



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

UN Secretary-General Urges Funding Increase to End Violence Against Women and Girls

Ban Ki-moon asks for \$100 million in annual donations to UN Trust Fund; calls on young people to lead efforts to end violence

UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK, 22 NOVEMBER 2011 – Marking the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will tomorrow urge governments and the corporate sector to increase funding to the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women.

Stepping up donations to the Trust Fund – now marking its 15th anniversary of grant-giving to support innovative regional, local and national projects – is a major target of the Secretary-General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign. Since it began operations in 1997, the Fund has awarded over US\$78 million to 339 projects in 127 countries and territories. However, resources for the Fund fall drastically short, meeting less than 5 percent of the vast demand.

"This year alone, the Fund has received more than 2,500 applications requesting nearly \$1.2 billion. I appeal to all our partners to help us meet this vast unmet need", said the UN chief.

The focus of this year's International Day is youth leadership in preventing and ending gender-based violence. In New York, Secretary-General Ban will host a breakfast for young people where he will highlight their important role in his UNiTE campaign, and present awards to the winners of the recent UNiTE t-shirt design competition for young men and boys.

The Secretary-General and UN Women Executive Director Michelle Bachelet will make remarks at the official observance of the International Day at UN Headquarters, where they will be joined by youth recipients of UN Trust Fund grants. Disney actress and first-ever UN Youth Champion Monique Coleman will moderate the event.

Dozens of events will also take place around the world, organized by UN offices working with government and civil society partners, including the regional components of the UNiTE campaign in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Launched in 2008, the UNiTE campaign aims to raise public awareness and increase political will and resources for preventing and responding to all forms of violence against women and girls in all parts of the world.

UNiTE also works to engage men as part of the solution to end gender-based violence. Since its launch in 2009, members of the Secretary-General's Network of Men Leaders have undertaken actions to end violence against women and girls, from raising public awareness to meeting with young men and boys.

endviolence.un.org
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Press Contact

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Programme for the Official Observance of the International Day

Theme: Youth leadership in preventing and ending violence against women and girls

Conference Room 2, UN Headquarters, New York
10.00 a.m to 12.00 p.m, Wednesday, 23 November

Moderator:

Monique Coleman, first-ever UN Youth Champion

Keynote address:

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

Speakers:

Abdou Salam Diallo, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Senegal to the UN

Michelle Bachelet, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women

Anthony Lake, Executive Director of UNICEF (tbc)

Irma Puac, UN Trust Fund grantee and representative of the Population Council, Guatemala

Ali Raad, UN Trust Fund grantee and representative of KAFA, Lebanon

Pascaline Umulisa, WAGGGS, Rwanda

The official observance will be webcast live at www.un.org/webcast

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