

ACT TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

SHARED ADVOCACY AGENDA

KEY MESSAGES

ACT TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PROGRAMME

ACT is a new game-changing commitment between the European Commission and UN Women as co-leaders of the Action Coalition on Gender Based Violence (GBV), in collaboration with the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women.

Through direct investments in feminist movements, strengthening intersectional alliances, and coordinating a shared advocacy agenda, ACT will amplify women's rights movements as they coordinate their push for justice.

The ACT shared advocacy agenda is elevating the priorities and amplifying the voices of feminist women's rights movements and provides a collaborative framework focused on common priorities, strategies and actions.

TO ACCELERATE EFFORTS IN ELIMINATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS, ACT IS CALLING FOR:

- 1** Bold investments in prevention and responses to end violence against women and girls (VAWG).
- 2** Strengthened financing, protection and support to women's rights organizations.
- 3** Enhanced accountability, access to justice and the full and effective implementation of laws to prevent and respond to VAWG.

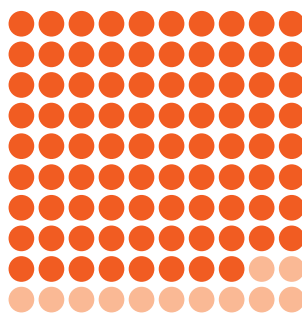


TOPLINE MESSAGES:

VAWG continues to be the

MOST URGENT AND PERVASIVE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION

resulting in serious harm for individual women, families, communities and broader society.



The Secretary General's report on Beijing +30 found that eliminating violence against women is a **top priority for action** for **88 PER CENT** of member states.

OVER THE LAST 5 YEARS SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE:¹

79%

of member states have introduced or updated their national action plans on VAWG (up from 68% in 2019)

88%

have strengthened services (compared to 87% in 2019)

90%

have strengthened laws (up from 83% in 2019)

75%

have prioritized prevention strategies (up from 67% in 2019)

CHALLENGES

Despite this growing prioritization by states, the world is failing to eliminate violence against women which persists at alarming rates across the world with prevalence remaining at

1 IN 3 WOMEN

across their lifetime.²



DEEPLY ENTRENCHED STEREOTYPES,

harmful social norms coupled with weak implementation of national strategies and enforcement of laws, are impeding progress.

GLOBAL EMERGENCIES, CRISES, CONFLICT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

have further intensified the drivers and risk factors of VAWG, and new technologies have exacerbated existing forms of violence and led to the proliferation of new forms. This is resulting in growing attacks on women and girls online and offline particularly those in public life, including women human rights defenders.

THE GROWTH OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

is creating new avenues to perpetrate violence against women and girls and reinforce the normalization of discriminatory social norms.

THE COST OF INACTION

is significant. Beyond the incalculable human suffering, Conservative estimates indicate that governments can lose up to 4 per cent of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) due to violence against women.³



Despite these growing challenges, **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IS PREVENTABLE.** We know more than ever before about what works in preventing violence, but investments are not commensurate with the scale of the problem.



The evidence is clear. **THE PRESENCE OF STRONG AND AUTONOMOUS WOMEN'S RIGHTS MOVEMENTS** is the single most critical factor to drive progress in ending violence against women.⁴



With 2030 fast approaching, **ELIMINATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS** is not only a fundamental human rights issue but a key enabler for achieving all of the Sustainable Development Goals.⁴ It is also key to ensuring stability, security and prosperity of countries.⁵



Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

THE ACT PROGRAMME'S KEY PRIORITIES TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS

1 BOLD INVESTMENTS IN PREVENTION AND RESPONSES TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

VAWG CAN AND MUST BE PREVENTED.

Despite the scale of the problem, financial commitments remain inadequate with less than 1% of official development funding (ODA) goes towards ending violence against women.⁶

THE COST OF INACTION IS SIGNIFICANT.

Beyond the incalculable human suffering, Conservative estimates indicate that governments can lose up to 4% per cent of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) due to violence against women.⁷

Evidence shows that

WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT AND COMPREHENSIVE ACTION

to end violence against women is more effective. The rates of intimate partner violence are 2.5 times lower in countries with comprehensive prevention and response measures.⁸

CALL TO ACTION:

To accelerate efforts in ending violence against women and girls, ACT is calling for:

- 1 Whole of government national action plans on VAWG to unlock financing from different sectors (health, education, child protection, social protection etc.) through gender responsive budgeting to ensure the implementation of whole of society prevention and response strategies.
- 2 Investments in evidence-based, long-term prevention strategies that include transforming harmful social norms, attitudes and beliefs and harmful masculinities across all settings including education, workplaces, public spaces, online/digital contexts as well as harnessing technology to accelerate progress in eliminating VAWG.
- 3 Prompt access to comprehensive and long-term specialist support and justice, for all victims-survivors, including legal, physical and mental health services, and safe accommodation and shelters, delivered in a survivor-centred and trauma-informed approach to uphold women's rights and put an end to impunity in VAW cases.
- 4 Strengthen interventions and measures to prevent and respond to technology facilitate violence against women and girls through investments in innovative programming to foster positive social norms and counter harmful narratives in online platforms and to provide avenues for survivors to seek redress, remedies and comprehensive support.

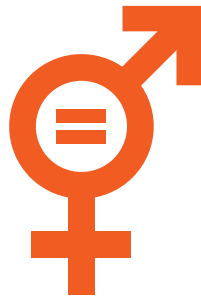


2

STRENGTHENED FINANCING, PROTECTION AND SUPPORT TO WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS

WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE

in preventing violence against women and girls, advocating for and securing normative and policy change, monitoring and holding governments to account and in driving reductions in violence against women.



