

NOT A MINUTE MORE

UNIFEM is raising the profile of the issue of violence against women, highlighting effective strategies, and urging that resources be invested to reduce gender-based violence. Individuals, philanthropic institutions, organizations and corporations can support the UN Trust Fund for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

To contribute online, go to UNIFEM's website and click on contribute. US tax deductible donations by check or money order should be payable to:

United Nations Foundation
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Please mark "Fund for UNIFEM" in the memo field of the check.

The United Nations Foundation is UNIFEM's partner providing fiduciary services. Contributions are tax-deductible under IRS guidelines. For additional information, please contact the Public Affairs Specialist, Joan Libby-Hawk, 212.906.6390, joan.libby-hawk@undp.org.

Projects are selected annually through a competitive request for proposal process. For TFAV application guidelines, visit the violence against women section at UNIFEM's website. For UNIFEM publications and more information on its work on violence against women, please visit the website at www.unifem.org.

**NICOLE KIDMAN
UNIFEM GOODWILL AMBASSADOR**



"This year, I am committed to educating myself further by traveling with Noeleen to meet with women, hear their stories and understand

first-hand the issues they face. I am especially interested in helping to give visibility to the pandemic of violence against women.

UNIFEM manages a UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, and as I travel, I will be visiting many of the projects to see the effective strategies that have been put in place."

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**A LIFE FREE OF VIOLENCE –
IT'S OUR RIGHT**

United Nations
Development Fund for Women
UNIFEM

THE TRUST FUND TO ELIMINATE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

At least one out of every three women around the world has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime. Violence against women and girls is perhaps the most pervasive human rights violation. It devastates lives, fractures families and communities, and stalls development. Failing economies, coupled with discrimination and inequality, heighten women's vulnerability to violence, keeping them dependent and their options limited. In conflict and post-conflict countries, women are singled out for sexual abuse and human trafficking by competing armed forces. Since its founding in 1976, UNIFEM, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, has made ending violence against women a priority.

UNIFEM provides financial support and technical assistance to innovative programmes promoting women's human rights, their economic and political empowerment, and gender equality in over 100 countries. In 1996, the UN General Assembly, recognizing UNIFEM's leadership and expertise, established the UN Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women (TFEVAW). This Trust Fund, managed by UNIFEM, is the only multilateral grant-making mechanism that supports local, national and regional efforts to combat violence. Since its establishment, the TFEVAW has granted more than US \$10 million to 198 initiatives in 100 countries. Raising awareness of women's human rights, these UNIFEM-supported efforts have:

- Linked activists and advocates from all parts of the world,
- Shown how small, innovative projects impact laws, policies and attitudes, and
- Helped break the wall of silence, moving the issue onto public agendas everywhere.

With grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000, TFEVAW projects conduct public education and awareness campaigns, build coalitions, involve law enforcement, judicial and government agencies; and train educators, health-care personnel and police officials to respond to and prevent violence. Many projects strive to alter community attitudes and involve men as allies. To build efforts that strengthen enforcement and accountability, the TFEVAW is focusing on projects that work to implement national policies and laws to end gender-based violence.



“The effective strategies supported by the Trust Fund are key to lives free of violence for women and girls. They must

be scaled up to become standard practice everywhere.”

- Noeleen Heyzer, UNIFEM Executive Director

RESOURCES FOR ACTION

As the manager of the TFEVAW, UNIFEM reaches out to governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and individuals to encourage voluntary contributions to reduce gender-based violence. Through the partnership with the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, UNIFEM secured a grant from Johnson and Johnson, enabling it to open a window of the Trust Fund focusing on linkages between violence against women and HIV/AIDS. In the past two years, the United States Government, Johnson & Johnson, Zonta International and UNIFEM National Committees joined donors from Iceland, Finland, Norway, Denmark, Trinidad and Tobago to nearly double the TFEVAW resources.

But demand for resources far exceeds the amount of funding available. Last year, UNIFEM received 1061 proposals amounting to tens of millions of dollars in requests, but only had US \$1.8 million to give out. The overwhelming number of submissions demonstrates the commitment worldwide to expand work on the ground to combat gender-based violence. But the challenge is clear: the lack of resources severely constrains the scale and scope of comprehensive activities to change attitudes and laws, build constituencies and accountability, provide shelter and services.

SUPPORTING LOCAL INNOVATION FOR GLOBAL IMPACT

In Zimbabwe, the Trust Fund supported the Network for Zimbabwe Positive Women (NZPW+). The grant supported NZPW+ to launch the Memory Book project that helps women find the strength to break their silence about the disease. A training project called Stepping Stones helps shatter the stigma and involve the community – including men – in caring for infected people. “Now people realize that HIV/AIDS is a problem that impacts every community,” explains NZPW+ Executive Director Angeline Chiwetani.

Through a Trust Fund grant to Sakshi, an Indian women's NGO, judges received training during which they met survivors of rape, dowry-related violence and domestic abuse in women's shelters, not in the courtroom. They heard first hand what the women experienced, and the barriers they confronted in any attempt to find protection or justice. To prepare for training judges, Sakshi researched women's rights in the judicial system finding that in India less than 10 percent of the defendants in rape trials are convicted, and those who are received mild punishments. After the Sakshi experience, the judges requested a training of trainers and are now educating their peers.

In Honduras, a project with football players helped combat gender-based violence. The office of the local mayor agreed to purchase new equipment for the football team in exchange for their help in educating the community. Local trainers facilitated sessions with the team every Sunday morning, discussing topics from domestic and sexual violence, to machismo behavior and women's human rights. Women and children became involved, going to the games with signs that read, “We want a Life Free from Violence.” After the project's end, the players themselves requested more training and formed a peace group to educate others in the community.

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