

#16+1 IMPACT STORIES FOR 16 DAYS

Generation Equality Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence (AC GBV)



WELCOME

ACTION COALITION FOR GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

The Action Coalition on Gender-based Violence was launched as part of the unprecedented USD 40 billion in commitments for gender equality at the [Generation Equality Forum](#) in Paris in July 2021. As one of six Action Coalitions and a Global Compact on Women Peace and Security, the Action Coalition on GBV; is a global platform focused on providing leadership and advocacy to address gender-based violence (GBV) against women and girls in all their diversity. In the face of growing threats and setbacks to women's rights worldwide, AC GBV is working to ensure that the prevention and elimination of GBV remains a priority at all levels of policymaking.

With over 17 leaders and 400+ commitment makers, AC GBV mobilizes governments, civil society, women's rights organizations, and the private sector to create change through four key actions: (1) fostering enabling policy, legal, and resource environments; (2) scaling up evidence-based prevention programs; (3) enhancing accessible, quality services for survivors; and (4) empowering girl-led and women's rights organizations.

Through its collective efforts, AC GBV seeks to drive a global advocacy agenda for the prevention of GBV, amplify impact, and accelerate progress toward its goals. The coalition works to implement the four action areas outlined in its [AC GBV blueprint](#), blueprint and prioritize [six collective commitments](#).¹ This booklet aims to highlight the efforts of AC GBV leaders and commitment makers, documenting effective practices that contribute to global knowledge on ending GBV against women and girls.



Table 1: AC GBV Blueprint Targets

Action Area	Targets for Action Area	Impact Stories
<p>Action Area 1:</p> <p>More states and regional actors ratify international and regional conventions and public and private sector institutions strengthen, implement and finance evidence-driven laws, policies and action plans to end gender-based violence against women and girls in all their diversity targets.</p>	<p>550 million more women and girls live in countries with laws and policies prohibiting all forms of GBV,</p> <p>4000 private sector organisations with GBV policies and 55 more countries will outlaw child marriage without exception and FGM will be banned in 3/4 of practicing countries.</p>	<p>Government of Italy</p>
<p>Action Area 2:</p> <p>Scale up implementation and financing of evidence-driven prevention strategies by public and private sector institutions and women’s rights organizations to drive down prevalence of gender-based violence against women, adolescent girls and young women in all their diversity including in humanitarian settings targets.</p>	<p>Increase by 50% the number of countries that include one or more evidence-driven prevention strategies on gender-based violence against women and girls in national policies by 2026,</p> <p>Increase by 25% the number of people who endorse gender equitable beliefs in every country by 2026 and</p> <p>Increase investment in evidence-driven prevention strategies by \$500 Million USD by 2026.</p>	<p>AAEEH Breakthrough Trust HOSCD ISF JWF LOPECO Macedonia The Launchpad Tanzania The Federal Republic of Germany YES Trust</p>
<p>Action Area 3:</p> <p>Scale up comprehensive, accessible, and quality services for survivors of GBV against women and girls in all their diversity targets.</p>	<p>More women and girls will live in countries with GBV related police, justice, health and social sector services by 2026 and 100 countries build capacity of law enforcement to address GBV.</p>	<p>ACT Alliance Kerring Foundation Lutheran World Foundation (LWF) Southwest Grid for Learning (SWGfL)</p>
<p>Action Area 4:</p> <p>To enhance support and increase accountability and quality, flexible funding from states, private sector, foundations, and other donors to autonomous girl-led & women’s rights organizations working to end gender-based violence against women and girls in all their diversity.</p>	<p>Double national and international funding to Women’s rights organizations, activists and movements working to address gender-based violence against women and girls in all their diversity by 2026.</p>	<p>Nala Feminist Collective Plan International Togo</p>

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FOREWORD

EVAW CHIEF: Kalliopi Mingeirou

The Generation Equality Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence (AC GBV) provides a critical platform for global thought leadership, collective advocacy, and tangible actions in the fight against gender-based violence (GBV) faced by women and girls in all their diversity. The #16+1 impact stories for 16 days profiles the fantastic work done by some coalition members and aims to foster learning and inspiration for others doing similar work. As we commemorate the 2024 UNiTE Campaign and look ahead to the Beijing+30, this publication reflects our collective progress and a call to action to end violence against women.

The publication highlights the profound global impact of leaders and commitment makers. Through their collective actions, they have created enabling environments for ending violence against women by enhancing legal and policy reform, scaling up evidence-based prevention programs, strengthening services for survivors, and empowering women's and girl-led organizations. Through these stories we get to know the wide range of interventions addressing violence against women in different countries; Burundi, France, India, Iraq, Kenya, Lebanon, Nigeria, South Africa, and the United Kingdom, showcasing the global reach of the coalition's work. The narratives celebrate progress in the fight against GBV and offer valuable insights that can inform future efforts.

These stories demonstrate the power of collaboration, resilience, and innovation in combating GBV and improving the lives of women and girls. The experiences and insights shared in these pages are part of a more significant movement that is building momentum every day, as we work to create a world where women and girls live free from violence and discrimination. The work is far from over, but through the dedication and commitment shown by AC GBV members across the globe, it is evident that we are making meaningful strides in shaping a future where violence is a thing of the past.

I invite you to reflect on these stories as examples of what has been achieved and as calls to action for us to do more. May they inspire you, as they have inspired us, to continue pushing forward in our shared pursuit of gender equality, justice, and an end to gender-based violence, with deep respect for the work and commitment of all those involved in this vital cause.



Kalliopi Mingeirou,
Chief, EVAW Section-UN Women

16⁺¹ IMPACT STORIES



INTRODUCTION

Through the generous support of the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation (CAAD/Catalonia), the AC GBV sought to document stories of impact to foster cross learning, inspire other commitment makers both within and outside the GBV action coalition and contribute to practice-based knowledge on eliminating violence against women and girls. This booklet thus contains 16+1 impact stories grouped into the four action areas of the AC GBV Blueprint targets. The first story from Italy falls under Action Area 1, which focuses on the ratification of international and regional conventions and the strengthening of laws, policies, and action plans to combat gender-based violence (GBV) against women and girls.

This area aims to ensure that 550 million more women and girls live in countries with laws prohibiting all forms of GBV, while also working toward 4,000 private sector organizations adopting GBV policies and outlawing child marriage and female genital mutilation in 55 additional countries. While only one of the stories align with this action area, ten of the organizations represented in the impact stories, including AAEEH, the Federal Republic of Germany, and ISF, have committed to Action Area 2.

This area aims to ensure that 550 million more women and girls live in countries with laws prohibiting all forms of GBV, while also working toward 4,000 private sector organizations adopting GBV policies and outlawing child marriage and female genital mutilation in 55 additional countries. While only one of the stories align with this action area, ten of the organizations represented in the impact stories, including

AAEEH, the Federal Republic of Germany, and ISF, have committed to Action Area 2. This area focuses on scaling up prevention strategies, with targets to increase national policy inclusion of GBV prevention strategies, promote gender equitable beliefs, and raise funding for evidence-driven prevention efforts.

Six organizations including Kerring Foundation and Southwest Grid for Learning (SWGfL) are enhancing survivor services both offline and online to address TF-GBV. Two organizations, Nala Feminist Collective and Plan International Togo, have pledged support under Action Area 4, which emphasizes increased accountability and flexible funding for women's rights organizations tackling GBV. Through their comprehensive approaches they seek to bolster funding to WROs to strengthen efforts to end GBV globally.



1

ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE AND AUTONOMY FOR WOMEN IN ITALY

Organization Type

Government Department:
Presidency of the
Council of Ministers –
Department for Equal
Opportunities

Country
Italy

Title of Commitment

Freedom Income Fund for
Women Victims of Violence

Type of Commitment

Financial

Contact

Marco Buemi

Strengthening Economic Independence and Autonomy for Women Victims of Violence in Italy

Violence against women, especially domestic and economic, is a global issue, including in Italy. Victims often face poverty, limited resources, and difficulties accessing housing and support services to rebuild their lives. Women with children especially struggle to provide for their families due to lack of financial independence.

