



In her [message](#) for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, 25 November, UN Women Executive Director Michelle Bachelet is calling for bold action and decisive leadership to galvanize efforts to end the pandemic of violence against women and girls.

Launching [COMMIT](#), a new initiative asking governments to make national commitments which will be showcased globally, Ms. Bachelet underlines that ending violence against women is possible. Today 125 countries have laws that penalize domestic violence, a huge step forward from just a decade ago. But she said this is not enough. Up to seven in ten women continue to be targeted for physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime and 603 million women live in countries where domestic violence is still not a crime.

“We all must do better to protect women and prevent this pervasive human rights violation. Governments and leaders must lead by example. Now is the time for governments to translate international promises into concrete national action,” says Ms. Bachelet in her message.

“We hope to see new and improved laws and national action plans that provide for safe houses, free hotline services and free health and legal aid to survivors. We count on education programmes that teach human rights, equality and mutual respect, and inspire young people to take leadership on ending violence against women and girls. We need increasing numbers of women in politics, law enforcement, and peacekeeping forces. We need equal economic opportunities and decent jobs for women,” she adds.

Next March, the focus of the [UN Commission on the Status of Women](#) will be to tackle violence against women and girls and expectations are high for Governments to agree on frameworks that will truly address ending violence against women and girls.

Coinciding with the International Day, the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, the only multilateral grant-making mechanism exclusively dedicated to ending all forms of violence against women and girls, is announcing its [Call for Proposals for its 17th grant-making cycle](#) . Special focus will be on violence against adolescents and young girls, and proposals that foster their leadership and activism as champions of change.

### **The Executive Director's Video Message for the Day:**

English version: <http://youtu.be/SH4tlxxc9nc> ;

French version: <http://youtu.be/IOOfidorjGM> ;

Spanish version: <http://youtu.be/MZRuWu0CEao>

[Special Compilation on Ending Violence against Women](#)

**Source:** [UN Women](#)