

DAY ONE: 25th November

'International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women'

Grooming leading to Violence....

Within days of getting engaged to her wonderful fiancé John, Susan, a bright university student, was on her way to a new life in his country. Waking up on her first morning, Susan discovered she was alone, locked in the apartment and her passport was gone. That evening John brought home some friends, one of whom followed her into the bedroom and violently raped her. Later a cold, indifferent John told her they needed money and this was the quickest way to earn it...
(As told to writer, names changed for anonymity)

Question:

What is my reaction to this true story?

.....



<https://pixabay.com/en/fear-woman-stop-1131143>

Global Facts re Violence Against Women

- **Gender-based violence** knows no religion, age, nationality, culture, or socio-economic class.
- **One in Three women** worldwide has experienced physical or sexual violence.

87,000 women were intentionally killed in 2017. The majority of these killings were committed by an intimate partner or family member of the victim. (2018 report - UN Office on Drugs and Crime)

- **The global cost of violence against women** had previously been estimated at approximately US\$1.5 trillion. That figure is rising because tragically, violence has increased during the covid-19 pandemic.

SEE:

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/in-focus-gender-equality-in-covid-19-response>

Laudato Si - Pope Francis' encyclical to the world, 2015, highlights the link between: 'The Cry of the Earth and Cry of the Poor'

".... **each human being is a subject who can never be reduced to the status of an object**" (Paragraph 81)

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) most of these reference Women, particularly SDG # 5:

Achieve gender equality and empower all Women and Girls

Make your voices heard – every voice counts!



CEDAW

(Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women)

Adopted in 1979 with the aim of:

- ✓ **Reducing** feminized poverty and exclusion
- ✓ **Ending** violence against all women
- ✓ **Achieving** gender equality during peace times / eliminate rape as a weapon of war

Suggest reading CEDAW during the **16 Days**

www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/

UDHR

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Article 3: Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 5: No-one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, degrading treatment.

ACTION to promote respect and equality:

- o **Teach** children to respect one another irrespective of gender.
- o **Donate** - <https://donate.unwomen.org/en>
- o **Support the #WithHer movement** <https://spotlightinitiative.org/withher/withher>

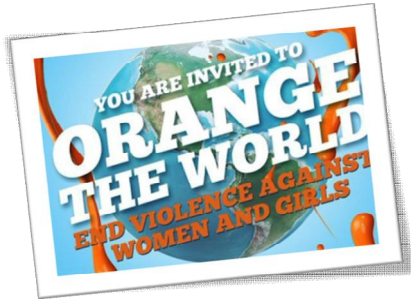
Prepared by 'Future We Need' (FWN), a faith-based group with members from the Columbans, Franciscans, Josephites, Mercy, Presentation and Salesians.

(Updated November 2020)

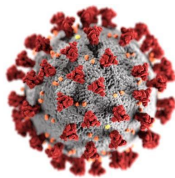
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

is a systematic and widespread human rights violation.

It cuts across age, socio-economic, educational and geographic boundaries...



www.google.ie/search?q=images+of+orange+the+world+for+free



BEFORE

THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC

243 million women and girls, aged 15-49, experienced sexual and/or physical violence by an intimate partner in the past year.

SINCE THE PANDEMIC

violence against women, especially domestic violence, has increased dramatically.

EXACERBATING FACTORS INCLUDE

security, health and money worries,
cramped living conditions,
isolation with abusers,
deserted public spaces,
limited access to support services.

In some countries, resources and efforts have been diverted from responses to violence against women, to immediate COVID-19 relief.
(unwomen.org)

"The Shadow Pandemic: Domestic Violence in the wake of COVID-19"

(60-second film narrated by actor Kate Winslet)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IINP_bW-o0&feature=emb_logo

SEE: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/multimedia/2020/4/infographic-covid19-violence-against-women-and-girls>

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/16-days-of-activism>



OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE...

DAY ONE...
25th November

INTERNATIONAL DAY
for
ELIMINATION
of
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



2020 UNiTE Campaign Theme:

**"Orange the World: Fund,
Respond, Prevent, Collect!"**

DAY TWO: 26th November:

Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation

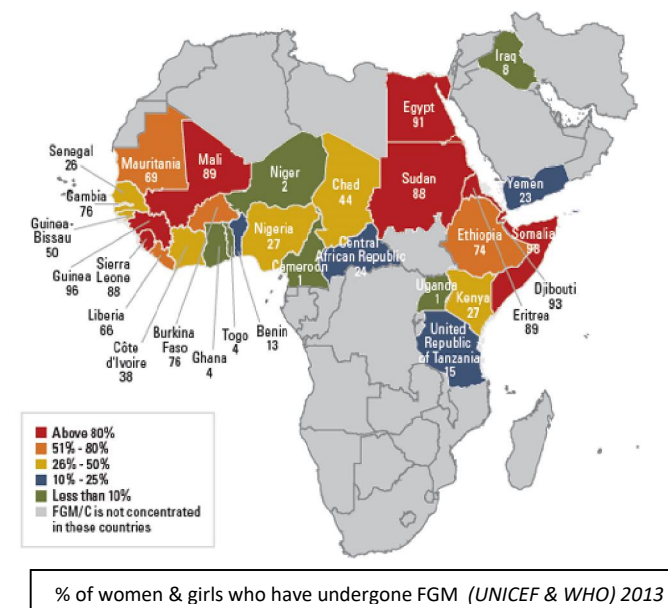
FGM, also known as female genital cutting and female circumcision, is the ritual cutting or removal of some or all, of the external female genitalia. The practice is rooted in gender inequality and attempts to control women's sexuality, and ideas about purity.

Fatima's story

Fatima lives in Somalia where she attends a school nearby. Her mother is a seamstress. Fatima, at 6 years of age, had a visit from her grandmother. All was pre-arranged and Fatima didn't know what was happening. *'They held my shoulders and knees, and I started crying and trying to close my legs. It was very terrible. I can never forget that. I was at home for seven days with acute pain in the area they cut. Don't do this to your daughters.'* (Source: www.unicef.org/somalia)

Question:

What is my reaction to this true story?



Global Facts

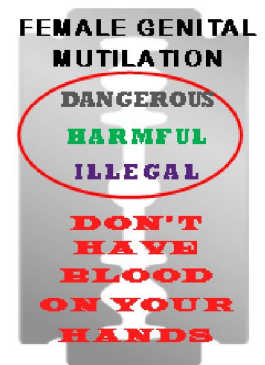
- In 31 countries across three continents, with more than half of those cut living in Egypt, Ethiopia and Indonesia, 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone FGM
- FGM is carried out on young girls mostly between infancy and age 15 (UNICEF)
- Treatment of health complications of FGM in 27 high prevalence countries costs 1.4 billion USD per year (WHO 2020)

Laudato Si - Pope Francis:

'The Cry of the Earth, The Cry of the Poor'
'Each human being is a subject who can never be reduced to the status of an object' L.S.81

Beijing+20 (2015) reaffirmed

a major obstacle to ending violence against women, is the persistence of discriminatory attitudes and social norms that normalize and permit violence. Victim blaming attitudes are widespread across all countries.