In order to support women victims of violence, Italy introduced the “**Income of Freedom**” (Freedom Income), to provide them with a monthly stipend and support them escape violence. Initially launched as a temporary measure in 2020 following decree-law No. 34/2020 converted, with amendments, by law No. 77/2020, the measure was made permanent by the current Italian government after an experimental phase. With allocated resources of €10 million annually for 2024-2026, reducing to €6 million annually from 2027 onwards, the financial support is given for a maximum period of 12 months to the women beneficiaries. An extra €1 million allocated for 2025-2026 has increased the monthly financial stipend from the initial €400 per month to €500 to assist women cover living costs, secure housing, and regain autonomy. This **Freedom Income** initiative is especially crucial for women with minor children, as it supports their educational and training needs. Additionally, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between several stakeholders, including the Italian Banking Association, Federcasse, Ente Nazionale per il Microcredito (ENM), and Caritas Italiana, to support the “**Freedom Microcredit**” project, which complements the **Freedom Income** by promoting economic independence through microcredit.



The **Freedom Income** initiative and the associated **Freedom Microcredit** project provide a combination of direct financial aid, access to microloans, and the creation of a supportive framework to address domestic violence through anti-violence centers and social services. These measures are designed to address both immediate and long-term needs of women, ensuring they are supported throughout their journey toward financial independence and freedom from violence. Furthermore, in a show of its unwavering commitment to combating violence against women, Italy also adopted Law No. 168/2023, in November 2023 to strengthen victim protection, emphasize prevention and specialized training for judicial authorities.

As of 2024 approximately 3,000 women had benefited from the **Freedom Income**. Application to obtain the **Freedom Income** must be submitted from the National Social Security Institute (INPS) through the municipal workers where the beneficiaries are resident. Further, resources towards the **Freedom Income** can be further increased by the regions with their own resources and transferred directly to INPS. The **Freedom Microcredit** initiative meanwhile has allowed 341 women to access microcredit; 58 to access entrepreneurial activities and 283 have benefitted from social initiatives enabling them to embark on paths of economic emancipation. These women are now better equipped to rebuild their lives, start businesses, and improve their long-term financial stability thus reducing vulnerability to gender-based violence.



Women beneficiaries of the **Freedom Income** report enhanced stability and autonomy. Many are now able to live independently and provide for their families. The social and entrepreneurial microcredit initiatives are not only helping break the cycle of poverty and violence by offering financial tools to women who were previously excluded from economic opportunities, but they are also creating entrepreneurs by enabling several women to start businesses or pursue training opportunities, thereby increasing their economic prospects and long-term empowerment.

The **Freedom Income** initiative and the associated **Freedom Microcredit** project demonstrate the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration between government, private sector, and civil society such as Caritas Italiana and the banking sector to make a tangible difference in the lives of women victims of violence. The combination of financial assistance and empowerment through microcredit is not only a powerful tool to help women survivors of violence regain autonomy but is also an effective model of using economic empowerment as a strategy to prevent GBV. Continuous refining of eligibility criteria and increasing the scope of the initiative will help reach even more women in need. The initiative has significant potential for replication across other regions of Italy and with continued investment and coordination, can be expanded to support more women, especially in rural areas. The **Freedom Income** initiative and the associated **Freedom Microcredit** project can serve as a model for other countries grappling with similar issues of gender-based violence.

Participation in Generation Equality has therefore provided valuable networking opportunities and access to best practices, enabling Italy to enhance its strategies, share insights, and drive impactful policy changes, ensuring a stronger, coordinated approach to combating violence against women and girls and ultimately advancing gender equality.

Additional References

→ pariopportunita.gov.it

2

ASSOCIATION D'AIDE À L'ÉDUCATION DE L'ENFANT HANDICAPÉ (AAEEH)

Organization Type
Non-Governmental
Organization

Country
France

Title of Commitment
Amplifying voices: Advocacy on gender-based
violence and disability

Type of Commitment
Advocacy

Contact
Dr Ernestine NGO MELHA

Empowering Women and Girls with Disabilities to Combat Gender-Based Violence

The Association d'Aide à l'Éducation de l'Enfant Handicapé (AAEEH), a non-governmental organization headquartered in France, is addressing the often-overlooked issue of gender-based violence (GBV) affecting women and girls with disabilities in Benin, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Togo. These women and girls are particularly vulnerable to various forms of violence, yet their experiences often go unnoticed, underreported, or ignored. Barriers such as lack of communication, trust, neglect, and limited knowledge of their rights further hinder their access to support services. Additionally, many GBV services are not equipped to address the specific needs of women and girls with disabilities, such as a lack of sign language experts or braille.

AAEEH's commitment has focused on raising awareness about the plight of women and girls living with disabilities and advocating for their rights. Through campaigns like #RendreVisiblesLesInvisibles, webinars, and social mobilization efforts, AAEEH has worked to make women and girls living with disability visible, ensuring that their needs are acknowledged by both communities and local authorities. These efforts have helped communities understand the heightened vulnerability of women and girls with disabilities to various forms of violence and the importance of protecting them. The organization has also pushed for legal reforms and greater enforcement of existing laws to address GBV.

The impact has been substantial. Communities are now more aware of the specific challenges faced by women and girls with disabilities and are taking active steps to support and protect them. Local authorities and civil society organizations have become more engaged in addressing GBV, creating a more favorable environment for change. The campaign has also highlighted the need for stronger prevention measures and support for survivors living with disabilities and ensuring that the issue of GBV is no longer ignored.

While the project has made significant progress, there is still much to be done. There is a need for continued focus on the economic empowerment of women victims of GBV, as many face financial dependence on their abusers. The lessons learned from AAEEH's work emphasize the importance of early prevention, the value of solidarity among communities, and the need for tailored support services for women and girls with disabilities. Overall, AAEEH's work has led to meaningful change in the visibility and protection of women and girls with disabilities, and the initiative has the potential for replication in other regions facing similar challenges.

“Campaigns have helped to mobilize both governments and civil society organizations, creating a more favorable environment for the eradication of GBV, although further efforts are needed to bring about lasting structural changes, especially in the economic empowerment of women victims of GBV.”

Local partner in Benin

Additional References

- aaeeh.fr (select your language)
- [#StopTalkingStartFunding](#) Youtube
- [Preventing to end violence against girls and women with disabilities](#)
- [United against violence against girls and women: making the invisible visible](#)

3

BREAKTHROUGH TRUST

Organization Type
Non-Governmental
Organization

Country
India

Title of Commitment
Transforming Norms to prevent
Gender-based Violence

Type of Commitment
Advocacy and programmatic

Contact
Pritha Chatterjee

Shaping a Gender-Equitable Future: Breakthrough's Efforts to Combat GBV and Empower India's Adolescents

Breakthrough is spearheading a transformative effort to address gender-based violence (GBV) in India, focusing not only on visible forms like sexual harassment but also on the subtler, pervasive forms of violence such as emotional abuse, financial control, and the denial of opportunities based on gender. With the belief that true change requires altering the cultural norms that allow such violence to persist, Breakthrough is working to shift societal mindsets, particularly among adolescents, to foster a future where gender-based violence and discrimination are no longer accepted.

The organization's ambitious goal is to reach 2 million adolescents across India through gender-inclusive training, school curricula, and innovative multimedia campaigns. Breakthrough aims to challenge deeply ingrained behaviors, attitudes, and beliefs, fostering a new cultural norm rooted in gender equity. The core of this initiative is *Taaron ki Toli*, a gender-equity curriculum that not only raises awareness about gender inequities but also ignites the aspirations of young people, empowering them to embrace gender equality.

