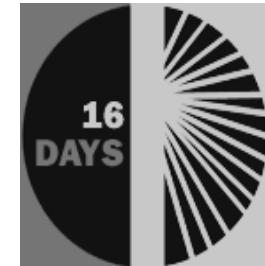


# 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE

November 25 - December 10, 2007



## Secretary General's In-depth Study on Violence Against Women Recommendations to National Governments<sup>1</sup>

The Secretary General's in-depth study on VAW has key recommendations to Nation States that can be useful in developing advocacy demands for this year's 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence. Relevant recommendations have been outlined below to synchronize with the theme for this year's campaign.

### ❖ Secure gender equality and protect human rights [Paragraph 378<sup>2</sup>]

Demand Adequate Funding	Call for Greater State Accountability	Increase Awareness & Engage Men	Evaluate impact and effectiveness	Protect WHRDs <sup>3</sup>
	<p>Ratify all human rights treaties without reservation, in particular CEDAW and its optional protocol.</p> <p>Ensure women have access to justice and equal protection of the law and that perpetrators of violence against women do not enjoy impunity.</p> <p>Recognize and protect women's rights to control their bodies and their sexuality.</p> <p>Secure women's rights to inheritance, property, housing, social security, among the range of economic &amp; social rights.</p>	<p>Ensure women know their rights and are empowered to exercise them.</p> <p>Educate men and women, girls and boys about women's human rights and their responsibility to respect the rights of others.</p> <p>Respond to different women's experiences of violence, as such experiences are shaped by the intersection of gender with other factors, such as race, ethnicity, class, age, HIV status, sexual orientation, disability, nationality, legal status, religion and culture.</p>	<p>Utilize gender impact assessments to ensure that social and economic policies, including development planning, do not perpetuate or exacerbate violence against women, and instead, actively support the prevention and elimination of violence against women.</p>	

<sup>1</sup> For further information, please see: UN Division for the Advancement of Women. (2006). *Ending Violence Against Women: from words to action. Study by the Secretary General*. Available at: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/yaw/SGstudyyaw.htm>. The Recommendations are at the end of the document.

<sup>2</sup> Paragraph numbers correlate to final text of the SG's report and are noted to assist you in locating them within the main text of the report.

<sup>3</sup> WHRDs = Women's Human Rights Defenders

❖ **Exercise leadership to end violence against women**  
[Paragraph 380]

<b>Demand Adequate Funding</b>	<b>Call for Greater State Accountability</b>	<b>Increase Awareness &amp; Engage Men</b>	<b>Evaluate impact &amp; effectiveness</b>	<b>Protect WHRDs</b>
	<p>States speak out forcefully on the need to end violence against women and ensure public accountability for all instances of violence, hold up to public scrutiny and eliminate those institutional and cultural attitudes that foster, justify or tolerate it.</p> <p>States do not commit acts of violence against women, ensure that no State agents commit such acts, including by taking punitive or disciplinary action against any State agent who does so, prevent violence against women by non-State actors, prosecute and punish all perpetrators and provide remedies and redress to victims.</p>	<p>Local community leaders and opinion makers (including in schools, religious and traditional institutions, community organizations, trade unions, businesses and media) play a key role in generating political will and sustained action to end community tolerance of, and complicity in, male violence against women.</p> <p>Men and boys be encouraged to speak out strongly against violence against women and to stop protecting perpetrators or condoning their violence.</p>		<p>Women providing leadership on ending violence against women at all levels, and especially in grassroots women's organizations, be recognized and allowed to carry out their work unhindered, as well as be actively supported in their efforts.</p>

❖ **Strengthen the knowledge base on all forms of violence against women to inform policy and strategy development**  
[Paragraph 384]