UNICEF with UNFPA (UN Population Fund) co-leads the global programme towards the elimination of FGM. It works with governments, communities, religious leaders and other partners to end the practice.

UN Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 5.3: *'Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.'* This target reflects the international community's commitment to ending FGM by 2030.

CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination & all forms of Discrimination against Women)

Suggest reading this during the **16 Days**
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/>

No. 14 - *That States parties take appropriate and effective measures with a view to eradicating the practice of female circumcision.*

No. 12 - *It requires States to eliminate discrimination against women in their access to health-care services throughout the life cycle*

ACTION to promote respect and equality between all women and men....

- Visit <http://www.endfgm.eu/female-genital-mutilation/what-is-fgm/>
- Promote the value of girls' education
- Support organisations promoting children's rights e.g. www.stopfgm.or.ke

Prepared by 'Future We Need' (FWN) a faith-based group with members from the Columbans, Franciscans, Josephites, Mercy, Presentation and Salesians.

(Updated November 2020)

SEE: <https://data.unicef.org/resources/fgm-country-profiles/>

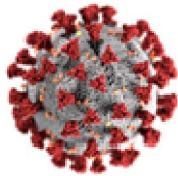
<https://data.unicef.org/resources/female-genital-mutilation-a-new-generation-calls-for-ending-an-old-practice/>

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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www.google.ie/search?q=images+of+orange+the+world+for+free



BEFORE

THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC

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SINCE THE PANDEMIC

violence against women, especially domestic violence, has intensified.

EXACERBATING FACTORS INCLUDE

- security, health and money worries,
- cramped living conditions,
- isolation with abusers,
- deserted public spaces,
- limited access to support services,

In some countries, resources and efforts have been diverted from violence against women response to immediate COVID-19 relief.

(unwomen.org)

UN CHIEF VIDEO MESSAGE 'WOMEN AND COVID-19'

(April 2020)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZIATLVKZ_ag

SEE: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/multimedia/2020/4/infographic-covid19-violence-against-women-and-girls>

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*of Activism
Against
Gender
Violence...*

DAY 2...

26th

November

**ELIMINATION OF
FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION**



2020 UNiTE Campaign Theme:

*"Orange the World: Fund,
Respond, Prevent, Collect!"*

DAY THREE: 27th November

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment means unwanted conduct of a sexual nature affecting the dignity of men and women, which can include unwelcome physical, verbal and nonverbal conduct. (Aeberhard-Hodges 1996)

Story from a member of the public

This woman's evidence about her experiences is not uncommon:

I have been sexually harassed and suffered physical assault too, many times over a 30-year period. The harassment ranges from whistles and 'catcalls', to my breasts, bottom, legs and groin being touched. These events have taken place on buses and trains, while walking or standing in public places during the day, in shops and bars - anywhere where men are present, in fact.

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmsellect/cmwomeq/701/701.pdf>

Question:

What is your reaction to this true story?

Global Facts:

- **Gender-based violence** knows no religion, age, nationality, culture, or socio-economic class.
- **A 2019 survey of almost 31,000 people** across 40 countries found that 32% of women (18–34 year olds) in Ireland have experienced some form of sexual harassment in the previous 12 months - the second highest out of all 40 countries surveyed and the worst in Europe. Only Mexico fared worse at 43%. (*The Irish Examiner* - March 2019)
- **A Plan International UK survey** has found that shockingly, 52% of girls and young women aged 14-21 in Wales, have experienced unwanted sexual attention/physical contact, or indecent exposure in public. 17% have been touched, groped or grabbed. A huge 37% said they have been followed in public. (*April 29th 2019*)



"Today in many places we hear a call for greater security. But until exclusion and inequality in society and between people is reversed, it will be impossible to eliminate violence." (*Pope Francis: 'Evangelii Gaudium' 59*)

Laudato Si

In Pope Francis' encyclical to the world in 2015, he clearly values creation and life -

"Human life itself is a gift which must be defended from various forms of debasement" LS 15



pexels.com

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Many of the SDGs reference Women.

SDG 5 - Targets 2:

Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

SDG 11 – Target 7:

Provide universal access to safe, inclusive & accessible green & public spaces, in particular for women & children, older persons.

CEDAW

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

(Suggest you read this during the **16 Days**)

CEDAW Article 16: ". . . provides men and women with "the same right to enter into marriage, the same right freely to choose a spouse . . . "

ACTION I will take, to promote respect and equality between all women and men....

1. Read more on the subject – <http://endviolence.un.org/orangeday.shtml>
2. 'Enough is Enough' - www.gov.ie/noexcuses
3. Make a donation to [UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women](http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/2014/140103main.pdf)

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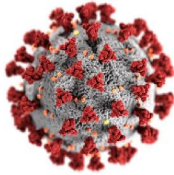
(Updated November 2020)

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In some countries, resources and efforts have been diverted from responses to violence against women to immediate COVID-19 relief.
(unwomen.org)

Don't Stand So Close To Me - Sexual Harassment & Covid 19

(June 2020)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ddMYbEzCS8>

During lockdown in the UK, a poll of over 1,000 14-21 year-old girls found that, despite the streets being emptier, **1 in 5 girls** who experienced street harassment said **it has got worse in the lockdown period**.
(Plan International UK – April 2020)



**of Activism
Against
Gender
Violence...**

DAY 3...

27th

November

SEXUAL HARASSMENT



2020 UNiTE Campaign Theme:

***"Orange the World: Fund,
Respond, Prevent, Collect!"***

DAY FOUR: 28TH November:

Child Sexual Exploitation

Jennifer's Story

Jennifer is fourteen years old, though she looks much older. She began her "dancing career" in a bar when she was ten years old. 'My friend told me I could find work as a house help, I didn't know I'd be working as a dancer'. Jennifer discovered at a very young age that she had no choice and had to go with her first customer. 'I didn't want to go with him. I was stripped of my clothes, and then he raped me'. This is sex tourism in the Philippines and it is not done covertly. It happens in broad daylight.

(As told by the survivor)

Question:

What is my reaction to this true story?



pixabay.com

90% of child sexual abuse victims know their abusers...

Global Facts – Online Child Sexual Abuse

- The younger the victim, the more severe the abuse and resulting trauma.
- 84% of online images contained explicit sexual activity.
- More than 60% of unidentified victims were prepubescent, including infants and toddlers.
- 65% of unidentified victims were girls.
- Severe abuse images were likely to feature boys.
- 92% of visible offenders were male.

Source: *Interpol's International Child Sexual Exploitation (ICSE) image and video database.*

POPE FRANCIS: "The disorder that drives one person to take advantage of another, to treat others as mere objects ... is the kind of thinking that leads to the sexual exploitation of children." (LS 123)

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

'States Parties shall take all appropriate measures... to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse.' (Art.19).

Suggest reading CRC during the **16 Days**

<https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention>



Image from unsplash.com - Ravi Piniseti

UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

There is concern that many States parties are failing to properly implement the *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child* on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. A new set of Guidelines was drafted to give concrete advice on how to effectively protect children from sexual exploitation. (Council of Europe 2019)

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Goal 5: Target 5.2. Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking, sexual and other types of exploitation.

Goal 16: Target 16.2. End abuse, exploitation, trafficking, torture and all forms of violence against children.

