


EVERYWOMAN  EVERYWHERE

THE CAMPAIGN FOR A GLOBAL TREATY TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST GIRLS & WOMEN



A GLOBAL OUTCRY
Advocates Urge UN for a Treaty
to End Violence Against
Girls & Women

February 2018



In 2016, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its causes and consequences, Ms. Dubravka Šimonović put out a global call for submissions asking for feedback on the adequacy of the current international legal framework on violence against women.

The call for input, which was [published on the Special Rapporteur's webpage](#), consisted of the following five questions:

1. Do you consider that there is a need for a separate legally binding treaty on violence against women with its separate monitoring body?
2. Do you consider that there is an incorporation gap of the international or regional human rights norms and standards?
3. Do you believe that there is a lack of implementation of the international and regional legislation into the domestic law?
4. Do you think that there is a fragmentation of policies and legislation to address gender-based violence?
5. Could you also provide your views on measures needed to address this normative and implementation gap and to accelerate prevention and elimination of violence against women?

The request for input was an important step in furthering the conversation of whether a new legal instrument is needed to address violence against girls and women worldwide. But in a [recent report](#), the Special Rapporteur published points of views from human-rights mechanisms that were against a new treaty while downplaying the response from NGOs and members of civil society who are widely in favor of new a treaty. The lack of transparency mischaracterizes the fact that people around the world—survivors, frontline practitioners, lawyers, directors and staff of local and national nonprofits—are passionate and mobilized on this topic. They want a treaty, urgently.

In fact, the vast majority of submissions from civil society (at least 230 of the 291) called for a treaty. When people respond, their voices should be heard. What follows is a summary of the responses from advocates around the world, along with excerpts of their submissions, expressing their support for a new treaty on violence against girls and women.

No Binding Agreement, No Global Pressure, No Action

There is no legally binding treaty addressing violence against girls and women and the absence has resulted in the lack of political will and global pressure necessary to implement current agreements. This includes CEDAW, the [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women](#), which is often cited a reason for not supporting the idea of new treaty.

Difference in culture is often used to justify State Parties' resistance to implementing CEDAW recommendations, but that idea simply allows the cycle of violence against women to continue. The absence of a comprehensive, legally binding, definition of violence against women has also led to fragmented policies and legislation. As a result, State Parties do not feel compelled to focus on implementation efforts, despite persistent advocacy by a wide range of organizations and groups.

Respondents emphasized that CEDAW does not directly address violence; it addresses discrimination, which leaves "violence" open to legal interpretation. Therefore, State Parties are left to their own discretion to incorporate, or not incorporate, CEDAW, including General Recommendation 19 [[and General Recommendation No. 35](#)] into their local and national policy frameworks. This causes an irreconcilable gap in global norms and standards on violence against women.

What does this mean? Violence persists. Justice for survivors is limited, or non-existent. Families and communities suffer. Wages are lost. Local and national economies weaken. Violence against women and girls leads to an avalanche of negative consequences worldwide, affecting public health, economics, and national and global security.



“Yes there is a need for a separate legally binding treaty because there is no specific international legally binding document that addresses the gross violation of rights that is violence against women and girls. A separate monitoring body focused on violence against women and girls can ensure all countries are upholding their due diligence and a global high standard to protect women and girls and prevent violence.” – Anne Gamurorwa, Executive Director, Communication for Development Foundation, Uganda

“Without an international mandate that obliges states to use standardized definitions, set punitive actions, provide unconditional resources for survivors, and train public and private officials on response and prevention, no serious reduction of VAWG will take place particularly in autocratic states.” – Hala El-Doseri, PhD, Aminah, Saudi Arabia



“Violence against women is probably the most democratic in its incidence, since it occurs across all boundaries of creed, ethnicity, nationality, educational status and economic strata. Since it is global phenomenon, all the more reason it should be treated not just a cultural off shoot of patriarchy, but as a crime against humanity and a gross and irrefutable violation of human right to life of dignity.” – Meera Khanna, Executive Vice President, The Guild of Service, India

“The current lack of a legally binding international legislation means governments must have the political will and drive to implement general recommendations and comments – they are not legally bound to uphold these obligations at present, so there is no accountability.” – Ruth Howlett, National Collective of Independent Women’s Refuge New Zealand



