What’s the Issue?

Violence against women and girls is a grave violation of human rights. It has immediate to long-term multiple physical, sexual and mental health consequences for women and girls, including death. It negatively affects women’s general well-being; prevents women from fully participating in society; and impacts families, the community and the country at large. It also has tremendous costs impacting national budgets and overall development.

Decades of mobilizing by women’s movements have put ending violence against women high on national and international agendas. An unprecedented number of countries have laws against domestic violence, sexual assault and other forms of violence. The major challenge worldwide is to translate national and international policy commitments into practice.

Policies and programmes to address violence against women and girls must be based on sound knowledge, but few policymakers and practitioners have the access or time to review volumes of literature and learn the latest findings in different parts of the world on ‘what works; or ‘what to avoid’.

To assist countries and practitioners, UN Women launched a global Virtual Knowledge Centre on how to address violence against women and girls.

Our Solutions

The Virtual Knowledge Centre was established in 2010 to support policy-makers and practitioners in designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating policies and programmes to more effectively prevent and respond to violence against women and girls.

The Virtual Knowledge Centre is available in English, French and Spanish and operates by:

• Leveraging the skills, know-how and expertise of government, non-government, UN and other partners so that all stakeholders operate with the best and most current knowledge of ‘what works’;
• Consolidating and disseminating promising practices, and lessons learned in English, French and Spanish;
• Providing interactive opportunities for ongoing learning and exchange to facilitate innovation, problem-solving, knowledge creation, sharing and application.

This one-stop on-line resource provides:

• Step-by-step guidance on how to work with specific sectors, groups or areas of intervention;
• Case studies of proven and promising approaches;
• Recommended tools for implementation;
• A roster of specialized organizations, by regions, countries and languages;
• Evaluation and key findings;
• Links to key external sources and data;
• An emerging observatory of leading initiatives;
• A calendar of learning opportunities.
What We Make Available Is Just a Click Away: www.endvawnow.org

PROGRAMME GUIDANCE
Access step-by-step guidance on how to implement policies and programmes aimed at addressing violence against women and girls: in the following areas:

• Basic facts and guiding principles;
• Developing or reforming legislation;
• Campaigning;
• Working with the health sector;
• Working with the formal and informal justice sector;
• Working with the security sector;
• Establishing shelter or safe accommodation;
• Engaging men and boys;
• Creating safe cities;
• Working in conflict, post-conflict and emergency settings;
• Monitoring and evaluation.

TOOLS
Find recommended guides, trainings, toolkits, manuals, guidelines, audiovisual assets, and many more resources that can assist with programme implementation through our fully searchable database that houses more than 950 items in more than 65 languages.

ORGANIZATIONS
Identify sources of expertise to assist with implementation through our fully searchable database of diverse organizations that provide a range of services tailored to different regions/countries, languages and areas of expertise.

CALENDAR
Visit the calendar for learning, training and knowledge exchange opportunities.

HELP DESK
Contact our Help Desk (evaw.helpdesk@unwomen.org) for technical queries and programming support!

THE FUTURE
The Virtual Knowledge Centre has received a tremendous level of engagement with nearly 2 million users from 235 countries and territories.

The initiative enjoys a high level of support as demonstrated by the frequency of visitors to the site and by the annual monitoring survey where respondents have consistently provided an over 90 per cent satisfaction rating across English, French and Spanish language versions and where 84 per cent have noted that they have already used or plan to use the content obtained in their work.

As we approach the close of an era and embark on a new post-2015 period that will include commitments to end violence against women, it will be more critical than ever for UN Women to continue meeting the growing demand for evidence-based guidance.

Help us help the world in turning enthusiasm, will and commitment into tangible outcomes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
For more information, to schedule a demonstration of the site or to explore how you can support, contact: evaw.helpdesk@unwomen.org.