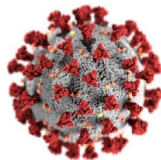
ACTION TO PROTECT CHILD RIGHTS

- Support organisations promoting the rights of children and working for their welfare.
<http://www.childrensrights.ie/sites>
- Keep informed by visiting:
<http://www.ecpat.org/>; <https://mecpaths.com/>
- 'Signs of child sexual exploitation' - visit
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRZxFekdKeY>

Prepared by 'Future We Need' (FWN) a faith-based group with members from the Columbans, Franciscans, Josephites, Mercy, Presentation and Salesians.

(Updated 2020)

Violence Against Women and Children is a systematic and widespread human rights violation. It cuts across age, socio-economic, educational and geographic boundaries...



DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC:

There are approximately 150 million additional children living in multidimensional poverty. A survey found that 45% of children across 70 countries, were severely deprived of at least one of these critical needs: education, healthcare, housing, nutrition, sanitation and water.

- The harmful effects of the Covid-19 pandemic are not distributed equally.
- The impact will be most damaging for children in the poorest communities or countries and those in vulnerable situations.
- This situation is likely to worsen, unless national governments and the international community step up to soften the blow.

(UNICEF report Oct. 2020)

Those who molest children look and act just like everyone else. There are those who have, or will, sexually abuse children in families, schools, churches and youth sport leagues.



pinterest.com

NB. Be on the alert to protect all children and to report any concerns...



***of Activism
Against
Gender
Violence...***

DAY 4...

28th

November

Child Sexual Exploitation



2020 UNiTE Campaign Theme:

***"Orange the World: Fund,
Respond, Prevent, Collect!"***

DAY FIVE: NOVEMBER 29th

Cyber Bullying

Cyberbullying takes its toll and can happen in many forms. It can even originate from strangers online and become relentless.

Amanda, a 7th grade student was approached online by a male stranger. He convinced her to flash her breasts while on a webcam. That one instance led to relentless cyberbullying and the threat of exposure. He contacted her on Facebook to get her to take part in a live sex show on camera. If she didn't, he'd share the photo of her breasts with her friends. When Amanda refused to give in, the stranger shared the photo online for the world to see. Soon enough, bullies contacted her and she couldn't escape the cyberbullying. Tragically, Amanda's second attempt to kill herself was successful, but she did leave a video telling the full story of what led to this point. She was just 15 years old at the time. (*familyorbit.com 2018*)

Question:

- What is your initial reaction to this true story?



pexels.com

Global Facts

- 20% of young women in the European Union have experienced cyber sexual harassment and 14% of women have experienced cyber-stalking since the age of 15. (*europarl 2018*)
- Girls are more likely than boys to be both victims and perpetrators of cyber bullying. 15% of teen girls compared with 6% of boys. (*pewresearch.org - 2007*)
- Increased domestic violence against women during the COVID-19 crisis is spilling into the online space. 52% of young women and girls have experienced online abuse, including threatening messages and sexual harassment. (*February 2020, Worldwide Web Foundation online survey*)

Pope Francis: *"The spread of ever more extreme pornography and other improper uses of the net, not only causes disorders, dependencies and grave harm among adults, but also has a real impact on the way we view love and relations between the sexes."*
(Rome, October 4, 2017)



UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Most of the SDGs reference Women.

Goal 5 Target 5b: *"Enhance the use of technology, in particular, information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women."*

Goal 5c: *"Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels."*

CEDAW

Convention on the Elimination of
All Forms of Discrimination
against Women

www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CEDAW

(Suggest you read this during the **16 Days**)

ACTION I will take, to promote respect and equality between all women and men....

1. Read *UN Women's global data base* for your country's profile - <http://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries#I>
2. Encourage people to report any form of harassment on-line and discuss dangers of divulging personal information. <https://www.icrw.org/making-internet-safe-place/>
3. Visit *Staying Safe Online - Ireland* <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/3ef852-staying-safe-online/>

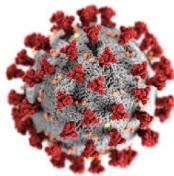
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women to immediate COVID-19 relief.

(unwomen.org)

Watch 'CYBER BULLYING VIRUS'

(2013)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vmQ8nM7b6XQ>

SEE

<https://webfoundation.org/2020/07/theres-a-pandemic-of-online-violence-against-women-and-girls/>



***of Activism
Against
Gender
Violence...***

DAY 5...

29th

November

CYBER BULLYING



2020 UNiTE Campaign Theme:

***"Orange the World: Fund,
Respond, Prevent, Collect!"***

DAY SIX: Nov. 30th

CHILD BRIDES

Each year 15 million girls are married as children.

The Story of a Child Bride

On her wedding day as an 11-year-old bride, Noora remembers her childish delight at receiving gifts and being thrilled because friends and family gathered for a three-day party in her honour. Noora didn't realise that dressing up as an adult and putting on jewellery meant she was now the bride of a distant cousin. He was three times her age, and saw marriage as a means to act like a depraved animal.

(Source: www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2013)

Question:

What is my reaction to this true story?

.....



Global Facts about Children

- If all children learned to read, 171 million people could be lifted out of poverty.
- 5.3 million children under five died in 2018, whilst 1.3 billion live in extreme poverty.
- 34.3 million girls of primary school age are out of school (Oct 2019)

<https://www.globalpartnership.org/data-and-results>

- "31 million additional gender-based violence cases were expected globally in the first six months of COVID-19 lockdowns and an additional 15 million cases are expected for every three months that lockdowns continue.
(COVID-19 and Gender-Based Violence: Workplace Risks and Responses – IFC, part of the World Bank)

'Girls Not Brides' is a campaign of 'The Elders', a group of former leaders that has become a global partnership of 800 civil society organisations. They are committed to ending child marriage and enabling girls to fulfil their potential. www.girlsnotbrides.org/

Pope Francis has pledged:

"..To work strenuously for the protection of minors and their dignity, including online." He said a coordinated, international approach is needed, to protect children from "corruption of their minds and violence against their bodies".
(Rome 6th Oct. 2017)

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), most of these reference women, and children, particularly SDG # 5:

Achieve gender equality and empower all Women and Girls

Target 5.3: *Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.*



www.google.ie/search?q=free+images

UN Convention on the Rights of Children (CRC) Article 4: *Governments have a responsibility to ensure children's rights are respected and protected.*

CEDAW (Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) Adopted 1979 with the aim of:

- ✓ Reducing feminized poverty and exclusion
- ✓ Ending violence against women
- ✓ Achieving gender equality during peace and war

Suggest reading this during **16 Days**

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/>

ACTION I will take to protect children:

- ✚ See what you could do by reading: <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/take-action/>
- ✚ Offer support to organisations working to protect and look after children's welfare.
- ✚ Watch: 'Child marriage' | UNICEF (2020) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yToMyZLdcEs>
- ✚ Campaign to ensure all children receive their basic rights in your country. <https://en.unesco.org/gem-report/sites/>
<http://srsq.violenceagainstchildren.org>

Prepared by the 'Future We Need' (FWN) a faith-based group, with members from the Columbans, Franciscans, Josephites, Mercy, Presentation and Salesians.

