



# 16 Days of Activism to End Gender Based Violence Together We Can End GBV in Education!

This year the theme,  
**Together We Can End GBV in Education!**  
is of penetrating relevance to GWI and like-missioned NGOs as the campaign is focused on intense awareness-raising in the human rights framework. The goal of the GWI 2017 is, alongside our National Federations and Associations (NFAs), to increase awareness of and advocate for the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence in education.



25 November



3 December



6 December

**25 November  
to  
10 December**



10 December



Graduate Women International (GWI)



**16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign**  
25 November 2017 – 10 December 2017  
**Together We Can End GBV in Education!**



## What are the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence?

Beginning with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November and concluding with Human Rights Day on 10 December, the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Campaign (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.<sup>1</sup> Since 1991, the 16 Days of Activism have united the voices of millions of women and girls to raise awareness about GBV, eliminate all forms it and demand equal protection for women and girls from GBV. This year, the theme continues the energy of the global 2016 campaign when more than 700 organisations in some 92 countries marked the From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Make Education Safe for All campaign.

The overarching theme for 2017, Together We Can End GBV in Education!, is of significant relevance to GWI. The theme directly relates to the GWI mission that promotes the right to quality and safe lifelong education for girls and women at all levels; for the advancement of the status of girls and women; and to enable women and girls to apply their knowledge and skills in leadership and decision-making in all forms of public and private life. In support of the 16 Days of Activism, GWI offers this toolkit that delivers to GWI National Federations and Associations (NFAs) resources to raise awareness towards the elimination of GBV through a united, worldwide voice.

## What is Gender-Based Violence?

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, emerge. Although GWI recognizes all forms of violence as human rights violations, we are principally concerned about GBV as a barrier to girls' education and as 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) and indirect violence (i.e. institutionalized norms, attitudes, and stereotypes that perpetuate an unequal power dynamic between gender).<sup>2</sup> 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.

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.<sup>3</sup> 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 receive 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.

---

<sup>1</sup> 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign. *Rutgers Center for Women's Global Leadership*. <http://16dayscwg.l.rutgers.edu/>

<sup>2</sup> Forms of gender-based violence. *European Institute for Gender Equality*. <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-based-violence/what-gender-based-violence/forms-gender-based-violence>

<sup>3</sup> Stop Violence Against Girls in School. *ActionAid*. [http://www.ungei.org/ActionAid-Stop\\_Violence\\_Against\\_Girls\\_at\\_school\\_project\\_in\\_Ghana\\_Kenya\\_and\\_Mozambique-success\\_stories-\\_Nov\\_2013.pdf](http://www.ungei.org/ActionAid-Stop_Violence_Against_Girls_at_school_project_in_Ghana_Kenya_and_Mozambique-success_stories-_Nov_2013.pdf)



**16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign**  
25 November 2017 – 10 December 2017  
**Together We Can End GBV in Education!**



## 16 Gender-Based Violence Facts for 16 Days of Activism

Below is a list of facts and statistics about GBV. You may want to highlight these on your social media accounts and NFA webpage, perhaps through a daily “did you know” or trivia campaign.

1. An estimated one in three girls around the world will experience physical or sexual abuse or violence in her lifetime.<sup>4</sup>
2. Approximately 120 million women and girls worldwide have experienced forced sexual acts at some point in their lives.<sup>5</sup>
3. Worldwide, up to 50 percent of sexual assaults are committed against girls under the age of 16.<sup>6</sup>
4. Almost 750 million women and girls alive today were married before their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, and more than 20,000 underage girls are illegally married every year.<sup>7</sup>
5. At least 200 million women and girls alive today have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM), with most experiencing FGM before the age of five.<sup>8</sup>
6. Women and girls account for 71% of human trafficking victims, with nearly three of every four trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation.<sup>9</sup>
7. Nearly 246 million boys and girls experience SRGBV every year.<sup>10</sup>
8. One in four girls never feel comfortable using school latrines.<sup>11</sup>
9. In a majority of countries with available data, less than 40 percent of women and girls who experience GBV seek help of any sort. Of these, less than ten percent seek help from the police.<sup>12</sup>
10. Approximately once every ten minutes, an adolescent girl dies as a result of violence.<sup>13</sup>
11. Adolescent girls are more likely to die from AIDS than from any other cause. Many new HIV infections are attributed to intimate-partner violence and rape.<sup>14</sup>
12. In the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew in 2016, almost 11,000 Haitian women and girls are at an increased risk for experiencing sexual violence.<sup>15</sup>
13. 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.<sup>16</sup>
14. In the United States, 83 percent of girls aged 12 to 16 have experienced some form of sexual harassment in school.<sup>17</sup>

