience of the negative impact, both on social and on economic life, of violence against women,

Reiterating that, according to article 1 of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the term "violence against women" means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life,

1. Decides to designate 25 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women;

2. Invites, as appropriate, Governments, the relevant agencies, bodies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, and other international organizations and non-governmental organizations, to organize on that day activities designed to raise public awareness of the problem of violence against women.

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE

November 25 - December 10, 2005



For the Health of Women, For the Health of the World: NO MORE VIOLENCE

Violence against women is traumatic to the body, mind, and spirit and can prevent women from being fully active participants at home and in the world. This year's 16 Days campaign theme, as a continuation from 2004, emphasizes the connections between women's human rights, violence against women and women's health, and the detrimental consequences violence against women has on the well-being of the world as a whole.

Thousands of activists globally commemorated the 14th annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence campaign last year. The 2004 16 Days International Calendar of Activities bears testimony to the depth and breadth of their work underscoring violence against women as a pervasive human rights violation, a public health crisis, and an obstacle to equality, development, security, and peace. In 2005, the movement to end violence against women has seen further victories. At Beijing +10 in March, the Beijing Platform for Action was unequivocally reaffirmed and United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan emphasized the critical importance of combating violence against girls and women to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In addition, activists worldwide have been working to ensure that gender concerns, including violence against women, are featured prominently in the outcome document of the 2005 World Summit this September.

There remain many opportunities in the coming year to continue this momentum, particularly with regard to the link between violence and women's physical, sexual, reproductive, psychological and social health. Research soon to be released, including a World Health Organization multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence and a UN Secretary General's worldwide study on violence against women called for by the UN General Assembly, will provide activists with new advocacy tools. Several events through 2006, including the release of the Secretary General's study at the GA next September, will place the spotlight squarely on governments to uphold commitments made to work toward eliminating violence against women. NGOs are also exploring these links. For instance, the Women Human Rights Defenders Campaign will host a consultation in December 2005 focusing on violations against women human rights defenders, many of whom face violence because of the work they do to promote women's rights, especially sexual and reproductive rights.

Addressing the **connections between violence against women and the HIV/AIDS pandemic** remains imperative. Violence limits women's ability to protect against infection and can compromise access to a range of critical health information and services, including testing and treatment. This year, the theme of the UNAIDS World AIDS Campaign is "Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise." The campaign demands governments keep their policy commitments related to HIV/AIDS. World AIDS Day (1 December) falls during the 16 Days campaign, which provides an ideal opportunity to remind governments that in order to keep their promises on HIV/AIDS they need to fulfill commitments on violence against

women as well. Other international venues in the coming year, such as the five-year review of the UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS in mid-2006 and in August, the XVI International AIDS Conference in Toronto, Canada can be targets for focused advocacy on violence against women and HIV/AIDS. 16 Days activities in 2005 can link to and build on vibrant women's leadership in these fields such as that offered by many NGO networks and organizations, as well as the UNAIDS Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, to call for increased public awareness, more comprehensive healthcare services, stronger national policies and greater government accountability to end violence against women and fight HIV/AIDS.

For the health of women: physically, psychologically, emotionally, socially, at home, at school, at work, at worship, in their communities and in their nations. For the health of the world: its peoples, its cultures, its environments, in protecting human rights, in fostering sustainable development and creating peace: **NO MORE VIOLENCE.**

Look for more resources in the 2005 Take Action Kit, available in September!

Contact the Center for Women's Global Leadership for a 2005 Take Action Kit:

160 Ryders Lane, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8555 USA; Phone (1-732) 932-8782; Fax: (1-732) 932-1180;

E-mail: cwgl@igc.org; Or to access the kit online, go to: <http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/16days/home.html>

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE

November 25 - December 10, 2005



Join the 16 Days movement!

Become part of an already existing student, community, national or international activity for the 16 Days or take action on your own. Use past International Calendars of Activities (available online) or contact the Center for Women's Global Leadership if you would like more information about activities in your area. Submit your planned activity to us for posting to the 2005 International Calendar of Activities and become part of the growing global 16 Days movement.

