



UN Gender Theme Group  
Ukraine

# 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN UKRAINE

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN!

## FAST FACTS ABOUT VIOLENCE IN UKRAINE

22%



AT LEAST 22% OF WOMEN AGED 15-49 HAVE EXPERIENCED AT LEAST ONE FORM OF PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN THEIR LIFETIME

90%



90% OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE CASES BEING CASES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

30%



ONLY ABOUT 30% OF VIOLENCE CASES ARE REPORTED

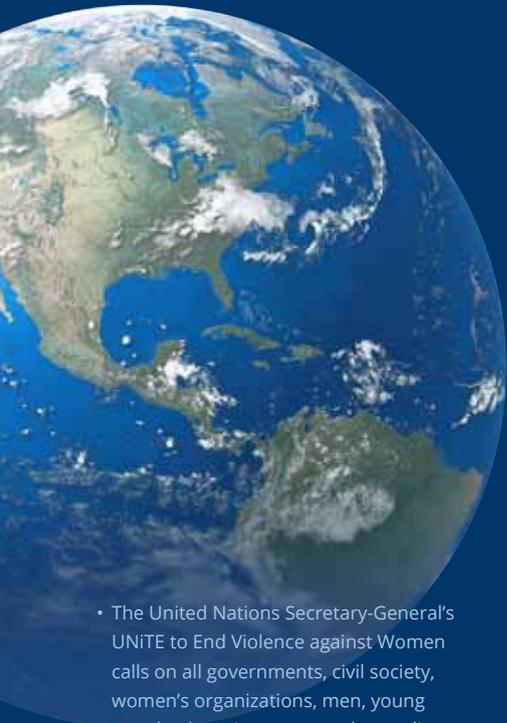
The evidence shows that in order to prevent violence a multi-sectoral approach is needed. Strong partnerships and joint interventions are essential to provide required support to women and girls who survived violence.

**Photo:** Liudmyla, a single mother from Gorlovka, escaped after shelling worsened with her two children, Nikol and Nikita, in November 2014. The eldest son Aleksei stayed in Gorlovka to look after his grandmother who is disabled and cannot move. Lyudmyla now lives in the IPD's centre in Sviatohirsk almost a year. She gets social assistance from the state in the amount of 1700 UAH (~80\$) per month for her two kids.

**Photo:** Maks Levin/UNFPA



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- The United Nations Secretary-General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women calls on all governments, civil society, women's organizations, men, young people, the private sector, the media and the entire UN system to join forces for preventing and ending all forms of violence against women and girls in all parts of the world.

- At the global, regional and national levels, the UNiTE campaign aims to mobilize individuals and communities.

- The campaign supports the longstanding efforts of governments, women's and civil society organizations, such as: enforcement of national laws and action plans, data collection and analysis.

- UNiTE supports systematic actions to address sexual violence in conflict situations and to protect women and girls from rape as a tactic of war.



## VIOLENCE IS UNACCEPTABLE! IT CAN BE PREVENTED AND IT SHOULD BE RESPONDED

A staggering one in three women have experienced physical or sexual violence in their lifetime – a pandemic of global proportions. In some places in the world it is even higher with some 70% of women and girls reporting they have experienced violence (source is needed). This violence – ranging from sexual, physical, psychological, emotional and economic – can happen at home, in public, during war, and in peace time.

# GLOBAL CAMPAIGN

## 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

From 25 November through 10 December, Human Rights Day, the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence aim to raise public awareness and mobilizing people everywhere to bring about change. As a part of the United Nations Secretary General's Campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women, the 16 Days of Activism calls upon activists, governments, parliaments, civil society organizations and UN partners to mobilize people and highlight issues relevant to preventing and ending violence against women and girls.

This year more than 25 partners, including Parliament, government institutions, local authorities, women's groups, civil society organizations international organizations and donors joined efforts for the Campaign across the whole country!

# WHY DO WE NEED THE CAMPAIGN IN UKRAINE?

Gender-based violence is one of the most wide-spread, systematic and prevalent human rights abuses in Ukraine with about 90 % of gender-based violence cases in Ukraine being cases of violence against women.

According to a prevalence survey in 2014, at least 22% of women aged 15-49 have experienced at least one form of physical or sexual violence in their lifetime . Yet many cases of violence go unreported. In addition to a lack of quality services, there is a tendency not to publicize, but to hide the problem. With deeply rooted discriminative stereotypes, violence in a family for example is often considered as an “internal issue” and not to be interfered with by outsiders such as police, local authorities, social workers, neighbors and the extended family. The conflict in the east of Ukraine has exacerbated the situation as usual support systems have broken down.

Gender-based violence undermines the health, dignity, security and autonomy of its victims, yet it often remains hidden in a culture of silence. Victims and survivors of violence can suffer physical and

psychological effects as well as sexual and reproductive health consequences, including forced and unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, sexually transmitted infections including HIV, and even death.

Other forms of violence including rape, trafficking, kidnapping, sexual exploitation including survival sex, and sexual harassment, have also occurred, exacerbated by the current conflict and economic crisis in Ukraine.

In addition, the large majority of registered Internally Displaced People are women and children who have been forced from their homes and communities with very little resources to cope with the economic hardships and growing stress. Those still trapped in areas of fighting, are at an intensified threat of sexual violence by armed military men.

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1. National representative survey on prevalence of violence against women and girls conducted by UNFPA/GFK Ukraine in 2014

2. See OSCE SMM Thematic Report “Internal Displacement in Ukraine” of 12 August, 2014 at [www.osce.org/ukraine](http://www.osce.org/ukraine).

3. See OHCHR “Report on the Human Rights Situation in Ukraine - 1 December 2014 to 15 February 2015” at [http://www.wunrn.com/news/2015/03\\_15/03\\_02/030215\\_ukraine.htm](http://www.wunrn.com/news/2015/03_15/03_02/030215_ukraine.htm)



# TAKE ACTION

You can listen, believe and support someone when they disclose that they have experienced violence;

Join in an event of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (see website for events near you) [www.un.org.ua](http://www.un.org.ua) Become an advocate for victims and survivors, and break the silence.

If you have experienced violence, you should seek help at the National Hot Line 0-800-500-335 or 386 (mobile), the police (102), at the nearest medical facility and centers of social services for family, children and youth;

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**0-800-500-335**  
NATIONAL HOTLINE

**386**  
MOBILE

**102**  
POLICE

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## WHO IS INVOLVED AND WHERE?

Everyone is invited to join the campaign! The United Nations Country Team in Ukraine, through the Gender Theme Group, and together with more than 25 partners, is organizing various events to day to raise awareness and take action to end gender-based violence across the country. Activities and events include workshops and discussions with experts, in schools and public places, a series of media events, photo exhibitions, radio broadcasts and TV broadcasts in all regions of Ukraine.

- 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 [tamara.beresh@undp.org](mailto:tamara.beresh@undp.org)



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