

FACTS AND INFORMATION SHEET

ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Facts:

- One in every three women worldwide is likely to be beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime and one in five women will become a victim of rape or attempted rape.
- Women aged 15 - 44 are more at risk of death and disability through domestic violence than through cancer, motor accidents, war and malaria.
- Sixty million women who should be alive today are 'missing' because of gender discrimination which leads to sex-selective abortion and female infanticide.
- Each year 2 million girls between ages 5 and 15 are introduced into the commercial sex market.
- More than 130 million girls and women, mostly in Africa, have undergone female genital mutilation.
- Between 20,000 and 50,000 women and girls were raped in Bosnia-Herzegovina during the war in the Balkans.
- In nine Latin American countries, a rapist who marries his victim stays out of jail.
- Studies suggest that a quarter to one-third of the 170 million women and girls currently living in the European Union are subjected to male violence.

More facts and figures:

UNIFEM (in three languages):

<http://www.saynotoviolence.org/issue/facts-and-figures>

World Health Organisation (WHO) in 6 languages:

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs239/en/>

Connect and take action:

- **Decent Work, Decent Life for Women Campaign:** On 8 March 2008 the ITUC in cooperation with the Global Union Federations launched the Decent Work, Decent Life for Women Campaign. 25 November, declared International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women by the United Nations, is marked as one of the key dates : <http://www.ituc-csi.org/spip.php?rubrique198>.
- **Subscribe to the Decent Work, Decent Life for Women email list:** send an email to equality@ituc-csi.org or subscribe online: <http://www.ituc-csi.org/spip.php?rubrique196> (see link in the right corner). You will receive regular information on all Equality Campaigns – including information to Stop Violence against Women.
- The ITUC will develop a **webpage** to keep record of all trade union initiatives to stop violence against women and girls. Please send information about all the activities you organise by the end of December 2009 to: equality@ituc-csi.org

- The leaflet entitled “**Trade Unions Say NO to Violence against Women and Girls**” (2008) contains guidelines and references to international policies which assist you in the planning of activities which can range from media programmes to demonstrations, conferences exhibitions and performances:
<http://www.ituc-csi.org/spip.php?rubrique199>
- Weblink (Eng, Fr and Esp) to **UNIFEM’s platform of action, Say NO – UNiTE to End Violence Against Women** - which aims to reach 100,000 actions by March 2010: <http://www.saynotoviolence.org/>

Materials :

- **Resolution 1st World Women’s Conference : Violence against women:(2009):**
<http://www.ituc-csi.org/spip.php?article4591>
- **Discussion guide of the 1st World Women s Conference** (19-20 October 2009, Brussels, Belgium), with references to violence against women and girls – Part I , Chapter 4.4: http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/DECENT_WORK_DECENT_LIFE_FOR_WOMEN.pdf
- ITUC report on Gender (in)equality in the labour market (8 March 2009), Part II: **Who bears the costs? Violence Against Women and its impact on Society:**
http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/GAP-09_EN.pdf
- **Leaflet entitled Stopping sexual harassment at work (2008):** contains, inter alia, a checklist for union action and a Model procedure for dealing with complaints of sexual harassment formally and informally: <http://www.ituc-csi.org/spip.php?article4496>
- **Global Unions Trade Union Statement: Stop Violence Against Women Workers** (2007): <http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/women.pdf>