Request a Take Action Kit!

Contact the Center for Women's Global Leadership to receive a free copy of the Take Action Kit for the 16 Days campaign. The Take Action Kit will be available in September and includes:

- a current campaign announcement
- a campaign profile and a description of dates
- a list of participating organizations and countries
- a bibliography and resource list
- a list of suggested actions
- supplemental information relevant to this year's theme

The entire contents of the Take Action Kit will also be posted online.

Join the 16 Days electronic discussion!

We invite you to join the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence electronic discussion taking place in the form of a listserv. The discussion allows activists to collaboratively develop themes and strategies for the annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence campaign. In addition, it can be used to discuss how groups are raising awareness about gender-based violence as a human rights issue at the local, national, regional and international levels, to uncover and learn from the ways in which activists have strengthened local work around violence against women, to continually resurface the link between local and international work to end violence against women, to share and develop new and effective strategies, to show the solidarity of women around the world organizing against violence against women, and to help develop further tools to pressure governments to implement promises made to eliminate violence against women. If you are interested in joining the discussion or if you have any questions, please contact the Center for Women's Global Leadership at the address below.

Get Involved - On-line!

The Center will post information about the Campaign online at <http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/16days/home.html>.

Submit your materials!

Participants in the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign have been instrumental in bringing issues of violence against women to the forefront in local, national, regional and global arenas. The strategies employed by groups and the activities organized during the 16 Days Campaign period continue to be unique and innovative. The Center for Women's Global Leadership asks that all participants of the 16 Days Campaign - past as well as present - send documentation of their events, i.e. posters, pictures, t-shirts, video footage, poems, songs, statements, reports, etc., to the Global Center for the campaign archives. If you have photographs, documents, or other examples of your work that you can send in an electronic version, please do so and we will post it on the website. Your submissions will also enable the Center to refer other individuals and organizations that are interested in your activities to you. Please send your description of planned activities for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence to the address below.

Center for Women's Global Leadership

160 Ryders Lane, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8555, USA

Phone (1-732) 932-8782 Fax: (1-732) 932-1180

E-mail: cwgl@igc.org

Sixteen Days of Activism against Gender Violence
25th November - 10th December 2005
UNIFEM in collaboration with its Partners

24th November 2005 and after

In Goa, in collaboration with local groups, a Regional Alternative Media Workshop on EVAW/C (eliminating violence against women/children) especially HIV/AIDS, trafficking and sex tourism (GOA), is being organized. Theatre will be used as a means of interacting with the community leading to raised awareness, particularly of men and boys, on issues of violence, trafficking, HIV/AIDS and gender. Information on the importance and meaning of the white ribbon will be highlighted, with members of the theatre group wearing and distributing it.

Brochures, posters, graffiti, fact sheets from the region, the mental health tool kit and the white ribbon will be used as advocacy tools.

30th November 2005 and after

In the Eastern Himalayan Region, UNIFEM is collaborating with Hand Informatics, ATSEC-India (Action against Trafficking & Sexual Exploitation of Children) and CNI (Church of Northern India) to undertake theatre based research on people's perceptions of and knowledge about VAW/C (violence against women/children). Particular focus would be on trafficking, domestic violence and HIV/AIDS and its gender dimensions. Theatre will be used to interact with the community to raise awareness on these issues, particularly among boys and men, to enlist their support to combat VAW/C.

White Ribbon Campaign (WRC) in partnership with Save the Children

The WRC is the largest effort in the world of men working to end men's violence against women. Wearing a white ribbon is a personal pledge never to commit, condone nor remain silent about violence against women. Each year, the campaign urges men and boys to wear a ribbon for one or two weeks, beginning on 25th November, the International Day for the Eradication of Violence against Women.

Source: http://www.whiteribbon.ca/about_us/#1

25th November 2005 and after with Save the Children, in Bangladesh, India and

Nepal: Varied awareness raising and advocacy tools will be disseminated. These include:

- A brochure on the white ribbon campaign and EVAW
- Fact sheets on VAW/C, making linkages with HIV/AIDS, trafficking, sex selective abortion and HIV/AIDS
- A compilation of good practices, and
- The Inter Religious Priests' Forum's training tool kit on VAW/C and trafficking

Women for Human Rights - Single Women Groups

This is an effort to mainstream issues of single women.

