



Action Plan for Orange Day, 25 July 2016

Violence against women and reducing social inequalities

The United Nations Secretary-General's Campaign *UNiTE to End Violence against Women* has proclaimed the 25th of each month as "Orange Day", a day to raise awareness and take action to end violence against women and girls. As a bright and optimistic colour, orange represents a future free from violence against women and girls, for the UNiTE Campaign. Orange Day calls upon activists, governments and UN partners to mobilize people and highlight issues relevant to preventing and ending violence against women and girls, not only once a year, on 25 November (the [International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women](#)), but every month.

In 2016, a new global development agenda was accepted by all countries and is applicable to all. Through its 17 goals and 169 targets, the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), an agenda for global action for the next 15 years, addresses the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental. The Agenda recognizes gender equality and the empowerment of women as a key priority and pledges that "no one will be left behind". Goal 5 of the agenda aims to "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls" and includes *specific targets to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls*. All goals are integrated and indivisible, therefore their achievement is also fully dependent on ensuring parallel and interconnected implementation of the efforts to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls. For this reason, throughout 2016, the UNiTE campaign through its Orange Days will highlight specific Sustainable Development Goals as they relate to violence against women and girls. This Orange Day, 25 July, the UNiTE campaign will highlight **Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries**.

Sustainable Development Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

SDG 10 focuses on reducing inequalities between countries. In order to achieve this, a key target highlighted under Goal 10 is to ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome at the national level, including gender discrimination, by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices. In many countries, gender inequalities are enshrined openly in discriminatory laws, affecting the social status of women and creating an environment in which women are at heightened risk from violence.

Discrimination, inequality and violence against women

Although international laws and standards require all states to ensure equal rights, women may be denied equal rights to men in areas such as property and inheritance, nationality, health, education, freedom of movement, and protection from violence. In some countries, women cannot drive, inherit property or give evidence in Court. Laws explicitly mandating “wife obedience” still govern marital relations in many States, while in others, women’s rights to divorce or remarry may be limited.

Where discriminatory laws exist, women are institutionalized as second class citizens, their opportunities to be economically independent and make decisions about their own lives are reduced, and they are at greater risk from violence and their options when facing a violent situation are reduced. The consequences of violence against women and girls can also exacerbate social inequality, in some cases leaving women and girls unable to complete their education or to contribute fully in the work place, family or economy. Violence against women and girls also comes at a substantial cost to societies, including health services, justice systems and social services.

The elimination of discriminatory laws and the introduction of comprehensive legislation to prevent, respond to and punish all forms of violence against women and girls which are effectively implemented is therefore a critical step towards ending violence against women and girls, and also in reducing social inequalities.

Suggested Orange Day Activities

- Wear orange on 25 July to show your support for ending violence against women and girls.

- Find out more about the legal framework in your country and whether it discriminates against women, and adequately prevents, responds to and punishes all forms of violence against women. Refer to the Global Database on Violence against Women to see what measures are in place in your country: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en>
- Hold a conversation within your organization or community to discuss the ways in which violence against women is a result of broader social inequalities, and what policies or laws could be introduced as steps towards achieving gender equality.
- Engage local decision and policy makers to discuss the introduction of adequate laws to prevent, respond to and punish all forms of violence against women and girls. Share the [UN Handbook on Legislation on Violence against Women](#) and the [Virtual Knowledge Center to End Violence against Women's](#) module on drafting, advocating for, implementing and monitoring national legislation.

Sample Social Media Messages

Twitter

Today is #UNiTE #OrangeDay! Wear orange to show support to end to gender inequality and #VAW.
<http://ow.ly/Xnpxe>

This #OrangeDay focuses on #globalgoals to promote gender equality through the law and end #VAW <http://ow.ly/Xnpxe> v @SayNO_UNiTE

Happy #OrangeDay, #UNiTE calls for an end to laws which discriminate against women and girls. #globalgoal 10 <http://ow.ly/Xnpxe>

Facebook

In 2016, #UNiTE is focusing on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as it relates to ending violence against women and girls. This month we take a closer look at Sustainable Development Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries. Eliminating gender inequality is key reducing social inequality and ending violence against women and girls. Learn more: <http://ow.ly/Xnpxe>

On #OrangeDay 25 July, the UNiTE campaign is calling for the eradication of discriminatory laws and the introduction of laws which prevent, respond to and punish all forms of violence against women. Find out what measures are in place in your country to end violence against women and girls <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en>

The UNiTE campaign has declared the 25th of each month #OrangeDay and this month we are calling for an end to laws which discriminate against women and girls and the introduction of measures to prevent, respond to and punish all forms of violence against women. Start a conversation with your elected official about what measures are in place in your country. Refer to the Virtual Knowledge Center to End Violence against Women's step by step guidance on drafting, advocating for, implementing and monitoring national legislation: <http://endvawnow.org/en/modules/view/8-legislation.html>