



Orange Day, 25th June 2017

Violence against Women and Girl Refugees

BACKGROUND

The 25th of every month has been designated “Orange Day” by the [United Nations Secretary-General’s Campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women](#), 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 civil society, 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 the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 November), but every month.

In 2015, all 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Through its 17 goals, the 2030 Agenda calls for global action over the next 15 years to address the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social, and environmental. All the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s) are fully integrated with one another and therefore we cannot think of them in isolation.

SDG 5 recognizes gender equality and the empowerment of women as a key priority pledging that “no one will be left behind.” Building on this vision, throughout 2017, the UNiTE campaign will mark all Orange Days (25th of every month) under the overarching theme **“Leave No One Behind: End Violence against Women and Girls”** to underscore its commitment towards reaching the most underserved.

ORANGE DAY

This Orange Day, 25 June 2017, the UNiTE Campaign focuses on **Violence against Refugee Women and Girls.**

50 per cent of the world's refugees are women and girls.¹ They face specific challenges and protection risks in transit, including family separation, psychosocial stress and trauma, health complications, particularly for pregnant women, physical harm and injury, and risks of exploitation and gender-based violence. **An estimated one in five refugees or displaced women in complex humanitarian settings have experienced sexual violence—likely an underestimation given the barriers associated with disclosure.**²

Many of these women are fleeing conflict in their homeland and have suffered extreme violence and human rights violations, including the killing and disappearance of family members, sexual and gender based violence, and disrupted access to food, water, and electricity. Some have been repeatedly displaced or have been exploited or abused while attempting to seek asylum. Women are also often the main caretakers for children and elderly family members, further deepening their need for protection and support.³ With limited economic opportunities, their options to build a livelihood are often limited to low-paid informal work which increases their risk to be put in a position where the only option is having to engage in transactional sex.

At least 10 of the 169 targets of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development include references to issues directly pertaining to international migration, migrants, and mobility.⁴ All UN Member States are called upon to facilitate the safe, orderly, and regular migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned migration policies. Any measure taken to achieve Goal 5 and eliminate all forms of violence against ALL women and girls must include women and girls who are refugee and migrant.

¹ UNHCR <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/women.html>

² Vu, Alexander, Atif Adam, Andrea Wirtz, Kiemanh Pham, Leonard Rubenstein, Nancy Glass, Chris Beyrer, and Sonal Singh (2014) "The Prevalence of Sexual Violence among Female Refugees in Complex Humanitarian Emergencies: a Systematic Review and Meta-analysis" PLoS Currents. Public Library of Science

³ [Gender Assessment of the Refugee and Migration Crisis in Serbia and fYR Macedonia](#), UN WOMEN, 2016

⁴ <https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/populationfacts/docs/MigrationPopFacts20155.pdf>

SOME RELEVANT PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS:

- Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in conflict, often goes underreported, and therefore unaddressed. The **United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR)** is addressing the issue upfront with a range of [innovative, scalable, and community-based programmes](#) that are changing collaboration for different specified services.
- **UN Women** works in Syria at the Za'atari refugee camp to support refugees to meet their daily needs, while also working to build confidence, empowerment, and equality. This is done through the implementation of Za'atari's largest [female focused cash for work programme](#). The programme is paired with comprehensive protection referral services, life skills services in the form of Arabic and English literacy, and computer classes and day care services for working parents. This work has led to a 20 per cent reduction in domestic violence amongst those benefiting from the programme. 76 per cent state a positive change in intra-household relations. Find out more about this programme and [UN Women's work in response to the crisis in Syria](#).
- As part of its special thematic window on refugee women and girls, the **UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women** supports five organizations focused on addressing violence against refugee women and girls. Find out [more](#) about their current projects and how you can [support](#) the work of the UN Trust Fund.

TAKE ACTION THIS ORANGE DAY!

- Add your name to the [#WithRefugees petition](#) to send a clear message to governments that they must act in solidarity and shared responsibility.
- **Donate!** Every day, the UN Refugee Agency provides life-saving protection to families forced to flee their home. [With your donation](#), UNHCR can help refugees receive the life-saving support they desperately need. You can also collect supplies or goods to be donated to a refugee camp.
- **Fundraise!** Put on a yard sale, organize a concert, or run a half marathon. Many crowdfunding websites such as Crowdrise or GoFundMe make it easy for your supporters to donate — just register your event, spread the word, and your friends, family and colleagues can all donate securely online.

- **Create volunteering opportunities!** In places where refugees can't work legally, volunteering can lend the days more purpose. Find out whether your company could offer opportunities for refugees to volunteer.

USEFUL RESOURCES

- The [Gender Assessment of the Refugee and Migration Crisis in Serbia and FYR Macedonia](#) by **UN Women** looks at the main risks that women and girl refugees face. It classifies services available to women and contains recommendations on how gender can be mainstreamed into the national and international response.
- In November 2015, the **UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)**, the **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** and **Women's Refugee Commission (WRC)** have conducted a [joint field assessment](#) of the risks involved for refugee and migrant women and girls in Greece and FYR Macedonia and noted that women were among those particularly at risk and that they required additional protection measures.
- **UN Women** has worked to track gender-based violence among Syrian refugees in the Kurdistan region of Iraq and in 2014 published the ["We Keep Silent" report](#) , which revealed most men feared for the safety of their wives and/or daughters, there was increased levels of intimate partner violence, high levels of sexual harassment by employers and taxi drivers, and reports of commercial sexual transactions inside and outside of camps.
- The **Overseas Development Institute's** [brief](#), "Women on the move: Migration, gender equality and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" presents an overview and analysis of the opportunities, risks, and vulnerabilities for women migrants and refugees.

SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGES

Click [here](#) to access a drobox of key message images.

TWITTER

Today is #OrangeDay! Wear orange & @SayNO_UNiTE to eliminate violence against refugee women and

girls: <http://bit.ly/1fXiNmW>

25 June is #OrangeDay! Find out more about the @UN's work to stop violence against refugee women and girls: <http://bit.ly/1fXiNmW>

This #OrangeDay learn more about the #UNTF grantee @theIRC's project empowering refugee women and girls: <http://bit.ly/2igYBCm>

Violence affects women of all ages, in all communities. Take action this #OrangeDay to support refugee women & girls: <http://bit.ly/1fXiNmW>

FACEBOOK 1

The UNiTE campaign has declared the 25th of each month as #OrangeDay – a day of action to end all forms of violence against women and girls. This month we are focusing on violence against refugee women and girls: <http://bit.ly/1fXiNmW> via [@SayNO-UNiTE to End Violence against Women] #OrangeDay

FACEBOOK 2

One way [@UN Women] supports refugee women is through a cash-for-work programme in the Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan. Watch this video to find out more how this work has led to a 20% reduction in domestic violence amongst those benefiting from the programme: <http://bit.ly/1ojXYeF> via [@UN Women] #OrangeDay

FACEBOOK 3

"I went to the clinic because of the violence ... The staff always accompanied me and I received good service. The staff [helped me get services for my] health, psychosocial support, and other support." This #OrangeDay learn more about this [@UNTrustFund] supported [@InternationalRescueCommittee] project to end violence against refugee women and girls: <http://bit.ly/2igYBCm> #OrangeDay

FACEBOOK 4

Snow White is one of many millions of women who set out across international borders in search of a better life. Lacking access to social services and legal protection, these migrant women are often subjected to abuses such as low wages and harsh working and living conditions. The worst abuses force women into sexual slavery: <http://bit.ly/2oM7ibJ> via [@UN Women] #OrangeDay