



## **ONE BILLION RISING**

**STRIKE | DANCE | RISE!**

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today publicly endorsed the One Billion Rising campaign, Eve Ensler's V-Day organization, which is inviting one billion women and those who love them to rise up, today and “walk out, dance and demand an end to this violence.”

“I am proud to emphatically raise my voice and join the chorus of all those taking part in the One Billion Rising campaign,” Mr. Ban said in a video message on the occasion of V-Day.

The Secretary-General's office will participate in the One Billion Rising event at UN Headquarters in New York today. In Europe there are events organized in several cities including a dance event at la Monnaie in Brussels (see: <https://www.facebook.com/events/421883697858965/>).

In his message Mr. Ban pointed out that in less than three weeks, the Commission on the Status of Women will hold its meeting in New York and already eighteen governments have pledged to come to this historic gathering with new initiatives to stop gender-based violence by improving access to justice, ratifying international conventions, strengthening protection, toughening punishment and enhancing prevention and education.

“I encourage all of you to call on your leaders to join this effort. On this special day, I urge all governments to send us a Valentine message: a concrete commitment of action to end violence against women and girls. Bring that commitment to the Commission on the Status of Women meeting in New York in 18 short days,” Mr. Ban says in his V-Day message.