



## GWI UPDATE – 25 November 2020

### 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Special Edition



*Graduate Women International (GWI) marks the beginning of the 2020 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Campaign (16 Days of Activism) with the release of an exclusive toolkit designed to guide GWI members along their path to strategic advocacy against GBV.*

## — Graduate Women International 16 Days of Activism Against GBV Toolkit—

### **GWI marks the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV Campaign with an exclusive advocacy toolkit**

This year, GWI joins hands with the global movement to end GBV by taking part in the 16 Days of Activism, an annual movement aiming to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls around the world. Beginning today, with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and concluding with Human Rights Day on 10 December, the Campaign unites the voices of millions of women and girls to raise awareness about GBV, work to eliminate all forms of GBV and demand equal protection and full access to fundamental human rights of safety and education.

The aim of the [2020 GWI 16 Days of Activism Toolkit](#) is to raise awareness about and advocate for the elimination of all forms of GBV in public and private spheres through a united, global voice and to guide GWI members along their path to strategic advocacy against GBV. GBV is not an emerging issue for GWI. However, the sudden and severe increase of GBV occurrences in the context of the current global COVID-19 pandemic is raising it to an unprecedented level of emergency. The commitment of all GWI members and followers is critical to support the extraordinary women and girls around the world who are fighting back against GBV every day. This interactive toolkit includes impactful and easy-to-use resources. GWI members and followers can participate in this international movement by creating their own strategic advocacy plan, tailored to the context and needs of their local and national communities.

**We urge you to widely share this toolkit as a guide to eliminate GBV. Together we can end GBV!**

Click [HERE](#) or on the preview images below to access the full [GWI Toolkit “Eliminating GBV through women-led strategic advocacy for systemic change”](#). Additionally, plan to follow GWI’s 16 Days of

Activism social media campaign starting today on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#) for impactful and easy-to-follow advocacy ideas, facts and awareness raising resources.

*"Gender-based violence is crosscutting with no boundaries for nation, culture, community, race, sexual orientation or religion".*

**Louise McLeod, Vice President Advocacy and Education, Graduate Women International**



### Foreword


The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) (16 Days of Activism) is an international annual campaign. It commences on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and concludes on 10 December, Human Rights Day, indicating that violence against women is the most pervasive breach of human rights worldwide. This campaign is motivated by the 6 December 1989 tragic anti-feminist massacre that took place at the École Polytechnique University Montreal, an event that is representative of the wider societal violence against women and girls (VAWG) concern. The movement gained its foothold in 1991 from activists at the inaugural Women's Global Leadership Institute and continues to be used each year as a global organizing strategy by individuals, institutions and organisations to call for the prevention and elimination of all forms of VAWG. Over 6,000 organisations worldwide are now involved with this international campaign.

Alongside the 16 Days Campaign is the recurring "Orange the World" movement that aims to brighten women and girls' futures by eradicating GBV in all spheres of public and private life. In effect, the colour orange conveys dynamism and vibrancy that symbolise a positive future without VAWG. To increase the campaign impact, buildings and landmarks globally are lit up and decorated in orange. The 2020 global theme is "Orange the World: fund, respond, prevent, collect!"

**Significant Days of Observance relating to the 16 Days of Activism**


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### Current situation: The shadow pandemic of GBV in the context of COVID-19



Against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic are disturbing reports about the rise of GBV against women and girls. Since the beginning of the crisis, GWI has expressed concerns about the probable and pervasive gendered impacts of the pandemic. Globally, more than 243 million women and girls aged 15-49 have been subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner in the last 12 months. Now, COVID-19 is exacerbating the problem.

Emerging data from helplines and shelters across the world show more and more clearly every day that GBV and particularly domestic violence has intensified worldwide with the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet, GBV, as pervasive of an issue as it is, remains widely under-reported. According to UN Women, less than 40% of women who experience violence report these crimes or seek help. Concerningly, the current situation makes reporting more difficult, as GBV victims have limited access to helpline and contacts with the police, justice and social services, who are usually at the forefront of GBV response. These disruptions also fuel impunity for the perpetrators, even more so when one in four countries have no laws protecting women and girls from GBV and domestic violence.



