

# STAND UP



# SPEAK OUT

YOUNG PEOPLE WORKING TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

# TAKE ACTION



**Global  
Youth  
Network**

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's UNITE to End Violence against Women campaign aims to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls in all parts of the world.

Through UNITE, the UN is joining forces with individuals, civil society and governments to put an end to violence against women in all its forms.

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"Our challenge is to ensure that the message of 'zero tolerance' is heard far and wide. To do that, we must engage all society - and especially young people."

- UN Secretary - General Ban Ki-moon

# What is the UNiTE Campaign?

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign aims to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls in all parts of the world.

Violence against women and girls is still one of the world's most widespread human rights violations. It affects women of all ages, races, cultures, and social backgrounds and it happens everywhere: at home and at work, on the streets and in schools, in times of peace and during and after conflict. It takes many forms, from domestic violence, trafficking and rape to harmful practices such as child and forced marriage, "honour" killings, genital mutilation and dowry-related violence.

UNiTE calls on governments, civil society, women's organizations, young people, the private sector, the media and the entire UN system to join forces in addressing the global pandemic of violence against women and girls.

By 2015, UNiTE aims to achieve the following five goals in all countries:

- Adopt and enforce national laws to address and punish all forms of violence against women and girls
- Adopt and implement multi-sectoral national action plans
- Strengthen data collection on the prevalence of violence against women and girls
- Increase public awareness and social mobilization
- Address sexual violence in conflict

The UNiTE Campaign represents an historic opportunity to galvanize action on one of the most widespread human rights violations in the world.



Aldijana Šišić  
UNiTE Campaign Manager



Anna-Karin Jafors  
Asia-Pacific UNiTE  
Campaign Manager

Around the world, young people are igniting positive change. By using technology to organize themselves - as well as some good old-fashioned grassroots activism - they are sharing their messages and reaching new audiences far and wide.

Recognizing the crucial role young people play in preventing and ending violence against women and girls in their communities, the UNiTE Campaign has made youth leadership a key priority. It was with this attitude that we organized the Global UNiTE Youth Forum in May 2012.

It is impossible to describe the energy, determination and individual courage we felt and experienced during the three days we spent with this group of incredibly committed young men and women. They simply refuse to live boxed in social constructs of any kind, and are redefining the traditional gender roles that perpetuate violence against women and girls.

These young men and women make it clear that they belong to a bigger group of millions of young people around the globe who work for social transformation, which begins with individuals who believe in creating positive change and who then take action.

By creating their own Global UNiTE Youth Network, they sent out a message to all of us to take the cue from them to build the future that they want. Their Statement is loud and clear, and so are their intentions: to claim and to build a better world.

We know that publications like the one you are holding in your hands right now can never do justice to the abundance of creativity and spirit that energized all of us during those days back in May. But this is more than a story about a meeting - it's an invitation to meet the generation that has what it takes to end violence against women and girls worldwide. Once you meet them in these pages, you will believe us when we say that the future is in good hands.

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## The role of youth in ending violence against women and girls...

From 22 to 24 May 2012, the **Global UNiTE Youth Forum** brought together **youth activists** from around the world to meet in Bangkok, and create a unique network to **end violence against women and girls**. Participants, one third of whom were men, shared experiences, ideas and their passion for human rights and ending the global pandemic of violence against women and girls.

The Global UNiTE Youth Forum focused on the principle that **young people are a driving force for change** and can use their knowledge, power and passion to challenge the negative attitudes, norms and behaviour that can lead to violence.

This means **breaking the silence** about violence against women and girls through promoting a culture of respect and **zero tolerance**. It also critically involves partnering with men and boys to build this culture, and help **eliminate gender stereotypes**.

The participants formed the **Global UNiTE Youth Network** and established plans to take their work forward after the Forum. Together, they produced a **Youth Statement**, which they presented to senior UN officials during the closing ceremony, emphasizing the crucial role of youth as **agents of change** and recognizing the importance of spaces that enable youth to share their experiences, ideas and challenges without fear of discrimination or stigma. In the Statement, **commitments** were made to expand, connect and share knowledge and approaches at global, regional and national levels on youth-specific issues.

# Youth Statement

## UNiTE to End Violence against Women: Statement of the Global UNiTE Youth Network

We, the participants of the first Global UNiTE Youth Forum, seek to create a safe, gender equitable, and violence free present and future for all women and girls, from all walks of life. In order to achieve this, we have established the Global UNiTE Youth Network as part of the Secretary General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign.

Our efforts and perspectives draw from a global standpoint and involve participants from every region of the globe. As such, we recognize our common challenges and understand the importance of learning from our different experiences, in order to advance our common goal of preventing and ending violence against women and girls.

This statement serves as the foundation for inspiring momentum and support for the actions of the Global UNiTE Youth Network. This statement and the principles embodied in the UN Secretary General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign will set the direction for us in our mission:

- To break the silence about violence against women and girls through promoting a culture of respect and zero tolerance towards violence, eliminating barriers that prevent individuals from speaking out and;
- To create and sustain safe and enabling environments for youth to share their experiences, ideas and challenges without the fear of discrimination or stigma.

Our common thematic priorities include:

1. Challenging perceptions, attitudes and behaviors that perpetuate violence against women and girls while supporting those that prevent violence. We need to continuously expand our knowledge and share our experiences as a means of creating successful approaches that target individual perceptions, attitudes and behaviors, including challenging the stigma about sexual and reproductive health.
2. Build awareness through focusing on adolescents, highlighting the unique root causes for both victimization and perpetration and drawing attention to specific forms of violence experienced and faced by adolescents;
3. Participation and partnership with men and boys as key allies in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls.