An open forum will be facilitated in collaboration with various stakeholders like government authorities, NGO's, INGO's, UN agencies, representatives from the corporate sector and community leaders.

First Week of December 2005 - Nepal

Women for Human Rights, Single Women Group (WHR)

A public hearing will be held with single women, which would include survivors of violence, especially widows of men, killed as a result of the conflict in Nepal.

5th – 7th December 2005 SHINING THROUGH – A Film Festival on VAW/C focusing on trafficking and HIV/AIDS (showcasing survival and protagonism in collaboration with ATSEC/West Bengal and DRIK India **in Kolkata, West Bengal**)

This is an effort to create an enabling environment to encounter and counter all forms of violence against women, as well as issues related to them. It is also an effort to highlight the issue and catalyze a wider debate on issues related to women's rights.

In the world today, the impact of the media has been acknowledged to be the easiest and the most effective tool of communication. Drik India, a photography agency committed to social activism, and ATSEC- West Bengal, an internationally recognized network, will come together to raise awareness on diverse women's rights issues through a film festival "Shining Through". This will include films on VAW/C with a special focus on trafficking and HIV/AIDS. There will also be a public forum, a press conference, as well as posters, an information kit on the films being screened, graffiti and white ribbon.

Gender and HIV/AIDS - 16 Days of Activism

In Delhi, UNIFEM is supporting Women's Feature Service, to hold talks at five colleges with media students, to increase understanding of the social and gender dimensions of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Equally, it will seek to highlight the importance of balanced reporting with regard to the epidemic and its impact. With a senior media representative guiding the process, notions of gender and sexuality, the role of language in shaping public opinion and strategies to disseminate correct information on HIV/AIDS, will be discussed.

An information pack on Gender and HIV/AIDS will be distributed which will provide some practical examples on how communications and information on the epidemic can be disseminated more effectively.

In Vijayawada, where UNIFEM is working closely with the South Central Railways Vijayawada Division to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS through gender-sensitive counseling and informational campaigns run by local peer counselors, three main events are being planned by the implementing agency - REAPS for the 16 Days of Activism.

20th November: A workshop to sensitize Trade Union officials on the issue of gender and HIV/AIDS and the supportive roles of men

26th November: The Steering Committee of REAPS – high level officials will undergo sensitization on cutting edge gender issues and HIV/AIDS prevention.

27th November: The peer counselors will be updated on information related to VAW, and links to HIV/AIDS. They will also strategize on how best to take further these initiatives at the community level, which would include, essay competitions on gender violence and HIV/AIDS in schools, to role-plays with community members.

New Delhi, 5th – 6th December. UNIFEM is supporting the Centre for Advocacy and Research (CFAR) to hold a workshop on understanding masculinities. Participants include health workers and practitioners who work with HIV/AIDS affected persons. The conference, essentially, seeks to mobilize and empower not only women, but also men, as partners, in combating violence against women and HIV/AIDS. It will include a gamut of issues, such as: the creation of restrictive gender roles in society for both women and men, and the potentially damaging influence of gender stereotyping; that stigmatization of and violence towards HIV/AIDS positive women can only be effectively addressed by engaging men as well as women in the creation of a new analytic framework, which reflects awareness of the limits of assuming simple polarity between men and women.

CFAR is instituting a feedback mechanism from the participants, which will provide the basis for the drawing up of a discussion document. This will be designed to draw attention to some key features that could be incorporated in the formulation of a new analytic framework for gender roles in society.

Banda, Uttar Pradesh, 26-27th November: In partnership with UNIFEM, Allarippu, will organize a youth camp, including girls and boys from the Bedia community, to continue raising awareness on issues of VAW, health and legal rights and advance the leadership roles of the young people.

