

UNITED NATIONS
TRUST FUND TO
END VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN

It's a global emergency

But it's happening behind closed doors

Violence against women is tacitly accepted in many societies—hidden behind doors and by walls of silence. Yet it is one of the most pervasive and systematic human rights violations in the world today: One woman in three will be raped, beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime.

Political commitment to ending violence against women has never been higher. As of 2007, over 100 countries had laws or policies prohibiting violence against women and ending impunity for perpetrators. But putting these into practice will require substantial additional resources. The United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women can help bridge the gap.

For over 30 years, women's groups around the world have taken the lead in responding to women survivors of violence. Working at the grassroots — as well as nationally, regionally and globally — they have lobbied to make violence against women a development and human rights priority. They have encouraged women to break the silence by speaking out, provided shelter and services, and advocated for badly needed resources.

These champions for women's rights have altered our perceptions of gender-based violence. They have effectively promoted the understanding that violence against women is not simply the result of random individual acts. Rather, it is deeply rooted in the structural inequalities between men and women. Their efforts at the community and national levels have also shown that violence against women is not inevitable: It is a problem with a solution.

An historic opportunity

By 2007, 89 countries had enacted legislation to address domestic violence — more than double the number in 2003. Over 100 countries have made rape a crime, 90 have provisions against sexual harassment, and 93 countries have prohibited human trafficking. The structures to prevent and redress violence against women are moving into place. Minds are being changed. Now is the time to seize the moment and to make violence against women history.

In 2008, the UN Secretary-General launched a global campaign to eliminate violence against women that will be sustained through 2015, the target date for the Millennium Development Goals. The global movement that women pioneered now has support at the highest levels. And the issue of violence against women has been placed at the centre of the peace, security, poverty reduction, development and human rights agendas.

The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women is a leading global mechanism to advance action to end the pandemic. The UN General Assembly resolution that established the Trust Fund in 1996 designated UNIFEM (the UN Development Fund for Women) as Administrator, on behalf of the United Nations system.

How it works

The UN Trust Fund makes grants, annually, based on an open and competitive process to support the most innovative and effective strategies for addressing and reducing violence against women and girls.

The magnitude of the problem

Gender-based violence affects women and girls in every country, regardless of their age, race, education, income or ethnicity. But as the following pages make clear, we can change these grim statistics:*

*Statistics are excerpted from: United Nations, 2006, *Ending Violence against Women: From Words to Action, A Study of the Secretary-General*, New York, with the following exceptions: The figures on the health costs of intimate partner violence in the United States were drawn from a 2003 report by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; the statistics on sexual violence among women and girls are from the UN Population Fund's *State of World Population 2005* report; the figures on female genital mutilation/cutting are from a 2007 UNFPA report; and the figures on human trafficking are from a 2007 US State Department report.

THE WORLD HAS SPOKEN: IT'S TIME FOR ACTION

In 1993, the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women defined violence against women and girls as encompassing all forms of physical, sexual and psychological abuse, inflicted in public or private. This landmark declaration, along with the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted by 189 countries at the Fourth World Conference on Women, solidified the importance of combating violence against women in decision-making circles. Other UN Conferences of the 1990s and developments since have placed the issue squarely on the inter-governmental agenda, most notably the:

- 1993 Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which unequivocally affirmed that the rights of women are human rights.
- 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, which recognized the inextricable links between violence against women and reproductive health and rights.
- 1999 declaration of 25 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.
- 2000 Millennium Declaration, which resolved “to combat all forms of violence against women,” and the subsequent 2005 World Summit Outcome, which reaffirmed this commitment and expanded it to include violence against women during and after conflict.
- 2004 Security Council Open Debate, the first in its history devoted to sexual and gender-based violence in conflict and post-conflict situations.
- 2006 publication of the UN Secretary-General’s In-Depth Study on all Forms of Violence against Women, which set the global framework for the way forward.
- 2006 and 2007 General Assembly resolutions on ending violence against women. These and other related UN resolutions — on rape, domestic violence, harmful practices and violence against migrant women workers, among others — reinforce the call for action.

