



#HearMeToo
END VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN
AND GIRLS



16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Advocacy Toolkit

25 November - 10 December 2018

“GWI believes that as a civilization, we are at a critical moment in time when we must acknowledge, once and for all, that the safety of women girls is a cornerstone of a sustainable society. We call on all men and women to strenuously reject all notions that tend to justify Gender-Based Violence, punish its perpetrators to the full extent of the law and advocate for strict laws where there are none”, Geeta Desai,
Graduate Women International, President.

Foreword

Beginning with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November and ending with Human Rights Day on 10 December, the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (16 Days of Activism) is a widespread, annual movement for the international community to center its efforts on eliminating violence against women and girls around the world. Since 1991, the 16 Days of Activism have united the voices of millions of women and girls to raise awareness about Gender-Based Violence (GBV), eliminate it in all forms and demand equal protection for women and girls from GBV.

The overarching themes of the 2016 and 2017 16 Days of Activism focused on raising awareness and calling for the elimination of GBV in education. Last year, the Campaign saw the coming together of more than 700 organisations in some 92 countries for the “Together We Can End GBV in Education!” Campaign. This year, the power of the 16 Days of Activism is moving towards a new, 2-year targeted global advocacy goal. Under the new overarching theme, “Together We Can End GBV in the World of Work!”, the Campaign calls for the elimination of all forms of GBV in the world of work including the adoption by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) at its June 2019 conference of a legally binding convention to end GBV in the world of work.

Together We Can Eliminate GBV!

The goal of this Graduate Women International (GWI) 16 Days of Activism toolkit is, alongside our National Federations and Associations (NFAs), to increase awareness about and advocate for the elimination of all forms of GBV in the world of work and beyond, through a united, worldwide voice. The primary action towards eliminating GBV is to draw attention to the frequency of GBV incidents and spread awareness about the issue; to see yourself and your NFA as agents of change towards the elimination of GBV, locally and globally. Underscoring that GBV destabilizes the safety, dignity, overall health condition, and human rights of the millions of women and girls who experience it. Advocacy campaigns such as this aim to build on previous year’s successes while highlighting the work that still needs to be done. GWI correspondingly celebrates this progress and the extraordinary women and girls around the world who have fought back against GBV. Included in this toolkit are many powerful, easy-to-use resources to assist you with an advocacy campaign of your own. The resources can be widely shared as support vehicles to spread the word about the need to address GBV. Together we can end GBV! No action is too small!



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Table of Contents

1. Foreword
2. GWI stands strong against all forms of GBV
 - 2.1. What is GBV?
 - 2.2. Facts about GBV?
 - 2.3. GBV: What international regulations?
 - 2.4. GBV and the SDGs: What are the critical connections?
 - 2.5. GBV in the World of Work
3. Important dates to observe during the 16 Days of Activism
 - 3.1. November 25: International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
 - 3.2. December 3: International Day of Persons with Disabilities
 - 3.3. December 6: The Montreal Massacre
 - 3.4. December 9: International Anti-Corruption Day
 - 3.5. December 10: Human Rights Day
4. Join Us: Take Action against GBV!
 - 4.1. 16 Advocacy ideas for 16 Days of Activism
 - 4.2. Easy-to-share social media campaign
 - 4.2.1. Comprehensive social media campaign and custom infographics
 - 4.2.2. Facebook cover photo
 - 4.2.3. 16 Days of Activism Ready-Made Tweets
 - 4.3. Prewritten press releases for distribution to local media outlets
 - 4.4. GWI resolutions related to GBV
 - 4.5. Orange Your Community, Orange the World
 - 4.6. Participate in local events
 - 4.7. Suggested books and films for discussion
5. Together We Can Eliminate GBV Worldwide!



What is GBV?

The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) defines GBV as “violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately.” More generally, GBV can be any act of violence that results in result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women and girls, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.

All forms of GBV are direct human rights violations, heinous and immoral. As global citizenship expands, cultures overlap resulting in varying and often conflicting ideals of what GBV is, and is not. Although recognizing all forms of violence as human rights violations, GWI is principally concerned about GBV as a specific type of violence committed against women and girls that often emerges as an expression of the power inequalities existing between men and women in communities and cultures around the world. GBV includes both direct violence (i.e. sexual harassment/assault, human trafficking, domestic violence, early and forced marriages, female genital mutilation (FGM)) and indirect violence (i.e. institutionalized norms, attitudes and stereotypes that perpetuate an unequal power dynamic between gender). GBV is crosscutting with no boundaries for nation, culture, community, race, sexual orientation or religion. GBV exists both in the private and public spheres and may be committed against women by men or even fellow women. GBV is a form of discrimination against women and is a fundamental human rights violation.

All forms of GBV are direct human rights violations, heinous and immoral.

Unacceptably, on many occasions, girls are accused of or blamed for the violence they experience. They are often held responsible for the consequences. In many communities, there exists a general sentiment that girls who have experienced GBV have themselves caused the violence, somehow provoking or enticing their attacker, and should have acted differently to avoid the violence. This perception as victims of their own accountability is harmful to women and girls, both because it prevents prosecution or punishment of the perpetrator(s) and because it reduces the level of community support or assistance a girl receives as post-victims of GBV. Additionally, according to an UNESCO study on GBV, this perceived blame reduces the likelihood that girls will report instances of GBV due to fear of stigmatization, retribution or distrust by those entrusted to protect them.