LIST OF READINGS

1. Violence Against Women and AIDS, WHO & UNAIDS, 2004, New York, UN
2. Violence Against Women and AIDS, UNAIDS, 2004 (New York, UN)
3. (Washington DC, WB)
4. Not a minute more: Ending violence against women, UNIFEM 2003
5. World health report on violence and health, WHO, 2002
6. Say No to gender based violence – responses from South Asia, UNIFEM 2003
7. Women, Gender and HIV/AIDS in East and Southeast Asia Kit, UNIFEM 2001, (New York, UN)
8. Conflict, post-conflict and HIV/AIDS- the gender connections: women, war and HIV/AIDS: West Africa and the Great Lakes, Benjamin, J. 2001 (Washington DC, WB)
9. Gender, HIV and Human Rights: A Training Manual, Nath, MB, 2000 (New York, UNIFEM)
10. With an end in sight: strategies from the UNIFEM Trust Fund to eliminate violence against women, UNIFEM, 2000
11. Battered Dreams – Violence against women as an obstacle to development, Roxanna Carrillo, 1992
12. Gender Violence/Gender Justice – An interdisciplinary teaching guide for teachers of English, literature, social studies, psychology, health, peer counseling, and family and consumer sciences, Wellesley College Center for Research on women 1999
13. Domestic Violence in India – A summary report of three studies, International Center for Research on Women and The Centre for Development and Population Activities, 1999
14. Domestic Violence in India: Exploring strategies, promoting dialogue. Men masculinities and Domestic Violence in India, International Centre for Research on Women, 2002
15. Domestic violence in India: Exploring strategies, promoting dialogue. Women-Initiated Community level responses to Domestic violence, International Center for Research on Women, 2002
16. Picturing a life free of violence: Media and communication strategies to end violence against women, UNIFEM, 2001
17. Making a difference : Strategic communications to end violence against women, UNIFEM, 2003
18. Ending violence against women and girls in South Asia, A UNICEF-ROSA Report, 1997
19. Freedom from violence – Women’s Strategies from around the world, Margaret Schuler, OEF/International, 1992
20. Local Action/Global Change – Learning about the human rights of women and girls, Julie Merus, Mallika Dutt and Nancy Flowers, 1999
21. Violence against women – Global organizing for Change, paper by Lori I. Heise for the health and Development Policy Project, Washington, D.C.
22. Breaking the Earthenware Jar : Lessons from South Asia to end violence, Ruth Finney Hayward, 2000

23. Rights of Women: A guide to most important UN Treaties on women's human rights, the International Women's Tribune centre, 1998
24. Law of Domestic violence: A user's manual for women, edited by Indira Jaisingh, The Lawyers Collective, 2001
25. Violence against women: the health sector responds, PAHO and PATH, 2003
26. Partners in Change : Working with men to end gender based violence, United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, 2003
27. Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Radhika Coomaraswamy, 1997
28. "Violence against women" with Roxanna Carrillo and Rima Shore, Women in the third world: An encyclopedia of contemporary issues, Nelly P. Stromquist (ed.) NY, Garland, 1998
29. From violence to supportive practice: family, gender and masculinities in India, UNIFEM, 2002
30. Crime in India, National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, 1998
31. Exploring Masculinity, Kamla Bhasin 2003

Some resource guides on HIV/AIDS and Gender-based violence

Eldis: HIV and AIDS resource guide

http://www.eldis.org/hivaids/vaw_consequences.htm

Eldis: Dossier on Gender, HIV/AIDS and violence

<http://www.eldis.org/gender/dossiers/genderviolence.htm>

UNFPA/UNIFEM: Women and HIV/AIDS: confronting the crisis

http://www.unfpa.org/upload/pub_file/308_filename_women_aids1.pdf

UNIFEM: Web portal on gender and HIV/AIDS

http://www.genderandaids.org/modules.php?name=News&new_topic=9

Siyanda: Development and gender database and interactive forum

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

UNAIDS' Global Coalition on Women and HIV/AIDS: Violence against Women

http://womenandaids.unaids.org/themes/theme_2.html

WHO: Sexual Violence and HIV/AIDS

<http://www.who.int/svri/issues/hiv/en/>

http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what_we_do/issues/gender/bp66_evaw.htm