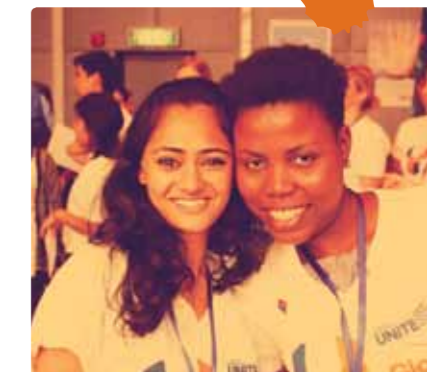
We need to both engage and eliminate the stereotypes that men and boys face in being an ally in standing against violence against women and girls;

4. Commitment to activism in our role, as well as that of leaders in our social, economic and political lives. We need to foster awareness, build skills and expand our outreach to encourage the participation and commitment of everyone in the efforts to prevent and end violence against women and girls.

We pledge to carry forward the UNiTE Campaign in our personal and professional lives, spreading the message that violence against women and girls is never acceptable, never excusable and never tolerable. We commit ourselves to progressive efforts and activism that place violence against women and girls as a public issue, not a private matter, which exists as a consequence of gender discrimination at all levels of society.

Recognizing the crucial role of youth as agents of change in the present and in the future; today, we launch the Global UNiTE Youth Network, and in doing so commit ourselves to:

- Build our Global UNiTE Youth Network through a bottom-up approach that is underscored by principles of non-discrimination and inclusivity across all ethnicities, genders, cultures, sexual orientation and abilities;
- Promote adaptable, concise and targeted messages about gender equality as a key starting point to ending violence against women and girls in all areas of our lives;
- Advocate for equal educational opportunities for young people, engage in peer-to-peer education, create a violence free culture, including promoting health and human rights education from a young age as a core educational tool to overcoming violence;
- Provide ongoing support to our colleagues within the Global UNiTE Network and beyond to ensure sustainability of our individual and collective efforts through sharing resources, experiences and opportunities world-wide;
- Expand, connect and share our available knowledge at global, regional and national levels on youth specific issues and approaches related to ending violence against women and girls.



"We commit ourselves to progressive efforts and activism that place violence against women and girls as a public issue, not a private matter, which exists as a consequence of gender discrimination at all levels of society."

# Orange Day

During the Global UNiTE Youth Forum participants discussed ways to raise awareness on the issue of violence against women and girls. Their first action as the Global UNiTE Youth Network was to make the 25th of every month a day to end violence against women. The 25th was chosen because it links to the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women commemorated each year on 25 November. The Network felt that this issue needs to be highlighted not only once a year but every month.

The first in a series of Orange Days was launched on 25 July 2012.

## Take action...

Visit the Orange Day event page on Facebook: Say NO-UNiTE

Wear orange on the 25th of each month and invite others to do the same, share posts & Tweet about it using the hashtag #orangeday

Use & share the photo of the UNiTE Ribbon - the new symbol for ending violence against women and girls

Change your Facebook cover photo to the cover photo of the Say NO - UNiTE Facebook page, promoting UNiTE Orange Day and the UNiTE ribbon.





## What inspired you to start working on violence against women and girls?

"In August 2010, a woman around the age of 45 was kicked, punched and stabbed to death by her husband. The woman yelled out for help to some people playing bingo outside their neighbor's house, but no one did anything because this was a couple that always fought and argued. When the yelling and screaming stopped no one suspected it was because the woman was dying on the floor of her bedroom. She died because people thought it was normal, that it wasn't their business, because there was no legislation in place to prevent and protect, and because the Marshallese traditional response to DV incidence is diminishing. This is why I want to do what I do.

I raise awareness, I work with the community, I involve high-level stakeholders, I collaborate and strengthen partnerships but, really I wouldn't be able to do all of this without the advice, mentorship and assistance, and previous work that other women have done before me. I do this for the wellbeing of the future generations, the wellbeing of our communities and our islands, and for the betterment and positive growth of our country."



**Kathryn Relang**  
25 | Marshall Islands  
Project Director for a domestic violence project implemented by the national women's NGO Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI)

"Working in the field of preventing violence against women and girls is such an interesting job. I remember last year when my team and I did some outreach activities to promote awareness on GBV for local people in Phnom Penh and to people living in the provinces.

I was so proud when I heard someone in the community say they admired and appreciated the work my team and I were doing. They said that what we shared played an important role in helping resolve problems in society, especially gender issues, and that our activities will reduce violence - especially domestic violence."



**Pou Sokvisal**  
23 | Cambodia  
Peer Educator for PHD at Norton University.

"As a law student, I noticed the vacuums in the Pakistani legal system with regard to protection of women's rights in the legislation. I graduated in 2010, which was about the same time when the anti-sexual harassment laws were passed in Pakistan. AASHA – the Alliance Against Sexual Harassment in the workplace propelled a ten year movement which culminated in the passage of these laws in 2010. I had the privilege of being an ardent supporter of the movement in my personal capacity and later worked on the nationwide implementation of these laws in Pakistan.

Another significant moment of my life was on 12th December 2010 when in the august halls of the Senate of Pakistan I witnessed a historic moment for the women of my country with tears in my eyes. Two more laws were passed to further elevate the legal status of women in Pakistan: The Anti-Women Practices Act and the Criminal Amendment to section 336 of the Pakistan Penal Code. The Anti-Women Practices Act 2010 criminalizes all discriminatory cultural practices including forced marriages. The amendment to section 336 of the Pakistan Penal Code imposes strict liability for perpetrators of acid and burn crimes in Pakistan – a heinous practice against women."



**Khadija Ali** | 23 | Pakistan

Lawyer and activist, founder of Mehergarh Youth Consortium and representative of Working Group on Acid and Burn Violence.