- **Domestic violence is by far the most common form of violence against women. Too often, it proves fatal. Forty to 70 percent of the female murder victims in Australia, Canada, Israel, South Africa and the United States of America were killed by their husbands or boyfriends. The health-related costs of intimate partner violence in the US alone are estimated at \$5.8 billion. >>**

“Through the UN Trust Fund, Governments can give life to a universal truth, applicable to all countries, cultures and communities: Violence against women is never acceptable, never excusable, never tolerable. As part of my campaign to end violence against women, I encourage all Member States to pledge their support.”

Ban Ki-moon,
Secretary-General of the
United Nations

- An annual call for proposals is circulated worldwide to developing countries and countries in transition. Grant applications can be submitted by government and non-governmental organizations, and, since 2008, by UN Country Teams working in close coordination with national partners.
- Proposals are reviewed by committees that include representatives of UN and other multi-lateral organizations along with experts on violence against women from non-governmental organizations and academia (see page 10).*
- A strong emphasis of the Fund is linking community-based initiatives to national priorities and the work of governmental, non-governmental, donor and UN partners. The goal is to bring innovation and additional resources where they are needed most — at the local level.
- UNIFEM is responsible for the management and overall strategy of the UN Trust Fund. It ensures that these are relevant and effective by consulting regularly with a UN inter-agency committee that offers guidance on policy priorities.

What it has accomplished

The UN Trust Fund is a catalyst for new ideas, a source of support for focused and strategic action, and a hub of knowledge on good practices for ending violence against women. Since 1997, some 250 initiatives in nearly 100 countries have received funding totalling more than \$19 million.

Beginning in 2005, the UN Trust Fund has focused specifically on supporting implementation of laws and policies related to violence against women. As a result, law enforcement agents, judicial officials, health workers, educators, men, women, boys and girls are making use of legal and policy changes that afford women better protection. Here are some examples:

PREVENTING VIOLENCE, PROMOTING SAFETY

- Pilot projects to create safer urban environments have inspired a regional programme that is being launched in selected cities in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala and Peru. This *Safe Cities* programme is centred on securing women’s rights to enjoy public spaces without fear of violence or assault. It promotes women’s participation in municipal planning as well as policy reforms and common-sense measures to improve women’s security, such as adequate lighting of streets and the fencing off of vacant lots. This expanded initiative has attracted support from three UN organizations, the Government of Spain and NGO partners.

*Subregional committee meetings are held in Barbados, Brazil, Ecuador, Fiji, Ghana, Jordan, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Slovak Republic, South Africa and Thailand.

- **According to studies across a number of developing countries, about 13 percent of women suffer moderate to severe physical violence during pregnancy.**
- **Nearly 50 percent of all sexual assaults worldwide target girls aged 15 or younger. Studies from Jamaica, Mali, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe showed that between 20**

- Attitudes towards so-called “honour” killings in the occupied Palestinian territories have begun to shift thanks to a UN Trust Fund grantee that documented the nature and extent of the practice. The research provided an evidence base for changing attitudes and advocating for improved services and legislative reform.
- Community-based advocacy in Mali is ensuring that a national programme to ban female genital mutilation/cutting reaches the grassroots. The success of the effort is attributed to broad involvement by diverse groups, including women, young people, teachers, the media, ministry officials and parliamentarians, traditional and religious leaders as well as excision practitioners. A new training curriculum, developed by the Ministry of Education, is taking the message nationwide.

ENHANCING LEGAL PROTECTION

- Judges in India have confronted their own gender biases through experiential workshops, visits to women’s shelters, and dialogue with other judges and women survivors of violence. They subsequently created a regional network, backed by the country’s then chief justice, to share their insights with justice officials from other parts of Asia and the Pacific. The initiative has resulted in gender-sensitive court rulings and a toolkit for challenging stereotypes, which is being used as a resource for new programmes in Bhutan and South East Asia.
- A citizen’s organization in Mongolia is strengthening the likelihood that recently passed laws — on domestic violence, trafficking, rape and sexual harassment — are put into practice. In partnership with the National Human Rights Commission and other civil society groups, the organization is advancing a model for victim protection and services. At the same time, it is advocating for improved laws and analysing budget allocations to ensure that resources are available to carry them out.

