

Delivering for Equality



H.E. Abdulla Shahid
President of the 76th session of the
United Nations General Assembly

"When I took oath for office, I did so, determined to contribute to gender equality.

I did this because I feel that the issue of gender inequality has lingered with us for far too long; it is an embarrassment and moral failure for which we can no longer make excuses.

We simply must act.

Entrenched in the five rays of hope is my intention to mainstream gender equality in all discussions, mandated events, and other High-Level events"

Meeting with Women Leaders

Recognizing the importance of ensuring that gender equality remains at the forefront of multilateral discussions, the President of the General Assembly convened a Meeting of Women Leaders during the first day of the General Debate of the 76th session of the UNGA.

Issues discussed ranged from eradicating violence against women, women's political representation, and combating online violence and harassment against women leaders and politicians.



From left to right: H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. Kersti Kaljulaid, President of the Republic of Estonia, PGA H.E. Abdulla Shahid, H.E. Maia Sandu, President of the Republic of Moldova, H.E. Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, and H.E. Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados

International Gender Champion

9 September 2021: President-elect of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly H.E. Mr. Shahid joined the growing list of International Gender Champions (IGC) and took the network's Panel Parity Pledge.

By taking the pledge, H.E. President Shahid has committed to strive towards gender balance at every event he participates in. President Shahid is also the very first International Gender Champion to commit to the network-wide pledge to stand for zero tolerance of gender-based violence, sexist attitudes, and behavior.

As part of this effort, the staff of the Office of the President of the General Assembly has completed training courses on gender equality and the prevention of sexual harassment.



Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations, Pascale Baeriswyl (left) pins Mr. Shahid (right) as an International Gender Champion

Appointment of a Special Adviser on Gender Equality



The appointment of Ambassador Darja Bavdaz Kuret as the PGA's Special Adviser on Gender Equality ensures a holistic approach to mainstreaming gender equality across all portfolios and work of the Office of the 76th President of the General Assembly.

A strong gender champion, as well as a social scientist, Ambassador Kuret brings to the position over 26 years of leadership experience. She most recently served as Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations in New York.

Achieving gender parity in the 76th OPGA

Fostering a gender-neutral and inclusive workplace is a key priority.

To date, gender parity has been achieved in the Office with 53% of the team members being women and 47% being men, this includes the senior management team as well.



Dialogue with Circle of Women Ambassadors

"Gender quality is no longer in need of an introduction but rather a conclusion."

It is my conviction that together we can write and act on that conclusion"



Members of the Circle of Women Ambassadors with the President of the General Assembly

9 September 2021: The President-elect held an informal dialogue with the Circle of Women Ambassadors at the United Nations, to seek guidance and advice on how best to mainstream gender equality in the work of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly. Discussions ensued on how the General Assembly can better engage and put into action the policies on gender equality.

During the meeting, President Shahid solicited the support of Ambassadors in ensuring meaningful and transformative change to advance gender equality during the work of the session, including identifying potential female voices that should be heard in the UN and empowering the next generations of women leaders.

Advisory Board on Gender Equality



20 October 2021: President Shahid reconstituted the Advisory Board on Gender Equality with an expanded membership, thereby creating a nexus for synergy and coordination between Member States, UN-Women, UN Secretariat, OHCHR, private sector, and CSOs on the issue of gender equality.

The first meeting of the Board took place on 28 October 2021, during which members exchanged views on the most prevalent issues that impede progress on gender equality, including violence against women and girls, gender inequality in education, and women's limited representation in leadership roles; and underscored the need to prevent further reversal on progress achieved due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There was strong consensus that the current situation calls for bolder and stronger actions to prevent further pushback on progress achieved.

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

"Decreasing violence against women and girls requires a community-based, multi-pronged approach, and sustained engagement with multiple stakeholders."