"What really created a passion within me to work on ending violence against women and girls is my mother who is a role model in my life. My Dad passed away in 2000 while I was still in high school and it was my Mum who stood up all those years working and struggling for my future and the future of all my siblings. She is the greatest influence in my life and always encourages me that nothing is impossible and that I can achieve greater things in life. Her inspiring words never leave me and guide me to where I am today and really created that inner passion and desire of working on ending violence against girls and women."



**Laisenia Raloka** | 26 | Fiji

Acting Education Officer for HIV & AIDS in the National Substance Abuse Advisory Council.

## My Story



Pawan Neupane  
30 | Nepal

### Program Officer at 'Equal Access' radio.

"The village that I hail from believes that "a woman should not speak much" and this thought always echoed in my mind. When I think about it today I wonder whether this was the reason my father hardly consulted my mother on decisions related to the house, maybe this was the reason. My father was in debt and ironically we all had to pay for it. Witnessing the lack of respect that my mother got in society, I always used to wonder why this type of discrimination prevailed, and what were the major reasons for such discrimination?"

I had just completed my higher secondary exams, but every day when I went home I saw the silence that governed the life of my mother. I used to wonder if her silence was also because of me, why she never complained, but I also took her silence as acceptance of the brutality she had to face. Maybe women never talk about violence because men never listened to them. But I asked myself: am I the kind of person who will remain quiet? Was it right to sit idle when my mother silently cried within? Was it right for an educated person like me to blindly follow the school of thought that women should never be a part of the decision making process in society?"

I pondered this thought and that's when I decided that no matter what I was going to work for the rights and empowerment of women – and through the radio I was going to give them a voice. My determination was accompanied by my thought that women's rights and stopping



**"My determination was accompanied by my thought that women's rights and stopping violence against women could only be achieved if men also thought it to be their issue."**

violence against women could only be achieved if men also thought it to be their issue. So regardless what people thought, I took an oath to work for the welfare and rights of women. Through my work I was representing my mother, my sister and even my daughter."



Vika Veiongo 'Akau'ola  
24 | Tonga

### Advocate at the Safe House.

"This photo is me at my workplace empowering women and children survivors of violence and abuse and teaching them about their rights."

I grew up in a family of ten, seven girls and three boys, where I was constantly told that because I was the youngest I effectively had no voice in family decision making processes or any other family matters. So believe me, I know what it feels like to be young, a girl and voiceless. I was also faced with many challenges growing up as a young girl in my village, church, and school and surrounding environment. These challenges included myths on what the perfect Tongan girl should be and is.

When I started my job with the Women and Children Crisis Centre (WCCC) Tonga, I was amazed to discover so many things about my potential and abilities as a young Tongan woman that I had never realized prior. I learned about self-determination, my rights, my dignity and my value in society – regardless of my background, class, race, gender or sexual orientation. Through this self-discovery, I also learnt about issues that were never talked about in our society that were almost taboo, like Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence, Rape and Incest. I was determined thereafter to continue my career in this field.

Working at the Safe House as one of the Safe House Advocates gives me the opportunity to work with young female survivors. My activities in peer counseling aim to empower these young girls to know about their rights, encourage their self-determination and provide the best possible options available to them so that they are able to decide for



themselves what course of action they should take after leaving the Safe House.

I make it a point to tell them that they are valuable, that they have rights and that they have every right to be heard, and that no matter what, violence against women and girls is not OK no matter what the circumstances are and no matter what society says or does.

Violence against women and girls is NOT part of the Tongan culture and it is NOT part of Christianity and we need to challenge this constantly as young women by speaking up, participating and holding strong to our views."

# Youth Forum

22-24 May 2012, Bangkok



"Across the world, people are mobilizing to stop the abuse of women and girls. This is no longer just the concern of women's organizations. More

and more people realize that gender-based violence is everybody's problem and that

everybody is responsible for stopping it."  
- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

# What role do you think youth can play as leaders in ending violence against women and girls?

"I think platforms for young voices are actually an expression of the future that can be envisioned for society and if these voices are directed towards creating an equal and just society then the goal is not too far. It isn't about age as much as it is about the energy, the openness and enthusiasm to explore and accept challenges and work towards solutions for change."



Prabhleen Tuteja  
25 | India  
Activist with the Jagori Safe Delhi Campaign working on ending violence against women

"Whether it's ending violence against women and girls or any other cause to help society, youth need to be at the front line because they have so much positive energy and optimism. It's an age when they learn from peers, inspire others and bring collective change.

Changing centuries-old thinking takes time, so it is with the young where the change should start. Teach them, inside and outside schools, the importance of gender equality and why violence against women and girls needs to be ended. Such awareness will ensure such discriminatory values are not inherited by these young people who will later on pass positive values to next generations."



Hawwa Lubna | 20 | Maldives  
Student and Journalist at Minivan News. Independent News for the Maldives

"Youth are a driving force to end violence against women, adolescent females and girls. The stage of youth is crucial as it marks the period of challenging ideas, norms and belief systems; it is a period where gendered ideologies are negotiated in order to form a part of their own identities and perceptions of themselves. It is therefore an important period of development that requires informed engagement for the construction of positive gendered ideologies based on mutual respect, equity and equality.

As time progresses, technology transforms and generations change, youth are the ones faced with new realities. With the interconnectivity of the social world through various emerging technologies such as social media; it is important to keep up with the current changes as gender-based violence is also seen to be evolving. For example with the easy access of social media such as Facebook and Twitter etc, gender-based virtual violence has been growing drastically. If we do not engage with youth to find out if and how they are being affected by gender-based violence, then we won't be getting the whole picture and will be silencing a major portion of society."



Keshan Latchman  
24 | Trinidad and Tobago  
MSc. student in Clinical Psychology, Tutor at the Institute for Gender and Development Studies and Co-chair of Conscious SOULdiers.