“Conflating violence against women and discrimination against women results in an inadequate or incomplete description of the legal concept of violence against women as its own human rights violation. Just like torture is better addressed in CAT than in

the ICCPR, VAW would be better addressed in a separate treaty than in CEDAW.” –
International Human Rights Clinic at Santa Clara University School of Law, California, USA

“Implementation of domestic policies could be greatly strengthened by a legally binding document holding governments to a specific level of account.” –
Manizha Naderi, Executive Director, Women for Afghan Women, Afghanistan



A Binding Agreement, Political Pressure, The End Of Violence

A new legally binding treaty specific to violence against women and girls will close the legal gap by creating a clear definition of violence and specific steps for addressing it. This legal tool would create a mechanism for collective global action, placing place the weight of the world behind every women’s rights advocate, lawyer and practitioner around the world working to end this violence.

Violence against women and girls is a complex and intersecting issue that requires a comprehensive, systematic approach. Using the success of the Landmines Treaty, the Tobacco Treaty and the example of Tunisia’s comprehensive [new law on violence against women](#), a new treaty would mandate that nations take a proactive approach across all sectors. It would require:

- Comprehensive legislative reform
- Training responders
- Support Services
- Prevention education
- Adequate funding

The establishment of a legally binding tool combined with global pressure from around the world creates a concrete solution to implementing programs, policies and standards across states.

The following 228 Everywoman Everywhere members responded to the UN Special Rapporteur’s call for submission on the adequacy of the legal framework on violence against women stating their support for a new treaty.

1	Anne	Gamurorwa	Africa
2	Fartun	Abdisalaan Adan	Africa
3	Selina	Ahmed	Asia
4	Abiola	Akiyode-Afolabi	Africa
5	Widad	Akrawi	Europe
6	Asmaa	Al Ameen	Middle East/ North Africa
7	Zainab	Ali Khan	Asia
8	Muhabat	Ali Mangrio	Asia
9	Naila	Amin	North America
10	Sana	Amin	Asia
11	Seden	Anlar	Europe
12	Ferdous	Ara Begum	Asia
13	Khadija	Arfaoui	Middle East/ North Africa
14	Carol	Arinze-Umeobi	Africa
15	Nadejda	Atayeva	Asia
16	Ruth	Aura	Africa
17	Naila	Awad	Middle East/ North Africa
18	Sama	Aweidah	Middle East/ North Africa
19	Adolf	Awuku-Bekoe	Africa
20	Alvaro	Baca	Latin America/ Caribbean
21	Kate	Bailey	North America
22	Fadoua	Bakhadda	Middle East/ North Africa
23	Amy	Barrow	Asia
24	Dr.Abdul	Baseer	Asia

25	Hayat	Bearat	North America
26	Munara	Beknazarova	Asia
27	Fenna ten	Berge	Europe
28	Miranda	Berry	North America
29	Vanessa	Bettinson	Europe
30	Charity	Binka	Africa
31	Zynab	Binta Senesie	Africa
32	Jackie	Blue	Oceania
33	Millicent	Bogert	North America
34	Abdelilah	Bouasria	Middle East/ North Africa
35	Petra	Butler	Oceania
36	Abdul Sattar	Chachar	Asia
37	Aabha	Chaudhary	Asia
38	Shazia	Choudhry	Europe
39	Tanyi	Christian	Africa
40	Vanessa	Coria Castilla	Latin America/ Caribbean
41	Annie	Cossins	Oceania
42	Dornida	Cox	Australia
43	Natalie	Csengeri	Asia
44	Paola	Degani	Asia
45	Manisha	Desai	North America
46	Visaka	Dharmadasa	Asia
47	Samira	Djibo	Africa
48	Jessica	Doyle	Europe
49	Sukhgerel	Dugersuren	Asia

