



UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

The **United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women** (UN Trust Fund) is a unique grant-making mechanism working to end the global pandemic of gender-based violence. UNIFEM manages the UN Trust Fund on behalf of the United Nations system, providing expertise and vital linkages with other partners in support of country and local-level action.

Making rights a reality

Ending violence against women and girls is complex and challenging, requiring sustained political will, dedication and support. Yet initiatives to advance gender equality and respond to violence against women and girls are often deprived of the resources they need to achieve their goals.

The UN Trust Fund provides grants to governments, non-governmental organizations, and UN Country Teams through an annual open, competitive and transparent selection process involving multiple UN agencies, as well as civil society organizations and experts. Its overarching focus is on supporting implementation of national laws, policies and action plans. A premium is placed on ensuring awards to quality proposals that can make a difference in the lives of women and girls and their communities, while contributing to enhancing the global knowledge base on 'what works' to end the scourge of violence.

As a global mechanism, the UN Trust Fund is uniquely placed to foster innovation and share good practice widely. All funded initiatives are rigorously monitored and evaluated, with a focus on generating knowledge and model approaches.

The UN Trust Fund supports:

- expanding access to services and justice for women and girl survivors of violence;
- intensifying primary prevention efforts, through community mobilization and by engaging young people and men;
- ensuring attention to impoverished communities, excluded groups of women and girls, and especially neglected issues;
- responding to the critical needs and rights of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations, related to the use of sexual violence as a tactic of warfare;
- encouraging the multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral partnerships required to make sustained progress;
- including data collection and documentation, advocacy, awareness-raising, training and capacity development as integral aspects of all programming.

Funding that counts

The UN Trust Fund is financed through contributions from governments, the private sector, non-profit organizations and concerned individuals. It was established in 1996 by General Assembly Resolution 50/166.

Since its founding, the UN Trust Fund has expanded considerably, especially in recent years as the political will to eliminate violence against women and girls has intensified. Yet while the pressing demands for essential support on the ground continue to grow, they far outstrip the availability of resources.

The United Nations Secretary-General's Campaign, *UNiTE to End Violence against Women*, has set a benchmark for the UN Trust Fund to reach a \$100M by 2015 in annual contributions. UNIFEM is currently driving a major fundraising effort to reach this target in order to secure much-needed support for national-level action.

In focus: UN Trust Fund-supported interventions

- In partnership with Johnson & Johnson, the UN Trust Fund is supporting pioneering initiatives in Africa, Asia and Caribbean focused on developing novel approaches to tackle the twin pandemics of gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS.
- In India, the cutting-edge campaign, Bell Bajao ("*Ring the Bell*"), calls on men and boys to take a stand against domestic violence. With UN Trust Fund support, it has reached millions of people through TV and radio spots, print ads, mobile video vans, an online blog and a social networking campaign. In April 2009, it won a top award at India's most prestigious advertising festival.
- In Bolivia and Ecuador, a UN Trust Fund grant to work with indigenous communities resulted in the development of a new culturally appropriate model of services for women survivors of violence.
- In the Democratic Republic of Congo, 1,500 survivors of sexual violence, a quarter of whom are HIV-positive, were able to finally access the justice system thanks to a UN Trust Fund grant.
- In an impoverished area of Cairo, Egypt, a UN Trust Fund grant has enabled the establishment of a One-Stop Centre that provides survivors with legal, medical and psychosocial aid.
- In Morocco, a UN Trust Fund grant supports work to reduce discrimination and violence against single mothers and girl domestic workers and to strengthen the legal framework for the protection of their human rights.
- In the region of Kiev in the Ukraine, UN Trust Fund support has contributed to a five-fold increase in police summonses for perpetrators of violence against women and girls.

Since its inception, the UN Trust Fund has provided assistance to more than 300 initiatives in over 100 countries and territories.