"Nepal is a patriarchy and violence against women is deeply rooted. Y-PEER is a network of young peer educators in more than 50 countries and carries out activities related to violence against women. In Y-PEER Nepal, we initiate activities which will directly impact society such as signature campaigns, drama and interactive programs with youth and women.

Most of our programs are not funded, but still young people contribute and develop programs themselves and in partnership with adults. Youth have access to new ideas and technology and if we can raise awareness and involve as many young people as possible in this campaign to end violence against women, then the change will start with us. "



Sangeet Gopal Kayastha  
24 | Nepal  
National Coordinator, Y-PEER Nepal.

## My Story



Ekaterine Skhiladze  
23 | Georgia

Women's Rights Defender  
and Peace Activist - Women's  
Information Center.

"Violence against women does not recognize cultural, economic or social boundaries, which can be found in any society. Georgian society is still living in a stereotypical, masculine environment, where more than 3 out of four of respondents believe that family problems should be discussed only in the family; while one third of women believe a husband or partner is justified in beating a women in certain circumstances and do not consider domestic violence as a criminal offence.

I started to work in an NGO working on gender based violence issues in 2007. I have been in many regions and seen many victims, however, each case is different from another. Each story has its severity and meaning.

This photo was taken in the ShidaKartli region at an information meeting with conflict-affected women in the village of Tirdznisi. These are women who have experienced war, internal displacement and exile.

In the cold winter evening, women gathered around the furnace telling stories full of pain and tragedy; these are not only their stories, but the story of the whole country. . . . We are talking about the problems and it's hard to hide the tears, which, despite the fact that you have heard worse cases, still fall on your cheeks and you are no longer able to control it, even with the working experience! I'm hiding my tearful eyes in the



shadow of the furnace and in the meanwhile my time came to talk.

We must discuss ways of solving the problems, help each other, show solidarity, and try to replace pain with hope for the future. It is not easy to give hope to a conflict-affected people, victims of violence, oppressed and impoverished people, but it gives me more incentive. They must become stronger than yesterday. I am studying and growing with them..."



Kath Khangiboon  
25 | Thailand

Founder and Working Group Member  
of the Thai Transgender Alliance.

"I was born male, but I never felt comfortable living that way, I am Transgender or Kathoey in Thai. In most societies, transgender people don't fit into the mainstream 'male' and 'female' boxes - in effect, we are invisible and not recognized. Even in a more open society like Thailand where transgender people are more prevalent, the state fails to recognize our gender identity which impacts our access to rights and services as citizens.

I face a lot of opposition from society in the form of stigma, discrimination and marginalization. There are limited work choices for transgender people, some lack education because they were kicked out of school and have to resort to sex work. Sex work is dangerous because you are not protected by law and violence can occur from not only the customers but also from law enforcers. Rape is not uncommon.

Violence faced by young transgender people is linked to issues of violence against women and girls as it is gender discrimination which is at the root of the attack.

Young transgender people are especially vulnerable because there is not much information out there about how to deal with issues such as identity and sexuality and there is pressure from society, values and family - and there's no one to turn to.

I think engaging young people and sexual minority groups in policy and legislation would enable them to have equal rights. Changing society's attitudes is fundamental in reducing transphobia, stigma and gender-based violence against vulnerable people like us. Treating us as human beings, respecting us and our human dignity will lead to a more peaceful world."



"Changing society's attitudes is fundamental in reducing transphobia, stigma and gender-based violence against vulnerable people."

Who are they?

What are they doing?

The UNiTE Youth Network brings together young peer educators, counselors, journalists, legal advocates, filmmakers, bloggers, staff in crisis centres, leaders in men's anti-violence networks, civil servants and other activists working

to raise awareness, empower survivors, change laws, enforce legislation, and prevent and

eliminate violence against women and girls in their communities, countries and beyond.



Since the Youth Forum the UNiTE Youth Network has been busy: globally they have raised awareness amongst thousands of people with Orange Day and..



Some Highlights:

(Top row) Our two Thai participants, Perth and Noke, were involved in training police cadets on ending violence against women and girls and Dhruv from India won a World Summit Youth Award under the topic "Power 2 Women" for his blog 'gotstared.at'. Farida helped organize a football tournament with the slogan "Football and All against violence come along!" in Kyrgyzstan, and Keshan from Trinidad and Tobago was invited as a youth expert to the Expert Group Meeting held in Bangkok in preparation for the 57th Commission on the Status of Women where the priority theme is ending violence against women.

## What can YOU do?

### ORGANIZE!

...campaigns, workshops, lectures, debates, walk-a-thons, flashmobs, "Reclaim the night" events, art exhibits, theatre performances, essay writing, public speaking or poster drawing contests, film screenings, concerts, athletic events...

### ENGAGE!

...with civil society groups, women's organizations, educational institutions, community centres, faith-based organizations, youth groups, social clubs, media, businesses, sports clubs, festivals, social media...

### SPEAK!

...to friends, parents, teachers, students, community leaders, local and national governments, journalists, celebrities, athletes, your social network... everyone!!

### VOLUNTEER!

...your time, energy, skills and ideas to the cause.

#### Key dates:

8 March - International Women's Day

2 October - International Day of Non-Violence

11 October - International Day of the Girl Child

25 November - International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

10 December - International Human Rights Day

#### More...

Organize actions for 16 Days of Activism

25 November - 10 December

Support White Ribbon Day

Together we can create a world free of violence against women and girls.



Break the silence about violence against women and girls.

Challenge perceptions, attitudes and behaviors that perpetuate violence against women and girls and support those that prevent violence.

Build awareness about the issue of human rights and gender equality and violence against women and its effect on women, families and communities.

Actively engage young people as partners in changing values and mindsets.