In the four states where the initiative has been implemented, Breakthrough has witnessed impressive results. For example, in Hazaribagh, 85% of adolescents now believe that girls should have the freedom to pursue their studies based on their personal desires, free from societal expectations. In Haryana, 68% share this belief, a significant shift in attitudes toward girls' education. These changes reflect a growing acceptance of girls' right to education and opportunities.

Furthermore, Breakthrough has seen positive shifts in views about gender roles and household responsibilities. In Haryana, 91% of adolescents now support the idea that men and women should equally share economic and household duties, breaking down traditional gender roles that confine women to domestic spaces.

In both Haryana and Hazaribagh, large majorities of adolescents now advocate for shared decision-making in families, rejecting gendered power dynamics.

The initiative has also fostered powerful personal stories, with adolescents rejecting discriminatory practices and embracing gender equality. Across the four states, young girls and boys are taking on leadership roles, participating in collective decision-making, and championing gender equality in their homes and communities. Looking to the future, Breakthrough plans to scale its efforts, partnering with the state governments of Odisha and Punjab to reach 66,000 teachers and 4 million adolescents by 2028.

This expanded initiative will integrate gender-transformative curricula into government schools, aiming to shape the attitudes and behaviors of young people, reduce school dropout rates, and instill lasting gender-equitable values. Breakthrough's transformative work is creating a cultural shift that will impact generations to come. By empowering young people with the tools to challenge gender discrimination, Breakthrough is paving the way for a future of greater gender equality, one where individuals are treated with dignity and respect, regardless of gender.

Additional References

→ inbreakthrough.org

Story 1: A Budding Agent of Change

Anchal's journey with Breakthrough began as an *Ujjwal Tara* (11–14-year-old adolescents) and later as a *Roshan Tara* (15–18-year-old adolescents in *Taaron ki Toli* sessions), where she learned about gender norms and gained the confidence to speak out against sexual harassment. Observing harassment near a dark bridge, she proposed installing lights to deter it. Upon discussions she discovered many of her *Roshan Tara* group members shared similar experiences. Together, they approached local leaders and officials, including Ward Member Sahiya and the Mukhiya, demanding lights and CCTV cameras at unsafe spots. With support from peers and local leaders, they succeeded in having lights and CCTV installed to deter the harassment.

Anchal's story is a powerful reminder of how one voice can spark collective change, empowering others to demand their rights.

“The comfort and confidence to voice our demands and negotiate are contributions from Breakthrough in my life. Without the Breakthrough sessions, I wouldn't have had the courage to speak up. I'm delighted to see the transformation in the other girls too in our village because of the programme.”

Anchal

Story 2: The Ripple Effect of Collective Change

In Sangam Vihar, Delhi NCR, Breakthrough's Team Change Leaders (TCLs) are spearheading a movement to transform their community. Addressing issues like sanitation and gender-based violence, these youth, trained in leadership and gender awareness, identified the unsafe roads as a major concern for girls. Despite initial resistance from families and the community, the TCLs managed to conduct a safety audit with Breakthrough's support. They collaborated with local authorities to improve garbage collection helping in maintaining hygiene and cleanliness of the neighborhood, the installation of 100 CCTV cameras and 20 streetlights, and an increased awareness of civic rights and responsibilities. These actions have enhanced safety, fostered civic pride, and empowered the community. The TCLs' unwavering commitment is a testament to the power of collective action in building a more equitable society.



Photo credit: Breakthrough Trust

Story 3: Breaking Barriers: Pooja's Journey to Empowerment and Change

In the conservative village of Jasrana, Haryana, Pooja once believed gender inequality was an unchangeable norm. Here, traditional and conservative views prevail—boys are typically favored over girls, limiting the opportunities for girls significantly. Raised in a minority caste community, her views on gender were shaped by societal biases. But everything changed when she attended Breakthrough's *Badi si Asha* program, a community engagement programme. After attending training on gender, sexuality, and patriarchy, Pooja became a Team Change Leader, advocating for gender equality. She mobilized local youth to petition for better bus services and street lighting to improve safety for girls.

With Breakthrough's support, Pooja gained her family's backing for education and empowerment. When an aunt suggested that her family start preparing for Pooja's marriage after Class 12, her father firmly responded, *“My daughter will continue to study, and no one can stop her from chasing her dreams. She is not just destined for marriage but for whatever she aspires to achieve.”* And when a married auto driver grabbed her hand, harassing her to be his girlfriend, her mother confronted her harasser, reflecting her transformative journey. Pooja's shows how one courageous step can spark societal transformation, inspiring future generations to challenge the status quo.

“My daughter will continue to study, and no one can stop her from chasing her dreams. She is not just destined for marriage but for whatever she aspires to achieve.”

Pooja's Father

4

HETMA FOR CULTURAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (HOCSD)

Organization Type
CSO
Country
Iraq
Title of Commitment
Kurdistan Region
Type of Commitment
Advocacy and programmatic
Contact
hitmaorg@gmail.com

Empowering Women to Combat Gender-Based Violence through fostering Economic Independence

In response to the pervasive issue of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Hetma for Cultural and Social Development (HOCSD) launched a transformative initiative in mid-2023 aimed at empowering women through economic independence. At the heart of the project is the recognition that women's vulnerability to violence is often linked to their economic dependence and limited access to the labor market. By equipping women with skills and resources, HOCSD seeks not only to reduce GBV but also to foster gender equality and enhance women's autonomy.

Implemented in Erbil and surrounding refugee camps, the initiative targets both displaced populations and host communities. It aims to provide women with the tools they need to enter the workforce confidently, raise awareness about their rights, and create lasting economic opportunities. Initially, the project faced low participation, but by the end of its early stages, it had successfully engaged 600 participants, 80% of whom were women. These participants gained valuable skills in entrepreneurship and business management, empowering many to start their own businesses. As women gained financial independence, they also reduced their vulnerability to GBV, breaking free from cycles of dependency and control.

Several key factors contributed to the project's success. Volunteerism played a crucial role in maintaining low costs while fostering a sense of community and solidarity. Partnerships with local organizations and authorities provided vital resources and logistical support, strengthening the project's impact. A unique "adopt an individual" model paired participants with volunteer trainers, creating a nurturing environment where women could develop both professionally and intellectually. This model not only encouraged learning but also ensured sustainability, as trained individuals pledged to teach others in turn.

Despite the initiative's positive progress, funding challenges have threatened its long-term sustainability. Short-term donor funding created dependency on salaries, undermining the volunteer-driven spirit that had been key to the project's success. Nonetheless, the program continues to offer training in 22 different professions, equipping women with the skills to thrive in a competitive labor market.

Beyond individual empowerment, the project has sparked a broader cultural shift. As women gain financial independence and confidence, they are challenging traditional gender roles, contributing to the reduction of GBV. Participation in Generation Equality has enabled HOCSD to gain global recognition for its work on gender equality, and this in turn has strengthened its ability to advocate for women's rights and expand its reach. The platform has provided valuable opportunities for collaboration with other organizations and added significant value to HOCSD's broader mission of empowering women and promoting economic and social equality.

Additional References

- hitma.info
- Hitma Org [Video 1](#)
- Hitma Org [Video 2](#)
- Hitma Org [Video 3](#)
- Hitma Org [Video 4](#)

5

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY FOUNDATION (ISF)

Organization Type
Non-Governmental
Organization

Country
Kenya

Title of Commitment

Accelerating Global Action to End Harmful Practices Against Women and Girls in all their diversity

Type of Commitment

Programmatic

Contact

suvi.lensu@solidaarisuus.fi

Alternative Rite of Passage: A Path to Ending Female Genital Mutilation in Kisii and Nyamira

In Kenya's Kisii and Nyamira regions, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a deeply ingrained cultural practice, affecting 70-80% of girls, far surpassing the national average of 15%. Despite its legal prohibition, the practice of FGM continues causing severe physical and psychological harm and limiting girls' life opportunities. To combat this, the International Solidarity Foundation, alongside local partners Centre for Community Mobilization and Empowerment (CECOME) and Manga Heart, launched the Alternative Rite of Passage (ARP) program, offering girls at risk a non-violent cultural rite of passage while educating families on the dangers of FGM. In the ARP programme, girls attend safe camps during school holidays when they are most vulnerable to FGM. There, they learn life skills and self-efficacy, culminating in a graduation ceremony with their parents and the wider community, including local duty bearers. This communal participation fosters acceptance, reinforces shared responsibility, and helps ensure the new rite – a safe alternative marking the transition from girlhood to womanhood – is locally owned and sustained.

