



to END  
VIOLENCE  
AGAINST  
WOMEN



UNITED NATIONS  
UKRAINE

# 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence in Ukraine

## Orange the World: #HearMeToo: End Violence against Women

Violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread human rights violations in the world. A staggering 1 in 3 (33%) women<sup>1</sup> have experienced physical and/or sexual abuse in their lifetime. Gender-based violence (GBV) is a global issue that affects all countries through various forms, including sexual abuse, domestic violence and sex trafficking. In some places in the world, the situation is even worse with some **70% of women and girls reporting they have experienced violence due to their gender**<sup>2</sup>. Violence – be it sexual, physical, psychological and/or economical – occurs anywhere at anytime, whether that is in private or public spaces. GBV has both immediate and long-term physical, mental and sexual impacts on women and girls,

ultimately affecting their well-being and preventing them from fully participating in the society. GBV does not only cause pain and suffering but also devastates families, undermines workplace productivity, diminishes national competitiveness, and stalls development.

A multi-sectoral approach is the most effective way to prevent and respond to GBV. Strong partnerships and joint interventions between governments, organisations and civil societies are instrumental in providing the required support to women and girls who are exposed to or survived violence. Moreover, international studies demonstrate that each \$1 invested in GBV prevention saves the economy \$5 to \$20 in future service costs<sup>3</sup>.

FACTSHEET

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs239/en/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.unwomen.org/ru/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures>

<sup>3</sup> Masculinity Today: Men's Attitudes to Gender Stereotypes and Violence against Women, UNFPA, 2018  
<http://ukraine.unfpa.org/en/publications/masculinity-today-mens-attitudes-gender-stereotypes-and-violence-against-women>

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an international campaign which takes place each year. It commences on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, Human Rights Day. It was originated by activists at the first Women's Global Leadership Institute in 1991 and is coordinated each year by the Center for Women's Global Leadership. It is used as an organizing strategy by individuals and organizations around the world to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.

In support of this civil society initiative, under the leadership of the UN Secretary General, António Guterres, the United Nations Secretary-General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women Campaign (UNiTE) calls for global action to increase awareness, galvanise advocacy efforts and share of knowledge and innovations. In recent years, the UNiTE campaign has utilized the colour orange to represent a brighter future, free from violence against women and girls, as a unifying theme running through its global activities.

**This year UNiTE campaign in Ukraine aims to:**

## Amplify

the voices of diverse women's movements across geographic locations and sectors working to prevent and to end violence against women.

## Advocate

for specific changes within institutions and workplaces, including within the UN system, private sector organizations, education institutions, civil society organizations and governments to promote gender equality and end violence against women.

## Call

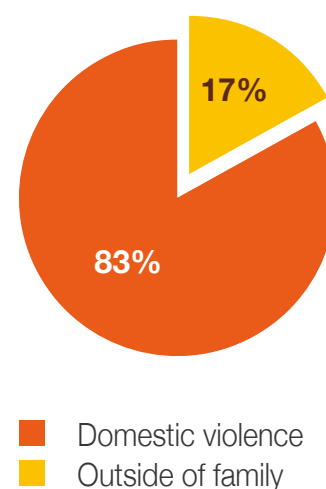
for specific financing commitments in national efforts to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls.

# Why do we need the campaign in Ukraine?

Gender-based violence is widespread and systematic in Ukraine. Moreover, women are survivors of gender-based violence in 90% of GBV cases<sup>4</sup>. According to the National Representative Survey on the prevalence of violence against women and girls conducted in 2014, **at least 22% of women in the age between 15-49 have experienced at least one form of physical or sexual violence in their lifetime**<sup>5</sup>.

Women facing multiple forms of discriminations, such as women with disabilities, women living with HIV, ethnic minority women, LGBTIQ, internally displaced women etc, are much more vulnerable to all forms of gender-based violence and they are more likely not to report to police and other institutions due to their status, stigmatisation and systemic discrimination. For example, 1 in 3 women living with HIV (35.3%) experienced violence from their partner or spouse<sup>6</sup>.