Involve men and boys as key allies in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls by promoting positive, non-violent notions of masculinity.

## Why are men and boys important partners in ending violence against women and girls?

"I am a 20-year-old Peer Educator. I teach young people, girls and boys about their sexual and reproductive health and rights. I am also a man, and men are usually the ones responsible for domestic violence. I cannot dispute the data, but I believe that if men can be the origin of violence, they can also be the end of it. That is what we are doing in Junior Responsibility in Gender and Development (JR GAD), a youth-led, non-governmental organization that is based in Davao City, Philippines. We are spearheading gender sensitivity among young men to teach them to realize the rights and importance of women."



Jan Aldwin T. Cutin  
20 | Philippines  
Peer Educator - Junior Responsibility in Gender and Development (JR GAD)

"Patriarchal attitudes and rigid forms of masculinity are often promoted through different social spheres, including families, media, schools and other public and private sectors.

To change this situation, it is important to include both men and women, because if we work only with women there will be no radical changes. It is important for men to be active agents in the process of prevention and reduction of gender based violence.

In March 2006, the organization that I work with and other partners launched the Young Men Initiative (YMI), a program designed to build more equitable attitudes and behaviors amongst young men and decrease both gendered and peer violence. In the beginning we were wondering whether there would be even 5 men interested in this program that works on stopping violence towards women and girls - back then it seemed like mission impossible!

Today we have more than 10,000 young men all over the Balkans who are active in this project, 20 staff members working constantly to improve methodologies, reaching as many stakeholders as possible, changing attitudes, opinions... society. And I am the ONLY woman. "



Bojana Trninić  
29 | Bosnia-Herzegovina  
Project Manager at NVO 'PERPETUUM MOBILE - Centar za razvoj mladih i zajednice'

## What do you plan to do in your own life to inspire positive change and end violence against women and girls?

"My plan is simply living the cause. When it comes to social work, you cannot separate between the life you are living and the work you are doing. You should live all the values that you impart during a workshop or a project to the max and that's what I do! I take a stand to live my full rights without being afraid, I will report any kind of abuse that I face and I will encourage every woman to do the same - not by lecturing but by being an example."



Bothaina Qamar  
26 | Jordan  
International Coordinator with Y-PEER Jordan

"Today we have social media where you can find many different people which is a great opportunity. We can reach people on Facebook, Twitter and other social networks and I have a personal blog dedicated to this issue. Creative photographs can also be very influential and we can use them to promote awareness-raising on violence against women and girls. I love photography and plan to do a course and start taking photos to inspire positive change to end violence against women and girls. I think it's a good influencing tool."



Nejra Kadić  
23 | Bosnia-Herzegovina  
Volunteer and Project Coordinator in Institute for Youth Development KULT

"As a filmmaker I believe there is a need to create awareness and educate people to resolve these issues. I believe films can contribute to change in this environment. Films can educate people about culture and give them a broader political, religious and social context.

I want to make films that can bring even a little change, even if I cannot change the entire world. I find it the best way I can work for the betterment of society - by bringing change in thoughts to make a better world."



Atif Ahmad Qureshi  
28 | Pakistan  
Film maker



## My Story



Lingya Chea  
19 | Cambodia

Student, Resident of AFESIP  
Kompong Cham Rehabilitation  
Centre and Committee Member  
for Project Futures Global.

"When I was young, I lived in a very poor family with many siblings. My parents drank and quarreled a lot. My father also gambled. I never received warmth or affection from my parents.

When I turned ten, I was recruited by two Cambodian men to go to Thailand. My father was a gambler and I didn't know what they discussed with him. He told me that he wanted me to work in Thailand with those two men. I could not reject his word. He told me to do as I was told. I didn't know what to do but to follow them. I had no choice, so I went to Thailand with those two men. But when I was brought to the border with Thailand, I didn't get the job that they promised. They sold me to a brothel while I was only ten.

At that time, my life was like one in hell. The pimp asked me to receive 10 to 15 clients a day. If I disagreed, they would beat, mistreat or electro-shock me. I suffered a lot from living in the brothel for one year. They mistreated me and even though I was alive, my heart already died.

I never hoped to escape from the brothel. But one day, I was rescued by the Thai police, who sent me to a border town, where I was transferred to the Cambodian police. They then brought me to AFESIP, the NGO where I have been living ever since.