<b>Demand Adequate Funding</b>	<b>Call for Greater State Accountability</b>	<b>Increase Awareness &amp; Engage Men</b>	<b>Evaluate impact &amp; effectiveness</b>	<b>Protect WHRDs</b>
<p>Ensure national statistical offices and other bodies involved in the collection of data on violence against women receive the necessary training for undertaking this work.</p>	<p>Take responsibility for systematic collection and analysis of data. They should carry out this work themselves or in partnership with other actors.</p> <p>The data should be disaggregated not only by sex, but also by other factors such as race, age and disability, as appropriate.</p>	<p>Ensure that the information from data collection and analysis is made widely available to public and acted upon as appropriate.</p>		

❖ **Build and sustain strong multi-sectoral strategies, coordinated nationally and locally**  
[Paragraph 387]

<b>Demand Adequate Funding</b>	<b>Call for Greater State Accountability</b>	<b>Increase Awareness &amp; Engage Men</b>	<b>Evaluate impact &amp; effectiveness</b>	<b>Protect WHRDs</b>
Integrate efforts to prevent and reduce male violence against women into a wide range of programme areas such as HIV/AIDS, reproductive health, urban planning, immigration, poverty reduction, development, conflict, post conflict and refugee situations and humanitarian relief.	<p>Create strong institutional mechanisms at local, regional and national levels to ensure action, coordination, monitoring and accountability.</p> <p>Exercise their responsibility for coordination across all national and local government sectors as a key component in building sustainable strategies to end violence against women.</p>	Integrate a comprehensive understanding of all causes and consequences of violence against women into appropriate education and training curricula at all levels including, among others, in the professional education of health workers, teacher, law enforcement personnel and social workers.		

❖ **Allocate adequate resources and funding**  
[Paragraphs 389-390]

<b>Demand and Secure Funding</b>	<b>Call for Greater State Accountability</b>	<b>Increase Awareness &amp; Engage Men</b>	<b>Evaluate impact &amp; effectiveness</b>	<b>Protect WHRDs</b>
<p>Increase funding to provide adequate services and access to justice and redress to victims/survivors.</p> <p>Secure additional resources from specialized funds and donors for programmes to address violence against women, particularly the least developed countries and countries in or emerging from conflict.</p> <p>Allocate significant resources to eliminate discrimination against women, promote gender equality and prevent and redress all forms and manifestations of violence against women.</p>	Fund work on violence against women from national budgets.		<p>Asses budgets at national and local levels from a gender perspective and correct imbalances in order to ensure a more equitable allocation of resources to eliminating discrimination and violence against women.</p> <p>Provide resources to evaluate and monitor innovative programming by Governments and NGOs and support scaling up of the most promising practices and successful pilot projects.</p>	

❖ **Close the gaps between international standards and national laws, polices and practices**  
 [Paragraph 382]

<b>Demand Adequate Funding</b>	<b>Call for Greater State Accountability</b>	<b>Increase Awareness &amp; Engage Men</b>	<b>Evaluate impact &amp; effectiveness</b>	<b>Protect WHRDs</b>
<p>Guarantee appropriate support for women victims/survivors through adequate and accessible services that foster women’s safety and agency.</p>	<p>Bring national laws, policies and practices into compliance with international commitments.</p> <p>Remove all laws that discriminate against women; review and revise all state policies and practices to ensure that they do not discriminate against women; and ensure that provisions of multiple legal systems, where they exist, comply with international human rights standards, include the principle of non-discrimination.</p> <p>Act with Due Diligence to prevent violence against women; to investigate such violence; to prosecute and punish perpetrators, whether they are State or non-State actors; and to provide access to redress for victims.</p> <p>Take positive measures to address structural causes of violence against women and strengthen prevention efforts that address discriminatory practices and social norms.</p> <p>Follow up on and implement all recommendations that emanate from periodic reviews of their reports and communications and inquiry procedures, as applicable, by human rights treaty bodies, in particular those of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).</p>	<p>Promote victim and survivors knowledge of their rights and remedies available to them and their capacity to claim them through effective access to justice.</p> <p>Promote competence of all personnel in the legal and criminal justice, health and education systems to meet the needs and secure the rights of victims/survivors through professional education, training and other capacity building programmes.</p>	<p>Institute plans of action that are regularly monitored and updated by governments in consultation with civil society, in particular NGOs and women’s groups and networks.</p>	