50	Aliza	Durand	North America
51	Jo-Anne	Dusel	North America
52	Melvis	Ebob Agbor	Asia
53	Kate	Edozieh	Africa
54	Zine	El Abidine Larhfiri	Asia
55	Halah	Eldoseri	Middle East/ North Africa
56	Amany	Elgarf	Middle East/ North Africa
57	Ifeoma	Enemo	Africa
58	Natalie	Eslick	Oceania
59	Taskin	Fahmina	Asia
60	Dan	Faull	Europe
61	Evelyn	Flores	Latin America/ Caribbean
62	Beatrice	Fofanah	Africa
63	Veronique	Fourment	North America
64	Felicity	Gerry	Oceania
65	Heidi	Guldbaek	Oceania
66	Peg	Hacskaylo	North America
67	Nabila	Haidary	Asia
68	Michelle	Hamilton	North America
69	Ghada	Hammam	Africa
70	Claire	Hammerton	Oceania
71	Nabila	Hamza	Middle East/ North Africa
72	Raazia	Hassan Naqvi	North America
73	Angela	Hefti	Europe
74	Sara	Hellali	Asia

75	Caroline	Herewini	Oceania
76	Joyce	Hewett	Latin America/ Caribbean
77	Lisa	Hoffman	North America
78	Md. Liakat	Hossain Khan	Asia
79	Ruth	Howlett	Oceania
80	Mohammad	Humayoun	Asia
81	Mo	Hume	Europe
82	Rosemary	Hunter	Asia
83	Yuman	Hussain	Asia
84	Heather	Ibrahim-Leathers	North America
85	Ana	Iglesias-Morel	Europe
86	Matilda	Ingabire Mutanguha	Africa
87	Help Age	International	Asia
88	Sandra	Iskander	Oceania
89	Azra	Jafari	Asia
90	P.Imrana	Jalal	Asia
91	Kirthi	Jayakumar	Asia
92	Sandra	Johansson	Europe
93	Jackie	Jones	Europe
94	Talent	Jumo	Africa
95	Kabann	Kabananukye	Africa
96	Jean	Kabongo	Africa
97	Simi	Kamal	Asia
98	Gulsana	Kangeldieva	Asia
99	Sheena	Kanwar	Asia

100	Puja	Kapai	Asia
101	Zahra	Karimi	Mena
102	Stephanie	Kennedy	North America
103	Valerie	Khan	Asia
104	Hassan	Khani	Middle East/ North Africa
105	Hassan	Khani Iurigh	Mena
106	Meera	Khanna	Asia
107	Medea	Khmelidze	Europe
108	Samina	Khushi	Asia
109	Denise	Kindschi Gosselin	North America
110	Christine	King	Oceania
111	Sunita	Kotnala	Oceania
112	Morissanda	Kouyaté	Africa
113	Saida	Kouzzi	Middle East/ North Africa
114	Albena	Koycheva	Europe
115	Jack	Kupferman	North America
116	Nina Wolff	Landau	North America
117	Judy	Lear	North America
118	Ryan	Lim	Asia
119	Sisi	Liu	Asia
120	Ann-Marie	Loebel	Oceania
121	Sandra	Lopez	Latin America/ Caribbean
122	Misran	Lubis	Asia
123	Linda	MacDonald	North America
124	Shawn	Macdonald	North America

125	Truffy	Maginnis	Oceania
126	Namo	Majeed	Asia
127	Gulnara	Mammadova	Asia
128	Gladys	Mbuyah Luku	Africa
129	Frances	McLennan	Europe
130	Frances	McLennan	Asia
131	Nancy	McLennan	Europe
132	Susan	McLucas	North America
133	Ronagh	McQuigg	Europe
134	Monica	McWilliams	Europe
135	Fatima	Mendikulova	North America
136	Alexander	Miamen	Africa
137	Meherbano	Mirzayee	Middle East/ North Africa
138	Violeta	Mocmcilovic	Europe
139	Aleda	MocMonagle	North America
140	Sagrario	Monedero	Europe
141	NCAV	Mongolia	Asia
142	Suntariya	Muanpawong	Asia
143	Yolanda	Munoz Gonzalez	North America
144	Sylvanus	Murray	Africa
145	Virginia	Muwanigwa	Africa
146	Jude	Muyanja	North America
147	Manizha	Naderi	Asia
148	Hanifa	Nakiryowa	North America
149	Keerty	Nakray	Asia