THE PRESENCE OF A STRONG AND AUTONOMOUS FEMINIST MOVEMENT

is the single most critical factor to drive policy change in ending violence against women both in transnational contexts and in domestic policy.⁹

YET, WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS REMAIN SEVERELY UNDERFUNDED

with less than one per cent of Official Development Assistance reaching them according to OECD analysis.¹⁰

Shrinking civic space and growing attacks on women's rights activists and women's rights organizations are creating

HOSTILE ENVIRONMENTS FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVISM.

According to CIVICUS around 72.4% of the global population currently lives in spaces with restricted civic freedoms¹¹.

RAPID TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE

is creating new and emerging risks and intensifying all forms of violence against women and girls across the online-offline continuum with women human rights defenders at heightened risk.

CALL TO ACTION:

To accelerate efforts in ending violence against women and girls, ACT is calling for:



1

Strengthened support, solidarity and protection for women human rights defenders and activists.

2

An increase in quality, long-term, core and flexible funding to women's rights organizations to strengthen movements and coalitions including those working in crisis and conflict and post-conflict areas.

3

Strengthening of protection and rapid response mechanisms to prevent violence, attacks and threats against women's human rights defenders.

3

ENHANCED ACCOUNTABILITY, ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND THE FULL AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF LAWS TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO VAWG

86% OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

are living in countries without robust legal protection from violence and discrimination.¹²

Impunity continues to be the norm across the world with

LESS THAN 10 PER CENT OF WOMEN WHO EXPERIENCE VIOLENCE REPORTING TO THE POLICE

due to lack of confidence in the authorities, stigma, and/or obstacles in accessing justice systems.¹³

With strong implementation of laws progress is possible.

COUNTRIES THAT HAVE ENACTED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEGISLATION

have lower rates of intimate partner violence than those without such legislation

(9.5% COMPARED TO 16.1%).¹⁴

CALL TO ACTION:

To accelerate efforts in ending violence against women and girls, ACT is calling upon member states to:

1

Adopt, implement, enforce and fund comprehensive laws and policies aligned to global standards on ending violence against women including enacting laws on technology-facilitated VAWG and to repeal and reform discriminatory laws.

2

Ensure access to justice for victim-survivors and to strengthen accountability through transforming institutional cultures that reinforce violence and discrimination against women.

3

Strengthen the accountability of the technology sector and social media platforms through the development and implementation of common standards and policies, requiring them to proactively detect, assess, and address TF VAWG and provide a safe and respectful environment online, free from misogyny, and impose sanctions and penalties for non-compliance.

4

Strengthen monitoring and tracking mechanisms to assess the implementation of laws, policies and national action plans on VAWG, including through systematic collection and public reporting of disaggregated data, in partnership with women's rights organizations and independent oversight bodies.

ENDNOTES

- 1 Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. Report of the Secretary General. 27 December 2024. [E/CN.6/2025/3](#)
- 2 World Health Organization. (2021). Violence against women prevalence estimates, 2018: global, regional and national prevalence estimates for intimate partner violence against women and global and regional prevalence estimates for non-partner sexual violence against women. World Health Organization. <https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/341337>. License: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO
- 3 Mama Cash (July 2020) Feminist Activism Works! A review of select literature on the impact of feminist activism in achieving women's rights. AWID (November 2020) Moving More Money to the Drivers of Change: How Bilateral and Multilateral Funders Can Resource Feminist Movement. Htun, M & Weldon, S.L. (2012) The Civic Origins of Progressive Policy Change: Combating Violence against Women in Global Perspective, 1975–2005. American Political Science Review. Vol. 106, No. 3 August 2012
- 4 Sarah Homan and Emma Fulu, Sustainable Development Goals and Violence Against Women and Girls (Melbourne, The Equality Institute, 2021).
- 5 Arriaga et al, Linking Security of Women & Security of States, 2017. Arriaga et al, Linking Security of Women & Security of States, 2017.
- 6 <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-topics/development-finance-for-genderequality-and-women-s-empowerment.htm>
- 7 Ashe, S., Duwury, N., Raghavendra, S., Scriver, S., and O'Donovan, D. (2016) Costs of Violence Against Women: An Examination of the Evidence.
- 8 UN Women (forthcoming) **UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: State Measures Report**. NB: Analysis is based on data available in the Database as of October 2024.
- 9 Mama Cash (July 2020) Feminist Activism Works! A review of select literature on the impact of feminist activism in achieving women's rights. AWID (November 2020) Moving More Money to the Drivers of Change: How Bilateral and Multilateral Funders Can Resource Feminist Movement. Htun, M & Weldon, S.L. (2012) The Civic Origins of Progressive Policy Change: Combating Violence against Women in Global Perspective, 1975–2005. American Political Science Review. Vol. 106, No. 3 August 2012
- 10 [https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD/DAC/GEN\(2024\)1/en/pdf](https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD/DAC/GEN(2024)1/en/pdf)
- 11 CIVICUS (2024) https://monitor.civicus.org/globalfindings_2024/innumbers/
- 12 <https://commitments.generationequality.org/sites/default/files/2023-09/ge-accountability-report-2023.pdf>
- 13 United Nations Economic and Social Affairs (2015). [The world's women 2015: Trends and statistics](#), p. 159.
- 14 UN Women and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The gender snapshot 2024



Funded by
the European Union