

25 November 2014

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Sam Kahamba Kutesa,
President of the 69th Session of the General Assembly,
on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against
Women**

Gender-based violence is a severe violation of the human rights and dignity of women and girls worldwide. As we mark the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Conference, now is the time to act. With 1 in 3 women experiencing physical or sexual violence in their lifetimes, we can no longer afford to turn a blind eye to their plight.

Each and every member of our society has a role to play in this effort. From politicians to religious leaders, from teachers to law enforcement, from men to boys; we must all band together to bring an end to violence against women and girls.

We must use this year's 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign as an opportunity to galvanize action and develop concrete solutions that will ultimately bring an end to this unacceptable scourge.

The well-being of millions of women and girls depends on our compassion and commitment to making the world a safer place for them – today, tomorrow and in the future.