- President Shahid's remark at the Commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women



Team OPGA76 joining the #OrangeTheWorld campaign

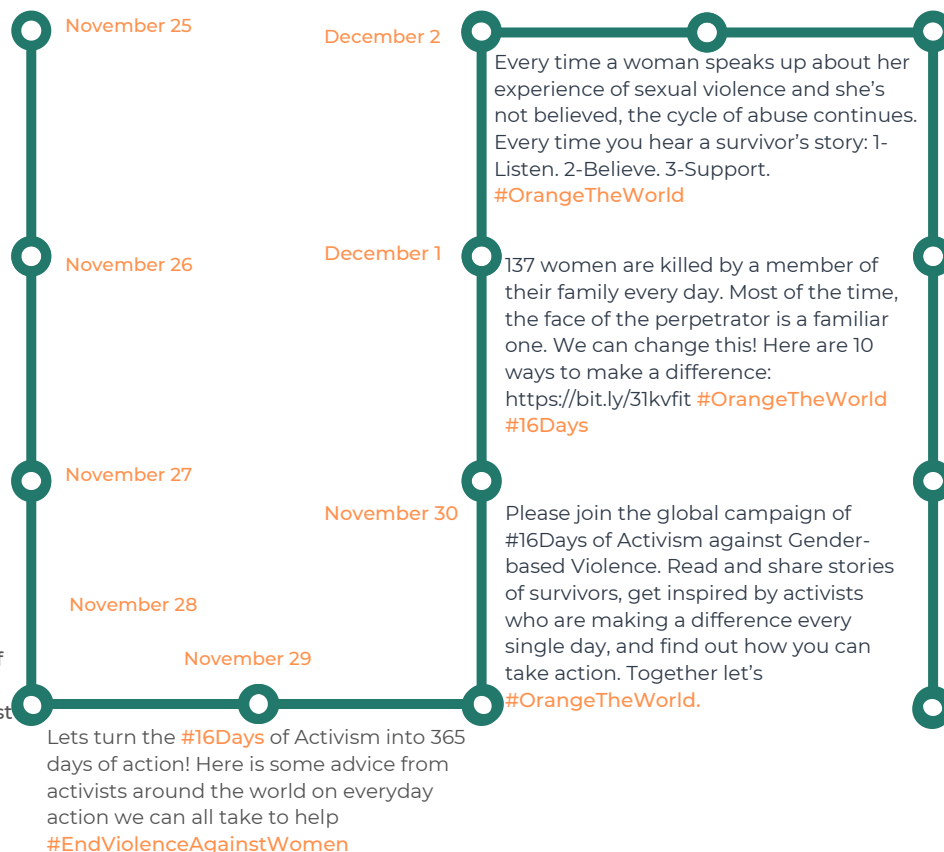
Key messages Tweeted by the President of the 76th session of the General Assembly in support of **#OrangeTheWorld** campaign to End Violence Against Women and girls

November 25 is the International Day to **#EndViolenceAgainstWomen** - an unacceptable violation of human rights. I am proud to join the **#16Days** campaign to raise awareness and call for action. Let's **#OrangeTheWorld**

Since the outbreak of **#COVID19**, there has been a spike in reports of violence against women. **#16Days** of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an opportunity to make a difference for the better. Every one of us has a role to play. **#OrangeTheWorld**

#ViolenceAgainstWomen and girls is a human rights violation that has been perpetuated for decades. It's pervasive, but it's not inevitable, unless we stay silent. **#OrangeTheWorld**

Reject the ideas of masculinity that see violence and dominance as "strong" and "male". This **#16Days** of Activism, let go of traditional gender roles that limit everyone and perpetuate violence against women and girls. **#OrangeTheWorld**



16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

Men and boys must be allies in this fight against gender-based violence.

They can educate each other.

They can listen and understand.

They can learn that violence, in the broadest terms, includes harassment and intimidation, which far too many women and girls suffer from.

President Shahid speaking at the event co-organised by the Permanent Mission of Netherlands and the Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic : Gender-ally speaking: Preventing Violence against Women and Girls by engaging Men and Boys



Key messages Tweeted by the President of the 76th session of the General Assembly in support of **#OrangeTheWorld** campaign to End Violence Against Women and girls

December 6

Believe women. Don't excuse perpetrators. Don't joke about gender-based violence. There is something each one of us can do for a safer future: <http://unwo.men/ewa950CsAtV#16Days> **#orangetheworld**

December 5

Volunteering plays a crucial role in the prevention and response of all sorts of violence, especially Gender-Based Violence (GBV) With the help of volunteers, organizations can improve the coverage, sustainability and impact of GBV programmes. #IVD2021 #16days **#orangetheworld**

December 4

Violence against Women and Girls has no place in our societies. #16Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is an opportunity to make a difference for the better. We must deliver action for a prosperous and safer future for women and girls everywhere.