<http://www.unescap.org/publications/detail.asp?id=849>

<http://www.unicef-icdc.org/publications/pdf/digest6e.pdf>

<http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/APCITY/UNPAN020004.pdf>

<http://www.popcouncil.org/genfam/violence.html>

http://www.path.org/files/EOL20_1.pdf

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/stopviolence/factsheets/hivaids.html>

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/4329733.stm
<http://hivinsite.ucsf.edu/InSite?page=kbr-08-01-09>

**A list of some agencies/NGOS/women's groups WORKING ON VAW
and related issues**

Bangladesh

Women for Women,
1/2 Sukrabad
Dhaka 1207, Bangladesh
T: 8116376, 8120791

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad,
Sufia Kamal Bhaban
10B/1 Segunbagicha
Dhaka - 1205
7169701 (O)
e-mail: BMP [mahila@bdcom.com]

Bhutan

National Commission for Women and Children
Royal Government of Bhutan
Thimphu, Bhutan

India

Shakti Shalini
Jangpura B
6/30 Basement
Near Rajdoot Hotel
New Delhi - 14
Tel: 24312483; 24322220
Fax: 24310741

SAKSHI
34, First Floor
Akashneem Marg
DLF City, Phase -II
Gurgaon
Haryana-122 002
Tele#: 95124-2352275
Email: sakshipaths@yahoo.com

Action India
5/27A, Jangpura B
New Delhi 110 014
Tel: 24314785/ 24327470

AAKAR
A-19 Gulmohar Park
New Delhi - 110 049

Tel: 26515161

Stree Adhar Kendra,
Women's Development Centre
House No. 145/1 Survey No. 14 Near Maherwat,
Ganesh Nagar, Vadgaon Dhayari,
Pune – 41
Tel: 020-24394104/5652172 Fax: 24394103
Email : grnearth@vsnl.com

National Alliance of Women
8/10 N.S.Palya Main Rd.
Bannerghatta Road Cross
Bangalore 560076,

North East Network
J.N. Borooah Lane
Jorpukhuri
Guwahati-781001
Tel: 0361-631582 & 603833

Tata Institute of Social Sciences
P.O. Box – 8313
Deonar
Mumbai – 400 088
Tel.022-25563290

SANLAAP
6/4 Lake East 4th Road
Ground Floor, Santoshpur
Calcutta
Tel: 0687-4165919; Fax: 0687/4735619; 4724761; email: sanlaap@giasl01.vsnl.net.in

LAYA
501, Kurupam Castle, East Point Colony,
Visakhapatnam, 530017, Andhra Pradesh, INDIA
Tel: 2530071/5539729

Maldives

Foundation for the Advancement of Self-Help in Attaining Needs (FASHAN)
Dhoohimeri Magu, Male, Maldives
Tel: +960 325573
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Nepal

Forum for Women, Law and Development
310/B Shet Binayak Marg
THAPATHALI, P.O. BOX 2923

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Email: fwld@andolan.wlink.com.np
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Fax. 00-977-1-4240627

Sancharika Samuha
Jawalakhel
Kathmandu
Nepal
Tel: 00-9771-5538549/ 5531906 Fax: 00-9771-5547291

SAMANATA
Ekantakuna, Lalitpur
Nepal
Tel. 00-977-1-553597/5547250
Email: samanata@wlink.com.np

Pakistan

Aurat Foundation
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3. SAARTHAK
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4. ISST
India Habitat Centre
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5. Indian Institute of Public Administration
Indraprastha Estate, Ring Road
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6. Focal point of Red Ribbon Express
National AIDS Control Organisation
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
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7. WOMEN'S FEATURE SERVICE
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9. New Concept Information Systems
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10. COMFIRST
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PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release

UNIFEM AWARDS GRANTS TO EFFORTS TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

United Nations Trust Fund Grants Go to Groups in Bhutan, India, Nepal and Pakistan

25th November 2005, New Delhi – The United Nations Trust Fund to Eliminate Violence against Women will grant US\$1.8 million to 24 groups in developing countries who are addressing gender-based violence in their communities.