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Facts About GBV

Below are facts and statistics about GBV. You may want to highlight these on your social media and NFA webpage, *perhaps through a daily “Did You Know” or trivia campaign.*

1. Between 40 and 50 percent of women in European Union countries experience unwanted sexual advances, physical contact or other forms of sexual harassment at work (World Health Organisation (WHO))ⁱ.
2. Early and forced marriage is a violation of women's rights. Almost 750 million women and girls alive today were married before their 18th birthday, and more than 20,000 underage girls are illegally married every year (UNICEF)ⁱⁱ.
3. An estimated one in three girls around the world will experience physical or sexual abuse or violence in her lifetime (United Nations Population Fund)ⁱⁱⁱ.
4. Women and girls account for 71% of human trafficking victims, with nearly three of every four trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation (United Nations (UN))^{iv}.
5. At least 200 million women and girls alive today have undergone FGM, with most experiencing FGM before age of 5 (UNICEF)^v.
6. One in 10 women in the European Union report having experienced cyber-harassment since the age of 15 (including having received unwanted, offensive sexually explicit emails or SMS messages, or offensive, inappropriate advances on social networking sites). The risk is highest among young women between 18 and 29 years of age (UNWomen)^{vi}.
7. Eighty-two per cent of women parliamentarians who participated in a study conducted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in 39 countries across five regions reported having experienced some form of psychological violence while serving their terms (Inter-Parliamentary Union)^{vii}.
8. According to a 2016 ActionAid Survey, 79% of women living in cities in India, 86% in Thailand, and 89% in Brazil have been subjected to harassment or violence in public, as had 75% of women in London, UK (ActionAid)^{viii}.
9. In a survey of 3,706 primary schoolchildren from Uganda, 24 per cent of 11 to 14-year-old girls with disabilities reported sexual violence at school, compared to 12 per cent of non-disabled girls (UNWomen)^{ix}.
10. At least 140 countries have passed laws on domestic violence, and 144 have laws on sexual harassment. Though laws exist, compliance and implementation of such international standards remains low. Still, 37 countries exempt rape perpetrators from prosecution when they are married to or subsequently marry the victim (World Bank Group)^x.
11. In Australia, Canada, Israel, South Africa and the United States, between 40 and 70 per cent of female murder victims are killed by their intimate partners (WHO)^{xi}.
12. Conservative estimates suggest that 20,000 to 50,000 women were raped during the 1992-1995 war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, while approximately 250,000 to 500,000 women and girls were targeted for rape in the 1994 Rwandan genocide (UNIFEM)^{xii}.



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13. Approximately once every ten minutes, somewhere in the world, an adolescent girl dies as a result of violence (UNICEF)^{xiii}.
14. In a majority of countries with available data, less than 40 per cent of women and girls who experience GBV seek help of any sort. Of these, less than ten per cent seek help from the police (UNWomen)^{xiv}.
15. Around 120 million girls worldwide (slightly more than 1 in 10) have experienced forced intercourse or other forced sexual acts at some point in their lives. By far the most common perpetrators of sexual violence against girls are current or former husbands, partners or boyfriends (European Commission)^{xv}.
16. Women who have been physically or sexually abused by their partners are more than twice as likely to have an abortion, almost twice as likely to experience depression, and in some regions, 1.5 times more likely to acquire HIV, as compared to women who have not experienced partner violence (WHO)^{xvi}.

GBV: What international regulations?

Sometimes today, women's rights as human rights are taken for granted. The reality is that women's rights activists and women's organisations from around the world have worked for decades to secure the mere recognition of GBV and other violations as violations of human rights under international law and not simply private acts outside of the purview of the State. Framing GBV against women as a human rights violation implied an important conceptual shift. Laws meant recognizing that women are not exposed to violence by accident, or because of an in-born vulnerability. Instead, violence is recognised as the result of structural, deep-rooted discrimination which States have obligations to prosecute. Preventing and addressing GBV against women is, therefore, not a charitable act. It is a legal and moral obligation requiring legislative, administrative and institutional measures and reforms and the eradication of gender stereotypes which condone or perpetuate GBV against women and underpin the structural inequality of women with men^{xvii}.

Violence against women and girls is the result of structural, deep-rooted discrimination which the state has an obligation to address.

This major breakthrough was achieved thanks to the active and relentless advocacy work conducted by women organisations such as GWI over decades. Since the 1970s, international women's rights networks had been growing and expanding, facilitated in part by the UN World Conferences on Women. The 16 Days of Activism were launched in 1991 by the Center for Women's Global Leadership with the goal of uniting women's rights activists globally to call upon the 1993 United Nations Convention on Human Rights held in Vienna to comprehensively address women's human rights and to recognize GBV as a human rights issue.



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In 1979 already, the United Nations General Assembly had adopted the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). In 1989, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women released General Recommendation 12 on Violence against Women stating that CEDAW requires State parties to act to protect women against violence of any kind occurring within the family, the workplace or in any other area of social life. In 1992, the Committee released General Recommendation 19 on Violence against Women which incorporates GBV into a framework of discrimination and human rights violations and measures to combat them. Both recommendations reiterate a State's responsibility to act with due diligence in eliminating violence against women^{xviii}.

The 1993 Vienna UN World Conference on Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme for Action presented GBV as structural and universal. The Vienna Declaration also called for the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on violence against women and contributed to the 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 1993. The Declaration is the first international instrument that solely concerns violence against women. It defines violence against women and specifies that the measures to end violence against women shall target the structures, contexts, and social and cultural patterns which constitute the root causes of this type of violence. It further establishes the relationship between intersecting inequalities and violence^{xix}.

The Fourth UN World Conference on Women in 1995 produced the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA) which comprises a set of 12 critical areas for achieving women's empowerment, including a commitment to combat violence against women, and was adopted by 189 Member States. The Beijing Declaration shows the universal and particular nature of violence against women. It also considers the fear of violence to be a permanent constraint on the mobility of women, limiting their access to resources and basic activities. Furthermore, the BPfA acknowledges additional barriers faced by women due to such factors as race, age, language, ethnicity, culture, religion, disability, etc^{xx}.

