



WorldYWCA



WORLD YWCA TOOLKIT

DAYS FOR ACTIVISM

INVESTING IN THE PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

World YWCA is committed to tackling the pervasive issue of gender-based violence and promoting proactive investment in prevention. Our comprehensive toolkit, inspired by this year's 16 Days for Activism theme "**UNITE! Invest to Prevent Violence against Women & Girls**," is designed to serve as an invaluable resource. The toolkit aims to shed light on the challenges and barriers women and girls face in securing funding, emphasize the importance of investing in prevention, address funding challenges and conclude with a call to action that urges stakeholders to invest resources and efforts in preventing violence against women and girls. Despite being crucial leaders in prevention, women's rights organizations receive **only 1% of gender-focused state aid**. This alarming underfunding puts 89% of these organizations focused on peace and security at a moderate to very high risk of shutting down due to insufficient long-term funding.

UNDERSTANDING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE:

Gender-based violence (GBV) refers to physical, emotional, psychological, economic and/or political violence levied against people based on their gender. It encompasses various forms, such as domestic violence, sexual harassment, and human trafficking. The prevalence and impact of gender-based violence cannot be ignored, emphasizing the importance of recognizing the diverse experiences through an intersectional lens, especially against women and girls.

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is an act of gender discrimination against women and girls because they are female. This creates harm and suffering that may be physical or emotional, for example, in reaction to threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty. Violence can happen at home, work, school or in public places. Globally, an estimated **736 million women — almost one in three —** have been subjected to physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, or both at least once in their lives.

Violence targeting women has surged in various contexts, including online environments. According to a global **study** conducted by the Economist Intelligence Unit, 38% of women have encountered personal instances of online violence, with 85% of women who engage in online activities witnessing digital violence against their female counterparts. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic, ongoing conflicts, and the impacts of climate change have **heightened the prevalence of VAWG** and amplified pre-existing difficulties and given rise to novel threats. Economic instability disrupted livelihoods, and inadequate social protection measures persistently elevate the susceptibility of women and girls to various forms of violence. For more information on digital and physical GBV, check our **2023 Week Without Violence toolkit**.



CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS TO FUNDING:

At the current rate of progress, it may take close to **300 years** to achieve full gender equality. Addressing the funding challenges for gender-based violence initiatives is critical due to awareness gaps, funding shortages, and policy barriers. Urgent action is needed for feminist funding to end gender-based violence by 2030, with a funding gap of \$360 billion annually, as per the **Gender Snapshot 2023**, to reach SDG 5 by 2030. Despite the urgency, **Development Assistance Committee members allocate only 0.3% of their total Official Development Assistance (ODA)**, \$458 million annually, falling drastically short of the commitment. Prioritizing funding for feminist and women's rights organizations, especially young feminist groups in Global Majority countries, is essential. Flexible, sustainable funding without bureaucracy is crucial.



Particularly, young feminist organizations preventing gender-based violence in Global Majority countries face **significant funding gaps**, impacting their stability and function. Structural barriers, including complex application processes and biases, hinder their sustainability. In 2018, **81% of Black feminist organizations** reported that they did not have the resources to meet their goals. Less than half of 1% of almost \$70 billion in foundation giving globally went to Black women, girls and trans people. For Black feminist organizers, a lack of funding is one of the steepest barriers to their work.

Overcoming these challenges requires consistent support through flexible funding for grassroots organizations, acknowledging their unique needs and circumstances through an intersectional lens.

IMPORTANCE OF INVESTING IN PREVENTION:

Globally, the cost of VAWG is estimated at a staggering **US\$1.5 trillion**, with the European Union alone facing an annual cost of **€366 billion**, of which 79% is attributed to violence against women. Yet, **global ODA for gender-based violence prevention is below 0.03%**, marked by poor-quality, short-term, and sporadic funding. Governments lack transformative policies aligning budgets with prevention strategies.

Women, facing disproportionately high violence risks, become more vulnerable to economic hardships. Economic empowerment serves as a shield against gender-based violence, providing avenues like land ownership and decent employment for escaping exploitative situations. Amidst the challenges posed by the pandemic, investing in preventing violence against women and girls is paramount.

VAWG is preventable. A holistic approach, integrating violence prevention into broader policies and programs like social protection systems, is needed. Increased investments in ending violence against women showcase the potential for addressing economic hardship, promoting women's rights organizations, transforming social norms, and enhancing essential services to prevent and reduce VAWG.

ADDRESSING FUNDING CHALLENGES:

Creating an inclusive funding environment requires recognizing the unique contributions of young feminist and women's rights organizations in preventing gender-based violence. Funding institutions should tailor opportunities to support these organizations, providing resources, capacity building, and amplifying their impact.

To gather evidence, research studies, reports, and evaluations by women's rights organizations are essential. These resources offer data on outcomes, success stories, and transformative changes achieved by women-led organizations. Collective action and collaboration among feminist organizations are powerful tools for challenging power structures, advocating for inclusive funding practices, and demanding accountability from philanthropic institutions.

Addressing funding challenges requires prioritizing capacity-building initiatives and mentorship programs for feminist and youth-led organizations. Beyond financial support, these programs should offer comprehensive non-financial assistance, including training, technical support, and networking opportunities. By centering the knowledge and experiences of those within Global Majority countries, we can empower women's rights organizations to navigate the funding landscape effectively. Genuine capacity-building and mentorship programs uplift and support the work of these organizations, going beyond token gestures.



CALL TO ACTION:

We urge immediate investment to prevent violence against women and girls:



POLICY PRIORITIZATION:

Governments should prioritize and implement robust policies that specifically empower women and girls to take on leadership roles in the prevention of violence. Allocating resources for initiatives led by women will contribute to more effective and sustainable solutions.