(Updated November, 2020)

CHILD MARRIAGE: marriage before the age of 18 is a human rights violation. Despite laws against it, the harmful practice remains widespread.

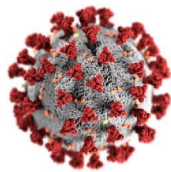
Girls who marry before 18 are less likely to remain in school and more likely to experience domestic violence.



#ChildNotBride

Young teenage girls are more likely to die due to complications in pregnancy and childbirth than women in their 20s, and their children are more likely to be stillborn or die in the first month of life. (UNICEF 2020)

Child marriage also has a major adverse affect, not only on the psyche of the child bride, but also on her overall growth and life.



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(unwomen.org)



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***of Activism
Against
Gender
Violence...***

DAY 6...

30th

November

CHILD BRIDES



2020 UNiTE Campaign Theme:

***"Orange the World: Fund,
Respond, Prevent, Collect!"***

DAY 7: December 1st

Harassment and Violence in the Work Place

Sarah's Story

"I work in an office. The good days are those when other employees ask you if you're single and why *"a pretty girl like you should be alone"*. The not so good days are the ones where they feel free to touch you, a hand on your arm, an unwanted hug, a pat on the bum." (Irish Independent Nov.4, 2017)

Women and men experience violence and harassment in the world of work, but unequal status and power relations in society and at work often result in women being far more exposed to such treatment.

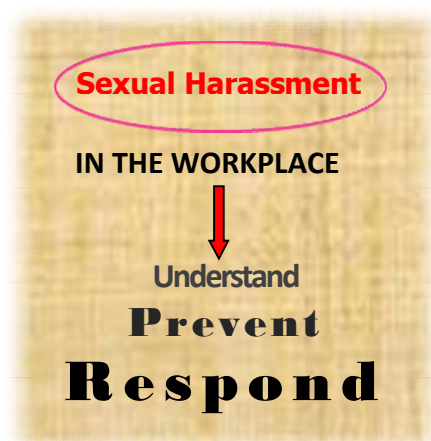
High Risk Groups

1. Migrant workers: More than half are women, but they comprise 98% of sex-trafficked victims. Often, they are in isolated and invisible "women's work" with higher violence risk.

2. Domestic workers: are usually female, often doing informal work, without a support system. They can undergo physical or psychological violence, including sexual harassment and rape.

3. Health services and social assistance sector, where 80-90% are women. They face more workplace violence here than in any other sector. (www.osha.gov/SLTC/healthcarefacilities/index.html)

Women in Management: It has been proved that women who reach executive positions, are not immune to sexual harassment. <http://www.nbcnews.com/id/32476564/ns/business-careers/t/female->



Global Fact: 235 million women work in countries where there is no legal protection against workplace harassment. In these situations, women are more vulnerable if there is a male dominated management unless there is a clear, legal framework.

Ref: https://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/stop_violence_en.pdf
<http://www.unwomen.org/>

2017 COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW)

*'Women's Economic Empowerment in the
Changing World of Work'*

Agreed conclusions:

'The Commission strongly condemns violence against women and girls in public and private places, including harassment in the work place. ...these forms of violence are major impediments ... hampering women's ability to enter... and remain in the labour market and to make contributions that fulfil their potential.'

The Beijing Platform for Action

recognizes sexual harassment as a form of violence against women. It calls on employers, unions, and civil society, to ensure governments enact and enforce laws on sexual harassment and that employers develop anti-harassment policies and prevention strategies. (*para. 178c*)

International Labour Organization (ILO)

is the United Nations agency dealing with labour standards



A new **Convention and Recommendation on Violence and Harassment in the World of Work** was adopted in 2019 by *International Labour Conference*. It requires governments to take measures to protect workers from violence and harassment, especially women. It is due to come into force in June 2021. So far, only two countries, Fiji and Uruguay have ratified it.

<https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/iilo-adopts-new-convention-on-violence-and-harassment-in-the-world-of-work>

ACTION to promote equality:

1. **Actively** support rights of women in the work place to ensure protection and equality.
2. **Encourage** women to seek equality and justice when negotiating new employment.

3. Visit:

https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/sexual_harassment_and_harassment_at_work.pdf

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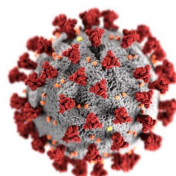
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(unwomen.org)

Watch: Sexual harassment: challenge to women at their workplace
(#InternationalWomensDay 2019)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nXplRXzb5A>

Sexual Harassment & Assault at Work Understanding the Costs

<https://iwpr.org/iwpr-publications/briefing-paper/sexual-harassment-and-assault-at-work-understanding-the-costs/>



***of Activism
Against
Gender
Violence...***

DAY 7...

1st

December

**Harassment and Violence
in the Work Place**



2020 UNiTE Campaign Theme:

***"Orange the World: Fund,
Respond, Prevent, Collect!"***

DAY 8: December 2nd...

Girls Deprived of Education

Education is a human right regardless of your gender. According to UNICEF, *"When we educate a girl, we not only give her the tools and knowledge to make her own decisions and shape her own future, we also help raise the standard of living of her family and her community."*

Anya's Story: Anya had worked in a factory for two years when she heard that she could learn to read and write in a literacy programme being held after work. As a child she had been sent to the big city to work in a factory to earn money so that her brothers could attend school. When Anya became literate, she spoke about how she had felt ashamed because she had never gone to school. Anya tried to hide this from her companions at work. The literacy programme changed Anya's life! Now that she could read and write, her shame disappeared so Anya was able to mix freely with her work companions. *(As told to the writer)*

Question:

What are your thoughts as you read Anya's story?

.....



pexels.com

Global Facts on Education:

- Around the world, 132 million girls are out of school - 34.3 million of primary school age, 30 million of lower-secondary school age, and 67.4 million of upper-secondary school age.
- Barriers to girls' education e.g. like poverty, child marriage and gender-based violence – vary among countries and communities. Poor families often favour boys when investing in education.
- Only 66% of countries have achieved gender parity in primary education. At the secondary level, the gap widens: 45% of countries have achieved gender parity in lower secondary education, 25% in upper secondary education. *(unicef.org – 2019)*

Pope Francis: *"Education is the indispensable means for enabling girls to grow into active and responsible women . . ."* (NBC News Video).



(google free images)

In situations of political turmoil, pursuing an education can sometimes be life-threatening for girls, revealed in the 2012 attack against Malala Yousafzai.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

CRC Article 6: *'Every child has the right to life, survival and development.'*

Suggest you read the CRC during the **16 Days:**
www.childrensrights.ie/sites/default/files/UNCRCEnglish.