In 1999, the UN General Assembly adopted the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Optional Protocol created two procedures to monitor compliance with CEDAW. First, it established a communications procedure to enable women to submit claims of violations of CEDAW after exhausting domestic remedies. Second, the Optional Protocol created an inquiry procedure allowing the Committee to investigate situations of "grave or systematic violations" of women's rights. Both procedures can only be used in cases where the State is a party to the Convention and the Optional Protocol. Currently, 104 countries are parties to the Optional Protocol^{xxi}.

1979: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
1993: Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women
1995: Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
1999: Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination



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Violence against women is also largely addressed through other mechanisms such as the Universal Period Review (UPR) mechanism of the Human Rights Council (HRC) since its creation in 2005 after the reform of the HRC. The UPR is a unique, volunteer process which involves a review of the human rights records of all UN Member States. The UPR is a State-driven process, under the auspices of the HRC which provides the opportunity for each State to declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to fulfil their human rights obligations. The aim of this mechanism is to improve the human rights situation in all countries and address human rights violations wherever they occur, including GBV and all forms of violence and mistreatment against women and girls.

GBV and the SDGs?

On 25 September 2015, 193 countries across the globe united by adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This constituted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that aim to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. The success of the SDGs is multidimensional and participation at all levels from all sectors is key. Based on fundamental rights yet, immersed in a world entrenched in complexity of globalisation, the SDGs success heavily depends on the use of foresight which will provide the principles of understanding the complexity of the SDGs. Foresight is key to implement and tactically influence policies based on a thorough and informed approach as opposed to a set of assumptions.

It is certain that the world will not achieve the SDGs, particularly SDG5 on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, unless society “dramatically” increases its efforts to end all forms of GBV. Eliminating GBV is a priority, given that this is one of the most pervasive human rights violations in the world today. Based on data from 87 countries, one in five women and girls under the age of 50 have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner within the last 12 months. Harmful practices, such as child marriage, steal the childhood of 15 million girls under age 18 every year^{xxii}.

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GWI underscores that education is the success pillar of the SDGs and younger generations gaining equal access to education is key to empowering them to contribute the 2030 Agenda. We highlight problems that can arise from GBV within GWI Resolution 1 on Bullying and Cyber-Bullying; Resolution 2 on Disability; Resolution 4 on Harassment; Resolution 7 on Trafficking; and Resolution 8 on Child Marriage. GWI also highlights the importance of recognizing that women and girls are at a disproportionate risk of being victim of GBV and suffer the consequences throughout their lives.

The 16 Days of Activism against GBV Campaign serves as a reminder to focus attention on the global extent of GBV and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it. Thus, it is vital to consider the links between GBV and the SDGs.



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One-third of women worldwide - or nearly 1 billion women - have or will experience intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime. This is equivalent to the population of Africa. GBV is not only a tremendously difficult social issue: it also has very tragic economic consequences. Women and girls who are victims of GBV are less likely to have access educational and employment opportunities, thus too often constraining them in a vicious circle of insecurity, precariousness and poverty.



Acts of violence against women aged 15 to 44 are the cause of more death and disability than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents and war combined. But ending violence against women is more than a right for the millions affected worldwide; it is a crucial step towards ending world hunger. GBV impedes women from fully participating in food production: yet, if women farmers had the same access to resources as men, the number of hungry people in the world could be reduced by some 150 million.



Physical injuries are some of the more visible, and at times most deadly, consequences of GBV. But the long-term mental health consequences are often invisible and left untreated. Similarly, the reproductive and sexual health needs of survivors of sexual violence – to reduce the risk of HIV and sexually transmitted infections, unwanted pregnancies and unsafe terminations - are often unmet, stigmatized and under-reported^{xxiii}. Eradicating GBV will directly influence the success and positively contribute towards SDG3, good health, and well-being for all.



GBV is a direct barrier to girls' education. GBV causes girls emotional distress and feelings of insecurity and danger in their educational settings and, consequentially, forces loss of focus on their academics and increases attrition. Access to quality education is a fundamental human right, and eliminating all forms GBV will contribute to the promotion of women's human rights and enjoyment of life.



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In both urban and rural contexts, without safe and accessible to sanitary facilities and drinking water, women and girls may have to walk long distances to collect water. Walking to remote locations or using WaSH (Water, Sanitation, Hygiene) facilities after dark puts women and girls at risk of multiple forms of GBV, including harassment, sexual assault, rape and trafficking.



Today, women hold only 20-24 percent of jobs in the renewable energy sector. Efforts to ensure women reap the benefits of the green economy must come earlier in life as increased investments in their access to quality education as girls and as conscious efforts to eliminate all forms of GBV and discrimination against women and girls in all spheres of society, including in male-dominated workplaces.



Eradicating GBV translates into economic and development gains. Incomplete or inadequate education manifests itself in reduced future productivity. According to the World Bank^{xxiv}, GBV has dire economic consequences, costing an estimated 1.2%-3.7% of GDP in some countries due to lost productivity, equivalent to the average spending of low and middle-income countries on primary education.



Gender inclusion and diversity benefit greatly innovation-driven economies like the global technology market. Companies with more diverse workforces perform better financially. According to analyses, companies ranking in the top 25% in terms of diversity are more likely to outperform the median financial returns of their industries. Eliminating GBV in the work force pays off.



GBV is both a cause and a consequence of inequalities. Often, GBV is reinforced by discriminatory laws and exclusionary social norms that undermine women and girl's opportunities for education and income. GBV accompanies shifting power relations within households and communities, especially when there is resentment against women who move away from conventional roles. To break the GBV cycle, policy interventions should focus on the longer-term by changing discriminatory social norms that fuel inequalities.



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**11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES**



According to a 2016 ActionAid Survey, 79% of women living in cities in India, 86% in Thailand, and 89% in Brazil have been subjected to harassment or violence in public, as had 75% of women in London, UK. Achieving SDG11 by building sustainable cities and communities includes ensuring that all women and girls can live freely in safe cities and safe public spaces.

