



## Orange Day, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2014

### End conflict-related sexual violence against women and girls

In July 2012 the Secretary-General's *UNiTE to End Violence against Women* campaign proclaimed every 25th of the month as **Orange Day**. Initiated and led by the UNiTE campaign's Global Youth Network, worldwide activities implemented on this day by UN country offices and civil society organizations strive to highlight issues relevant to preventing and ending violence against women and girls, not only once a year, on 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women), but every month.

In 2013, the UNiTE campaign focused its Orange Days on **highlighting recommendations** of the **agreed conclusions of the** 57th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW57), focused on the theme of the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls. Orange Day highlighted issues including safe schools, safe work places and cyber space as a safe space for women and girls. Activities culminated in a call to 'Orange the World in 16 Days' from November 25 and throughout the 16 Days of Activism. The Call resulted in 'orange activities' in over 50 countries and over 76 million people being reached through social media.

In 2014, Orange Day continues to spark actions around the world on specific themes and issues towards ending all forms of violence against women and girls. **This month, UNiTE #OrangeDay will focus on an issue affecting millions of women and girls: conflict-related sexual violence.**

### CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Sexual violence during and in the aftermath of conflict affects millions of people, primarily women and girls. It is used as a deliberate military tactic with the aim of damaging individuals and tearing apart families and communities. Women and girls face sexual violence at the hands of state and non-state actors

including rape, sexual slavery, sexual mutilation and/or forced impregnation. It may take place in camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs), at checkpoints, detention facilities, or in the home.

Conflict situations are often characterized by lawlessness, and state institutions may function poorly, if at all. Perpetrators of sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict settings are often allowed to act with impunity, leaving survivors with little chance of accessing justice, reparations, or the care and services they need. When the conflict is over, women and girls who have faced sexual violence are likely to suffer from psychological and physical effects, and may also face social stigma and rejection from their families and communities. Sexual violence in conflict is frequently under-reported due to the risks faced by survivors or witnesses who come forward. In many contexts, limited availability of services complicates collection of evidence and compounds negative health impacts. In the aftermath of conflict, sexual violence may also continue to be perpetrated with impunity.

## **INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT**

Recent years have seen an increase in commitment and momentum against conflict-related sexual violence, and a number of global initiatives aimed at its elimination.

### **UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL**

There are a number of internationally agreed norms and standards which relate to women, peace and security, resulting from long term work on this issue by key actors within the UN System and Civil Society. In recent years the UN Security Council has passed a number of resolutions related to women, peace and security, including [1325](#), [1820](#), [1888](#), [1889](#), [1960](#), [2106](#) and [2122](#). These resolutions collectively aim to address sexual violence in conflict, the issue of impunity, and establish the importance of the full participation of women and the inclusion of gender perspectives in peace negotiations, humanitarian planning, peacekeeping operations, post-conflict peace-building and governance. [Learn more.](#)

### **UN ACTION AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT (UN Action)**

One of the key actors in efforts by the UN System to prevent and end sexual violence and conflict is UN Action. [UN Action](#) unites the work of 13 UN entities with the goal of ending sexual violence during and in the wake of conflict. UN Action's advocacy efforts have taken this message to the general public under the campaign banner: "Get Cross! Stop Rape Now". The aim has been to build a vocal, visible constituency for an issue that has been called "history's greatest silence". "Get Cross" refers to the need

to galvanize global outrage. It also explains the significance of the campaign's distinctive crossed-arm tag gesture and is shorthand for the "five key asks" of the campaign:

**What is your country doing to enhance security for women affected by war?**

**C**ontributing troops or police – including women – to peacekeeping missions?

**R**esource-mobilization to fund services for survivors?

**O**versight and training of the security sector in rape prevention and response?

**S**upporting legal measures to end impunity?

**S**ponsoring women's full participation in peace talks?

For more information, visit the [UN Action Facebook page](#) and follow [UN Action on Twitter](#).

**UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

The UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women (the Trust Fund) is a leading global grant-making mechanism dedicated to addressing violence against women and girls in all its forms. It supports effective initiatives that demonstrate that violence against women and girls can be systematically addressed, reduced and, with persistence, eliminated. The Trust Fund has a three-year Thematic Window on violence in conflict, post-conflict and transitional contexts, through which it is generating knowledge on preventing and responding to violence against women and girls in these settings. 15 per cent of Trust Fund grantees are currently implementing programmes that address violence in conflict-related contexts in countries including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cambodia and Kenya.