UN Sustainable Development Goals

Many of the SDGs reference Women and Girls particularly -

SDG 4.5 *'By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations'*

SDG 5: *'Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.'*

Actions to ensure Girls are educated:

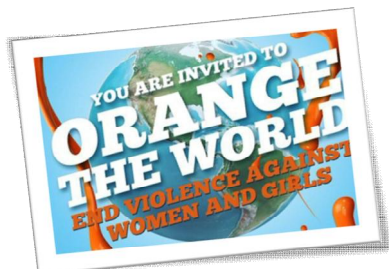
1. Promote equal educational opportunities for girls and boys so that both can develop their potential.
2. Avoid stereo-typing so that children feel free to express themselves, according to their gifts.
3. See: *'Overview of Gender Parity in Education'*
<https://tellmaps.com/uis/gender/#!/tellmap/-1195952519>
4. Call on world leaders to ensure girls in crisis affected areas can stay in school -
<https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/action/keep-crisis-affected-girls-in-school-ecw>

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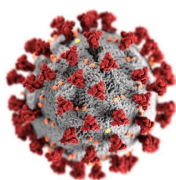
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(unwomen.org)

Watch: Millions of Girls Face Barriers to Getting an Education

(2014)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XL-JR6S094k>

SEE

<https://en.unesco.org/themes/education-and-gender-equality/her-education-our-future>



*of Activism
Against
Gender
Violence...*

DAY 8...

2nd

December

**GIRLS DEPRIVED
OF EDUCATION**



2020 UNiTE Campaign Theme:

*"Orange the World: Fund,
Respond, Prevent, Collect!"*

DAY NINE, December 3rd

Human Trafficking

"Human trafficking (HT) is all around us, in all regions of the world... in practices as forced labour, sexual servitude, recruitment of child soldiers and other forms of exploitation." (UN Secretary General, 2017)

Mara's Story

Mara lived in Moldova where it was difficult to find work. She heard of great opportunities in Western Europe so jumped at the offer of a job in a bar. Mara quickly realised that she had been deceived and was now a victim of trafficking. She was bought and sold by traffickers who took her through Albania, Italy, France and England before she arrived in Ireland. Passport and papers were taken from her and destroyed and she was put to work in a brothel. Mara had to work all day and frequently into the night, receiving only food and shelter. If she did not obey, Mara was told her family in Moldova would be killed. Mara managed to escape and got help. (Shared with permission)

Question:

What is my reaction to this true story?

.....



Permission of APT Ireland

Global Facts about Human Trafficking:

1. Human Traffickers deny nearly 25 million people their fundamental right to freedom, forcing them to live enslaved and toil for their exploiter's profit. (US Trafficking in Persons Report, June 2020)
2. Human Trafficking earns the **traffickers** more than \$150 billion per year.
3. **Men, women and children** are trafficked for sexual exploitation, cheap labour and organ transplants.
4. Since 2008 the number of victims worldwide has tripled to 105,787. Over 70% are women and girls and 1 in 3 victims are children.
(www.statista.com - Erin Duffin Sept. 7th 2020)

Pope Francis' describes HT as: '*ugly, cruel and criminal...an aberrant plague and a modern form of slavery*'. He is asking for a global commitment to end the practice.
Rome, 30/07/2017



www.aptireland.org

UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration - Fifth Informal Thematic Session focussed on: "*Smuggling of Migrants, Trafficking in Persons and Contemporary Forms of Slavery*." This includes identification, protection and assistance to migrants and trafficking victims." (UN, NY 5th Sept 2017)

www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Goal 8, Target 8.7: calls for nations to, "Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking...recruitment and use of child soldiers..." www.unicefusa.org

CEDAW: (Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women)

Article 6: States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women.
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/>

Action to prevent human trafficking:

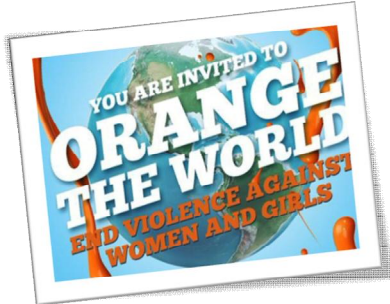
1. Raise awareness about HT. Often victims are working in beauty salons, car washes and picking fruit etc.
2. If you see anything suspicious report it to the police or an NGO working to eliminate HT.
3. Share this pamphlet and pray for victims who have been trafficked and those keeping them in slavery.

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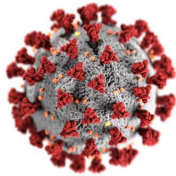
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(unwomen.org)

Watch: Faces of Human Trafficking: An Introduction

(2016)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nb66R-Amcz8>

SEE

- ❖ www.renate-europe.net/
- ❖ www.notforsalecampaign.org
- ❖ www.dosomething.org



***of Activism
Against
Gender
Violence...***

DAY 9...

3rd

December

HUMAN TRAFFICKING



2020 UNiTE Campaign Theme:

***"Orange the World: Fund,
Respond, Prevent, Collect!"***

DAY TEN: 4th DECEMBER :

'Rape as a Weapon of War'

At the end of the war in Kosovo in June 1999, women and girls, as they fled to safety, were dragged by Serbian police, paramilitaries or soldiers from the columns of refugees fleeing Kosovo and raped, sometimes repeatedly, before they were sent on their journey. In the aftermath of war, another phase of enforced disappearances, murders and rapes began as the Kosova Liberation Army (KLA) embarked on revenge attacks against Kosovo Serb and Romani civilians. Many survivors have never even spoken about what happened to them. Some, counselled by NGOs, are able to talk about their experience but few have spoken publicly about what they endured. They have been silenced by the deeply entrenched social stigma, which still overshadows wartime rape.

<https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/EUR7075582017ENGLISH.PDF>

Question

What is my reaction to this horrific true story?

.....



Used with permission from Amnesty International

Global Facts

- A 2019 U.N. report on sexual violence in conflict found that rape is used as a strategy of war in 15 countries around the world, mostly in Africa and the Middle East. Democratic Republic of the Congo topped the list and while the country has been in crisis, it has been described as "the rape capital of the world." (*Organisation for World Peace, May 2020*)
- Rape in conflict often focuses on young girls. In some conflicts, up to 80% of rape victims are children, some as young as six months old. (*Human Rights Watch - Boko Haram Violence against Women and Girls in Northeast Nigeria 2014*).

Pope Francis met with the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize winner Nadia Murad, a survivor of ISIS enslavement and an advocate for human rights **especially among** persecuted Iraqi minorities.

Murad, who first met Pope Francis at a weekly general audience in 2017, returned to the Vatican for a private audience with him after receiving the Nobel prize. She won this for her "efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict."

<https://catholicherald.co.uk/news/2018/12/21/pope-francis-meets-nobel-peace-prize-winner-nadia-murad/>

Rape and sexual violence is used as a deliberate weapon of war in the same way that guns and tanks are, to terrorise civilian populations, to humiliate, scar and destroy whole ethnic groups or religious or political opponents, cheaply, silently and devastatingly.

William Hague, UK Foreign Secretary (2012)

CEDAW

(Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women)

Adopted 1979 with the aim of:

- ✓ Ending violence against women
- ✓ Achieving gender equality during peace and war

Suggest you read the Convention during the **16 Days** www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

SDG 16 Target 16.2: 'End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.'

