



Action Plan for Orange Day, 25 June 2016

Safe Education for Women and Girls



Vietnamese students commemorate the International Day on Elimination of Violence against Women. Photo: UN Women/Thao Hoang

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 June, the UNiTE campaign will highlight **Goal 4: “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”**.

Sustainable Development Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

[SDG 4](#) recognizes the interdependence of education and development. It aims to provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all. It also aims to ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through human rights, gender equality, and promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence.

Safe education for women and girls



“Youth Say NO to Violence against Women” is an online campaign which engages young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina as agents of change to prevent violence against women and girls. Say No Violence Bus Tour - On the way from Tuzla to Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina. (Photo Credit: Alain Laferté)

A girls’ education is a tremendous force for social change, economic growth and social stability though many barriers remain in terms of ensuring all girls have access to safe education. Girls experience violence at the hands of fellow students, teachers, school administrators and others. They may face sexual harassment, bullying, cyber violence or may be asked for sexual favors in exchange for good grades or school fees. In some countries, the route to school may be unsafe. In others, girls

are specifically targeted by violence simply for going to school to complete their education and for advocating for girls’ right to an education.

Many girls, particularly the most marginalized, continue to be deprived of the right to education; they are more likely to have caring responsibilities within their families and when resources are short, the education of male siblings may be prioritized. The failure to ensure girls are able to access their right to education has profound effects on individuals as well as wider society. For girls, lack of education has lifelong consequences, such as increasing the likelihood they will enter into situations of economic dependence in which their vulnerability to violence may be increased. For society at large, the transformative potential of girls' education is immense for the achievement of almost all development goals.

Remarkable progress has been made on increasing enrolment, but gaps still remain, particularly in the right to education for girls and education in emergency situations, where attending school can be a risky endeavor. Because of the erosion of standard protection mechanisms caused by humanitarian emergencies, students and education personnel - particularly females - may face an increased risk of sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual exploitation and abuse, abduction or attack while travelling to and from school. Lack of supervisory staff increases the risk of bullying, sexual harassment and sexual assault occurring on school grounds by peers as well as teachers and other adults.

Initiatives to provide safe access to education for girls



Photo: UN Women Kyrgyzstan

In Kyrgyzstan, a project funded by the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UNTF) has developed a School of Life Without Violence (SLWV) Programme to teach rural girls vital skills to prevent and respond to violence threats in family, school, and society. Based on knowledge and experience gained in piloting the educational package 'Learning to Live Without Violence through Education, Arts and Media' (LLWVEAM), the expert team developed the universal educational package Empowering Girls through Education, Art and Media (EGEAM) for SLWV Program.

In Armenia, through the implementation of a UNTF project, a "Module on Gender and Gender Based Violence" was adopted by the Ministry of Education and Science as an official document. It

is now a mandatory material for the National Institute of Education (NIE) pre-attestation trainings of the public school teachers and more than 5,165 teachers were trained by it in 2015. According to the NIE planning, 8,000 public school teachers will be trained annually by the Module in the mandatory pre-attestation trainings starting from 2016.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the near east (UNRWA), through its relief and social services, education programmes and its Gender Initiative, organized awareness-raising activities on early marriage, adolescent health, gender-based violence (GBV) and women's human rights, held in coordination with local organizations and seven women programme centres (WPCs). Community development social workers, in coordination with lawyers from the legal units at the WPCs, conducted awareness sessions on early marriage, GBV and adolescent health for 254 male and 443 female students from UNRWA preparatory schools across the Gaza Strip. UNRWA also runs an [education programme](#) under which it operates 677 elementary and preparatory schools, and thus provides [safer access to education](#) to girls.

In Sierra Leone, following the end of the conflict in 2002, UNICEF undertook reintegration programming for girls and worked with implementing partners to provide educational opportunities to girls formerly associated with fighting forces. These programmes combined classroom and vocational training with childcare and feeding programmes so that girls with infants could attend while their children were nearby in a positive, safe environment. Importantly, schools that received former captive children were 'rewarded' with additional supplies and books that benefited all students in the community, thereby avoiding the appearance that only former captive children received educational assistance.

UN Women and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts' (WAGGGS) is rolling out a joint programme called "[Voices against Violence](#)" in 35 countries, which engages young people to prevent violence against women and girls using a non-formal education curriculum. The programme has trained over 3,000 youth leaders and 97 per cent of those surveyed show improved knowledge, awareness and attitudes about violence against women and girls. Upon completing the curriculum, young people and their leaders go on to develop and implement locally relevant community mobilization and advocacy initiatives.

Suggested Orange Day Activities

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

- Raise awareness within your community about gender-based violence risks and protective factors related to education. Engage men and boys, teachers and leaders in your community in these awareness-raising activities as agents of change.
- Engage local decision and policy-makers and demand better and safer equipped schools (with private and sex-segregated dormitories, toilets and bathing facilities, adequate lighting and safety evacuation pathways).
- If you are a teacher, engage in conversations with your students (girls and boys) to raise their awareness on gender equality and on what constitutes violence against women and girls.

Useful Resources

- [International standards](#) on the right to education.
- [Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Actions](#) (2015), Sections on “Education” (p. 97-120) and “Child Protection” (p. 73-95).
- General Assembly Resolution on the Right to Education, [A/HRC/RES/26/17](#), July 2014, par. 6.
- Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) for Children and Armed Conflict, [Annual Report](#), April 2016, par. 1, 7, 22, 63.
- The Change-Makers <http://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2014/9/the-changemaker#sthash.aGzH9VcX.dpuf>
- UNICEF: End Violence against Children: <http://www.unicef.org/endviolence>
- Plan: Because I am a girl: <http://plan-international.org/girls/>
- Promundo: resources for engaging young men to promote caring, non-violence masculinities: <http://www.promundo.org.br/en/publications-for-youth/>
- United Nations Girls Initiative: http://www.ungei.org/whatisungei/index_2593.html
- Malala Foundation: <https://www.malala.org/>

Sample Social Media Messages

Twitter

Today is #OrangeDay! Wear orange and #UNiTE to support girls’ access to a violence-free education. <http://ow.ly/pzY3301r5iM>

This #OrangeDay focuses on #globalgoals to promote women & girls’ safe access to #education: <http://ow.ly/pzY3301r5iM> v @SayNO_UNiTE

On #OrangeDay, 25 June, learn about global approaches to prevent & respond to gender-based violence in crisis: <http://ow.ly/ORdug> via @SayNO_UNiTE

On #OrangeDay learn how ending #VAW is key to meeting #globalgoals on #education: <http://ow.ly/Xnpxe> via @SayNO_UNiTE

Facebook

The UNiTE campaign has declared the 25th of each month as #OrangeDay, a day to take action to end violence against women and girls. This month we are calling for all girls and women to have access to violence-free education. Are you involved in initiatives to improve the safety of girls at and on the way to and from school? Share them with us here or on Twitter, @SayNo_UNiTE. Get more ideas and information here: <http://ow.ly/pzY3301r5iM>

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 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. Start a conversation in your community about the link between safe education and violence against women and girls. Explore how you can leverage the #globalgoals to promote women and girls' safe access to education and to end violence against women and girls. Get more ideas and information here: <http://ow.ly/Xnpxe>