

UN Action to End Violence Against Women



International Action Resources

Important UN Actions

1. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (1979)
2. Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993)
3. Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences (1994)
4. UNiTE initiative (2008)

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979)



- Often described as the **International Bill of Rights for Women**
- Aims to reach equality between men and women
- It is the only human rights treaty which affirms the reproductive rights of women
 - Also targets culture and tradition as influential forces shaping gender roles and family relations
- Countries that signed the Convention are legally bound to put it into practice

Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women

- The Special Rapporteur is a position for a woman in the UN Human Rights Council focusing on violence against women.
- Their duties include:
 - Looking for information on women who have experienced violence.
 - Working with organizations that combat violence against women.
 - Recommending solutions at the local, regional, and international levels to eliminate all forms of violence against women.

The current Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women is Dubravka Šimonović



Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (1993)

- The resolution is said to strengthen the work of CEDAW and embodies the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

“Recognizing the urgent need for the universal application to women of the rights and principles with regard to equality, security, liberty, integrity and dignity of all human beings”

- One result of the resolution is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (25 November)

The UN in Action: UNiTE

Launched in 2008, the UN Secretary-General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign aims to raise public awareness and increase political will and resources for preventing and ending all forms of violence against women and girls in all parts of the world.



The Vision of UNiTE

- A world free from violence against all women and girls
- This can only happen through:
 - Meaningful actions and ongoing commitments of national governments, funded and supported by reliable resources
 - The help of governments, civil society, young people, celebrities, artists, the private sector, the media, the entire UN system and many more.



UNiTE Goals

- Adoption and enforcement of national laws to address and punish all forms of violence against women and girls
- Adopt and implement multi-sectoral national action plans that emphasize prevention & are adequately resourced
- Establishment of data collection and analysis of various forms of violence against women and girls
- Establish national and/or local campaigns to engage the society in preventing violence and supporting those abused
- Efforts to address sexual violence in conflict areas (rape as a tactic of war, in refugee camps, etc.)

**Research Websites for
Position Paper are
Found on the
Helpful Research Websites
Handout on Roberto's Blog**

QUESTIONS?