**27 679**  
Cases of violence



<sup>4</sup> Analytical Report "Gender-based violence in the conflict affected regions of Ukraine", UNFPA, 2015 <https://ukraine.unfpa.org/en/publications/gender-based-violence-conflict-affected-regions>

<sup>5</sup> National representative survey on prevalence of violence against women and girls conducted by UNFPA/GFK Ukraine, 2014. <http://www.unfpa.org.ua/files/articles/4/70/GBV%20prevalence%20survey%20EN.pdf>

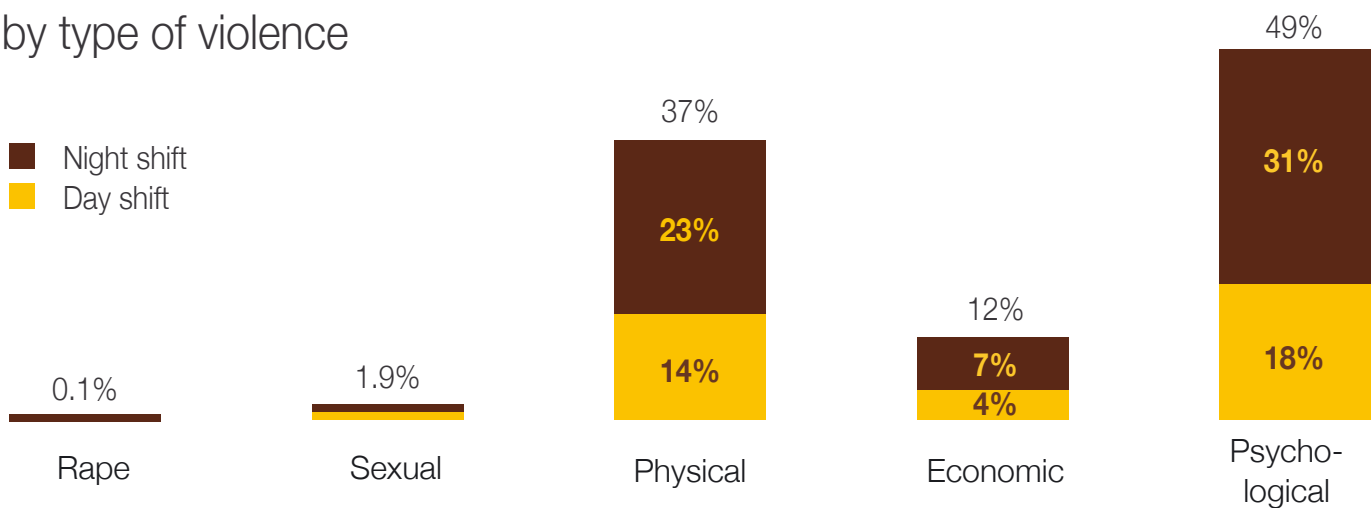
<sup>6</sup> Svitlana Moroz, Human Rights of Women Living with HIV in Ukraine: Results of Community-Based Research Through the Lens of CEDAW, Charitable organisation "Positive Women", UN Women Ukraine, 2017, p. 15. <http://eca.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2017/12/human-rights-of-women-living-with-hiv-in-ukraine>

Internally displaced women face increased vulnerability to various forms of violence during the conflict, including humiliation, insults, intimidation, blackmail, verbal threats, physical violence, confiscation of money, property and/or official documents, forced labour without pay, and being subjected to improper sexual comments<sup>7</sup>. One of the major challenges faced by survivors of GBV is access to quality essential services including safe spaces and psychosocial counseling<sup>8</sup>.

Through mobile teams operating in 12 regions, psychosocial support and targeted assistance have been provided in 40,388 GBV cases since November 2015. The National GBV hotline received more than 82,477 calls since January 2016; 82% of reported cases of violence were incidents of domestic violence<sup>9</sup>.

The following graph demonstrates distribution of violence cases by type of violence and time where call has been received.

## by type of violence



According to the recent research “Masculinity Today: Men’s Attitudes to Gender Stereotypes and Violence against Women”<sup>10</sup>, 18% of male respondents agreed that if a woman cheats on a man, it is considered the man is allowed to hit the woman. In addition, 19% of male respondents agreed with the statement that when a woman is raped, she usually did something to put herself in that situation.

