



Orange Day, 25th April 2017

Violence against Indigenous Women and Girls

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, Agenda 2030 calls for global action over the next 15 years to address the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social, and environmental. All SDGs are fully integrated with one another; thus, we cannot think of them in isolation.

Sustainable Development Goal (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 April 2017, the Campaign will highlight the issue of **Violence against Indigenous Women and Girls**.

Indigenous people are referenced throughout the Sustainable Development Goals and explicitly mentioned [six times](#), including under Goal 2 on ending hunger and Goal 4 on education. Apart from the direct references, many of the Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets are relevant for indigenous peoples. So, for instance any measure taken to achieve Goal 5 and eliminate all forms of violence against ALL women and girls must include indigenous women and girls.

Indigenous women face many forms of discrimination and violence in different aspects of their lives, both as women and as indigenous people. Hence, the issue of violence against indigenous women and girls is closely linked to the wider context of discrimination and exclusion, such as limited access to health services, lack of access to justice and other social services, to which indigenous people are often exposed.¹

Indigenous girls and women are also at risk of violence during conflicts within their own and other communities, as such conflicts often result in displacement, loss of livelihoods and forced migration.² In addition, long-standing patriarchal beliefs and practices that relegate women and girls to subordinate roles and positions in society condone and reinforce violence against women and girls.

SOME RELEVANT PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS:

- There has been significant focus on integrating issues specific to indigenous women into areas of ending violence against women and girls. For example, **UN Women Viet Nam** and **UN Women Mexico** both had initiatives that addressed child marriage, a harmful practice which significantly harms indigenous girls. In **Viet Nam**, UN Women organized a workshop in collaboration with **UNFPA** and **UNICEF** and relevant government ministries. In **Mexico**, UN Women worked with indigenous women in advocating a reform of the law.³
- In June 2016, the international women's rights organization **MADRE** and its local Nicaraguan partner **Wangki Tangni** launched an [innovative radio project](#), supported by the **UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women**

¹ UN Women, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children (OSRSG/VAC), 2013, [Breaking the Silence on Violence against Indigenous Girls, Adolescents and Young Women](#),

² United Nations. 2007. "Declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples".

³ UN Women, UN Women's submission to the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues' Questionnaire, 2016

(UN Trust Fund), to address the pandemic of violence against women in the North Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua. The radio provides consistent information and a safe space for learning to women and girls, as well as men and boys, on women's rights, human rights, and indigenous concepts of peaceful living.

- In Guatemala, the **Women's Justice Initiative (WJI)**, funded by the **UN Trust Fund**, works to improve access to justice in rural and indigenous communities. To this end, **WJI** runs a mobile, legal outreach programme and a legal literacy course. In its first year, the programme has helped nearly 700 people access justice and support services, including 187 survivors of violence. In 2016, WJI provided legal services to 288 women, well over double the number helped the previous year. **WJI** also provides support to the Fundacio Sida i Societat, another grantee of the UN Trust Fund, to prevent and reduce sexual violence against sex workers, who are mostly young, indigenous migrant women.
- Working with **UNFPA** in Colombia, Patricia Tobon Yagari, an Emberá indigenous lawyer, is helping [lead efforts to educate Emberá communities about Female Genital Mutilation](#).

TAKE ACTION THIS **ORANGE DAY!**

- **Wear orange** on 25 April to show your support for ending violence against indigenous women and girls. Share your orange photos @SayNo_UNiTE
- Indigenous peoples' rights activist! Check out UNICEF's [adolescent-friendly version](#) of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
- **Gender-based Violence Practitioners!** See the [Training Module](#) on Indigenous Peoples' Issues prepared by the Secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII).
- **Get involved!** The 16th session of United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous is taking place from 24 April to 3 May. Take a look at the [agenda](#) and follow some of the meetings live via <http://webtv.un.org/>
- **Raise awareness** about the issue and spread the word by sharing our social media messages with your networks.

USEFUL RESOURCES

- UN Women's [Research Brief](#) on Indigenous Women & the Women, Peace and Security Agenda
- The ["Breaking the Silence on Violence against Indigenous Girls, Adolescents and Young Women"](#) report by UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA, ILO, and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children
- The United Nations system-wide [Call to Action](#) on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

- The “[Alli Nambi: Camino al Buen Trato](#)” advocacy brochure provides an illustrated and brief overview of the types of domestic violence, the impact of violence on different family members and avenues for seeking support and assistance for survivors of violence in Latin America. Available in Spanish with Kichwa.
- Learn more about the rights of indigenous women in **UN Women’s** [constitutional database](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGES

TWITTER

It's #OrangeDay! Wear orange and say NO to violence against indigenous women & girls <http://bit.ly/1fXiNmW> v @SayNO_UNiTE

This #OrangeDay, learn more about the issue of violence against indigenous women and girls: <http://bit.ly/1fXiNmW> @SayNO_UNiTE

These indigenous women say no to violence against women. Join them this #OrangeDay! <http://bit.ly/2kCaDZ6> @SayNO_UNiTE

To end violence against indigenous women we must make sure that they are at the center of your efforts <http://bit.ly/2kCaDZ6>

FACEBOOK 1

“It makes us happy that we hear the men from our communities are listening to the radio and saying ‘no more violence’ and acknowledging that women have rights,” describes Luisa Ruiz the change brought to her community by the “Voices of the Women of Wangki Tangni” project, which established the first radio station to focus on women’s rights in the North Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua: <http://bit.ly/2kCaDZ6>

This month, the UNiTE campaign takes a closer look at the issue of violence against indigenous women and girls with disabilities. Find out more: <http://bit.ly/1fXiNmW> v [@SayNO-UNiTE to End Violence against Women] #OrangeDay

FACEBOOK 2

On the Brazil-Paraguay border, women leaders of the indigenous Guarani-Kaiowa and Ayoreo communities are organizing themselves to protect their rights. Their dynamic women’s assemblies are preventing and documenting gender violence. Read their story <http://bit.ly/2nBIFhm> and take action this #OrangeDay: <http://bit.ly/1fXiNmW> v [@SayNO-UNiTE to End Violence against Women]