

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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



16  
A  
A  
G  
V



[www.google.ie/search?q=images+of+orange+the+world+for+free](http://www.google.ie/search?q=images+of+orange+the+world+for+free)

**49** Countries have no laws to protect women from domestic violence.

## CHILD MARRIAGE...



[www.google.ie/search?q=Photos+of+child+brides+pixabay](http://www.google.ie/search?q=Photos+of+child+brides+pixabay)

15 million girls under the age of 15 are married each year.

See: [www.mercyworld.org](http://www.mercyworld.org)

*DAY 8...*

*2<sup>nd</sup> December*

*Girls Deprived of Education*



## 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. She realised that 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 was very freeing. Anya no longer felt ashamed because now she could read and write and could join in with her companions at work. *(As told to the writer)*

### Question:

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



pexels.com

### Global Facts on Education:

- Of the estimated 264 million children out of school, 65 million are girls. *(UNESCO 2017 Global Education Monitoring Report)*
- There are multiple barriers to educating girls, including: unfavourable school environments, discriminatory social and cultural factors, early marriage and school-related violence. *(GPE analysis of 42 education sector plans June 2015)*
- Women still represent two thirds of the world's illiterate adults. *(UNESCO EFA Global Monitoring Report 2000-2015)*
- Children born to a mother who can read, are 50% more likely to survive past the age of 5 than children born to an illiterate woman. *(UNESCO: 'Education Counts' Factsheet)*

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



*Why should we be silent? Why don't we speak up for our rights? Why don't we tell the world what is happening?* Malala Yousafzai

The act of pursuing an education can sometimes be life threatening for girls in situations of political turmoil, as 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.'*

2019 sees the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the CRC by most countries, but it is still not fully implemented by many of them.

Suggest you read the CRC during the 16 Days: [www.childrensrights.ie/sites/default/files/UNCRCEnglish](http://www.childrensrights.ie/sites/default/files/UNCRCEnglish).

### UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Many of the goals 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 free to express themselves, according to their gifts.
3. 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>

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