The ARP programme has had a significant impact. FGM cases have declined in the targeted communities, and community attitudes are gradually shifting, with more people embracing ARP as a valued tradition. The programme has empowered girls with the confidence and knowledge to resist societal pressures and advocate for their rights also beyond FGM. Including fathers in the child-parental sessions has strengthened their relationships with their daughters, broadening men's roles in the family on issues traditionally

seen as "women's matters." Public commitments at the end graduations ceremonies from both parents and duty bearers to abandon FGM have been central in reinforcing the cultural shift.

Despite noted successes, challenges remain, including resistance from elders who uphold the tradition as well as the program's limited reach, benefiting only 200 girls annually. To ensure sustainability, it is essential to involve the entire community, especially men and elders, in the change process. Expanding the program could impact more girls and families, with the ultimate goal of ensuring that the majority of girls in Kisii and Nyamira participate in ARP by 2030.

Participation in the Generation Equality initiative has increased ISF's visibility and access to additional resources, strengthening its commitment to gender equality. The ARP's success not only helps fight FGM but also contributes to broaden efforts to promote bodily autonomy and gender equality, creating lasting change for girls and women in the region and beyond.



Photo credit: International Solidarity Foundation

Additional References

→ [About ISF](#)

6

JUMUIYA WOMEN FUND (JWF)

Organization Type

CSO

Country

Kenya

Title of Commitment**Advocacy in Action: Empowerment Through Dialogue****Type of Commitment****Advocacy, Policy and Programmatic****Contact****CEO-Madam Milkah Cherotich****Breaking the Chains of Violence: JWF's Pioneering Efforts to End Femicide and FGM in Kenya**

The Jumuiya Women Fund (JWF) is making a profound impact in Kenya by tackling two critical forms of gender-based violence (GBV)—Femicide in Uasin Gishu County and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Baringo County. Both issues are deeply rooted in harmful cultural practices and socio-economic inequalities, leading to devastating consequences for women and girls. JWF's mission is to reduce Femicide and eliminate FGM through community-based solutions that challenge these harmful norms and provide safe spaces for open dialogue and action.

Operating in Eldoret and Baringo, JWF has engaged local communities in powerful dialogues, bringing together administrators, law enforcement, religious leaders, and survivors. Conversations focus on the cultural, social, and legal aspects of Femicide and FGM, aiming to dismantle the root causes of violence and advocate for policy and systemic changes. By fostering collaboration among local leaders, the initiative encouraged community-driven solutions to combat GBV and make progress towards gender equality and women's safety.

The results of these efforts have been remarkable. In Eldoret, awareness of Femicide has increased significantly, leading to higher reporting rates and greater support for victims. Law enforcement and the judicial system have become more accessible to survivors, helping them seek justice and protection. In Baringo, local leaders, including elders, have committed to opposing FGM, signaling a major shift in community attitudes. These leaders have also taken proactive steps to protect girls, holding regular meetings to ensure their safety and promote education over harmful practices.

Empowering survivors has been another key achievement. Survivors of FGM and GBV now have access to vital services such as counseling and legal aid. Parents, influenced by the dialogues, are increasingly focused on their daughters' education and well-being, opting for alternatives to FGM.



Photo credit: Jumuiya Women Fund

Additionally, the End Femicide Movement in Eldoret has used social media and public gatherings to raise awareness and encourage activism against Femicide, further amplifying the voices of those affected.

JWF has played a pivotal role in these transformative shifts by facilitating policy dialogues, empowering community leaders, and providing survivors with critical support. The organization's work in training local leaders on gender rights and sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) has fostered advocacy for gender equality, creating platforms for sustained, community-driven initiatives. JWF's strong partnerships with local government, organizations like Cana Girls Rescue Centre and Tirop Angels, and youth movements such as End Femicide KE, have been integral to the success of these initiatives. JWF's participation in the Generation Equality platform has enhanced its capacity to innovate and implement effective programs, reinforcing its commitment to intersectional feminism and addressing the root causes of gender inequality.

Additional References

- jumuiyawomenfund.org
- [Jumuiya Women Fund Awards Laptops to Women Organizations in Marginalized Communities](#)
- [Mamacash Grant JWF Photobook](#)

7

LADY OF PEACE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (LOPECO)

Organization Type
Non-Governmental
Organization

Country
South Africa

Title of Commitment
Scaling up evidence-driven prevention of GBV:
The 16 Actors on EVAWG Awards Programme

Type of Commitment
Financial and Programmatic

Contact
Dieketseng Diale

Honoring Change-Makers: The 16 Actors on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) Awards to Empower Communities to Combat GBVF

The 16 Actors on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) Awards, spearheaded by the Lady of Peace Community Foundation (LOPECO) in partnership with UN Women and local organizations, have become a powerful catalyst in South Africa's fight against gender-based violence (GBV) and femicide (GBVF). Launched in response to the surge in GBVF, the initiative honors individuals and organizations working at the grassroots level to combat these issues.

The EVAWG Awards are a vital component of the UNiTE by 2030 Campaign, advocating for global action to end violence against women and girls. Since its inception, the initiative has recognized 32 community actors across four South African provinces: Gauteng, Western Cape, Northwest, and KwaZulu-Natal boosting awareness, activism, and concrete steps toward ending GBVF. More than 68% of awardees are women survivors of GBVF, whose initiatives have been empowered with R16,000 grants, enabling them to expand their work and gain broader visibility and networking opportunities.

“This award has opened doors for me in my community, and I am now one of the most recognised people in Tembisa that help bring peace and change. With the award, I was able to help my community and help my family out.”

Bishop Michael Mtshali – 16 Actor 2022



Photo credit: Lady of Peace Community Foundation (LOPECO)

Through capacity-building workshops, awardees have gained vital skills in advocacy, leadership, and mobilization, enhancing their ability to drive change within their communities. The awards have also encouraged **greater male involvement** in the conversation around gender equality and GBVF challenging traditional norms and making men allies in the fight against GBVF. Many awardees have organized **dialogues and support groups for men and boys**, encouraging their active participation in preventing GBVF.

This focus on male engagement is proving transformative, with many communities seeing a shift in traditional gender norms. Notable outcomes from the awards include new campaigns, peace dialogues, educational workshops, and mental health support groups. These initiatives have helped to create safer spaces and address the root causes of violence in communities. Some awardees have gone on to lead community mediation workshops, promoting domestic peace and strengthening community ties.

LOPECO's ongoing support, including partnerships with mental health professionals and continued awareness campaigns, ensures that awardees' efforts remain sustainable and impactful. The program's success highlights the importance of collaboration between civil society, government, and local organizations to create a lasting movement for gender equality. The 16 Actors awards are also a critical part of building sustained, community-driven movements to end GBVF and promote gender equality.

Looking ahead, the initiative's potential to expand across Southern Africa and integrate into national GBVF prevention strategies promises to scale its impact, driving long-term change in the region. The awards are not just about awarding individuals but building a sustained, community-driven force for gender equality and the elimination of GBVF.