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

Each year the Secretary-General of the United Nations submits a report on conflict-related sexual violence for the information of members of the Security Council, which details the implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions; 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1960 (2010) and 2106 (2013). The report presents information on parties to conflict credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for committing conflict-related sexual violence. The report is produced from information gathered through extensive consultations with the 13 members of UN Action, United Nations Field Operations and Country Teams, concerned Member States and non-governmental organizations.

On April 25, the UN Security Council will formally discuss the report which covers the period from January to December 2013 (S/2014/181) in an Open Debate under the Presidency of Nigeria. The debate will provide an important moment for Member States to reaffirm their political commitment to the issue,

build momentum for implementing existing commitments and focus on addressing the root causes of conflict-related sexual violence.

The report highlights the following as key issues to be prioritized for immediate action:

- *Prevention:* At the global level there is unprecedented political momentum in the fight to end conflict-related sexual violence, but additional action to prevent and respond to these crimes is still needed at the regional and national levels.
- *Services:* Survivors of sexual violence must have access to psychosocial, legal, and livelihood assistance, as well as non-discriminatory and comprehensive health services.
- *Justice and impunity:* Action to prevent conflict-related sexual violence should be reflected in security and justice sector reform, as well as in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes. Ceasefire and peace agreements should include conflict-related sexual violence as a prohibited act and perpetrators of sexual violence should be excluded from amnesty provisions.
- *Monitoring and reporting:* To help combat the universal under reporting of conflict-related sexual violence the deployment of Women Protection Advisers should be given high priority and monitoring and reporting arrangements (MARA) should be established in all UN peacekeeping and special political missions.

### **ORANGE DAY ACTIVITIES (25th April 2014)**

This Orange Day, the UNiTE campaign will focus on conflict-related sexual violence against women and girls to highlight this issue as the UN Security Council meets to discuss this topic.

#### **What can you do?**

- **Spread the X:** Participate in UN Action's 'Get Cross' action. Take a picture of yourself wearing orange with your arms crossed. Post it on your Facebook page. Tell people why you are doing it. Upload it on the UN Action site: <http://www.stoprapenow.org/get-cross/>
- **Share the UN Secretary-General's report** on conflict-related sexual violence and its key messages with your friends and networks: <http://ow.ly/vRwC5>

- **Send a letter:** write to your elected official to ask them to intensify efforts to end sexual violence against women and girls in situations of armed conflict and other crises. Download a sample letter from: <http://www.stoprapenow.org/take-action/>

## **SAMPLE SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGES**

### Twitter

On 25 April, #OrangeDay, wear orange & get cross! Show ur support to end #sexualviolence in conflict. <http://ow.ly/vOInc> via @SayNO\_UNiTE

Today is #UNiTE #OrangeDay! Regional & national action needed to prevent #sexualviolence in conflict. <http://ow.ly/vOInc> v @SayNO\_UNiTE

Survivors of #VAW in conflict must get psychosocial, legal, livelihood & health services. <http://ow.ly/vOInc> via @SayNO\_UNiTE #OrangeDay

On #OrangeDay #UNiTE & wear orange & share the #UNSG 's report on conflicted-related #sexualviolence. <http://ow.ly/vOInc> via @SayNO\_UNiTE

This #OrangeDay – 25 April, write to your elected official & ask them to intensify efforts to end #VAW in #conflict. <http://www.stoprapenow.org/take-action/> via @SayNO\_UNiTE

### Facebook

Today – 25 April – is #UNiTE campaign's #OrangeDay. It's time to end conflict-related sexual violence against women and girls. Participate in the Get Cross action to show your support. Wear orange, take a picture of yourself with crossed arms and upload it here: <http://www.stoprapenow.org/get-cross/>

This month, #OrangeDay highlights conflict-related sexual violence against women and girls. Today the UN Secretary-General's report on conflict-related sexual violence will be discussed at the Security Council. Read and share the report. <http://ow.ly/vRwC5>

On #OrangeDay, 25 April, the #UNiTE campaign is focusing on conflict-related sexual violence. The UN Secretary-General's report on conflict-related sexual violence draws attention to the need for international

attention to translate into action at the regional and national levels, to improve services for survivors, increase access to justice for survivors, end impunity for perpetrators and increase monitoring and reporting of the issue. Find out more. <http://ow.ly/vRwC5>