



MYANMAR 2023

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is a campaign to prevent and end violence against women and girls, which is the most pervasive human rights violation worldwide.

The campaign takes place every year. It starts on **25 November**, which is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and ends on Human Rights Day, on **10 December**.

In 2023, the campaign theme is: **UNiTE!-Invest to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls.**

The **Myanmar United Nations Country Team Gender Theme Group** has developed these key messages to help you advocate for ending and preventing gender-based violence in Myanmar during the 16 Days campaign. Feel free to use these messages as they are or to adapt them to suit your specific audience, activities and priorities.

For social media messages, visual assets and more tips and resources, please see the **2023 Myanmar Partner Toolkit for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.**

KEY MESSAGES

Facts and figures

1. Violence against women and girls is one of the most prevalent and pervasive human rights violations in the world. But **less than 0.02% of global Official Development Assistance is directed to gender-based violence prevention.** (Source: The Accelerator for GBV Prevention)
2. **Only 0.68 per cent of Official Development Assistance in Myanmar goes to women’s rights organizations.** They need greater support so they can continue to play their critical role in preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls. (Source: 2021 OECD data)
3. **Violence against women and girls disrupts peace and stability within families and communities.** It triggers myriad costs to societies in healthcare, education, social protection, justice and productivity, preventing economies from achieving their full potential. Violence costs us all.
4. **Violence against women and girls is a major barrier to them accessing sexual, reproductive health and family planning services.** It also inhibits women’s participation in public life, particularly in the social and economic development of the country and in peace processes.



5. Armed conflict disproportionately affects women and girls, including putting them at higher risk of gender-based violence (Source: 2023 Women Peace and Security Index).
6. **One in five ever-married women between 15 and 49 years of age have experienced some form of intimate partner violence in their lifetime.** (Myanmar's Demographic and Health Survey 2015-2016)

Call to action messages to organizations, donors and duty bearers

7. Sustained investment in Myanmar is more important than ever to fulfill the promise of a life free from violence for women and girls, including those affected by multiple humanitarian crises.
8. Humanitarian access must be granted in all affected areas in Myanmar, to ensure survivors of gender-based violence have access to health, psychosocial support, safety/security, and legal services.
9. Women's organizations in Myanmar play a vital role in ending and preventing gender-based violence by providing services on a local level, bolstering women's empowerment, and reaching those at risk of being left behind.
10. Civil society and women-led organizations are on the frontlines of gender-based violence prevention and response efforts. To best support survivors and those who serve them, **we need donors to provide longer-term, flexible and accessible funding.**
11. Investing in women's and girls' education benefits families, communities and society as a whole.
12. Investing in women and girls boosts economic growth and helps improve overall community wellbeing.
13. Investing in women and girls in Myanmar will not only enhance women and girls' rights but create long-term social and economic benefits for all individuals, communities and our country.

Call to action messages to communities and individuals

14. Ending gender-based violence is possible, and it is the responsibility of all individuals and organizations. Join us in demanding investments and actions to end it.
15. The UN in Myanmar is firmly committed to investing in ending and preventing violence against women and girls and continuing to advance gender equality and women's empowerment.
16. To the men and boys of Myanmar, be agents of change and champions of women's rights. We need your support to bring an end to violence against women and girls.
17. Violence can't be justified and shouldn't be tolerated! You can be an agent of change by letting people know violence against women and girls is unacceptable. It's not culture, it's a crime that must not be excused.



- 18. You can take action by sharing messages in your community to call for more services, increased men’s engagement and the inclusion and leadership of grassroots women’s organizations in preventing and responding to gender-based violence.
- 19. The United Nations has zero tolerance for abuse of authority, sexual abuse and harassment.

ABOUT THE MYANMAR UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM GENDER THEME GROUP

This guide was produced by the Myanmar United Nations Country Team Gender Theme Group (UNCT GTG).

The Myanmar UNCT GTG is co-chaired by the UNFPA and UN Women Myanmar.

It is an inter-agency coordination group that helps strengthen gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women in the UN response in Myanmar.

The UNCT GTG provides inter-agency coordination and accountability for gender mainstreaming the UN response and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals agenda.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

UNFPA: Hien Phan phan@unfpa.org

UN Women: Anni Hannukainen anni.hannukainen@unwomen.org