STRATEGIC FUNDING:

Philanthropy institutions are urged to strategically allocate flexible and sustainable funds, with a focus on initiatives that empower women and girls to lead efforts in preventing violence. Supporting awareness campaigns, community-based programs, and leadership development for women is essential.



EDUCATIONAL ADVOCACY:

All stakeholders should actively support educational initiatives that not only raise awareness about the root causes of gender-based violence but also promote gender equality by highlighting the crucial role of women and girls in leadership positions. Education should empower them with the skills and knowledge needed to drive change.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT:

Collective efforts should aim to empower grassroots communities through the active participation and leadership of women. Engagement, dialogue, and grassroots initiatives led by women are key components in preventing gender-based violence and fostering community resilience.



LEGAL REFORMS AND COLLABORATION:

Governments and women's rights organizations should collaboratively pursue legal reforms that specifically address systemic issues. Advocating for policies that promote and protect the rights of women and girls, and actively involving them in the decision-making processes will contribute to more inclusive and effective solutions.

Preventing gender-based violence against women and girls is an urgent imperative that transcends a social issue—it is a fundamental violation of their human rights, demanding immediate and comprehensive action.

Investing in the prevention of violence against women and girls holds transformative potential by striking at the roots of this pervasive issue. Strategic allocation of resources empowers the development of targeted educational programs, awareness campaigns, and community initiatives. Prioritizing prevention not only safeguards women and girls from immediate harm but also paves the way for a future where societies are built on principles of gender equality, respect, and justice—where women and girls in all their diversity can live free from the pervasive threat of gender-based violence.

TAKE ACTION:

Let's unite our voices for change! Join the movement for women's rights by engaging on social media and urging your fellow citizens to call on government policymakers to allocate crucial funding to support women's rights organizations and movements.

CHALLENGE:

Stand with us in the battle against/targeting violence against women! Share a picture holding a sign with data on GBV in your country. Let's use visuals and facts to raise awareness and inspire change.

Your contribution matters—help us break the silence and work towards a safer world for all!



DAYS FOR ACTIVISM

CALENDAR

25 November | International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

29 November | International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

01 December | World AIDS Day

03 December | International Day of Persons with Disabilities

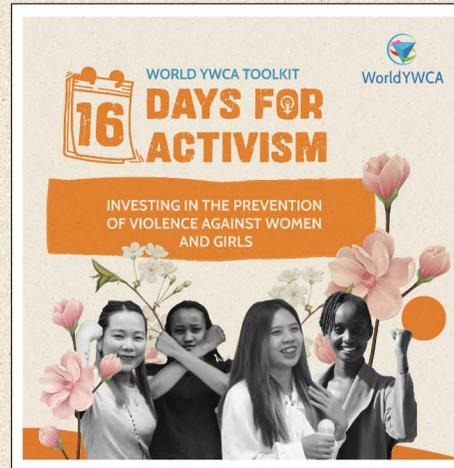
05 December | International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development

06 December | International Day To End Femicide

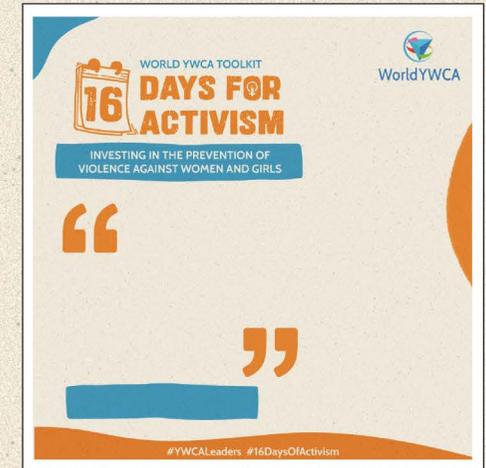
10 December | Human Rights Day



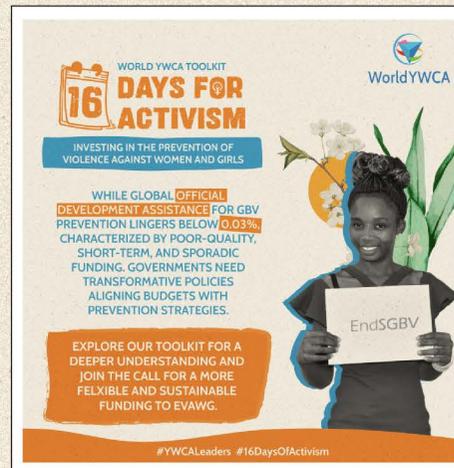
HERE ARE SOME SOCIAL MEDIA TEMPLATES TO SHOW SOLIDARITY THIS YEAR



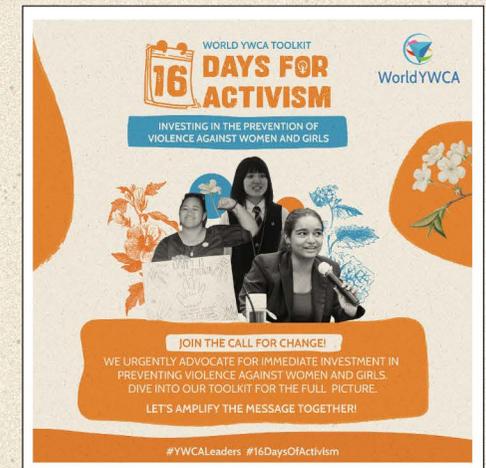
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Contact the World YWCA for more information at worldoffice@worldywca.org

A product of World YWCA 2023

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