Economic costs of violence against women totaled up to **\$208 million in 2015, or 0.23% of Ukraine’s GDP**, which is equivalent to the annual budget of Odesa city. The total costs of the lost economic output due to violence against women are estimated at **\$3.7 million** for 2015, including \$1.5 million lost due to violence-related deaths of working age women<sup>11</sup>.

Apart from adoption of gender-sensitive legislative norms<sup>12</sup>, a very important step towards strengthening actions aimed at eliminating violence against women and girls in Ukraine is the ratification of the **Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention)** by Ukraine. The Convention was signed in 2011 but has not yet been ratified, thus Ukraine is not legally bound. Its ratification was one of the recommendations that the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) provided to Ukraine.

<sup>7</sup> “Analysis of vulnerabilities of women and men in the context of decentralization reform in the conflict-affected communities of Ukraine”, UN Women, 2017, p.26.

<sup>8</sup> <http://eca.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2017/12/analysis-of-vulnerabilities-of-women-and-men-decentralization-in-the-conflict-affected-areas-ukraine>

<sup>9</sup> UN Women-UNDP Joint project “Restoration of Governance and Reconciliation in Crisis-Affected Communities in Ukraine”, multi-sectoral consultations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, 2017-2018.

<sup>10</sup> UNFPA CO in Ukraine data as of August, 2018

<sup>11</sup> Masculinity Today: Men’s Attitudes to Gender Stereotypes and Violence against Women, UNFPA, 2018

<sup>12</sup> <http://ukraine.unfpa.org/en/publications/masculinity-today-mens-attitudes-gender-stereotypes-and-violence-against-women>

<sup>11</sup> “Economic Costs of Violence against Women in Ukraine”, UNFPA, 2017 <https://ukraine.unfpa.org/en/publications/economic-costs-violence-against-women-ukraine-0>

<sup>12</sup> UN work on gender equality in Ukraine <http://un.org.ua/en/resident-coordinator-system/gender-equality>

# Take action

You can listen, believe and support someone who discloses having experienced violence;

If you have experienced violence or witnessed it, seek help at the **National Hot Line 116123 (mobile), the police (102)**, at the nearest medical facility and centers of social services for family, children and youth;

Join in an event of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (visit the website [www.un.org.ua](http://www.un.org.ua) to identify events near you) to hear about what can be done, who can help, and what already exists to support women and girls.

Become an advocate for GBV survivors - break the cycle of silence and stop tolerating violence in any forms.

# now!

## Who is involved in the Campaign and where?

Everyone is invited to join the campaign that aims at mobilizing all UNiTE networks, including the UN system, government partners, civil society, schools and universities, private sector, sports associations and individuals to stand in solidarity with survivor advocates, women's movements and women's human rights defenders who are working to end violence against women and girls.

This year the United Nations Country Team in Ukraine, through its Gender Theme Group, is joining efforts with more than 75 partners in support of the **United Nations Secretary-General's campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women (UNiTE)**. United around common goal we are organizing various events during 25 November – 10 December to raise awareness and take action to end gender-based violence across the country. The 2018 global campaign theme adopted in Ukraine is "Hear Me Too: End Violence against Women", reinforces the UNiTE Campaign's commitment to a world free from violence for all women and girls around the world, while reaching the most underserved and marginalized, including refugees, migrants, minorities, indigenous peoples, and populations affected by conflict and natural disasters, amongst others, first. We encourage you to join the kick-off public event symbolizing the start of the campaign on 26 November, 2018 at 12 o'clock in Kyiv (Shcherbenko Art Centre, Mykhailivska st., 22v).

For more information, please find the updated calendar of events here: [www.un.org.ua](http://www.un.org.ua)

For additional materials and background, including information for journalists, please contact: Ms. Anna Mysyshyn, UN Communications Officer

[anna.mysyshyn@one.un.org](mailto:anna.mysyshyn@one.un.org)

+38 063 410 02 63

**FIND OUT MORE HERE:**

[www.un.org.ua](http://www.un.org.ua)

[endviolence.un.org](http://endviolence.un.org)