---

<sup>4</sup> Gender-based violence. *United Nations Population Fund*. <http://www.unfpa.org/gender-based-violence>

<sup>5</sup> Facts and figures: Ending violence against women. *UN Women*. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures>

<sup>6</sup> Fast facts: statistics on violence against women and girls. *UN Women*. <http://www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/299-fast-facts-statistics-on-violence-against-women-and-girls-.html>

<sup>7</sup> Facts and figures: Ending violence against women. *UN Women*. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures>

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Ten key facts and figures about 10-year-old girls. *United Nations Population Fund*. <http://www.unfpa.org/resources/ten-key-facts-and-figures-about-10-year-old-girls>

<sup>14</sup> The power of 10: Ten astonishing facts about 10-year-old girls. *United Nations Population Fund*.

<http://www.unfpa.org/news/power-10-ten-astonishing-facts-about-10-year-old-girls>

<sup>15</sup> Hurricane Matthew: Women’s needs in Haiti. *United Nations Population Fund*. [www.unfpa.org/resources/hurricane-matthew-womens-needs-haiti](http://www.unfpa.org/resources/hurricane-matthew-womens-needs-haiti)

<sup>16</sup> Fast facts: statistics on violence against women and girls. *UN Women*. <http://www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/299-fast-facts-statistics-on-violence-against-women-and-girls-.html>

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.



## 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign

25 November 2017 – 10 December 2017

**Together We Can End GBV in Education!**



15. The most common perpetrators of violence against women and girls are male intimate partners or ex-partners.<sup>18</sup>
16. As of 2015, 125 countries have laws on sexual harassment, 119 countries have laws on domestic violence, and only 52 have laws on marital rape.<sup>19</sup>

## School-Related Gender-Based Violence and Girls' Education?

Noting the intersection of education and violence against girls is particularly important as schools are environments where children and adolescents learn and develop social and behavioral norms. A specific form of GBV, school-related gender-based violence (SRGBV) directly affects girls in their quest for quality education. SRGBV creates a substantial, yet preventable, barrier to the completion of girls' studies. Often stemming from deeply-rooted cultural norms and practices surrounding gender, girls are particularly vulnerable to SRGBV, which most often takes the form of psychological bullying, cyber-bullying, power relations intimidation and sexual violence.<sup>20</sup> When girls experience SRGBV, they no longer feel safe in their educational setting, causing them to lose focus on their academics or drop out of school altogether. Access to quality education is a fundamental human right, and your work to eliminate school-related, and all forms of, GBV will contribute to the promotion of GWI's mission to promote the ranks of women and girls and to the development of leadership skills through safe schooling.

## Important Dates During the 16 Days of Activism Campaign

Below is a list of important dates occurring during the 16 Days of Activism, including relevant hashtags. You may want to highlight these days within your NFA activities or on your social media accounts, drawing attention to the importance of girls' education for the duration of the 16 days.

