



**25.11.2015 - Sexual and gender-based violence is the most extreme form of the global and systemic inequality experienced by women and girls. It knows no geographic, socio-economic or cultural boundaries. Worldwide, one in three women will suffer physical or sexual violence at some point in her life, while in some countries this figure can be as high as 70%.**

*"The atrocity crimes being committed against women and girls in conflict zones, along with the domestic abuse found in all countries, are grave threats to progress." Ban Ki-moon*

The World Health Organization calls violence against women 'a global epidemic' and a public health crisis.

Under the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals, which highlight the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment, now is a crucial time to ensure the issue of

violence against women and girls is high on political and public national and international agendas.

25 November will mark the International Day to End Violence Against Women, organized under the umbrella of the UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign. The initiative is aimed at raising awareness and mobilizing action to eliminate violence against women and girls in all parts of the world, and highlights the specific theme of the prevention of violence against women and girls. This year, the public is kindly invited to [“Orange the world: End violence against women and girls.”](#)

25 November will also start the [16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence](#) , a civil society-originated initiative, culminating on 10 December, Human Rights Day.

International Day for Eliminating Violence against Women is marked because:

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Violence against women is a human rights violation

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Violence against women is a consequence of discrimination against women, in law and also in practice, and of persisting inequalities between men and women

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Violence against women impacts on, and impedes, progress in many areas, including poverty eradication, combating HIV/AIDS, and peace and security

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Violence against women and girls is not inevitable. Prevention is possible and essential

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Violence against women continues to be a global pandemic.

Did you know?

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Sexual violence ranges from rape and domestic violence to harassment at work and bullying on the internet.

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35% of women and girls globally experience some form of physical and or sexual violence in their lifetime with up to seven in ten women facing this abuse in some countries.

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An estimated 133 million girls and women have experienced some form of female genital mutilation/cutting in the 29 countries in Africa and the Middle East where the harmful practice is most common.

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Worldwide, more than 700 million women alive today were married as children, 250 million of whom were married before the age of 15. Girls who marry before the age of 18 are less likely to complete their education and more likely to experience domestic violence and complications in childbirth.

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The costs and consequence of violence against women last for generations.

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**UNRIC's Related Links:**

- [UN Women : Preventing Violence against Women&nbsp;nbsp;](#)
- [16 Days of Activism&nbsp;nbsp;](#)
- [Orange the World&nbsp;nbsp;](#)
- [International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women](#)

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