**12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION**



Producing and consuming in unsustainable ways drives climate change and destructs the environment. By eliminating GBV in the education, the world of work and public life, societies empower women to participate in key decision making to safeguard the sustainability of their entire population and develop responsible modes of consumption and production.

**13 CLIMATE
ACTION**



During and after disasters, women are at greater risk of GBV, including rape, sexual exploitation, and assault. Communities, humanitarian actors and key service providers must ensure essential measures are taken, in line with global standards, to provide a comprehensive protection response for women and girls during and after disasters.

**14 LIFE
BELOW WATER**



The protection of oceans and the lives that depend on it will require international scientific partnerships and enhancement of critical research. In this urgent endeavor, the crucial contribution and potential of women scientists must be facilitated by ensuring that GBV and discrimination does not prevent them from pursuing their studies and academic career.

**15 LIFE
ON LAND**



The sustainable use of ecosystems will benefit women and girls living in the areas most affected by damaged ecosystems as they are more likely to be affected by droughts and food insecurity caused by the impacts of land degradation. Without the risk of GBV, women, and indigenous women in particular, can fully participate in decision-making and scientific research on ecosystem use at all levels, as essential players in preserving our planet.



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In both developing and developed countries, institutions continue to fail women and girls, especially through impunity for GBV. This repudiates the reality that many women are victims of intentional homicide at the hands of an intimate partner or family member. All women are entitled to fair, effective access to justice and essential services under SDG16.



GBV is amalgamated in all 17 SDGs. Collaboration and partnerships are key factors for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Institutions, private and public, and States must embrace the benefit of working together with NGOs and civil society in order to achieve the SDGs and meet the 2030 Agenda.

2018 GBV in the World of Work?

There can be no decent work with violence at work. Whilst both women and men are susceptible to experience violence and harassment in the world of work, unequal status and gender power relations permeating through society and at work often result in women being far more exposed to violence and harassment. According to the WHO, 35 per cent of women – 818 million women globally – over the age of 15 have experienced sexual or physical violence at home, in their communities or in the work place. Violence against women can severely jeopardize women's economic and social position and have significant impact on their physical and mental health^{xxv}.

GWII reaffirms concern that GBV remains one of the most tolerated violations of workers' human rights as there is today no law at the international level that sets a clear baseline for taking action to eradicate GBV in the world of work.

GWII is gravely concerned that GBV remains one of the most tolerated violations of workers' human rights as there is still no law at the international level that sets a clear baseline for taking action to eradicate GBV in the world of work. Various organisations, including trade unions and NGOs have been lobbying for an International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention on GBV for many years. As ILO is gearing up towards this monumental breakthrough, now is more than ever the time to unite our voices and actively call for the adoption of new, legally-binding international standards to eliminate GBV in the world of work^{xxvi}.

In 2015, the ILO – the only tripartite UN agency with government, employer, and worker representatives – decided to launch a standard-setting process on harassment and violence against women and men in the world of work, followed by a Meeting of Experts on violence against women and men^{xxvii}.



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In June 2018, the ILO began a series of discussions on a potential new ILO instrument on violence and harassment in the world of work at the International Labour Conference, in a Committee composed of representatives from governments, employers, and worker unions.^{xxviii}

In June 2019, the ILO Committee will meet again to decide on what form the instrument will take: a legally binding convention, a non-legally binding recommendation, or a convention supplemented by a recommendation. GWI urges the ILO to adopt the strongest possible instrument — a legally-binding Convention supplemented by a recommendation. We are calling for an explicit and clear focus on GBV. The Convention should also include specific guidance for governments, employers, and trade unions to identify and address the discriminatory behaviors and unequal power relations that lie at the root of GBV.^{xxix}

Important Day to Observe During the 16 Days of Activism Campaign

Amongst the numerous Days of Observance highlighted and observed by the international community under the guidance of the UN, several notable days occur during the 16 Days of Activism. Whilst these days have not been created precisely in relation to the Campaign, the coincidence between these days and the GWI awareness raising campaign against all forms of GBV provides us with the opportunity to think about the crucial interrelation between any important topic and GBV. *You may want to highlight these days within your NFA activities or on your social media accounts:*

25 November – International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

The kickoff to the 16 Days of Activism, this day was chosen to commemorate the assassination of the Mirabal sisters in 1960. Born and raised in the Dominican Republic, “Las Mariposas” (“the Butterflies”) were outspoken political activists and visible resisters to then-dictator Rafael Trujillo’s reign. The Mirabal sisters were murdered by Trujillo’s secret police, a tragedy that shocked the nation and contributed to the fall of Trujillo just a year later. Since their death, Las Mariposas have become symbols of the feminist movement, and their legacy lives on in the women and girls around the world who continue to fight for equality and stand up for what is right. Popular hashtags: #ViolenceAgainstWomen , #StopVAW

Women's rights activists have observed 25 November as a day against GBV since 1981. On 20 December 1993, the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women through resolution 48/104, paving the path towards eradicating violence against women and girls worldwide.



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Finally, on 7 February 2000, the General Assembly adopted [resolution 54/134](#), officially designating 25 November as the International day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and in doing so, inviting governments, international organisations as well as NGOs to join together and organize activities designed to raise public awareness of the issue every year on that date^{xxx}.

On International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, GWI issued a press release supporting ILO's efforts towards the establishment of legally-binding international standards to eliminate GBV in the world of work. The press release can be downloaded and shared with your NFA members, network and community [here](#).