### **25 November – International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women<sup>21</sup>**

The kickoff to the 16 Days of Activism Campaign, 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

### **3 December – International Day of Persons with Disabilities<sup>22</sup>**

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 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 is "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient society for all". It is remembered that women and girls with disabilities can be very vulnerable to GBV. Popular hashtag: #idpwd

<sup>18</sup> [apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/77432/1/WHO\\_RHR\\_12.36\\_eng.pdf](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/77432/1/WHO_RHR_12.36_eng.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> Violence Against Women: A Global Pandemic in Many Forms. *UNESCO*. <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/events/prizes-and-celebrations/celebrations/international-day-for-the-elimination-of-violence-against-women-2015/>

<sup>20</sup> School-Related Gender-Based Violence. *UN Women*. [http://www.ungei.org/Infographic\\_Eng.pdf](http://www.ungei.org/Infographic_Eng.pdf)

<sup>21</sup> Key Dates. *Rutgers Center for Women's Global Leadership*. <http://16dayscwg.rutgers.edu/about/key-dates>

<sup>22</sup> International Day of Persons with Disabilities. *UN Division for Social Policy and Development Disability*.

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/international-day-of-persons-with-disabilities-3-december/idpd2017.html>



## 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign

25 November 2017 – 10 December 2017

**Together We Can End GBV in Education!**



### 6 December – The Montreal Massacre<sup>23</sup>

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 were 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. 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. Popular hashtags: #Montreal Massacre, #IRememberDec6, #Rememberthe14

### 10 December – Human Rights Day<sup>24</sup>

The culmination of the 16 Days of Activism Campaign, this day celebrates the anniversary of the 1948 adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. 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 perfect way to end the Campaign. Popular hashtags: #humanrightsday, #Standup4HumanRights

## 16 Advocacy Ideas for 16 Days of Activism

1. Become more familiar about the issues surrounding girls' education and GBV in education. For example, how girls' education intersects with violence extremism<sup>25</sup> and education in refugee and Internally Displaced Peoples camps<sup>26</sup>).
2. Beginning with the campaign, commit to standing up against instances of gender discrimination or violence you see in your daily life.
3. Identify ways you and your NFA can work with men and boys to educate on the importance of preventing GBV.
4. Listen to and learn from the voices of women and girls who have experienced GBV. Visit women's shelters and participate in discussions.
5. Coach young people on the importance of gender equality, healthy relationships and on recognizing elements of an unhealthy, abusive, or dangerous relationship. Arrange for your NFA to visit a local school or university to host an interactive dialog.
6. Model respectful and equal relationships.
7. Build a coalition of girls' education and equality champions by engaging or partnering with local community organizations and businesses.
8. Volunteer to organizations in your community or network who are working to end GBV in education.

<sup>23</sup> École Polytechnique Massacre : 25 Years Later. *Huffington Post*. [http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2014/12/06/ecole-polytechnique-massacre-25-anniversary\\_n\\_6263218.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2014/12/06/ecole-polytechnique-massacre-25-anniversary_n_6263218.html)

<sup>24</sup> Human Rights Day. *UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights*. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/HumanRightsDay.aspx>

<sup>25</sup> How girls' education intersects with violence extremism. *Brookings Institution*. <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/education-plus-development/2017/04/13/how-girls-education-intersects-with-violent-extremism/>

<sup>26</sup> Education. *UNHCR*. <http://www.unhcr.org/education.html>



## 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign

25 November 2017 – 10 December 2017

***Together We Can End GBV in Education!***



9. Acquaint yourself with the specific needs of child survivors of GBV and contribute to local groups.
10. Work in groups 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.
11. Continue calling on your community or government to provide for safe access to quality education for all girls, free from GBV.
12. Encourage the equal voices of women in politics and positions of power, to promote peaceful resolution of disputes by including female perspectives.
13. Advocate for the strengthening of GBV reporting and response mechanisms in your community.
14. Brainstorm 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.
15. Place the 16 Days of Activism Facebook cover photo included in this kit on your Facebook page to spread awareness about GBV in education and the campaign to eliminate it.
16. Post on your Twitter, Facebook, and various social media sites to inform your friends and network about the issue of GBV and encourage them to join the campaign. Sample posts are included.

## Orange Your Community

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 United Nations 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 campaign. 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.