BREAKING THE SILENCE

- The first curriculum on intimate partner violence was introduced to teens in Croatia, sparking awareness and public debate on an issue that had largely remained hidden. It also drew attention to root causes.
- Radio programmes that entertain while providing life-saving information about gender-based violence and HIV reached more than 55,000 people in remote areas of the Peruvian Amazon. The training of students as local correspondents for the show, and teaching them to train others, is helping them internalize — and act upon — the information they’ve received.

“Let survivors of violence know they are not alone, that they can count on us.”

UNIFEM
Goodwill Ambassador
Nicole Kidman

and 30 percent of adolescent girls had experienced sexual violence. In Thailand, intimate partner violence is the leading cause of death for women and girls aged 15 through 24.

- **Sexual violence is increasingly recognized as a deliberate method of warfare. It is a war crime, but continues with impunity. Between 20,000 and 50,000 women were raped >>**

“In my country, we have known for years that violence against women is fuelling the AIDS epidemic. With support from the UN Trust Fund, the government is charting new ground in keeping women and girls free from abuse and HIV.”

Marty I. Legwaila, Director,
Women's Affairs Department,
Ministry of Labour and
Home Affairs, Botswana

Taking the Fund in new directions

- **Increasing effectiveness.** Aside from resources, the most serious limitations in addressing violence against women effectively are inadequate capacity to scale up programmes and knowledge of what works. To address both of these concerns, the Fund is investing in training grantees to design programmes on the basis of solid evidence — and to rigorously monitor and evaluate the results. A new evaluation strategy draws on cutting-edge approaches and methodologies to systematically extract lessons from Fund initiatives, especially those that support replication and expansion.
- **Going to scale.** As political commitment and resources grow, the UN Trust Fund will support larger-scale programmes involving multiple partners. The goal is to expand promising or proven approaches and to ensure their sustainability through government, NGO and UN partnerships. Moreover, the shift to larger, longer-term grants will further increase the efficiency of the Fund's management.
- **Spawning innovation.** The Fund is supporting grantees in testing and developing new approaches for dealing with violence against women. In the first experiment of its kind, it is examining the links between violence against women and the spread of HIV. With funding from Johnson & Johnson and other donors, leading international experts are collaborating with eight grantees from three regions who are working at the intersection of these “twin epidemics.” Joint learning and evaluation exercises are helping grantees to break new ground and to potentially reduce the prevalence of both HIV and violence against women.
- **Sharing lessons across the globe.** The UN Trust Fund is a valuable resource for approaches, methodologies and tools that have been successfully used to address violence against women and girls. A global initiative is now under way to make the lessons of UN Trust Fund grantees more widely available to other organizations receiving Fund support and the broader arena of development practitioners. Closing the gap between knowledge generation and sharing aims to ensure programming excellence and maximize results.

during the conflict in Bosnia during the early 1990s; ten times that many women were sexually violated during the genocide in Rwanda, yet few of the perpetrators have been prosecuted. Abductions, detention, mutilation and other degrading or cruel punishments, including sexual torture, forced pregnancy and deliberate infection with HIV, are

Why the UN Trust Fund is important

- **A gauge of international commitment.** The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women is one of the leading global mechanisms to bring the UN system together around this critical issue. As such, it has symbolic as well as practical value by serving as a barometer of the importance accorded to gender-based violence by the world community. It is also a mechanism for tracking resources devoted to this issue.
- **UN reform.** Involvement of numerous UN agencies in decision-making at the global, sub-regional and national levels encourages coordination and coherent approaches. Moreover, sharing information among a wide range of partners, including government and civil society groups, results in programme synergies. Such harmonization of efforts is among the goals of UN reform and a stated objective of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.
- **Meeting demand.** Overall funding for initiatives to address violence against women is on the rise. Nevertheless, the resources available are grossly disproportionate to the magnitude of the problem. From 2004 to 2007, resources to the UN Trust Fund increased tenfold. Still, it was able to meet only 5 percent of the more than \$100 million in requests it received in 2007. In comparison, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has received more than \$10 billion in commitments since its start-up in 2002. The 2015 target for the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women is a minimum of \$100 million a year, which is needed to combat the problem in a serious and sustained way.
- **A sound investment.** The UN Millennium Project, which represents the collective wisdom of 250 experts around the world, concluded that ending gender-based violence is a key to unleashing the full social and economic contributions of women. In fact, the project's Task Force on Education and Gender Equality identified the elimination of violence against women as one of seven strategic priorities for achieving Millennium Development Goal 3, on women's equality and empowerment, and the MDGs overall.