3 December – International Day of Persons with Disabilities

The annual observance of this day aims to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development. All women and girls, regardless of level of ability, have a fundamental right to quality education. However, girls with disabilities face unique challenges and obstacles on the quest for education, and this day is used to increase the awareness of their needs. This year's theme focuses on empowering disabled persons for a more equitable future as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Popular hashtag: #idpwd

On International Day of Persons with Disabilities, GWI issued a press release calling for the establishment of barrier-free learning environments for all disabled women and girls. GWI further recognizes disabled women and girls as both beneficiaries and agents of change towards the achievement of the 17 SDGs. The press release can be downloaded and shared with your NFA members, network and community [here](#).

6 December – The Montreal Massacre

On this day in 1989, 25-year-old Marc Lépine, armed with a rifle and a hunting knife, walked into an engineering classroom at the École Polytechnique at the Université de Montréal, ordered the male students to leave the room, and proceeded to shoot the nine remaining female students, killing six of them before continuing his rampage. At the end of the horrific ordeal, fourteen women had been murdered and fourteen others were injured – including four men – before the gunmen committed suicide. In his suicide note, which also included a list of 19 other feminist Quebec women he wished to kill, the gunman blamed feminists for ruining his life, claiming the female engineering students had no business being there because they were taking the place of men. Since then, the massacre has been defined as an anti-feminist attack representative of wider societal violence against women.



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In Canada, 6 December is now the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. On this day, the world remembers the fourteen women killed, simply for being women. reflect on the phenomenon of violence against women in our society. It is also an opportunity to consider the women and girls for whom violence is a daily reality, and to remember those who have died as a result of GBV. And finally, it is a day on which communities can consider concrete actions to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.^{xxxix} Popular hashtags: #Montreal Massacre, #IRememberDec6, #Rememberthe14

9 December – International Anti-Corruption Day

Fighting corruption is a global concern because corruption is found in both rich and poor countries, and evidence shows that it hurts poor people disproportionately. It contributes to instability, poverty and is a dominant factor driving fragile countries towards state failure. It also has grave and far-reaching consequences on women's and girls' fundamental rights, including their right to quality education. Governments, the private sector, NGOs, media and citizens around the world are joining forces to fight this crime. The United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime are at the forefront of these efforts^{xxxii}.

There are forms of corruption that affect women and girls more specifically, such as sexual and GBV that are among the most widespread, monstrous and least prosecuted of all gender-based corruption. In our press release marking the day, GWI encourages public leaders to create local alliances with women's NGOs whose members can serve as listening and action partners for victims. The press release can be downloaded and shared with your NFA members, network and community [here](#).

10 December – Human Rights Day

The conclusion of the 16 Days of Activism, this day celebrates the anniversary of the 1948 adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UNHR). Along with the two International Covenants on Human Rights, the Declaration sets out the civil, political, cultural, economic and social rights that all human beings inherently possess. Proclaimed as a "common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations", the Declaration has inspired more than 60 human rights instruments constituting an international standard of human rights. The day offers an opportunity for a renewed commitment to the promotion of human rights around the world, and, with safe access to education for girls being a fundamental human right, is a emotional way to end the Campaign.



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As GWI prepares to celebrate another important milestone with its centenary in 2019, we uphold the UDHR as an unfailing source of inspiration in our mission to empower all women and girls to demand what should be guaranteed: their human rights. On this significant day, GWI reaffirms its commitment to protecting and fostering the human rights principles the UDHR established. The press release marking Human Rights Day can be downloaded and shared with your NFA members, network and community [here](#).

Join Us and Take Action against GBV !

16 Advocacy Ideas for 16 Days of Activism

1. The first step to ending GBV is education. Educate yourself and your friends about what GBV is, how it happens and how to prevent it.
2. Beginning with this GWI campaign, commit to standing up against instances of gender discrimination or violence you see in your daily life.
3. Between 40 and 50 per cent of women experience unwanted sexual advances, physical contact or other forms of sexual harassment at work. Organise a discussion at work to raise awareness about the far-reaching detrimental effects of GBV in the world of work and discuss how to better eliminate it among both men and women.
4. Form working groups whose aim is to influence the creation and enforcement of local laws protecting women from varying forms of GBV, including rape, beatings, verbal abuse, mutilation, "honor killings", child marriages, and trafficking.
5. Art in multiple forms has the power to move people and creative portrayals of GBV can help raise community awareness that it is a problem. Organise an art exhibition in your community to open multilogues on the various forms of GBV and create ideas to stop GBV in your area.
6. Brainstorm with colleagues and members the underlying issues to the central concern of GBV in your area (i.e. societal norms surrounding the use of violence, gender norms surrounding what women and men are supposed to do) and ways to address the problem at its source.
7. Lead by example. In your circle of friends and colleagues create a culture that rejects violence as a way to deal with problems. Develop and share with community leaders a plan to speak out against GBV.
8. Acquaint yourself with the specific needs of survivors of GBV and contribute to local support groups.
9. Encourage the equal voices of women in politics and positions of power, to promote peaceful resolution of disputes by including female perspectives.



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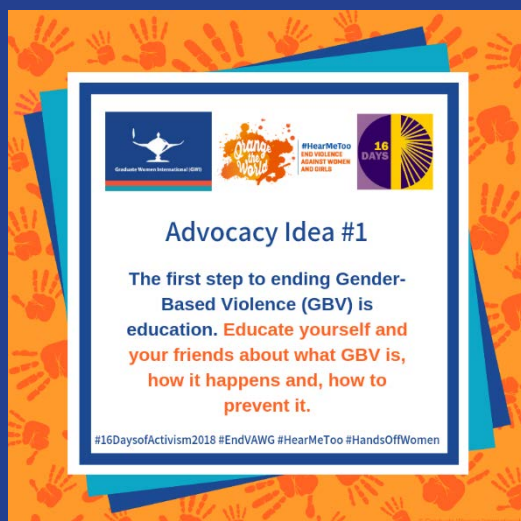
10. Utilize your Twitter, Facebook, and other social media sites to inform your friends and network about the issue of GBV; encourage LIKES, SHARES and FOLLOWS.
11. Be familiar with contact details of a nearby women's shelter. You never know who might need refuge in a hurry. Keep numbers to local shelters in your phone.
12. As a relative or friend, re-think whether children's toys need to be divided into "boys' toys" and "girls' toys". More flexible ideas of gender, instead of rigid stereotypes, will help to create better foundations for safety and respect and help end GBV.
13. Build a coalition of girls' education and gender equality champions by engaging or partnering with local community organisations and businesses to end GBV in all spheres of life.
14. Advocate for the strengthening of GBV reporting and response mechanisms with your local media.
15. Get the word out. Assist a local shelter or domestic violence organisation in their efforts to raise awareness in your community. Or use your personal connections to start a grassroots campaign.
16. Volunteer in youth programs. Become a mentor. Get involved in programs that teach young people to solve problems without violence. Get involved with programs that teach teens about healthy relationships and healthy masculinity and femininity.