## 16 Days of Activism Sample Tweets

1. GWI promotes access to a safe education as a way to eliminate #GBV. Join us!
2. GWI declares, it's my life, my body, my education! Stop #GBV and keep me in school.
3. Violence is never the answer. GWI stands against gender-based violence!
4. No education, no progress! Help GWI end gender-based violence in education.
5. Together with you GWI strives to end gender-based violence in education!
6. GWI Caroline Spurgeon Centenary fellowship will further gender equality and help eliminate #GBV.
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.



**16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign**  
25 November 2017 – 10 December 2017  
**Together We Can End GBV in Education!**



## Facebook Cover Photo

GWI has created a Facebook cover image that can be placed on your NFA or personal Facebook pages for the duration of the 16 Days of Activism Campaign, 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](#). If you copy this Facebook cover image from the toolkit, you must resize the image to new the Facebook cover image dimensions before you upload to your page, 820x312 pixels. In Facebook you will find the image under the Photos section. Why not like and share the GWI Facebook page while you are there?



## International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women Press Release

Local media sources are some of the most powerful advocacy tools – let's engage them. GWI offers in this campaign a press release for **25 November 2017**, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. 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 the press release for localization on the GWI website [here](#), or a PDF version of the GWI office press release [here](#). The headline reads:

GWI and [NFA name] call for additional female law enforcement officers and specialized courts/tribunals in efforts to eliminate violence against women

## Participate in Local Events

To diversify your advocacy, we encourage participation in local events that either already mark the 16 Days Campaign or participate in events where a connection can be made. As example, the GWI office has put together a team female and male runners who will participate as girls' education champions in our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Course de l'Escalade Run in Geneva, Switzerland on 2 December 2017. 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 annual l'Escalade festival held every December celebrates Geneva's defeat of the surprise attack by



The 2016 GWI  
Course de l'Escalade Team



**16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign**  
 25 November 2017 – 10 December 2017  
**Together We Can End GBV in Education!**



troops sent by Charles Emmanuel I, Duke of Savoy during the December 1602.

The GWI Course de l’Escalade runners team has doubled for 2017 to consist of 15 runners comprised of the Geneva office, members from the NGO Universal Rights Group, academia and other members of civil society. Runners range from 13 to 60 years and are participating 5k or 7k runs.

### 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 ( <i>Khaled Hosseini</i> )	Driving with Selvi <sup>27</sup>
Becoming Unbecoming ( <i>Una</i> )	Girl Connected <sup>28</sup>
Lucky ( <i>Alice Sebold</i> )	Girl Rising <sup>29</sup>
Some Men: Feminist Allies in the Movement to End Violence Against Women ( <i>Michael A. Messner, Max A. Greenberg, Tal Peretz</i> )	I Am A Girl <sup>30</sup>
	It’s a Girl <sup>31</sup>
	I Was Worth 50 Sheep <sup>32</sup>
Speak ( <i>Laurie Halse Anderson</i> )	Opium Brides <sup>33</sup>
The Color Purple ( <i>Alice Walker</i> )	Salma <sup>34</sup>
The Handmaid’s Tale ( <i>Margaret Atwood</i> )	The Campaign <sup>35</sup>

### We Can Eliminate Gender-Based Violence 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.*

<sup>27</sup> <http://drivingwithselvi.com/>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5PZgeUoGOvA>

<sup>29</sup> <http://girlrising.com/>

<sup>30</sup> <http://iamagirl.com.au/>

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.itsagirlmovie.com/>

<sup>32</sup> <http://www.cultureunplugged.com/documentary/watch-online/play/6058/I-Was-Worth-50-Sheep>

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/opium-brides/>

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7Qrx7i9AKM>

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.thecampaignfilm.com/>





**16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign**  
25 November 2017 – 10 December 2017  
***Together We Can End GBV in Education!***



## 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.

Learn about our [advocacy work](#). Follow us on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Twitter](#) (@GradWomen).

**For more information please contact:** Stacy Dry Lara, Executive Director, Graduate Women International  
T: +41 22 731 23 80; Email: [sdl@graduatewomen.org](mailto:sdl@graduatewomen.org)