150	Alice	Nenneh James	Africa
151	Joy	Ngozi Ezeilo	Africa
152	Savina	Nongebatu	Oceania
153	Martha	Ntoipo	Africa
154	Eleanor	Nwadinobi	Africa
155	Margaret	Nwagbo	Africa
156	Obioma	Nwaorgu	Africa
157	Laura	Nyirinkindi	Africa
158	Maria	Pachon	North America
159	Ivan David	Pachon	Latin America/ Caribbean
160	Shivani	Pandit	North America
161	Seyoung	Park	North America
162	Anarkalee	Perera	North America
163	Raluca	Petre-Sandor	Europe
164	Jocie	Philistin	Latin America/ Caribbean
165	Dushiyanthani	Pillai	Asia
166	Marina	Pisklák-Parker	Europe
167	Anu	Radha	Asia
168	Saira	Rahman Khan	Asia
169	Alina	Ramirez	Latin America/ Caribbean
170	David	Richards	North America
171	Francisco	Rivera	Latin America/ Caribbean
172	Lindsay	Robertson	North America
173	Helah	Robinson	North America
174	Carolyn	Rodehau	North America

175	América	Romualdo	Latin America/ Caribbean
176	Sopheap	Ros	Asia
177	Ratchneewan	Ross	North America
178	Rhona	San Pedro	Asia
179	Maria Montesinos	Sanchez-Elvira	Asia
180	Sanjana	Sarnavka	Europe
181	Jeanne	Sarson	North America
182	Andrew	Saunders	Europe
183	Denise	Scotto	North America
184	Anne	Scully-Hill	Asia
185	Katarzyna	Sękowska-Kozłowska	Europe
186	Michal	Sela	Europe
187	Tevita	Seruilumi	Oceania
188	Rashri	Shamsunder	North America
189	Lisa	Shannon	North America
190	Bhawani	Shanker Kusum	Asia
191	Susan	Sharfman	North America
192	Norma	Shearer	Asia
193	Hauwa	Shekarau	Africa
194	Shanta	Shrestha	Asia
195	Ramona	Singh	Latin America/ Caribbean
196	Joanna	Smetek	Europe
197	Samira	Souley	Middle East/ North Africa
198	Vidya	Sri	North America

199	Kelly	Stoner	North America - Tribal Lands
200	Krishna Prasad	Subedi	Asia
201	Orit	Sulitzeanu	Mena
202	Cris	Sullivan	North America
203	Reena	Tandon	North America
204	Laurie	Tannous	North America
205	Martha	Tholanah	Africa
206	Yeabu	Tholley	Africa
207	Whare	Tiaki	Oceania
208	Anne	Todd	Oceania
209	Safeer	U Khan	Asia
210	Rachel	Uemoto	North America
211	Zainab	Umu Moseray	Africa
212	Jinan	Usta	Middle East/ North Africa
213	Viola	van Bogaert	Latin America/ Caribbean
214	Natalie	Wade	Oceania
215	Monica	Waqanisau	Oceania
216	Richard	Watson	Europe
217	Elaine	Webster	Europe
218	Tim	White	North America
219	Liz	Whiteman	North America
220	Ken	Willman Bordat	Middle East/ North Africa
221	David	Wofford	North America
222	Pei	Yuxin	Asia

223	Farwa	Zafar	Asia
224	Marie Nyombo	Zaina	Africa
225	Association Marocaine des Droits Humains		Africa
226	Centro de la Mujer Panameña		Latin America/ Caribbean
227	NCAV Mongolia		Asia
228	Training for Women Network		Europe

Who We Are

Everywoman Everywhere is a coalition of individuals and organizations from 141 countries advancing a global treaty to eradicate violence against women and girls. Our members include more than 1,300 frontline practitioners, advocates and survivors of violence, and more than 550 organizations, including Human Rights Watch, Vital Voices and Futures Without Violence.

Everywoman Everywhere was incubated at the Initiative on Violence Against Women at the Carr Center for Human Rights, Harvard Kennedy School. Additional research revealed that the current international legal framework is insufficient for addressing this global crisis. Gaps in the law, and the mechanisms for implementation, leave millions of women and girls with little to no legal protection against violence or the recourse to seek justice. It became clear that a specific treaty on violence against girls and women would give advocates, practitioners, and world leaders the legally binding instrument necessary to hold nation states accountable.



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