Social Media

Follow and Share our 16 Days of Activism Social Media Posts and Custom Infographics!

Every year, GWI prepares a comprehensive 16 Days of Activism Social Media Campaign to mark its strong commitment towards ending all forms of GBV. We will be very active all through the 16 Days of Activism with three posts a day on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn that include 1) a fact; 2) an article; 3) an advocacy idea.

This year, we have enhanced our campaign with a brand-new campaign, to include unique and colourful infographics to share facts and advocacy ideas. *Plan to FOLLOW and SHARE our daily posts on your NFA Facebook or Twitter Page as well as with your friends and personal networks!* You will find eye-catching and interesting posts every day like these examples:



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GWI has created a Facebook cover image that can be placed on your NFA and personal Facebook pages for the duration of the 16 Days of Activism to spread awareness about GBV and the efforts to end it. The cover image can be easily saved directly from this toolkit or copied directly from the [GWI Facebook page](#). Facebook you will find the image under the Photos section. *Why not LIKE and SHARE the GWI Facebook page while you are there?*



16 Days of Activism Tweets

Popular hashtags: #humanrightsday, #Standup4HumanRights

1. Violence is never the answer. GWI stands against GBV!
2. #GBV remains one of the most tolerated violations of workers' human rights GWI says #NoMoreGBV
3. No education, no progress! Align with GWI to end GBV in education.
4. Together with you, GWI strives to end GBV in the world of work!
5. GWI Caroline Spurgeon Centenary fellowship will further gender equality and help eliminate #GBV.
6. To #EndGBV, Speak up against messages that say that violence against women is OK. #NOMOREGBV
7. GWI celebrates all of the #endGBV supporters. Where are the rest of you?
8. Break the silence on violence against indigenous girls, adolescence and young women. GWI SPEAKS OUT TODAY!
9. Disabled women and girls suffer #GBV disproportionately. GWI hears their voice!
10. GWI encourages more female police officers as means to end #GBV. Join us!
11. GWI stands with female media to raise powerful voices against #GBV.
12. Early and forced child marriage is GBV. GWI unites to eliminate #childmarriage.
13. GWI stands against #GBV and macho violence.
14. Real men and boys don't need to use violence to make themselves feel powerful. End #GBV.
15. Societal privilege does not protect women and girls from #GBV; it knows no boundaries.
16. School-related GBV is preventable with the right teachers. Support [GWI Teachers for Rural Futures](#) program.



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Share our press releases with local media outlets

Local media sources are some of the most powerful advocacy tools – let's engage them. GWI offers in this campaign three press four press releases for:

25 November 2018, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

- [GWI Press Release \(PDF\)](#)
- [NFA Press Release Template \(Word\)](#)

3 December 2018, International Day of Persons With Disabilities

- [GWI Press Release \(PDF\)](#)
- [NFA Press Release Template \(Word\)](#)

9 December 2018 International Anti-Corruption Day

- [GWI Press Release \(PDF\)](#)
- [NFA Press Release Template \(Word\)](#)

10 December 2018 Human Rights

- [Press Release \(PDF\)](#)
- [NFA Press Release Template \(Word\)](#)

We encourage you to email, print and personally distribute the press release to local media, including radio stations who could be interested in making public announcements about the 16 Days of Activism. You can download a Word template of each press release for localization on the GWI website, or a PDF version of the GWI office press release using the link provided above.

Read, Share and Reflect on the GWI Resolutions related to GBV

While GWI's core mission relates to the empowerment of all women and girls through access to quality education at the highest level, education is a cross-cutting issue that can apply to many areas. Furthermore, many far-reaching barriers to women's rights, independence and security, such as all forms of GBV and discrimination severely impacts the ability of millions of women and girls to fulfill their fundamental right to education. Consequently, GWI's advocacy priorities reflect the need for action in many areas that touch girls' and women's lives, including the crucial need to eliminate all forms of discrimination and GBV.

Eliminating GBV is a priority, given that this is one of the most pervasive human rights violations in the world today.

Many forms of GBV, such as bullying and harassment, FGM, trafficking and child marriage are of grave concern to GWI, who, as advocates for the advancement of the status of women through quality education participate to the elimination of those harmful and unjust practices. As part of the 16 Days of Activism, GWI highlights the following resolutions that were passed by the 32nd GWI General Assembly in Cape Town in 2016 and through which GWI reinforced its commitment to the promotion and protection of women's right to live free from all forms of GBV.



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Resolution 1: Bullying and Cyberbullying in Schools

Raise public awareness on the detrimental effect of bullying and cyberbullying, uphold the legal remedies already in place and advocate for such policies where there are none. Advocate for educational institutions to establish or develop programmes which train educators and counsellors to recognize bullying and cyberbullying and address the issue by integrating appropriate training into their core curriculum and ongoing professional development. Encourage institutions to provide educational programmes for parents and guardians to recognize, understand, support and teach anti-bullying strategies.