UNHCR 16. a: 'Strengthen relevant national institutions, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.'

http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/HRIndicators/Metadata_16.a.1_3_March2016.pdf

ACTION

- **Support** any campaign to eliminate weapons of war.
- **Befriend** an asylum seeker from a conflict zone who may have suffered greatly.
- **Read:** <http://www.stoprapenow.org/take-action/>
<https://nobelwomensinitiative.org/>

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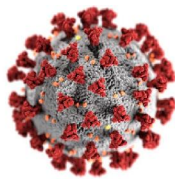
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www.google.ie - freeimages



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(unwomen.org)

In the words of a former UN peacekeeping commander, **"it is now more dangerous to be a woman than a soldier in modern conflict."** (*Summit Report: End Sexual Violence in Conflict - Global Summit, London 2014*)

WATCH: Sexual Violence as a Weapon of War

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Psd5-lGABSY>

SEE <https://www.nrc.no/shorthand/stories/rape-as-a-weapon-of-war/index.html>

<https://norwegianscitechnews.com/2019/01/when-rape-becomes-a-weapon-in-war/>



of Activism Against Gender Violence...

DAY 10...

4th

December

RAPE AS A WEAPON OF WAR



2020 UNiTE Campaign Theme:

***"Orange the World: Fund,
Respond, Prevent, Collect!"***

DAY ELEVEN: December 5th

Widows and Property

Some traditional cultures ignore a widow's human rights. In practice, especially in some rural areas, it is widely assumed that only men should own or inherit land and that widowhood terminates a woman's social legitimacy. It is common for widows to be isolated and banned from participation in community activities.

Michelle's Story

When Michelle, 57, was widowed in 2012, she lost more than her husband. Shortly after his death, her in-laws took over the fields she had tilled for decades. They also stole fruit from the trees in her kitchen garden and sold the harvest, leaving her without any livelihood. They further intimidated and insulted her by surrounding her and attempting to chase her away.

Michelle's neighbours advised her that the *Legal Resources Foundation* could help her to protect her inheritance. When this legal aid organisation took the matter to court and Michelle obtained restraining orders against her in-laws, she was able to go back to tilling her fields. But her in-laws continue to threaten her, so she still worries about the future: *"I am fearful and my heart is unsettled."* (Source: Human Rights Watch)

Question

What is your reaction to this true story?



Global Facts

- One in seven widows globally (38 million), lives in extreme poverty.
- A significant number of girls are widowed in childhood - a reflection of the prevalence of child marriage and the custom of marrying off young girls to much older men. (Source: *World Widows 2015 Report* published by the Loomba Foundation)
- Advocates cite the baffling omission of widows' welfare from the U.N. SDGs as evidence of a critical blind spot in aid efforts. (borgenproject.org - 2019)

LAUDATO SI

Pope Francis decries the situation dominating various relationships today arising from: *"the destructive power in wars, the various forms of violence and abuse, the abandonment of the most vulnerable, and attacks on nature."* LS 66



pixabay.com : [stevepb](#)

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Most of the SDGs reference Women.

SDG 5.a: *Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.*

CEDAW

[Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women](#)

Article 15 1.2: *States Parties shall accord to women, in civil matters, a legal capacity identical to that of men they shall give women equal rights to conclude contracts and to administer property*

Article 16 1.h: *The same rights for both spouses in respect of ownership, acquisition, management, administration, enjoyment and disposition of property ...*

(Suggestion: read the Convention during **16 Days**)

UN DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Article 12: *Everyone has the right to own property alone and in association with others.*

Article 17: *No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of (his) (her) property.*

ACTION

1. Visit the following website -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IvADol8C0ak>
'Women's Land Rights: giving women the opportunity to change the world.'

2. Equal pay for work of equal value - see

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/9/explainer-everything-you-need-to-know-about-equal-pay>

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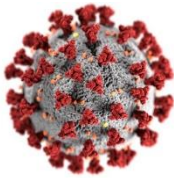
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(unwomen.org)

Violence against widows perpetuates a marginalized status for all women. Alternatively, upholding the rights of widows does much to advance the broader concept of women's human rights.

(*UN Declaration on Violence Against Women*)

Watch: WOMEN'S PROPERTY RIGHTS

(ICRW)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXjArbMIWcU>

SEE <https://borgenproject.org/fighting-the-global-burden-of-widows-in-poverty/>



***of Activism
Against
Gender
Violence...***

DAY 11...

5th

December

WIDOWS AND PROPERTY



2020 UNiTE Campaign Theme:

***"Orange the World: Fund,
Respond, Prevent, Collect!"***

DAY TWELVE: December 6th

Women's Vulnerability to Climate Change

The resilience and adaptive capacity of many women to the impacts of climate change are impaired by patriarchal laws, customs and institutions which exclude them from participation in decision-making. They have limited awareness of their rights, limited access to or control over resources and bear unequal burdens in domestic and care responsibilities. They face impoverishment and increased exposure to gender-based harassment and lack of access to necessary sexual and reproductive health care, especially in situations of natural disaster. (UNFCCC – June 2019)

Aregash's Story

"A woman's life is hard, and climate change is making it harder," says Aregash, a 32-year-old Ethiopian woman who lives with her six children on a small farm. "Because of changing rainfall patterns, crop yields are poor and we don't have enough food. We used to get 500 to 600 kilos per harvest, but now we can barely get 100. It was never like this before. If the land fails to produce there isn't enough to feed my family ..." (adapted from 'Weathering Change' Population International: Healthy Families, Healthy Planet)

Questions

What are your thoughts as you read this story?

In what ways might your lifestyle be contributing to climate change?



<https://www.google.ie/search?q=pixabay.com+free+images++flooding>

Global Facts

- By 2050, the number of people fleeing the impacts of climate change could reach 150 million. 80% of climate refugees will be women and children. (greenpeace.org - 2017)
- Climate change is leading to social shifts, men migrating away from communities to find alternative employment so that there is increasing feminization of communities on the ground. (unenvironment.org – 2019)
- In [South Sudan](#) – droughts and flooding force girls and women to walk farther to gather firewood and obtain water, a time-consuming and [potentially dangerous](#) change. (project-syndicate.org - 2019)

"We will not solve the climate crisis or embark on a new pathway to sustainable development, if we don't fully engage the 50% of the world's population which are women."

Mary Robinson, 2015 CIDSE Conference, Rome

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The UN acknowledges the link between achieving **Gender Equality** and implementing the SDGs, especially **#13** : "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts."

Target: 13. b Promote mechanisms for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries.... including focusing on women, youth....and marginalised communities.

Laudato Si: "Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat this warming or at least the human causes which produce or aggravate it." LS 23

Pope Francis warned us again: "We have caused a climate emergency that gravely threatens nature and life itself, including our own." (World Day of Prayer for Creation, 2020)



Google free images

ACTION:

Read about the link between climate change and conflict <https://eifoundation.org/secure-international-protection-for-climate-refugees-1>

Campaign for EU leaders to stand up for the rights of climate refugees
<https://eifoundation.org/news-media/2017/eu-leaders-must-recognise-the-rights-of-climate-refugees>

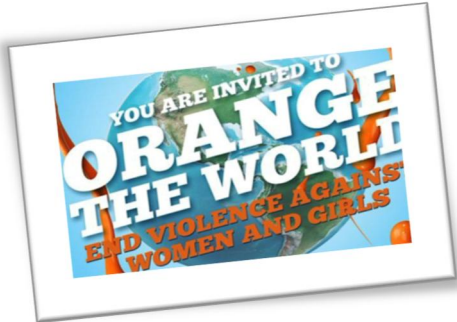
See how to act on climate change:
<https://www.earthday.org/campaign/act-on-climate-change/>

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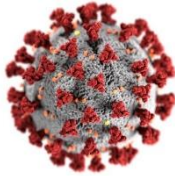
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(unwomen.org)

Watch:

Identifying Vulnerable Population of Women to Climate Change - Thailand

(2016)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nv6GgEtqzck>

SEE

<https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/how-climate-change-affects-women/>



*of Activism
Against
Gender
Violence...*

DAY 12 ...