Photo credit: Lady of Peace Community Foundation (LOPECO)

Additional References

→ lopecofoundation.org



Photo credit: Lady of Peace Community Foundation (LOPECO)

8

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL POLICY, DEMOGRAPHY AND YOUTH

Organization Type

A government institution

Country

Republic of North Macedonia

Title of Commitment

Accelerating Global Action to End Harmful Practices Against Women and Girls in all their diversity

Type of Commitment

Programmatic

Contact

Department for Equal Opportunities

Empowering Educators to break the cycle of violence: Kisela Voda Municipality's Bold Step Against Gender-Based Violence

The Ministry of Social Policy, Demography and Youth, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Commission for Equal Opportunities in Kisela Voda Municipality has taken a significant step towards tackling gender-based violence (GBV) and domestic violence within the community. In September 2024, they launched a training initiative aimed at equipping employees of primary schools and kindergartens with the knowledge and skills necessary to prevent and address these critical issues. The goal was to raise awareness, identify the signs of violence, and ensure that educators and caregivers could play an active role in protecting children and women in their care.

The training sessions focused on raising awareness about GBV, identifying different forms of violence, understanding the legal procedures for reporting abuse and gender stereotypes and power imbalances, with the aim of fostering a gender-sensitive approach to violence prevention. Participants engaged in case studies and practical exercises, learning how to recognize the signs of physical, psychological, and economic abuse, and how to respond effectively. They also gained valuable insight into the role of local authorities, like the Center for Social Affairs and law enforcement, in supporting victims and ensuring coordinated action against violence. A total of 155 participants attended the initial sessions, with 146 women and 9 men taking part.

Additional References

- mtsp.gov.mk
- Svetlana Kolarikj's Post
- Cvetanka Todorovska's Post 1 and Post 2

"Before this training, I didn't fully understand the signs of domestic violence. Now I feel prepared to spot the warning signs and, most importantly, to help."

One teacher remarked

The sessions were led by certified trainers from relevant government ministries and included topics such as international conventions, national legislation, risk assessment, and multisectoral cooperation in responding to violence.

For many attendees, the training was transformative. This initiative not only equipped educators with crucial knowledge but also sparked a shift in mindset, encouraging a more proactive and compassionate approach to violence prevention. By connecting these efforts with local governance, the initiative has made it easier for local authorities to allocate resources, engage with young people, and work towards creating safer communities. The integration of these important issues into local government work ensures that **prevention** and **protection** are not just abstract goals, but active priorities in the everyday functioning of municipalities. This approach helps to address violence at its roots by changing attitudes, promoting education, and empowering young people to actively participate in the fight against GBV and domestic violence.

Looking ahead, the municipality plans to expand this initiative, further embedding GBV prevention into local policies and governance. By continuing to educate and empower those in positions of care and authority, Kisela Voda is fostering a safer, more inclusive community where violence is actively addressed, and gender equality is prioritized. This initiative, supported by Generation Equality, represents a significant step toward breaking the cycle of violence and building a future free from harm.

9

THE LAUNCHPAD TANZANIA

Organization Type

NGO

Country

Tanzania

Title of Commitment**Tackling Gender-Based Violence Through Digital Empowerment****Type of Commitment**

Programmatic

Contact

Carol Ndosì

Safeguarding the Digital Space: LP Digital's Fight Against Online and Technology-Facilitated Gender Based Violence

Since its initiation in 2022, LP Digital, a digital arm of The Launchpad Tanzania, an NGO founded in 2019 with the mission to empower youth and women in Tanzania through digital literacy and 21st-century skills development, has been a catalyst for change in addressing gender-based violence (GBV) in the digital space. Focused on combating online harassment, tech-facilitated abuse, bridging the digital divide, and fostering safer online environments for women and youth, LP Digital has become a cornerstone of empowerment and innovation across Tanzania. The organization's four core pillars—Capacity Building through capacity-building programs; Digital Rights and Safe Online Spaces, including civic engagement and good governance; and Advocacy and Awareness through digital storytelling—have had a profound impact on individuals and communities across Tanzania.

One of the organization's key achievements has been the empowerment of women through digital skills training. In collaboration with Public and Private partners, LP Digital offers specialized training in digital marketing, financial literacy, and content creation. Participants, such as Amina, have shared transformative experiences, moving from having no online presence to confidently managing their own digital marketing efforts. This training has not only opened new economic opportunities for women but has also enhanced their confidence in navigating the digital world. Addressing online harassment head-on, in 2023, LP Digital launched a Cyber-Support Helpline, providing Online and Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence victims with psychosocial support, legal guidance, and mental health resources. This initiative has proven invaluable, offering immediate assistance to those facing harassment online and in public spaces, such as workplaces and universities. The Cyber-Support Helpline has also played an important role in educating bystanders on how to intervene and prevent further harassment.

According to Loy Jaffu, the Helpline Manager and Project Coordinator, this has created a more supportive and proactive community, where everyone plays a role in reducing violence.

The organization's commitment to fostering innovation is seen through its SheTech Incubator and Accelerator Program, which supports women-led startups in sectors such as FinTech, HealthTech, and AgriTech, among others. By providing digital skills training and resources, LP Digital enables women to create solutions that specifically address their needs and challenges. This approach not only reduces their vulnerabilities to GBV but also encourages economic independence and leadership within the tech industry. LP Digital's work goes beyond technology; it is a critical piece in the broader fight for gender equality and digital rights. By aligning its initiatives with global goals, especially SDG 5 on gender equality and SDG 9 on industry and innovation, LP Digital is helping to shape a future where marginalized groups, particularly women and youth, are not left behind in the digital revolution.

“The digital future is here, and we need to ensure it includes everyone safely and equitably,”

Jacquiline Msambila, the Head of SheTech and SMEs, during the Women in AI Breakfast

Through its capacity-building programs, advocacy efforts, and support for women-led innovations, LP Digital is not just shaping Tanzania's digital landscape—it is creating a safer, more inclusive digital world for women and girls.

Additional References

→ lpdigital.or.tz

10 FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF GERMANY

Organization Type

Member State

Country

Germany

Title of Commitment

Partnerships for Prevention of Gender-Based Violence in Southern Africa

Type of Commitment

Programmatic

Contact

Verena Wiesner and Azani Tschabo

Partnerships for Prevention: Addressing Gender-Based Violence in Southern Africa

Gender-based violence (GBV) remains a severe issue in Southern Africa, with intimate partner violence affecting up to two-thirds of women in the region. This pervasive problem is rooted in harmful social norms and patriarchal practices, where GBV is often normalized. The lack of institutional and individual capacity to address and prevent GBV, coupled with limited regional collaboration, has made progress slow. In response, the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development launched the Partnerships for Prevention of Gender-Based Violence in Southern Africa (PfP) initiative. Launched in 2020, the PfP initiative operates in South Africa, Lesotho, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Namibia. Its goal is to implement evidence-based, multisectoral strategies to prevent GBV, challenge harmful social norms, and make GBV unacceptable in these communities. The project, set to run until 2025, primarily targets vulnerable groups such as women, children, and media professionals, while also working with men and boys, especially in rural areas, to shift societal views on gender violence.

A key success of the initiative has been its focus on strengthening local partnerships and building the capacity of community actors. With the help of flagship initiatives such as campaigns on LGBTIQ+ rights and sexual and reproductive health, the initiative has reached over 179,000 community members. It has also established a social innovation lab to develop new GBV prevention strategies and created 15 coordination tools to improve collaboration among stakeholders. Regional meetings have allowed the exchange of best practices, which has fostered stronger regional cooperation. In Zimbabwe, the initiative has addressed child marriages and violence, which are deeply embedded in patriarchal religious and cultural practices.

The initiative has successfully engaged traditional and religious leaders, turning them into powerful advocates for gender equality and GBV prevention. By training men and boys, particularly in rural areas, the initiative has helped encourage their active involvement in addressing GBV becoming part of the solution.

While the initiative has seen progress, it faces challenges, including cultural resistance to changing entrenched patriarchal norms and limited funding. Inclusivity has also been a concern, particularly for marginalized groups like women with disabilities. To address these challenges, the project has focused on empowering local community leaders, religious figures, journalists, and men to act as multipliers of change, ensuring sustainable, grassroots efforts.