Resolution 2: Full Accessibility and Barrier-Free Environments for Persons with Disabilities

Urge governments to meet the commitments made by signatories to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Encourage the establishment, implementation and monitoring of national standards to promote and protect the full enjoyment of human rights by persons with disabilities, in particular their right to education. Urge governments to adopt and enforce regulations to enable all persons with disabilities to participate in society to the fullest possible extent and enjoy full equality under the law.

Resolution 4: Sexual Harassment of Women and Girls in Public Spaces

Raise global awareness of the issue of public sexual harassment of women and girls as a violation of their human and civil rights. Urge governments to address the issue and develop both legislation and educational programmes for the elimination of all forms of public sexual harassment and to encourage full respect for women and girls. Support the expansion of UN Women's Safe Cities Global Initiative launched in 2010 to encourage innovative, locally owned and sustainable approaches to prevent and respond to sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women and girls in public spaces.

Resolution 6: Preventing FGM

Urge governments to pass laws forbidding all forms of FGM. Encourage the enactment of legislations making FGM illegal with the effect that anyone found involved in aiding, abetting, perpetrating this practice will be punished in a court of law.

Resolution 7: Human Trafficking

Advocate for the review and implementation of existing national legislations on human trafficking. Urge governments to enact further legislation in defence of human rights, specifically in regard to the human trafficking of women and children, whether this is for purposes of sexual exploitation or other forms of exploitation as defined in the UN Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons. Use the GWI international network of graduate women to discuss the issue and introduce further actions that will help to raise awareness of the issue. Use the GWI standing committees and its consultative status at the UN to urge international organisations and NFAs to consider this resolution to eradicate human trafficking especially in regard to women and children. Organise talks, discussions and workshops pertaining to the trafficking of women and girls and formulate suggestions as to how to eradicate the problem.



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Resolution 8: Child Marriage

Promote international agreements to forbid child marriages and raise awareness of girls' rights to education and a better future. Urge governments to implement legislation and practices to prevent child marriages and provide opportunities for all children, especially girls, to complete secondary education. Encourage the promotion of early education in human rights with a gender perspective. Call on international organisations and national members to consider this resolution to eradicate child marriages. Advocate for the implementation of social programmes to raise awareness in communities against child marriage and raise awareness of girls' rights to education and a better future.

Orange Your Community, Orange the World

The movement to Orange Your Neighborhood has gained traction in the past several years and this toolkit motivates your participation in this momentum. In 2014, for the first time, the U.S.A UNs and Empire State buildings in New York, New York were lit up in orange to mark the elimination of GBV. Similar actions were seen around the world. We invite you to make plans to orange your community in alignment with 16 Days of Activism.

Suggestions are to wear orange clothing, tie orange ribbons in your community or wear an orange flower. The show of unity demonstrates support to end GBV pandemic that affects one billion women.



Participate in Local Events

To diversify your advocacy, we encourage participation in local events that either already mark the 16 Days of Activism or participate in events where a connection can be made. As example, the GWI office has put together a diverse team of runners who will participate as girls' education champions its 3rd Annual Course de l'Escalade Run in Geneva, Switzerland on 1 December 2018. The Course de l'Escalade is a traditional sporting event that attracts more than 40,000 annually and is an outstanding opportunity to draw attention to the importance of girls' education and raise awareness about GBV. The l'Escalade celebrates Geneva's defeat of the surprise attack by troops sent by Charles Emmanuel I, Duke of Savoy during the December 1602.

For its 3rd annual Escalade Fundraiser, GWI will be leading a team of 15 runners at the 41st Course de l'Escalade. Our objective is to promote the importance of girls' education, to raise awareness about GBV and to fundraise for our programs like Teachers for Rural Futures and the Girls' Choices Mentoring Programme.



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Nick and Janet Balster (2017 runners)

We sincerely appreciate the generous support of Geneva's Corner Trader online trading platform and the Picard and Wachter families whose contributions add to the support of GWI programmes. For more information contact Stacy Dry Lara at: sdl@graduatewomen.org . Please click [here](#) to contribute to our efforts.



GWI youngest runner age 11 (2017), Edie Balster, with Stacy Dry Lara, GWI Executive Director

Suggested Books and Films for Discussion

Below is a short list of books and films exploring the topics of GBV and SRGBV. We encourage you to watch and read the suggestions as a means to increase your awareness and knowledge on issues surrounding GBV. Perhaps you would like to share the resources with others to spread awareness. Alternatively, host a book club or film screening to stimulate a discussion in your NFA and community about the importance of safe access to education for girls around the world.

Books	Films
A Thousand Splendid Suns (Khaled Hosseini)	Driving with Selvi ^{xxxiii}
Becoming Unbecoming (Una)	Girl Connected ^{xxxiv}
Lucky (Alice Sebold)	Girl Rising ^{xxxv}
Some Men: Feminist Allies in the Movement to End Violence Against Women (Michael A. Messner, Max A. Greenberg, Tal Peretz)	I Am A Girl ^{xxxvi}
	It's a Girl ^{xxxvii}
	I Was Worth 50 Sheep ^{xxxviii}
Speak (Laurie Halse Anderson)	Opium Brides ^{xxxix}
The Color Purple (Alice Walker)	Salma ^{xl}
The Handmaid's Tale (Margaret Atwood)	The Campaign ^{xli}



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Together We Can Eliminate GBV Worldwide!

The primary action towards eliminating GBV globally is to draw attention to the frequency of GBV and SRGBV incidents and spread awareness about the issue; to see yourself and your NFA as agents of change towards the elimination of GBV, locally and globally. Underscoring that GBV destabilizes the safety, dignity, overall health condition, and human rights of the millions of women and girls who experience it. Advocacy campaigns such as the 16 Days of Activism aim to build on previous year's successes while highlighting the work that still needs to be done. GWI correspondingly celebrates this progress and the extraordinary girls around the world who have fought back against GBV. Included in this 16 Days of Activism toolkit you will find several resources intended to assist you with an advocacy campaign of your own. The resources in this toolkit can be shared with your members and local community as support vehicles to spread the word about the need to address GBV. Together we can end GBV in education! No action is too small!