6th

December

**Women's Vulnerability
to Climate Change**



2020 UNiTE Campaign Theme:

*"Orange the World: Fund,
Respond, Prevent, Collect!"*

Day THIRTEEN: December 7th

Femicide

Femicide, a global problem, is a sex-based, hate crime term, broadly defined as "the intentional killing of women or girls because they are females."

Ghylaine's Story

French woman Ghylaine, 34, had mustered the courage to leave an abusive partner. As she was packing to leave, her partner knocked her to the ground, doused her with gasoline and set her alight in front of their 7-year-old daughter. She suffered burns to 90% of her body and died of her injuries two days later. (*Washington Post*, March 2020)

What is your reaction to this true story?



freeonline.wordpress.com (womensaid.org.uk)

Global Facts

- ❖ In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, research shows that vulnerability and precarity of women and girls exacerbate during times of crises. (www.femicide-watch.org May, 2020)
- ❖ Nigeria saw an increase of sexual violence during the pandemic curfews. Two cases in June 2020, in which young women were raped and killed, shocked the country. (www.justice.gov.za)
- ❖ *BBC Monitoring* followed press coverage of women killed by another person on 1 October 2018 around the world. Their regional specialists counted 47 women reported killed that day apparently for gender-related reasons, in 21 different countries. (femicide-watch)

In 'Laudato Si' Pope Francis states:

'It is clearly inconsistent to combat trafficking in endangered species, while remaining completely indifferent to human trafficking, unconcerned about the poor, or undertaking to destroy another human being... (91)

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Goal 16 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

3 - Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security.

5 - No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment

7 - All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to protection of the law.



KolaSulamon/AFP/GettyImages)-Nigeria

CEDAW (Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women)

Articles 1-16: what governments must do to end discrimination against girls and women. It lists specific areas where discrimination against girls and women must end i.e. in law, marriage, education, health care, and employment.

"States shall recognise, encourage and support the work of relevant NGOs and of civil society active in combating violence against women and establish effective co-operation."

(Article 9: Council of Europe's Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women)

ACTION

Raise awareness of *Femicide* and lobby for justice wherever this occurs.

Work for gender equality in every country.

Visit <http://femicide-watch.org/readers/must-knows-femicide>

Read 'A Gendered Analysis of Violent Deaths' - http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/fileadmin/docs/H-Research_Notes/SAS-Research-Note-63.pdf

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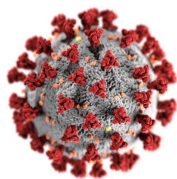
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(unwomen.org)

**Watch: WOMEN AND GIRLS
TARGETED FOR 'FEMICIDE' IN
CENTRAL AMERICA**

(Sky News - March 7, 2020)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CkN6UmvBG10>

**"As Cities Around the World Go on
Lockdown, Victims of Domestic Violence
Look for a Way Out"**

(Melissa Godin, TIME, March 18, 2020)

<https://time.com/5803887/coronavirus-domestic-violence-victims/>



***of Activism
Against
Gender
Violence...***

DAY 13...

7th

December

FEMICIDE



2020 UNiTE Campaign Theme:

***"Orange the World: Fund,
Respond, Prevent, Collect!"***

DAY FOURTEEN: DECEMBER 8th

Objectification of Women

Women frequently face sexual objectification in daily interpersonal interactions and through consumption of multimedia. This can lead to internalization of society's scrutiny, resulting in habitual body monitoring and self-consciousness. In turn it can increase feelings of body shame and appearance anxiety. (Emma Rooney 2016 - steinhardt.nyu.edu)

Faridah's story (adapted)

In October 2016, I attended a job fair, looking for a full-time job. I was in line to talk to a firm when a male student whom I had never met, began talking to me. I told him that I was a little anxious. He said it shouldn't be an issue for me to talk to them due to my assets. "Assets" is a slang word used to refer to a woman's body. I didn't want to believe what I heard, so I asked him what he meant. He said that as a woman, things are easier for me because of my "assets" - as all recruiters (men) would love to talk to me. I knew people thought like that but I had never been told all of this to my face, so seriously. It was disgusting and uncalled for. (girlswhotrive.com)

Question

What is my reaction to this true story?

.....



(Google free to use images)

Global Facts

- A photo on College Nationwide Instagram showed young women on the beach with their backs to camera. They have on thong bikinis. The caption underneath reads, "Line 'em up & rate 'em," encouraging male followers to rate the women's bodies, specifically their buttocks. This photo gained over 1300 likes and up to 70 comments where male commenters ranked the women on a scale from 1 to 10.

(July 2018, Stephanie E. Davis – journalsagepub.com)

- An Australian study on a sample of 81 women found that over a week, each woman reported being targeted for objectification between 3 - 4 times on average and witnessing sexual objectification of other women 9 to 10 times on average. (Kellie, Blake & Brooks, Aug. 2019)

In 'Laudato Si' Pope Francis says:

'Each human being as a subject can never be reduced to the status of an object.' LS 81

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SDG Goal #5 - Achieve Gender Equality

Target 5.c 'Adopt and strengthen enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women / girls at all levels.'



(Google free to use images)

CEDAW

(Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women)

www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/

'States shall take all appropriate measures'-

To modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women....to achieve the elimination of prejudices...and all other practices based on the idea of the inferiority or superiority, of either of the sexes **Article 5 (a)**

To eliminate any stereotyped concept of the roles of men and women at every level and in all forms of education. **Art. 10 (c)**

Office of UN Human Rights Commissioner

There is an urgent need for clear and comprehensive guidance from the UN human rights mechanisms... on the scope and content of obligations to modify or transform harmful gender stereotypes and eliminate wrongful gender stereotyping. (OHCHR Commissioned Report 2013 - 'Gender Stereotyping as a Human Rights Violation')

ACTION

Affirm young people in who they are, with their unique gifts and talents.

Read about gender stereotyping -

<http://www.right-to-education.org/resource/gender-stereotyping-human-rights-violation>

Notice how women are portrayed in advertising.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PTImho_RovY&feature=player_embedded

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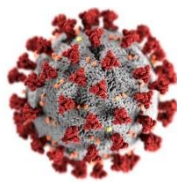
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(*unwomen.org*)

WATCH:

[#IStandUp](#)

Against the Harm Caused By Objectification of Women in Advertising

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1O4ycTml7fk>

SEE

- <https://www.girlswhotrive.com/blog/2017/8/31/sexual-objectification>
- (UNICEF USA -2020 -Jaimee Swift & Hannah Gould) <https://www.unicefusa.org/stories/not-object-sexualization-and-exploitation-women-and-girls/30366>



***of Activism
Against
Gender
Violence...***

DAY 14...

8th

December

Objectification of Women



2020 UNiTE Campaign Theme:

***"Orange the World: Fund,
Respond, Prevent, Collect!"***

DAY 15: December 9th

Does Patriarchy in the Church Play a Role in Abuse?