In South Asia, grants will go to four organizations in **Bhutan, India, Nepal and Pakistan**. Grants this year went to initiatives that focused on ensuring that national policies and laws to end violence against women (VAW) were being implemented and programmes that addressed linkages between violence against women and HIV/AIDS. .

In Bhutan, the National Commission for Women and Children (NCWC) will orient and strengthen the capacity of the judiciary and the law enforcement machinery on gender and violence against women, and human rights, enhancing their ability to deal with related issues; **In Pakistan**, War against Rape (WAR) will, through research, identify obstacles and challenges that prevent timely, accessible and gender sensitive medico-legal services for VAW in five cities, detailing strategies to combat this;

In Nepal, the Samanata Institute for Social and Gender Equality, will work with migrant Nepali women, key government and civil society stakeholders to empower migrant women, increasing awareness on VAW, reproductive rights, legal rights and unequal systems and HIV/AIDS. It will particularly focus on migrant workers and pre departure orientation centres.

In India, the Positive Women's Network and the Indian Network for People Living with HIV/AIDS from the state of Tamil Nadu, will build the capacity of 60 women living with HIV/AIDS on VAW, property rights, reproductive health, legal services and livelihood opportunities. They will share their issues and concerns with the judiciary, the health department, the Panchayati Raj Institutions, and the police at the state level through a consultation, undertaking policy advocacy.

The Trust Fund is a unique multi-lateral mechanism established by the UN General Assembly in 1996 and administered by UNIFEM. Grants are decided collectively by representatives of UN agencies and international NGOs. For the first time, the grants were decided at a regional level, with representatives from the UNICEF Regional Office, ILO, USAID and UNIFEM attending. This was the Tenth Cycle of the Trust Fund.

“Great strides have been made in setting policies and legal frameworks - the challenge now is to ensure implementation,” said Noeleen Heyzer, executive director of UNIFEM. “The effective strategies supported by the Trust Fund are key to lives free of violence for women and girls. These must now be scaled up to become standard practice everywhere,” she added. Listing three actions, as necessary to breaking the vicious cycle of violence, she said, “First, countries must pass and enforce laws to deter acts of violence against women and reduce the spread of HIV... Second, we must encourage women who have suffered abuse to speak out. A life free of violence is their right..... Third, we must continue to raise awareness on the links between violence against women and HIV/AIDS...” She added that the media is a key actor in this effort and that several Trust Fund grantees would be using radio and TV programmes to inform and trigger change. She emphasized the importance of engaging men and boys in this campaign, so that they could be part of the solution and not part of the problem.

Since its establishment, the Trust Fund has granted US\$10 million to 198 initiatives in 100 countries. Demand continues to outstrip supply. In 2005, UNIFEM received 1,059 proposals amounting to tens of millions of dollars in requests, but only had US\$1.8 million to give out.

This year UNIFEM South Asia regional office received 96 proposals, 60 for the call on “implementation of existing laws on VAW” and 36 for the call on “programmes on linkages between VAW & HIV/AIDS”. Contributions come from a diverse group of governments, nongovernmental organizations, the private sector, and individuals.

During the 16 Days of Activism, diverse activities are being undertaken in different parts of Bangladesh, India and Nepal, to highlight the issue of violence against women/children. With a special focus on trafficking of women and children, domestic violence and HIV/AIDS and its gender dimensions, diverse stakeholders are being reached out to, including men and boys.

The list of 2005 Trust Fund grantees is available at:

[http://www.unifem.org/attachments/stories/TrustFund Grantees 2005.pdf](http://www.unifem.org/attachments/stories/TrustFund%20Grantees%202005.pdf)

For more information on the Trust Fund, see

[http://www.unifem.org/gender issues/violence against women/trust fund.php](http://www.unifem.org/gender%20issues/violence%20against%20women/trust%20fund.php)

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**UNIFEM is the women's fund at the United Nations, providing financial support and technical assistance to innovative programs promoting women's human rights, their economic and political empowerment, and gender equality in over 100 countries. For more information, visit [www.unifem.org](http://www.unifem.org) and [www.unifem.org.in](http://www.unifem.org.in)**