

30-YEAR REVIEW OF THE BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION

# ZERO VIOLENCE

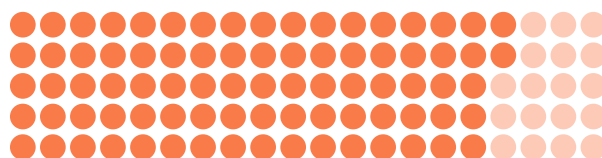
Accelerate progress to end violence  
against women and girls

Violence against Women and Girls  
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 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:<sup>i</sup>**

**79%**

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

**90%**

have strengthened  
laws (up from  
83% in 2019)

**88%**

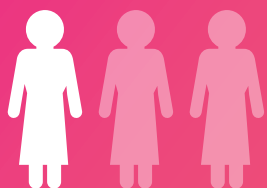
have strengthened  
services (compared  
to 87% in 2019)

**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 lifetimes.<sup>ii</sup>

## DEEPLY ENTRENCHED STEREOTYPES,

harmful social norms coupled with weak implementation of national strategies and enforcement of laws, as well as inadequate resources, **are impeding progress.**



## GLOBAL EMERGENCIES, CRISES, CONFLICT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

have further intensified the drivers and risk factors of VAWG, and digitalization **has exacerbated existing forms of violence** and led to the proliferation of new forms, including growing attacks on women and girls across the online-offline continuum, 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 **reinforcing 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% of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** due to violence against women.<sup>iii</sup>

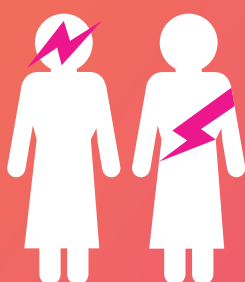


There is also

## EVIDENCE OF REGRESSION IN SOME STATES

where important measures to prevent and respond to VAW are being rolled back amid a

## GLOBAL BACKLASH AGAINST WOMEN'S RIGHTS.



## GLOBAL UPTICK IN MEASURES TO ADDRESS TECHNOLOGY-FACILITATED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The prevalence of violence against women and girls in digital contexts ranges from 16 to 58 per cent.<sup>iv</sup> It is estimated that 90 to 95% of all online deepfakes are non-consensual pornographic images with around 90% of these depicting women.<sup>v</sup>

As of 2024,

### 2 OUT OF 3

Member States (69%) adopted measures specifically addressing technology-facilitated violence against women and girls.<sup>vi</sup>

While Member States adopted initiatives related to research and data collection, legislation, policies, funding allocation, prevention, services provision, monitoring and evaluation, and accountability, most measures are gender neutral, focusing more broadly on cyberviolence and online safety.

Measures have largely targeted **young people**, notably through the education sector. Specific initiatives have targeted women **in public roles**, particularly those in politics and in media and some target **vulnerable women in shelters** to prevent violence through digital literacy.

**Police services** are the main entry point for support services in many contexts, with different types of units and focal points that have been created.

# EVIDENCED STRATEGIES TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

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.

1. The presence of a **strong and autonomous women's rights movement** is the single most critical factor to drive progress in ending violence against women.<sup>vii</sup>
2. **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.<sup>viii</sup>
3. **Countries with domestic violence laws** report significantly lower rates of intimate partner violence (9.5%) compared to those without such legislation (16.1%).<sup>ix</sup>



# CALL TO ACTION

**AS WE APPROACH THE 30-YEAR ANNIVERSARY FOR THE BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION, WE MUST REIGNITE ITS GROUNDBREAKING VISION OF HOPE THROUGH ACCELERATING COORDINATED AND MULTISECTORAL EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS.**

- 1.** Adopt whole-of-government **national action plans** on violence against women, that include funds for prevention and with adequate budgeting across relevant sectors, and for youth and women's right organizations and movements as engines of change.
- 2.** Monitor implementation through accountability mechanisms and regular, comparable and **quality data** collection on VAW, prioritizing data where there are gaps (e.g., sexual harassment, TF VAWG, perpetration) and to track progress over time.
- 3.** Adopt, implement, enforce and fund **comprehensive laws and policies** that address all forms of violence against women and girls across the online-offline continuum, eliminate the discrimination of women and girls, address gaps in legal protection, ensure access to justice and long-term support for victim-survivors, and strengthen accountability and institutional change.
- 4.** Invest in evidence-based, long-term **prevention strategies** that include transforming harmful social norms and practices, attitudes, beliefs, harmful masculinities across all settings, including education, workplaces, public spaces, online/digital contexts as well as to harness technology to accelerate progress in eliminating VAWG.
- 5.** Ensure victims and survivors of VAWG have prompt access to comprehensive and **long-term specialist support and justice**, delivered in a survivor-centred and trauma-informed approach to uphold women's rights and put an end to impunity in VAW cases.
- 6.** **Strengthen support, solidarity and protection for women human rights defenders and activists** through increased quality, long-term, core and flexible funding and strengthened protection and rapid response mechanisms to prevent violence, attacks and threats against women's human rights defenders.

- i. 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](#)
- ii. 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
- iii. Ashe, S., Duvvury, N., Raghavendra, S., Scriver, S., and O'Donovan, D. (2016) Costs of Violence Against Women: An Examination of the Evidence.
- iv. Hicks, Jacqueline. 2021. "Global evidence on the prevalence and impact of online gender-based violence (OGBV)," Knowledge, Evidence and Learning for Development (K4D).
- v. Henry Ajder, Giorgio Patrini, Francesco Cavalli, and Laurence Cullen. 2019. The State of Deepfakes: Landscape, Threats, and Impact. [deepfake\\_report.pdf](#)
- vi. UN Women. 2025. [Global database on Violence against Women | UN Women Data Hub](#)
- vii. Mama Cash. 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
- viii. 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.
- ix. UN Women. 2024. [Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The gender snapshot 2024](#).