



Together to End Violence Against Women and Girls

From peace in the home to peace in the world

SAY NO-UNITE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The '16 Days Campaign' runs from 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) to 10 December (Human Rights Day).

Violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread violations of human rights. It can include physical, sexual, psychological and economic abuse, and it cuts across boundaries of age, race, culture, wealth and geography. It takes place in the home, on the streets, in schools, the workplace, in farm fields, refugee camps, during conflicts and crises. Among women aged between 15 and 44, acts of violence cause more death and disability than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents and war combined. Violence against women devastates lives, fractures communities, and stalls development.

Violence against women is a consequence of discrimination against women and girls, in law and practice, and of persisting inequalities between men and women: let's take action to end violence against women now!

WFP has an obligation to make sure that people we seek to assist are safe when accessing our services. We should help promote an environment where violence is reduced. WFP aims to do this by carrying out food assistance activities that do not increase the protection risks faced by crisis-affected people, but rather, contribute to their safety, dignity and integrity. Protection risks such as gender based violence (GBV)

are intrinsically linked to food security and are a serious concern in the contexts that WFP operates.

Examples of how WFP contributes to the solution

DRC: Searching for Safety

WFP provides food for survivors of sexual violence who are recovering in Panzi Hospital in Bukavu, in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Rape is widespread in DRC, particularly in the war-torn east of the country. Many of the women, pictured above, come from remote rural areas and know no one in Bukavu to cater for their needs, which makes WFP's food assistance vital. The assistance enables women to stay in care for the entire time that it is recommended and engage in the other services available, including life skills workshops and psychosocial care. The handicrafts they make whilst in hospital serve not only to take their minds off their trauma but also to give them a skill which might help them to earn a living once they return home.

Though most of the women at Panzi Hospital are victims of sexual violence, some are recovering from routine surgical procedures associated with pregnancy and childbirth. By mixing them, the hospital authorities hope to reduce the stigma faced by those who have suffered sexual assault. Doctors at the hospital say there is unlikely to be an end to the high level of sexual violence until some rule of law is established in DRC. For the time being, impunity is the norm. Very often, women return to their villages only to see their assailants walking around as if nothing had happened.

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Examples of how WFP contributes to the solution

Promoting new perceptions of gender roles and relations among Nicaraguan farmers

WFP recognises that gender equality is not merely desirable but critical to the reduction of poverty and hunger. In Nicaragua where domestic violence is the most rampant manifestation of GBV, affecting nearly 48 per cent of married women (UNFPA 2013), WFP aims to mitigate some of the challenges that women face in accessing agricultural inputs such as fertilisers and seeds and controlling household production. A WFP programme focuses on strengthening the capacity of farmers' organizations to sell quality commodities, through providing training and equipment to increase their yields, improve crop quality and strengthening their capacity for collective marketing.

Within this context WFP has supported a series of events (round tables, awareness raising sessions, exchange of experiences, celebration of International Women's Day) aimed at raising awareness among participants in WFP's Purchase for Progress (P4P) initiative. Participants and their families discuss gender roles in the family as well as in the community and groups such as farmer's organizations. These events had a strong focus on *buen vivir* (living in harmony), stressing key concepts like mutual respect, collaboration and support.

Women who attended the events said they helped boost their self-esteem, gain self-confidence and participate more assertively in farmer's organizations and household decision-making. Men who participated reported gaining a new perspective, which they believed helped to improve their relations in the household. Overall, men and women said the activities prompted people to reflect and challenge some preconceptions as well as contributing to building a more balanced relationship between the sexes and improve the quality of married life.

Who can help? Referral cards developed for WFP staff working with Syrian refugees

The Regional Emergency Coordinator's Office for Syria and Surrounding Countries, established in Jordan to oversee WFP's emergency response, has recently developed a business-card-size Protection Issue Referral Card designed for staff to carry in their wallet.

Although WFP does not deal directly with gender-based violence cases, WFP staff receive training on how to deal with cases that are presented to them in the field. The Protection Referral Card is designed to help WFP staff respond in a way that links individuals at risk to the most appropriate care quickly, compassionately and professionally.



For more information see:
go.wfp.org/web/gender
www.un.org/en/women/endviolence/
www.saynotoviolence.org/