The PfP initiative demonstrates the importance of cross-sector collaboration, local engagement, and context-specific interventions. The creation of regional platforms for knowledge exchange offers a strong foundation for expanding the model and fostering long-term change in GBV prevention. Furthermore, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development's participation in the Generation Equality Forum has provided a valuable platform for dialogue and global collaboration, promoting gender equality and supporting the achievement of SDG 5 on gender equality. Through these efforts, the PfP initiative is paving the way for a more equitable and GBV-free future in Southern Africa.

Additional References

- [Partnerships for Prevention](#)
- [Preventing Gender-Based Violence in Southern Africa](#)

11

YES TRUST ZIMBABWE

Organization Type
CSO – Youth Led

Country
Zimbabwe

Title of Commitment
Mobilizing communities for social change

Type of Commitment
Programmatic

Contact
Thina Maposa

Empowering Communities to end GBV: YES Trust's Lasting Impact in Zimbabwe

YES Trust Zimbabwe, a youth-led organization and AC GBV leader, has made significant strides in combating Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Bulilima District through its EU-funded Spotlight Initiative Pillar 6 Movement Building Project. Running from 2020 to 2022, the project aimed to foster community-driven solutions for GBV prevention. Although the formal project ended in 2022, YES Trust's efforts have continued, demonstrating the organization's commitment to long-lasting social change despite limited resources.

Central to YES Trust's approach was the integration of the HeForShe strategy, which engaged men and boys in challenging harmful gender norms, particularly toxic masculinities. This approach became a core component of the organization's GBV programming, focusing on building local capacity for GBV prevention and promoting accountability. The result was a notable shift in community attitudes, with more people becoming involved in the movement and a marked increase in the reporting of GBV cases.



Photo credit: YES Trust Zimbabwe

One of the key outcomes was the increased use of the One Stop Centre, where survivors of GBV could access integrated services such as health, legal, and psychosocial support.

Additionally, the project garnered widespread support from local leaders, including traditional chiefs and religious figures, who became vocal advocates for gender equality and women's rights. The public pledges to actively support the movement against GBV has been instrumental in changing local attitudes, with many of these leaders becoming champions of gender equality and advocates for women's and girls' rights. The involvement of such influential figures has helped to strengthen community support systems and foster an environment where survivors of GBV feel safe coming forward for help.

The sustainability of the movement is one of the project's most impressive outcomes and a testament to the power of community-driven approaches. Even after the formal project ended, local communities have continued to support and advance the movement, aided by the technical support provided by YES Trust. This grassroots momentum demonstrates the effectiveness of community-driven approaches to GBV prevention and highlights the effectiveness of local ownership in ensuring the longevity of GBV prevention efforts.

YES Trust's work in Bulilima has become an important case study in GBV prevention. Through its collaboration with UN Women and support from the Government of Catalonia, YES Trust is sharing its impact and lessons learned with a global audience. The organization aims to inspire other groups to adopt similar community-centered models and contribute to a broader, collaborative effort to end violence against women and girls. YES Trust's ability to sustain and grow the movement, even with limited resources, underscores the potential for scalable and adaptable solutions in the fight against GBV worldwide.

Additional References

→ [YES Trust Zimbabwe Facebook](#)

12 ACT ALLIANCE

Organization Type
Faith-based humanitarian and development network

Country
Lebanon and Palestine

Title of Commitment
Evidencing Faith-Based GBV Strategies: Addressing GBV in times of war

Type of Commitment
Advocacy and programmatic

Contact
Rachel Tavernor and Elaine Neuenfeldt

Addressing Gender-Based Violence in Gaza and Lebanon Amid Conflict

The ongoing conflicts in Gaza and Lebanon have sharply increased the incidence of gender-based violence (GBV), disproportionately affecting women and girls. Overcrowded shelters, inadequate resources, and a breakdown of coping mechanisms have increased the risks of GBV, including sexual exploitation. Similarly, in Lebanon, displacement due to regional conflicts has led to a rise in GBV, with women and girls facing domestic violence, harassment, and limited access to essential services in overcrowded shelters and rented homes.

In response, a dedicated commitment has been made to provide comprehensive emergency support to GBV survivors, addressing both immediate and long-term needs. Key interventions include protection services, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and advocacy for gender-responsive humanitarian action. In Gaza, the response includes medical assistance, cash support, and the rehabilitation of homes, focusing on community-based mechanisms to address GBV. Meanwhile, in Lebanon, ACT Alliance partners prioritize MHPSS, ensuring access to safe spaces and essential humanitarian aid. These initiatives are carried out by organizations such as DSPR and Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), in collaboration with local partners like Al-Ahli Hospital and MECC. Services offered range from shelter and medical care to livelihood support and legal assistance. Over the past two years, these efforts have intensified due to the ongoing conflicts, and while the intervention in Lebanon is planned for one year (June 2024 - June 2025), the Gaza response will span 12 to 24 months, depending on evolving needs.

Additional References

→ [ACT Alliance](#)

The impact has been transformative. Safe spaces have been established in both regions, providing refuge for survivors of GBV, and hundreds have received vital psychosocial and legal support. These interventions have helped reduce stigma surrounding GBV, empowering women and girls to speak out, seek help, and reclaim their rights. Positive shifts in attitudes towards GBV have also been seen, with local leaders and faith-based actors publicly condemning violence, and survivors challenging patriarchal norms.

Lessons learned emphasize the need for integrated GBV protection within broader humanitarian responses, culturally tailored interventions, and the critical role of faith leaders in fostering lasting change. Combining psychosocial support with emergency relief efforts, such as cash assistance and shelter, has been crucial in reducing the vulnerability of women and children. Local partnerships have also been essential, enabling rapid and effective responses, as seen in Gaza with Al-Ahli Hospital and in Lebanon with MECC. Expanding programs like MHPSS in Lebanon to other conflict zones, such as Syrian refugee camps, and extending support in Gaza to education and vocational training, could further enhance resilience. ACT Alliance remains steadfast in advocating for gender equality and empowering women and girls to reclaim their dignity amid ongoing adversity.



Photo credit: Chady Chata 2022

13 KERING FOUNDATION

Organization Type

Private Sector

Country

France

Title of Commitment

Accès à des services holistiques/
Access to holistic services

Type of Commitment

Financial and programmatic

Contact

Daniela Castagno and Sorrel Lucas

Maison des Femmes: A One-Stop Solution to Break the Cycle of Gender-Based Violence

The Kering Foundation is committed to supporting survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) by enhancing access to comprehensive care through the expansion of the Maison des Femmes model. This model offers a one-stop-shop for medical, social, legal, psychological, and post-traumatic care, addressing the diverse needs of women who have experienced violence. Recognized by the French Ministry of Health as a “mission of general interest,” the Maison des Femmes initiative has received public funding and proven successful in providing integrated support to survivors.

The initiative is being implemented in France by the ReStart collective, with funding from the Kering Foundation, other private contributors, and public support. With a five-year budget of 5 million euros, Kering Foundation’s goal is to establish 15 *Maisons des Femmes* across the country. To date, the Kering Foundation has funded seven centers in cities like Rennes, Marseille, Le Havre, and Montpellier, offering vital services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual abuse, unwanted pregnancies, and female genital mutilation. Each *Maison des Femmes* serves between 200 and 500 women annually, providing coordinated care in a single hospital environment. These centers also collaborate with local organizations and specialized services, such as child protection systems. For instance, some *Maisons des Femmes* partner with UAPED (Unité d’Accueil Pédiatrique Enfant en Danger) to support children affected by domestic violence. The initiative also includes educational outreach in schools to raise awareness about GBV and promote prevention.