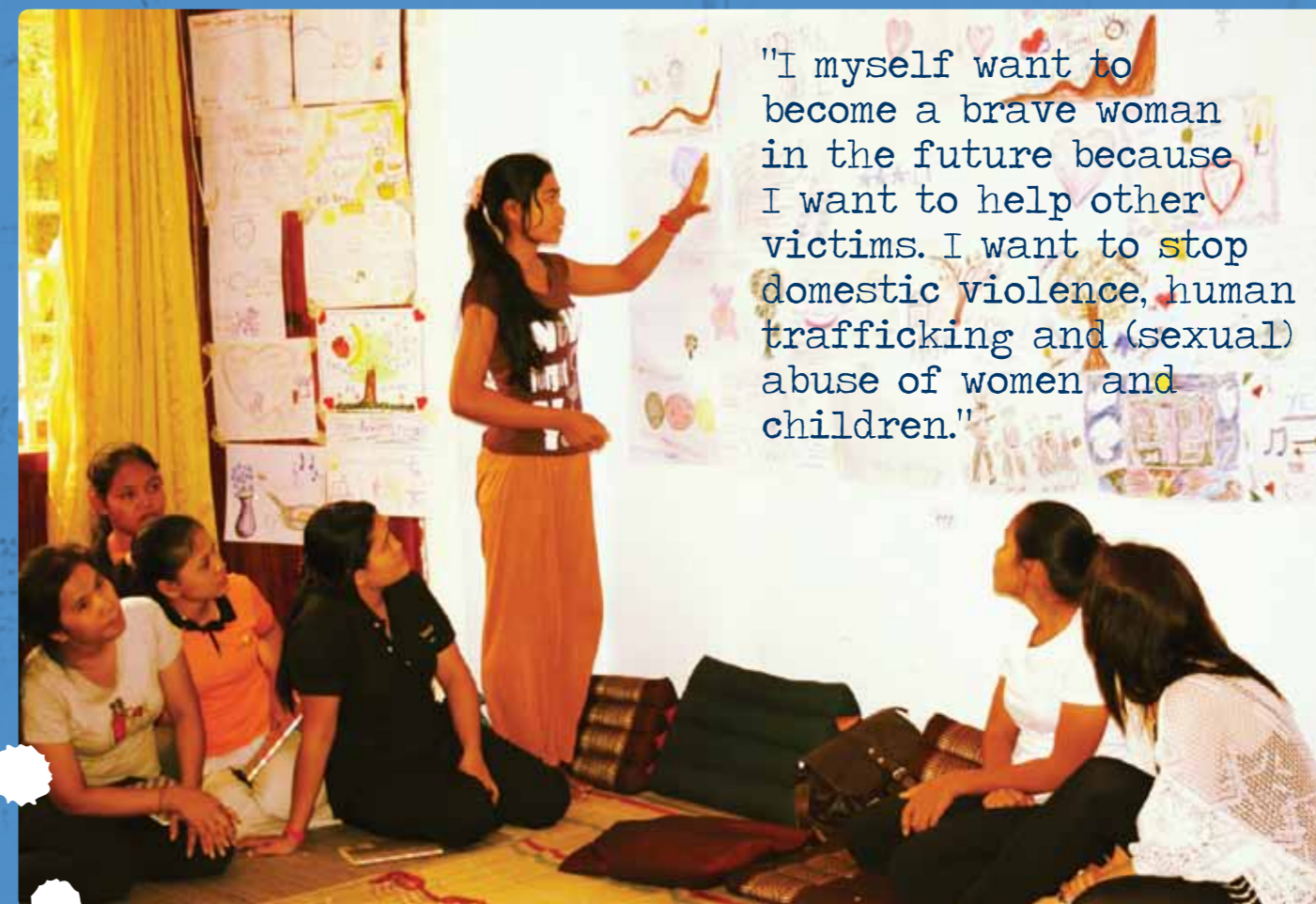
When I arrived at the organization, I saw only girls were recruited to stay there and became quite shocked seeing this. I was afraid that I'd be trapped in a brothel again. However, I was guided by the organization's staff about what it does.

When I moved to AFESIP, I was placed in a centre of the organization, called "Somaly's House". Once there, I found it hard to listen to other people because of my experiences. When the staff guided me, I wouldn't listen to them. You can say I was a tough girl. Yet, Mum Somaly, Executive Director of AFESIP, always encouraged me or gave me advice. It was challenging for me to become who I am today.

I've lived in the Centre for 10 years now and I currently study at grade 11 and am a leader of victims in the Centre. I've been to the US twice. I have some ideas to organize the Centre better because Mum (Somaly) encourages me.

I am so happy now. I myself want to become a brave woman in the future because I want to help other victims. I want to stop domestic violence, human trafficking and (sexual) abuse of women and children.

I hope that, one day, violence will be eliminated and prevented from happening again."



"I myself want to become a brave woman in the future because I want to help other victims. I want to stop domestic violence, human trafficking and (sexual) abuse of women and children."

## Violence against women is pervasive and has a major impact on society.

Worldwide, between 15 and 76 percent of women experience physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner at some point in their lives.

**Trafficking for sexual exploitation:** It is estimated that women and girls constitute 98 per cent of all victims of forced sexual exploitation and that 74 per cent of these victims are moved across borders.

77 per cent of all victims of intimate partner/family-related homicides are women and in many countries, intimate partner/family-related homicide is the major cause of female homicides.

Approximately 100 to 140 million girls and women in the world have experienced female genital mutilation/cutting, with more than 3 million girls in Africa annually at risk of the practice.

Over 60 million girls worldwide are child brides, married before the age of 18, primarily in South Asia (31.3 million) and sub-Saharan Africa (14.1 million). Violence and abuse characterize married life for many of these girls. Women who marry early are more likely to be beaten or threatened, and more likely to believe that a husband might sometimes be justified in beating his wife.

Children who have witnessed or suffered from gender-based violence, are more likely to become victims and abusers later in life.

## Activists



## My Story



Ahmad Syahroni  
30 | Indonesia

Executive Director of Indonesian Planned Parenthood Association (IPPA), Riau Archipelago Chapter.

"I took this picture in my native city. This portrait also symbolizes an issue that I address with the alliance "Laki-laki Baru", which is "New Men" in Indonesian.