"**Patriarchy** is a system of society, in which men hold the power and women are largely excluded from it." (The Dominant Ideology of Patriarchy)

Survivors of Abuse share their experience...

"I hear similar themes repeated by victims, of church cultures that treated women's bodies as inherently problematic and seductive....that questioned women's ability to think rationally or make decisions without the leadership of men. ... blamed victims of sexual abuse for inviting the abuse... That effectively silenced victims by telling them that reporting the crime would reflect poorly on the church...These women describe an environment of fear...which made it hard to report, or even to acknowledge, the abuse..."

(Adapted from – Rachel Held Evans' Blog -

<https://rachelheldevans.com/blog/patriarchy-abuse>)

"*God weeps for the sexual abuse of children,*" Pope Francis said, after meeting with hundreds of bishops and seminarians, as well as privately with victims of clergy sexual abuse. (USA. 2015)



<http://mary-magdalene-church-s-molton.weebly.com>

Global Realities

1. Feminism promotes women participating in decision-making which affects their lives...to enjoy full and equal civil rights, in and out of the Church.

(Adapted from Joan Chittister, *osb*, Oct. 2013)

2. "The Church, in fidelity to the Gospel, must be open to the full and equal participation of women in all its ministries"

<http://www.womensordination.org/>

3. *Manifesto of Women for the Church* which calls for women's roles that "are coherent with our competences and capacities", is circulating on social media. (February 2018)

<https://www.facebook.com/notes/donne-per-la-chiesa/manifesto-delle-donne-per-la-chiesa/2034720426814026/>

Pope Francis

"In communities still weighed down with patriarchal and chauvinistic customs, it is good to note that the Gospel begins by highlighting women who were influential and made history". Pope Francis Sep. 9th 2017, Colombia.



<https://pixabay.com/en/photos/church/?&page=7>

"History is burdened by the excesses of patriarchal cultures that considered women inferior.... We must "see in the women's movement the working of the Spirit for a clearer recognition of the dignity and rights of women." (Pope Francis, 'Amoris Laetitia' 54)

CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women)

Article 1: Discrimination against women includes any exclusion or restriction on the basis of sex...in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field.

Article 5: States shall take appropriate measures to eliminate stereotyping, prejudices and discrimination.

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

SDG #10: Target 10.2: Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex... religion, economic or other status

ACTION to promote respect and equality



Read more on the subject
Engage with your church community; be available for election to the Parish Council
Support women and girls taking an active role in all church services.

Watch: What is Patriarchy?

(Emily Owens, Brown University, 2020)

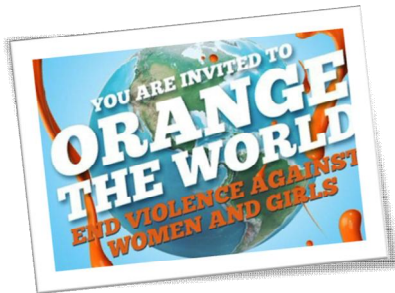
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0LXAC2PXuU>

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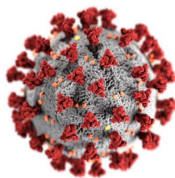
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(unwomen.org)

On a visit to Peru in 2018, Pope Francis condemned violence against women:

"Violence against women cannot be treated as 'normal' maintaining a culture of machismo blind to the leading role that women play in our communities. It is not right for us to look the other way and let the dignity of so many women, especially young women, be trampled upon."

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/pope-francis-femicide-latin-america-domestic-violence-ni-una-menos-tour-peru-chile-a8170501.html>



***of Activism
Against
Gender
Violence...***

DAY 15...

9th

December

**PATRIARCHY IN
THE CHURCH**



2020 UNiTE Campaign Theme:

***"Orange the World: Fund,
Respond, Prevent, Collect!"***

Day 16, December 10th

UN International Human Rights Day

Human rights (HR) are inherent to each person regardless of sex, colour, class or creed. They are stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as interrelated, interdependent and indivisible. (*Ratified December 10, 1948*)

A Gift, or an Abuse of Human Rights?

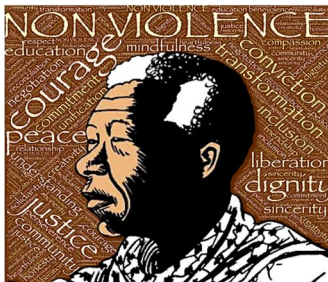
Whilst studying in a rural area of Zimbabwe, I was called to meet a tall, beautiful woman with a child on her back. She had a 20 litre tin of water on her head. As I approached, she elegantly took the tin from her head and placed it at my feet, indicating it was for me to wash whilst staying with my host family. Later I learnt that Sakhile had walked 4 kms to the pump, to bring me this precious gift of water!

Reflecting on this I began to get angry. Why should women and girls have to spend so many hours fetching water, because the government chooses to spend money on other things? The UN has confirmed that water is a basic human right for every person, yet access to it, is denied to millions in many countries...

Question:

What human rights abuse am I aware of?

.....



<https://pixabay.com/en/non-violence-peace-transformation>

Global Facts about Human Rights

- ✚ Every country must promote and protect all HR regardless of political, economic and cultural systems. (Vienna World Conference on HR, 1993)
- ✚ Conflicts and situations of instability exacerbate pre-existing patterns of discrimination against women and girls. (ohchr.org)
- ✚ Respect for the three great bodies of international law, humanitarian law and refugee law were eroded in 2016. This was evident in many conflict areas, where millions of people were forced to leave their homes, to seek basic conditions for life elsewhere. (UN High Commissioner of HR, 2016)

Pope Francis: "Human rights are not only violated by terrorism, repression or assassination, but also by unfair economic structures that create huge inequalities." (2015)



<https://pixabay.com>

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) with 30 articles, was signed by every country and is a binding document.

Article I: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

Article 3: Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 14 Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries, asylum from persecution.

The International Bill of Rights is the UDHR with the two International Covenants:
a) Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and
b) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) that develop the articles cited in the UDHR. They are therefore binding covenants. Countries must report to the UN their progress on HR and other Covenants.



2018 marked 70 years of the UDHR with the theme:

'Let's Make Human Rights a Fact and Not a Dream'

For many of the 68.5 million refugees and internally displaced worldwide, access to basic Human Rights remains a dream!
<https://adra.org> > [beyond-the-crisis-global-refugee-facts](https://adra.org/beyond-the-crisis-global-refugee-facts)

Actions:

- **Watch:** '16 Days of Activism . . . "
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I0P8DV84rWQ>
- **Read the UDHR at:**
www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human/
- What HR abuse are you most concerned about? How could you to address it?

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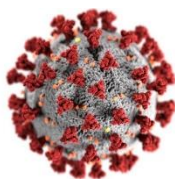
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READ

UN Women Response to COVID-19 crisis

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/in-focus-gender-equality-in-covid-19-response/un-women-response-to-covid-19-crisis>

WATCH

Gender-based Violence and International Protection of Human Rights

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQ39ha_EJrw



*of Activism
Against
Gender
Violence...*

DAY 16...

10th

December

**UN INTERNATIONAL
HUMAN RIGHTS DAY**



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