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### GWI's front line response to the shadow pandemic of GBV

GWI published on 25 March 2020 an outreach statement to all GWI National Federations and Associations (NFAs) warning of the shadow pandemic of GBV during COVID-19. This statement emphasised GWI's focus on efforts against the proclivity of GBV against women and girls worldwide as a by-product of COVID-19. The statement, tailored to each NFA reported current findings on the acute impacts of the COVID-19 on GBV in their specific country. The timing of these statements provided members, partners, friends and colleagues with information to identify COVID-19, GBV-specific risks in their communities and how to take actions to mitigate those risks. **Click on the country names below to access each NFA letter.**

<a href="#">Argentina</a>	<a href="#">France</a>	<a href="#">Lithuania</a>	<a href="#">Senegal</a>
<a href="#">Australia</a>	<a href="#">Ghana</a>	<a href="#">Mexico</a>	<a href="#">Sierra Leone</a>
<a href="#">Austria</a>	<a href="#">Great Britain</a>	<a href="#">Nepal</a>	<a href="#">Singapore</a>
<a href="#">Bangladesh</a>	<a href="#">Haiti</a>	<a href="#">Netherlands</a>	<a href="#">Slovenia</a>
<a href="#">Bolivia</a>	<a href="#">Hong Kong</a>	<a href="#">New Zealand</a>	<a href="#">Somalia</a>
<a href="#">Bulgaria</a>	<a href="#">Iceland</a>	<a href="#">Nigeria</a>	<a href="#">South Africa</a>
<a href="#">Burkina Faso</a>	<a href="#">India</a>	<a href="#">Norway</a>	<a href="#">Spain</a>
<a href="#">Canada</a>	<a href="#">Ireland</a>	<a href="#">Pakistan</a>	<a href="#">Switzerland</a>
<a href="#">Cyprus</a>	<a href="#">Israel</a>	<a href="#">Panama</a>	<a href="#">Turkey</a>
<a href="#">DRC</a>	<a href="#">Japan</a>	<a href="#">Paraguay</a>	<a href="#">Uganda</a>
<a href="#">Egypt</a>	<a href="#">Kenya</a>	<a href="#">Russia</a>	<a href="#">USA</a>
<a href="#">El Salvador</a>	<a href="#">Korea</a>	<a href="#">Rwanda</a>	<a href="#">Zambia</a>
<a href="#">Fiji</a>	<a href="#">Lebanon</a>	<a href="#">Scotland</a>	<a href="#">Zimbabwe</a>




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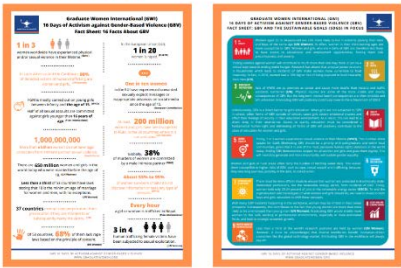
### GWI 16 Days of Activism Social Media and Advocacy Resources Pack 2020

#### GWI 2020 Social Media Pack

GWI encourages you to use the below templates for social media posts. They have been especially designed by GWI to highlight its commitment to combating GBV. We will be particularly active on all 16 days with three posts per day on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and Instagram. We encourage you to do the same.



#### GWI 2020 GBV Fact Sheets



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## — Other information and events —

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25 November	International Day for the Elimination of Gender-Based Violence, Global
9 December	Anti-Corruption Day, Global
10 December	Human Rights Day, Global
18 December	International Migrants Day, Global
25 Nov-10 Dec	16 Days of Activism Campaign, Global
20 December	International Human Solidarity Day, Global
6 February	International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation, Global
11 February	International Day of Women and Girls in Science, Global
9-20 March 2020	Commission on the Status of Women 64 <sup>th</sup> session, New York

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## Follow us on social media!



Empowering women and girls through lifelong education for leadership, decision-making and peace. GWI, formerly IFUW, is in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1947 and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO and ILO.

### **Graduate Women International**

48, Chemin du Grand-Montfleury, CH-1290, Versoix, Geneva, Switzerland

E-mail: [gwi@graduatewomen.org](mailto:gwi@graduatewomen.org) Website: [www.graduatewomen.org](http://www.graduatewomen.org)

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