



About UNiTE

Every year, millions of women and girls worldwide suffer some form of violence, be it domestic violence, rape, female genital mutilation/cutting, dowry-related killing, trafficking, sexual violence in conflict-related situations, or other manifestations of abuse.

Launched in 2008, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's *UNiTE to End Violence against Women* campaign is a multi-year effort aimed at raising public awareness and increasing political will and resources for preventing and ending violence against women and girls in all parts of the world.

The campaign calls on governments, civil society, women's organizations, young people, the private sector, the media and the entire UN system to join forces in addressing this global pandemic.

Global Vision – Local Delivery

The global vision of the UNiTE campaign is a world free from violence against all women and girls. This vision can only be realised through meaningful and ongoing political commitment by national governments, backed by action and adequate resources.

No country is immune from violence against women and girls, or exempt from the responsibility to put an end to it.

However, many countries lack, or have failed to implement, effective national laws or national action plans to end violence against women and girls. In many States there are no specific legal provisions against domestic violence and marital rape is not a prosecutable offence in more than 50 countries. Laws can often contain loopholes that allow perpetrators to act with impunity.

A lack of national data and statistics on violence against women and girls is also a major obstacle to developing measures to address the problem successfully.

The UNiTE campaign is therefore supporting governments and civil society partners to develop and implement national laws, action plans, and systems for data collection and analysis. The campaign also aims to address the widespread use of sexual violence as a tactic of armed conflict.

Galvanizing Support

Through advocacy initiatives at the global, regional and national levels, the UNiTE campaign is working to raise public awareness and mobilize communities to end violence against women and girls. In addition to supporting the longstanding efforts of women and civil society organizations, the campaign is actively engaging with men and boys, young people, celebrities, artists, sports personalities, the private sector and many more. People from all regions are lending their support to UNiTE's cause.

As part of the growing effort to include men as part of the solution to ending violence against women and girls, Secretary-General Ban launched his Network of Men Leaders in 2009. Each member of the Network – current and former politicians, activists, religious and community leaders, and others – is undertaking specific actions to end violence against women, from raising public awareness, advocating for adequate laws, to talking to young men and boys, to holding governments accountable.

UNiTE aims to expand the Network of Men Leaders by 2015 to include hundreds of dedicated individuals from all walks of life and parts of the world.

Mobilizing Resources

One of the key targets of the UNiTE campaign is to increase funding for the UN Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women.

The Trust Fund is the only global multilateral fund exclusively dedicated to ending all forms of violence against women, and which harnesses the support of governments, corporations, individuals and foundations to encourage innovative responses to addressing the cause. Since it began operations in 1997, the Fund has awarded over \$60 million in grants to 304 initiatives in over 120 countries. However, resources for the Fund fall drastically short, meeting only 4 percent of the vast demand.

To address this funding gap, UNiTE aims to raise \$100 million by 2015 for the annual grant giving by the UN Trust Fund.

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