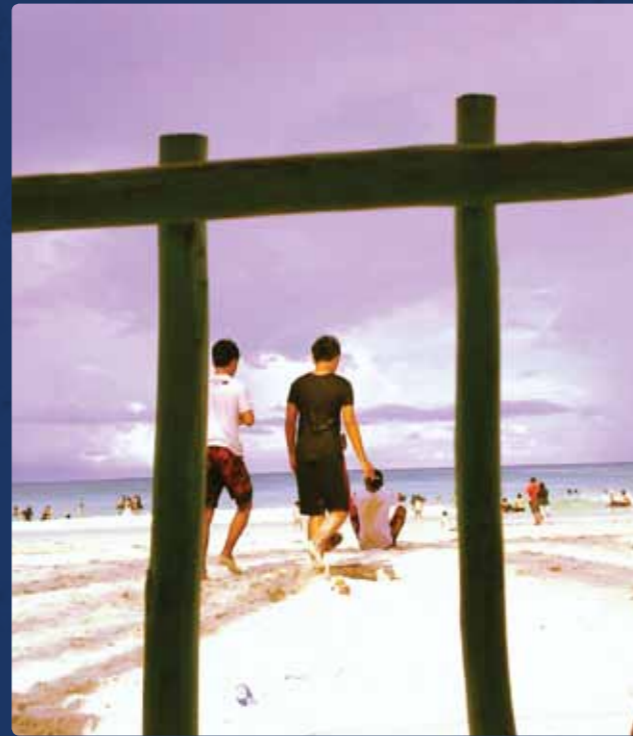
The issue of violence against women is about a systematic patriarchal culture and starts from the doctrine of "privilege" for each boy. Since childhood, boys are taught about mastery over others, conquest, domination and oppression. This is a form of hegemonic masculinity construction (beliefs, myths, stereotypes of men as the source of power).

Privilege is not a given, therefore it can be reconstructed. Culture puts the "privilege" as if it is a gift for a boy to become a main influence and creates behavioral superiority, domination, and oppression.

In fact, "privileges" are a cultural frame which curb freedom of expression for boys, restrict their freedom to think and to speak up and that cause a lot of boys in Indonesia to be dwarfed by the patriarchal culture and stereotypes.

The frame of patriarchal culture is deliberately constructed, while in reality a young man has the freedom of expression and freedom of thought to not have to follow this narrow concept of what it means to be a man in general.

"Laki-laki Baru" Alliance, is a form of initiation that is part of the women's movement which is necessary to promote the message "I am a man, but I don't have to be an ordinary man." The campaign started by strengthening the



understanding of a group of boys that we also have the option to not be a part of the patriarchal culture. Together with the alliance, we try to uncover this narrow ideological frame, and then slowly but firmly reconstruct the ideology and constantly criticize hegemonic masculinity. The hope is that someday there will be a new world where men will not commit violence of any kind and for any reason."



Christaneisha Soleyn  
21 | Barbados

CARICOM Youth Ambassador and Chairman of The United Youth Leaders of Barbados.

"This picture was taken at a meeting aimed at addressing issues affecting young people in the Caribbean. It symbolizes youth in the Caribbean having a voice and being able to speak up when there are social injustices around us. In the Caribbean there was once a mentality that young people should be seen and not heard but this picture reminds me that I will never fit into that mold nor will I feel comfortable seeing the young people in my country scared to use their voice.

My interest in ending violence against women stems from direct and indirect experiences with violence. The pinnacle of my experience with violence against women and girls occurred at a training session for members of my youth group. A presenter did a session on child abuse and violence at this meeting and at the end of the session at least 25% of the girls identified that they experienced some form of abuse and violence. This changed my life, I cried the whole night because I felt my heart breaking. These experiences have made me the woman and the activist I am today. UNITE calls on young people and other agencies to join forces to end violence against women and girls. My interest is in empowering and encouraging young people within the Caribbean to be change agents and activists on issues that affect them.

I am currently the chairman of my own charity called, "The United Youth Leaders of Barbados", a group I formed with my peers when I was sixteen. This charity is run by young people, for young people fueled by positive peer pressure. Our aim is to help young people in need while fostering a spirit of service in our members. We provide a platform for Barbadian youth to make their voices heard whether it is on television talk shows, government consultations or meetings



addressing issues that affect youth. Five years later, we have over 100 youth volunteers and we have done a great deal of service projects.

I am currently the CARICOM Youth Ambassador, where my work with gender based violence is at a policy and governance level. My approach to advocacy on violence against women and girls takes into context the Caribbean culture and other root causes as highlighted by previous research and scholarly writings.

I am continuously inspired by the strength I see in many of the young people I interact with. Many females in the Caribbean endure violence but it often goes unreported. According the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2007), one in three women in the Caribbean, on average, experience abuse, and 48% of adolescent girls in 9 Caribbean countries report sexual initiation to be forced. This is a serious problem, but seeing the girls I work with go up against their challenges and personal battles just to help their peers inspires me every day. I have had so many proud moments since I have been doing youth work, I could write a book!"

# What advice would you give to someone who wants to start working on preventing and ending violence against women and girls?

“Stay inspired! The one thing that will keep you fighting for this cause is your inspiration.”



Pichamon Perth Pongngern  
18 | Thailand  
Student and Youth  
volunteer with 'Black Box'

“As an activist, I would make sure that people understand that violence against women and girls is not solely a women’s issue. It affects the community, the society, and the country.

Anyone that takes strong action will make the cycle of violence against women and girls weaker. Listen to your heart, continue to do your part, and don’t listen to anyone who tells you that you are wasting your time. Keep up the good work. When we take strong action together, we move closer to justice.”



Daniella Jacques  
30 | Haiti  
Executive Vice-President  
and trainer - Junior  
Chamber International

“The most important is that you need to truly feel in your heart that it is important. If you can feel it, you will find many ways to help whoever needs help. You will be able create actions that can help women and girls. A little bit of advice I can give is just do whatever small things you can do to help anyone trying to end it. Volunteer even if it will not pay you. Make ending violence against women and girls a little part of your everyday life; tell your friends about people who have stood up against it in a bus or something you saw in a newspaper so that people around you will realize even a small gesture can help reduce it.

It starts with YOU. Stop it when you see it. And you can help others become aware of the pandemic so they will also take it seriously. Act individually at first and many more will join you.”



Nilupul Kulatunga | 25 | Sri Lanka  
Project Officer for Gender Based Violence Project of UNFPA with  
Ministry of Child Development and Women’s Affairs

“To see injustice we rarely need to go far, so start small. You need to change first. The world will follow. It may seem slow but if you do not do it, who will?”