“Violence against women is an issue that cannot wait.”

Asha-Rose Migiro,
Deputy Secretary-General
of the United Nations

among the human rights abuses inflicted upon women and girls in conflict situations.

- **An estimated 100 million to 140 million women and girls worldwide have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting; 3 million more girls are at risk each year. >>**

“The UN Trust Fund has not only helped us, as survivors of rape, to provide services for women who have been violated. It has also enabled us to demonstrate that women from poor communities can become leaders in the fight against violence.”

Marie Eramithe Delva,
Leader, Komisyon Fanm Viktim pou Viktim
(Commission of Women Victims for Victims), Haiti

United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women UN and other partners*

Department of Peacekeeping Operations
Division for the Advancement of Women
Economic Commission for Africa
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
International Labour Organization
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS/Global Coalition on Women and AIDS
United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict
United Nations Population Fund
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
United Nations Children’s Fund
United Nations Development Fund for Women
United Nations Development Programme
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
United Nations Human Settlements Programme
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
World Bank
World Food Programme
World Health Organization

Leading experts and civil society organizations, including Amnesty International, the Center for Women’s Global Leadership and Human Rights Watch, participate in the Fund’s advisory committees at the global and subregional levels.

*In 2007. Participation may vary from year to year.

- **Some 800,000 people are trafficked each year across national borders, most destined for sexual slavery. About 80 percent of them are women and girls, and up to half are minors. Human trafficking is the third most profitable criminal activity after illicit trade in drugs and arms.**

Global contributors to date

The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women is financed through voluntary contributions from governments, the private sector, non-profit organizations and concerned individuals around the world.

Leading government donors include Spain, the Netherlands, Norway, United States of America, Finland, Japan, Italy, Australia, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Austria, Denmark and Iceland. The governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Malta, Mauritius, Republic of Korea, Slovenia and Trinidad and Tobago are also acknowledged for their support.

Private sector donors include Johnson & Johnson, which contributed funds to pioneer evidence-based programming on the intersections of violence against women and HIV. Avon Products, Inc., in partnership with UNIFEM, launched the Avon Empowerment Fund, which resulted in a \$1 million contribution to the UN Trust Fund for grant-making in 2008. Other private sector partners are Macy's, TAG Heuer and Omega.

Foundation supporters include the United Nations Foundation and the Cinema for Peace Foundation, based in Berlin, Germany. The UN Trust Fund has also benefited from the generosity of the Conrad Hilton Foundation and the MacArthur Foundation.

Long-standing funding partners from civil society include Zonta International, a worldwide network of executives and professionals working together to advance the status of women worldwide through service and advocacy; UNIFEM National Committees in Australia, Austria, Iceland, Italy, New Zealand, Singapore, United Kingdom and the United States of America, which are volunteer organizations supporting UNIFEM's mission and programmes; and the Transition Network and World Day Prayer.

The UN Trust Fund is also grateful to individual donors and supporters. UNIFEM's Goodwill Ambassador, Nicole Kidman, has personally dedicated herself to mobilizing individual and corporate support, including as spokesperson for the "Say NO to Violence against Women" campaign.

Increasingly, national and Internet-based campaigns are bringing the Trust Fund message to larger numbers of people. Visit the following website to see how:

www.saynotoviolence.org

Key resources

- **United Nations. 2006. Secretary-General's in-depth study on all forms of violence against women (UN document: A/61/122/Add.1).**
- **United Nations General Assembly Resolutions. 2006 and 2007. Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women (UN documents: A/RES/61/143 and A/RES/62/133).**
- **UN Millennium Project. 2005. *Taking Action: Achieving Gender Equality and Empowering Women. Task Force on Education and Gender Equality.* London and Sterling, Virginia: Earthscan.**
- **UN Millennium Project. 2005b. *Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals: Overview. Report to the Secretary-General.* London and Sterling, Virginia: Earthscan.**
- **World Health Organization. 2005. *Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women.* Geneva: WHO.**



“The UN Trust Fund shows that violence against women is a problem with a solution.”

Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, President of Liberia

To learn more or donate online: www.unifem.org

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