Please send us information and photos about your activities.

About GWI

Graduate Women International (GWI) is a membership-based international NGO based in Geneva, Switzerland, with presence in some 60 countries with our NFAs and Independent Members. Founded in 1919, GWI is the leading girls' and women's global organisation advocating for women's rights, equality, and empowerment through access to quality education and training up to the highest levels. GWI is in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1947 and in an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO and ILO.

GWI operates with a small yet dedicated staff consisting of an Executive Director, a Junior Office Administrator, and a host of committed interns and volunteers. Additionally, our work is possible with the support of our tireless Board of Directors.



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Learn about GWI at graduatewomen.org.



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- ⁱ WHO, *Sexual Violence, Violence and Injury Prevention*, https://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/global_campaign/en/chap6.pdf
- ⁱⁱ UNICEF, *From Invisible to Indivisible Promoting and Protecting the Right of the Girl Child to be Free from Violence* https://unicef.at/fileadmin/media/Infos_und_Medien/Info-Material/Maedchen_und_Frauen/From_Invisible_To_Indivisible_-_Rights_of_Girl_Child.pdf
- ⁱⁱⁱ *United Nations Population Fund*. Gender-based violence. <http://www.unfpa.org/gender-based-violence>
- ^{iv} *United Nations*. Report: Majority of trafficking victims are women and girls; one-third children <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2016/12/report-majority-of-trafficking-victims-are-women-and-girls-one-third-children/>
- ^v UNICEF. *Female genital mutilation Data*, <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/female-genital-mutilation/>
- ^{vi} *UN Women*. Facts and figures: Ending violence against women <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures>
- ^{vii} *InterParliamentary Union*. Gender Equality. <https://www.ipu.org/theme/gender-equality>
- ^{viii} *ActionAid UK*. Three in four women experience harassment and violence in UK and global cities <https://www.actionaid.org.uk/latest-news/three-in-four-women-experience-harassment-and-violence>
- ^{ix} *UN Women*. Facts and figures: Ending violence against women <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures>
- ^x *UN Women*. Facts and figures: Ending violence against women <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures>
- ^{xi} Inter-Agency Working Group on Reproductive Health in Crises, GBV Facts & Stats, <http://iawg.net/areas-of-focus/gender-based-violence/gbv-facts-stats/>
- ^{xii} *UN Women*. Fast facts: statistics on violence against women and girls <http://www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/299-fast-facts-statistics-on-violence-against-women-and-girls-.html>
- ^{xiii} UNICEF, *For every girl: Empowering adolescent girls is investing in a brighter future*. <https://blogs.unicef.org/blog/empowering-adolescent-girls/>
- ^{xiv} *UN Women*. Facts and figures: Ending violence against women <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures>
- ^{xv} *UN Women*. Facts and figures: Ending violence against women <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures>
- ^{xvi} WHO, *Violence Against Women, Key Facts* <http://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-women>
- ^{xvii} Centre for Women's Global Leadership. 16 Days of Activism 2018 <https://cwgl.rutgers.edu/>
- ^{xviii} Stop Violence Against Women, The Advocates for Human Rights, UN Human Rights Treaties http://www.stopvaw.org/un_treaties_on_violence_against_women
- ^{xix} Centre for Women's Global Leadership. 16 Days of Activism 2018 <https://cwgl.rutgers.edu/>
- ^{xx} Stop Violence Against Women, The Advocates for Human Rights, UN Human Rights Treaties http://www.stopvaw.org/un_treaties_on_violence_against_women
- ^{xxi} *ibid*
- ^{xxii} *UN Women*, *SDG 5* <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-and-the-sdgs/sdg-5-gender-equality>
- ^{xxiii} United Nations development programme, end gender based violence to ensure health and well-being for all <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/blog/2017/3/26/End-gender-based-violence-to-ensure-health-and-well-being-for-all.html>
- ^{xxiv} World Bank, *Gender-based violence* <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/factsheet/2018/08/30/fact-sheet-update-on-addressing-gender-based-violence-in-development-projects>
- ^{xxv} International Trade Union Confederation *Eliminating Gender-Based Violence in the World of Work* https://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/booklet_eliminating_gender-based_violence_in_the_world_of_work_womens_organising_assembly_en.pdf
- ^{xxvi} Centre for Women's Global Leadership. 16 Days of Activism 2018 <https://cwgl.rutgers.edu/>
- ^{xxvii} *ibid*
- ^{xxviii} *ibid*
- ^{xxix} *Ibid*
- ^{xxx} United Nations, *International Days for the Elimination of Violence Against Women* <http://www.un.org/en/events/endviolenceday/background.shtml>
- ^{xxxi} Government of Canada, *Status of Women in Canada* <https://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/commemoration/vaw-vff/remembrance-commemoration-en.html>
- ^{xxxii} United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Anti-Corruption Day, About the Campaign* <http://www.un.org/en/events/anticorruptionday/>
- ^{xxxiii} <http://drivingwithselvi.com/>
- ^{xxxiv} <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5PZgeUoGOvA>
- ^{xxxv} <http://girlrising.com/>
- ^{xxxvi} <http://iamagirl.com.au/>
- ^{xxxvii} <http://www.itsagirlmovie.com/>
- ^{xxxviii} <http://www.cultureunplugged.com/documentary/watch-online/play/6058/I-Was-Worth-50-Sheep>
- ^{xxxix} <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/opium-brides/>
- ^{xl} <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7Qrx7I9AKM>
- ^{xli} <https://www.thecampaignfilm.com/>



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