

Human Rights for Women ↔ Human Rights for All: UDHR60

2. End Violence Against Women

Demand: Ensure women's rights to live free from violence and end impunity for all perpetrators.

Violence against women continues to be a pervasive human rights violation that affects all women all around the world. The experience of violence by women is shaped by the intersection of gender with factors such as race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, culture, religion, age, class, sexual identity, disabilities or citizenship. The prevalence of violence against women constitutes a global public health crisis and is an obstacle to equality, development, security and peace.

- Ensure that states take action to protect women from and punish acts of violence by state and non state actors through implementation of the [Secretary-General's in-depth study on all forms of violence against women](#), which recommends governments have an obligation to:
 - Secure gender equality and protect women's human rights.
 - Exercise leadership to end violence against women.
 - Close the gaps between international standards and national laws, policies and practices, including access to justice and redress for all women who suffer from acts of violence.
 - Strengthen the knowledge base on all forms of VAW to inform policy and strategy development.
 - Build and sustain strong multi-sectoral strategies, coordinated nationally and locally.
 - Allocate adequate resources and funding to this issue.
- Urge intergovernmental/international agencies such as the United Nations, World Bank, World Trade Organization and International Monetary Fund to use the prevalence of VAW as an indicator for measuring a state's progress in fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals, when reporting back on obligations met under UN Conventions and as an indicator in the determination of a country's Human Development Index ranking.
- Call on regional mechanisms to be robust in monitoring and/or adjudicating cases where the state has failed to uphold women's human rights.
- Appeal to individuals and communities to be responsible agents of change by speaking up and intervening to prevent and report acts of violence against women.
- Promote greater understanding by all actors, of the intersection of violence against women with issues of armed conflict, poverty, [HIV/AIDS](#), global warming and identity based discrimination including being targeted based on race, sexual orientation, class or religion.
- Increase significantly government, international agency and donor resource allocations to eliminate discrimination against women, promote gender equality and prevent all forms and manifestations of violence against women ([Where is the money for women's rights](#)).

Resources

- [16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence](#)
- [Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women](#)
- Radhika Coomarswamy, [Economic and Social policy impact on VAW \(E/CN.4/2000/68/Add.5\)](#)
- [Secretary-General's in-depth study on all forms of violence against women](#)
- [Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences](#)
- [Strengthening Resistance Confronting Violence Against Women and HIV/AIDS](#)
- UNIFEM report, [Not a Minute More: Ending Violence Against Women](#)
- WHO report, [The economic dimensions of interpersonal violence](#)