The Kering Foundation’s funding has played a pivotal role in ensuring the expansion and sustainability of the model. By boosting the visibility of the program, the Foundation has attracted additional private funding, including a partnership established during the Generation Equality Forum in Paris, in 2021, where one private funder matched the Kering Foundation’s financial commitment. This collaboration has amplified the initiative’s impact.

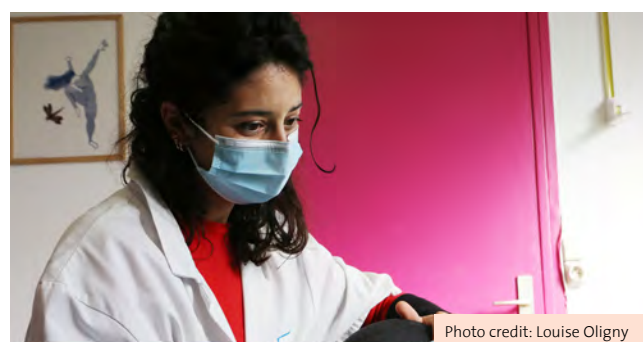


Photo credit: Louise Oligny

Key lessons from the project emphasize the need for alignment between private and public funders, as their decision-making processes can differ, potentially causing delays. To ensure success, it is also crucial to secure the buy-in of hospital management, ensuring that sufficient resources and staff are allocated to the initiative. *The Maison des Femmes* model has the potential to be replicated in other regions, but each implementation must be tailored to local needs. The model’s success is underpinned by a strong public-private partnership, as demonstrated by the collaboration between the Kering Foundation and the French Ministry of Health, which has provided crucial funding for the sustainable development of these centers. The Kering Foundation’s commitment to addressing GBV through the *Maison des Femmes* initiative has significantly improved access to care for survivors in France. By funding and promoting this innovative, integrated approach, the Foundation is not only providing immediate support but also laying the groundwork for long-term, sustainable solutions to combat GBV. The initiative’s partnership model holds the potential for wider replication, ultimately working to break the cycle of violence and empower survivors to rebuild their lives.

Additional References

→ keringfoundation.org

14 LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION (LWF) – JORDAN

Organization Type
Non-Governmental
Organization

Country
Jordan

Title of Commitment
Breaking the cycle of fear through
GBV Case management

Type of Commitment
Programmatic

Contact
Sikhonzile.ndlovu@lutheranworld.org
Islam.shdefat@lutheranworld.org

Empowering Survivors of GBV to Lead Change in Their Communities

The Lutheran World Federation’s (LWF) Breaking the Cycle of Fear through GBV Case Management initiative in Jordan is empowering survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) by providing crucial support and creating safe spaces. With a focus on enhancing resilience, fostering safety, and promoting long-term well-being, the program equips survivors with the tools to manage the impact of violence. This includes safety plans, psychosocial support, and access to legal, health, and social services.

Targeting communities particularly affected by GBV, the program serves women, men, boys, and girls, with trained GBV case managers and psychosocial support specialists offering support through individual counseling, group workshops, and skill-building activities. The program primarily serves women and girls (70% of beneficiaries), who are part of communities deeply affected by GBV. LWF’s trained case managers offer counseling, group workshops, and skill-building activities, focusing on conflict resolution, stress management, and economic empowerment. Survivors are also connected with specialized services, with tailored assessments and follow-ups ensuring sustained impact and the ability to adjust interventions.

“I used to live in a closed circle of housework and fear. But now, I value myself and know how to manage my anger and the challenges of parenting. Every woman must break the barrier of fear and take every opportunity for growth.”

Samah

Samah’s story illustrates the program’s life-changing effects. Trapped in an abusive relationship at the hands of her son, she regained self-esteem and set boundaries through the support provided. This transformation not only improved her relationship with her son—who became more cooperative—but also empowered her to become a local advocate for other women.

Samah now encourages others to break free from abuse, and has taken on a leadership role, training community members on addressing GBV. Her personal growth, from a life constrained by fear to one of empowerment, highlights the program’s transformative potential.



Photo credit: Lutheran World

Each year, approximately 500 individuals benefit from the program, with its impact extending beyond the survivors to their families and communities. The initiative also exemplifies the power of collaboration—between LWF, local organizations, case managers, and the survivors themselves. One case manager emphasized the importance of trust and safe spaces in empowering survivors like Samah to rebuild their lives and become community leaders.

Through its participation in the Generation Equality initiative, LWF amplifies survivors' voices globally, strengthening its advocacy and creating opportunities for growth. Samah's words reflect the program's core message: *"Every woman must break the barrier of fear and take every opportunity for growth."* The Breaking the Cycle of Fear initiative is a testament to the power of empowerment, resilience, and community transformation, creating safer, more supportive environments for all.

Additional References

- [The Lutheran World Federation](#)
- [LWF Jordan Facebook](#)



Photo credit: Lutheran World

15 SWGFL (SOUTHWEST GRID FOR LEARNING)

Organization Type

CSO

Country

United Kingdom

Title of Commitment

Preventing Gender-Based Intimate Image Abuse through Technological Innovation and Global Advocacy

Type of Commitment

Advocacy, policy and programmatic

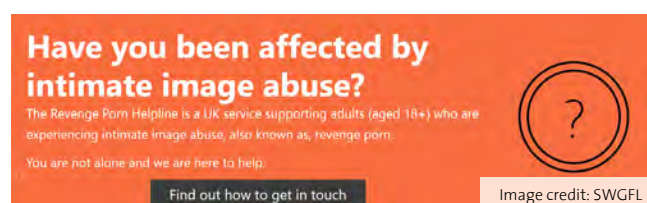
Contact

Sophie Mortimer; Boris Radanovic and David Wright

Combatting Non-Consensual Intimate Image Abuse with StopNCII.org

Intimate image abuse, especially non-consensual intimate image (NCII) sharing, has emerged as a devastating form of gender-based violence, disproportionately affecting women. In 2023, the Revenge Porn Helpline reported a staggering 106% increase in cases, with 71% of victims being women. Women have 28 times more intimate images shared than men, which leads to severe emotional, psychological, and social trauma.

To address this growing crisis, SWGfL has implemented a dual approach. The **Revenge Porn Helpline (RPH)** provides UK-based victims with essential support, including guidance on removing abusive content and emotional support to help them navigate the trauma of NCII abuse. The helpline has become a lifeline for thousands of survivors. Survivors share how the team's swift content removal efforts and compassionate assistance allow them to regain control during what is a deeply distressing time.



Building on this foundation, SWGfL launched **StopNCII.org** in 2021, a groundbreaking global platform designed to prevent intimate image abuse before it happens. Unlike the RPH, which focuses on content removal and emotional support, StopNCII.org operates as a prevention tool. It uses innovative device-side hashing technology to create digital fingerprints, or hashes, of intimate images or videos. These hashes are then used by participating platforms, such as Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok, to block uploads of those images. StopNCII.org does not store any images or provide emotional support but offers individuals a proactive means to protect themselves from future abuse.

Since its inception, StopNCII.org has had a profound impact. It has created over 1 million hashes and successfully prevented the sharing of 21,500 abusive images and videos. Meanwhile, the RPH continues to assist thousands of victims annually, supporting them through the trauma of intimate image abuse by removing harmful content and offering critical emotional support.

SWGfL's initiatives are bolstered by key partnerships with [global tech companies](#), including Meta (Facebook, Instagram), TikTok, and OnlyFans, along with collaborations with over [100 NGOs worldwide](#). A pivotal case in 2021, supported by the RPH and the UK National Crime Agency, led to the removal of 158,000 out of 162,000 reported images, showcasing the effectiveness of a combined response to large-scale abuse.

The success of StopNCII.org and the RPH lies not only in their innovative approaches but also in their strategic collaborations. Partnerships with global tech companies and international bodies have enabled SWGfL to quickly and efficiently address NCII abuse, providing survivors with tools to reclaim their digital identities. Advocacy efforts through initiatives like Generation Equality have further amplified these solutions, pushing for stronger protections against intimate image abuse and recognition of this issue as a form of gender-based violence.