Riitta Väisänen  
20 | Finland  
Volunteer with  
World Association of Girl  
Guides and Girl Scouts  
(WAGGGS)

“Simply that you do not need to be an activist to work towards something like this, you just need to be a person. The biggest problem to me is that people are too afraid to talk. I think we need to open up and talk to everyone around us about these things more openly, because expecting people to just realize that it’s wrong doesn’t work. You need to intervene when you see violence, and you need to talk about how it’s wrong. You can treat the symptoms by imprisoning offenders, but you cannot cure the root of the disease with punishment. Every revolution, I believe, begins with conversation.”



Dhruv Arora | 23 | India  
Associate Coordinator with  
the Must Bol campaign

## Weblinks

<a href="http://saynotoviolence.org">Say NO UNiTE</a>	<a href="http://saynotoviolence.org">saynotoviolence.org</a> (International)	<a href="http://safedelhi.in">Safe Delhi</a>	<a href="http://safedelhi.in">safedelhi.in</a> (India)
<a href="http://undp.org">UNDP</a>	<a href="http://undp.org">undp.org</a> (International)	<a href="http://ypeerinaction.org">Y-Peer</a>	<a href="http://ypeerinaction.org">ypeerinaction.org</a> (International)
<a href="http://unfpa.org/gender/violence.htm">UNFPA</a>	<a href="http://unfpa.org/gender/violence.htm">unfpa.org/gender/violence.htm</a> (International)	<a href="http://youngmeninitiative.net">Young Men Initiative</a>	<a href="http://youngmeninitiative.net">youngmeninitiative.net</a> (Balkans)
<a href="http://unicef.org/gender/gender_57317.html">UNICEF</a>	<a href="http://unicef.org/gender/gender_57317.html">unicef.org/gender/gender_57317.html</a> (International)	<a href="http://mladi.org">Institute for Youth Development KULT</a>	<a href="http://mladi.org">mladi.org</a> (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
<a href="http://unitetoendviolence.org">UNiTE</a>	<a href="http://unitetoendviolence.org">unitetoendviolence.org</a> (International)	<a href="http://lakilakibaru.or.id/">Laki Laki Baru (New Men)</a>	<a href="http://lakilakibaru.or.id/">lakilakibaru.or.id/</a> (Indonesia)
<a href="http://unwomen.org/how-we-work/un-trust-fund">UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women</a>	<a href="http://unwomen.org/how-we-work/un-trust-fund">unwomen.org/how-we-work/un-trust-fund</a> (International)	<a href="http://equalaccess.org">Radio Equal Access</a>	<a href="http://equalaccess.org">equalaccess.org</a> (Nepal)
<a href="http://unwomen.org">UN Women</a>	<a href="http://unwomen.org">unwomen.org</a> (International)	<a href="http://thaitga.com">Thai Transgender Alliance</a>	<a href="http://thaitga.com">thaitga.com</a> (Thailand)
<a href="http://endvawnow.org">Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence Against Women and Girls</a>	<a href="http://endvawnow.org">endvawnow.org</a> (International)	<a href="http://wagggsworld.org">World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts</a>	<a href="http://wagggsworld.org">wagggsworld.org</a> (International)
<a href="http://partners4prevention.org">Partners for prevention</a>	<a href="http://partners4prevention.org">partners4prevention.org</a> (Asia-Pacific region)	<a href="http://afesip.org">AFESIP</a>	<a href="http://afesip.org">afesip.org</a> (Cambodia)
<a href="http://stoprapenow.org">Stop Rape Now</a>	<a href="http://stoprapenow.org">stoprapenow.org</a> (International)	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Mens-Responsibilities-in-Gender-and-Development-MR-GAD/">On Facebook: Men's Responsibilities in Gender and Development (MR GAD)</a>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Mens-Responsibilities-in-Gender-and-Development-MR-GAD/">facebook.com/pages/Mens-Responsibilities-in-Gender-and-Development-MR-GAD/143501475666870</a>
<a href="http://engagingmen.net">Engaging Men</a>	<a href="http://engagingmen.net">engagingmen.net</a> (International)	<a href="http://facebook.com/uylbarbados">The United Youth Leaders of Barbados</a>	<a href="http://facebook.com/uylbarbados">facebook.com/uylbarbados</a>
<a href="http://gotstared.at">GotStaredAt</a>	<a href="http://gotstared.at">gotstared.at</a> (India)		
<a href="http://mustbol.in">Must Bol</a>	<a href="http://mustbol.in">mustbol.in</a> (India)		
<a href="http://jagori.org">Jagori (Awaken Women!)</a>	<a href="http://jagori.org">jagori.org</a> (India)		



From its origins in May 2012 to today and beyond, the Global UNiTE Youth Network brings together youth activists from around the world with a mission: to end violence against women and girls.

Ending this disgraceful global scourge is a huge task, but not an impossible one. It means breaking the silence about violence against women and girls through promoting a culture of respect and zero tolerance. It also critically involves partnering with men and boys to build this culture, and help eliminate gender stereotypes.

Mobilizing the leadership and energy of youth is a key strategy to achieving our goals and, if this group is any indication, it promises to yield extraordinary results.

We all have a role to play. A world of gender equality, peace and respect for universal human rights is within our reach but we must work together, young and old, male and female to ensure that the outdated gender stereotypes and discrimination against women that lead to violence are replaced with healthy, respectful values.

Join the movement and let's all UNiTE to end violence against women and girls!





"We pledge to carry forward the UNiTE Campaign in our personal and professional lives, spreading the message that violence against women and girls is never acceptable, never excusable and never tolerable."

- UNiTE Youth Statement

The UNiTE campaign team would like to thank UN Women National Committee Japan for their financial support of the Global UNiTE Youth Forum.