As SWGfL continues its work, the scalability of StopNCII.org and the critical support offered by the RPH stand as beacons of hope in the fight against intimate image abuse. Together, these initiatives are shaping a safer digital future, empowering victims, and preventing further harm.

Additional References

- [SWGfL – Safety and Security Online](#)
- [Revenge Porn Helpline – 0345 6000 459](#)
- [Stop Non-Consensual Intimate Image Abuse](#)

16 NALA FEMINIST COLLECTIVE (NALAFEM)

Organization Type

Young Women Organization

Country

Kenya

Title of Commitment

Fostering, Enabling and Mobilizing Africa Young Women towards the implementation of Action Coalitions Commitments in Africa

Type of Commitment

Advocacy, policy and programmatic

Contact

Syeda Re'em Hussain

Nalafem Empowering Young African Women to Lead the Change Against Gender-Based Violence

Nalafem's commitment is rooted in its mission to foster, enable, and mobilize young African women to engage in and fight for gender equality. By focusing on youth-led accountability and harnessing the expertise of young people, Nalafem aims to enable young women to lead the changes necessary to end GBV, aligning with the Africa Young Women Beijing+25 Manifesto's call for comprehensive policy reforms.

Nalafem's approach is threefold: first, it fosters policy change at national and regional levels, in alignment with the **Africa Young Women Beijing+25 Manifesto** demands, which call for comprehensive reforms to end GBV and ensure gender equality. Second, Nalafem seeks to **enable young women's capacities** for advocacy through programs such as fellowships, which equip them with the tools to amplify their voices and push for inclusion at the highest levels of decision-making. Third, Nalafem's commitment aims to **mobilize young women for intergenerational co-leadership**, promoting collaboration between youth and elders to occupy leadership positions and accelerate policy change.

Since its launch in 2021, Nalafem has had a profound impact, particularly among marginalized communities. Through the Nalafem Academy, over 50,000 young women have received training in vital areas like bodily autonomy, sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR), GBV, and economic empowerment. These women are now at the forefront of advocating for women's rights, with some stepping into leadership roles at local, national, and global levels.

One of the most powerful outcomes of Nalafem's work has been the development of young feminist leaders. The **Nalafem Fellowship** program has graduated **15 fellows** from nine African countries, many of whom are now working as aspiring politicians committed to feminist leadership and policy reform in their countries. These fellows have gained the courage and skills needed to push for legislative changes aimed at ending GBV. For instance, **Hon. Evidence Zana**, a former Member of Parliament in Zimbabwe, credits the fellowship with helping her find purpose and resilience, equipping her to continue her work in her community and advocate for meaningful change.

"When the Nalafem fellowship program started, it was soon after I had been recalled as a member of parliament, [...] I found purpose and, most importantly, I found courage to continue working in my community. [...] I can safely say the program has helped me to be a strong and resilient and equipped young woman."

Hon. Evidence Zana (Zimbabwe), Former Member of Parliament



Photo credit: Nalafem

Nalafem’s efforts extend beyond training, with significant strides in policy advocacy. The organization has hosted three summits and facilitated 22 advocacy missions across Africa, bringing together over 500 leaders from 35 countries to foster intergenerational co-leadership. Another example is a notable example was the **Nalafem Summit in Kenya**, where a direct dialogue between the **female Chief Justice** and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) strengthened the implementation of SGBV courts to better serve the needs of young women.

Nalafem’s work also includes providing financial support to young feminist organizations. It has allocated \$57,600 to 41 organizations leading community-driven projects, and through strategic partnerships, it has provided \$559,200 in sponsorships for initiatives like policy briefs in Malawi and amplifying the voices of deaf women in Rwanda.

Despite challenges such as cultural resistance and the lack of flexible funding for young women’s organizations, Nalafem continues to make a powerful impact. Its work is adaptable and scalable, offering a model for empowering young women to take charge of their futures and lead the fight for gender equality across Africa and beyond. Through global partnerships and its participation in the Generation Equality Forum, Nalafem is building momentum toward lasting change, ensuring that young women are not only included but are leading the charge against GBV.

Additional References

- nalafem.org
- [Africa Young Women Beijing +25 Manifesto](#)
- [Nalafem Strategy](#)
- [Impact Report](#)
- [Summit Report 2023](#)
- [Summit Report 2024](#)
- [2024 GEF Survey Report](#)



PLAN INTERNATIONAL TOGO

Organization Type
Development and
Humanitarian NGO

Country
United Kingdom

Title of Commitment
Egalité pour les filles: Equality for Girls

Type of Commitment
Programmatic

Contact
Abdoul Baki Labodja

Empowering Girls and Combating Gender-Based Violence in Togo

Gender-based violence (GBV) and child abuse, especially against girls, have been pervasive issues in Togo, despite legal protections like the Togolese Children's Code, which mandates state protection against all forms of violence. Cultural practices, weak law enforcement, and harmful gender norms have contributed to early marriages, sexual violence, and forced pregnancies. In 2022, nearly 2,800 people, mostly women, fell victim to GBV in Togo.

In response, Plan International Togo, with the support of Plan International Sweden, launched the "Strengthening Civil Society to Fight Gender Violence in Togo" project in 2019. The project, which will run through 2024, targets seven prefectures, particularly regions where GBV is most prevalent. The initiative's primary goal is to eliminate violence against children, particularly girls, by strengthening child protection systems, raising awareness, and shifting harmful social norms.

"Thanks to this project, I have a trade, and in a short while, I'll pass the exam and have my own workshop."

Ayélévi

A powerful success story is that of Ayélévi, a 15-year-old girl from the Moyen Mono prefecture. Ayélévi was forced into an early marriage due to her family's financial struggles. However, after participating in the project's awareness campaigns, she recognized her rights and successfully prevented the marriage. Ayélévi was then supported through reintegration programs, including socio-professional training that helped her build skills and confidence.

Additional References

→ [Plan International Togo](#)

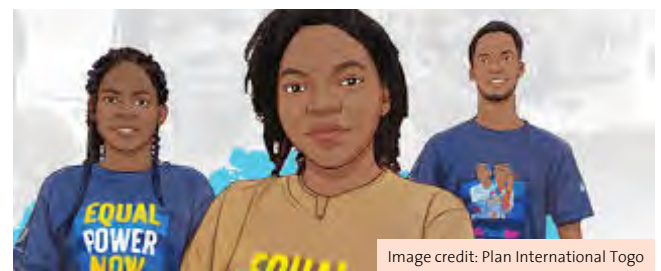


Image credit: Plan International Togo

The project has made significant strides in strengthening Community Child Protection Mechanisms (CCPM), improving the reporting and response to cases of GBV. Awareness campaigns have shifted harmful social norms, such as the belief that GBV should be kept within the family. These efforts have helped normalize reporting, with a noticeable increase in cases being reported. Between July 2023 and March 2024, 253 GBV cases were reported in the project area, 218 of which involved girls, suggesting that people are becoming more empowered to seek help.

Socio-professional support for survivors has been a cornerstone of the project. This holistic approach not only protects girls but fosters long-term positive change. As Ayélévi's story illustrates, the project has provided girls with hope, skills, and the opportunity to break free from traditional gender roles.

The Generation Equality global initiative has further enhanced the project's impact by providing additional resources and networks, amplifying its advocacy efforts. Participation in this platform has expanded the project's visibility and connections, strengthening its commitment to ending GBV and achieving gender equality. The model of collaboration between local communities, NGOs, and governments offers a scalable framework for addressing GBV. Moving forward, the success of this project can be replicated in other regions of Togo and beyond, serving as a powerful model for creating safer, more equitable environments for girls and young people.

The Generation Equality program has helped to advance gender equality in the country through the promotion of female leadership, the empowerment of girls and the reinforcement of work with youth organizations.



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