December 3

No more oppression. No more discrimination. No more marginalization. No more gender-based violence. On #IDPD, we commit to protecting the rights of women and girls with disabilities. #16days **#orangetheworld**

December 10

On the final day of the **#OrangetheWorld** campaign to **#endviolenceagainstwomen**, and on **#HumanRightsDay2021** let us remember that upholding human rights must be humanity's paramount goal. Let us strengthen this goal by embracing diversity and equality. **#PresidencyOfHope**

December 9

A new exhibit by @RiseNowUS & @GlobalSpotlight at UN HQ titled "What Were You Wearing?" features 5 outfits worn by survivors during their assault - one from each UN Regional Group. This project acknowledges survivors' bravery and resilience. **#16Days** **#Photography4Humanity**

December 8

Violence against women & girls has surged during #COVID19. New global **#GenderTracker** data from @UN_Women & @UNDP finds that at least 14 countries have started taking steps to address this violence as part of longer-term recovery plans.

December 7

Reject the ideas of masculinity that see violence and dominance as "strong" and "male". This #16Days of Activism, let go of traditional gender roles that limit everyone and perpetuate violence against women and girls. **#OrangeTheWorld**

#PresidencyOfHope #Deliver4Equality

Meeting with the Group of Friends on Gender Parity

President Shahid met with the Group of Friends on Gender Parity on 20 October 2021.

Organized ahead of COP26 and the PGA's High-Level Thematic Debate on Climate Change, the discussions focused on ways to empower women as agents of change for climate action.

The Group of Friends on Gender Parity was established in 2017, around collective advocacy efforts to ensure parity at all levels of the UN by 2026 (and by 2028 in the UN's peace and security components).

Since then, the Group has evolved into a coalition of Member States committed to advancing women's leadership as a pre-requisite for enhanced international peace and development. The Group consists of 152 members.



With Co-Chairs of the Group of Friends on Gender Parity:

*Left of PGA: H.E. Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al-Thani,
Permanent Representative of Qatar to the UN,*

*Right of PGA: H.E. Valentine Rugwabiza,
Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the UN,*



"It is my hope that we can start seeing solutions to our global issues, including climate change, through the lens of respecting the rights of all – including all women and girls. Hope is framed on togetherness and together we can make a change for all women and girls"

Advancing Gender Equality Across the Globe

Women's World Majilis, Dubai



4 October 2021: Addressing the 'Climate and Biodiversity Week' of Expo 2020's World Women's Majlis, highlighting the significance of putting women at the center of all climate resilience approaches and promoting women's meaningful participation through more leadership and key decision-making roles in climate action platforms and processes.

Meeting with women Heads of Delegations during the sidelines of NAM, Belgrade

11 October 2021: President Shahid met with women Heads of Delegations participating in the High-level commemorative meeting to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), in Belgrade, and exchanged views.



Meeting with women CSO's, Belgrade

12 October 2021: Met with women CSO leaders. The discussion focused on gender mainstreaming, political participation of women, elimination of violence against women, and the position of women with disabilities.



Meeting with the President of the Coordinating Body for Gender Equality in Serbia

12 October 2021: President Shahid met with Ms. Zorana Mihajlovic, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy and Mining of Serbia, President of the Coordinating Body for Gender Equality. President Shahid commended the progress and achievements made by the Government of Serbia in the field of gender equality and the participation of women. The implications of the COVID-19 pandemic and gender inequality were also discussed.



Meeting with women scientists in Glasgow

1 November 2021: On the sidelines of COP26, President Shahid met with women scientists and discussed issues pertaining to women's engagement in science, and challenges they faced.

The President commended their remarkable work and listened as they shared their struggles and achievements.



Dialogue with representatives of the All China Women's Federation

25 November 2021: Discussed the indispensable work of women at the front lines since the onset of COVID-19 pandemic. Noted the underrepresentation of women in all spheres and regions, including at the decision-making level.



H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid speaking at the press conference convened at UN on 14 of December 2021

"I am a lifelong supporter of gender equality.

My cabinet is gender balanced.

I have promised to only participate on panels that are gender balanced, and I take every opportunity to meet with women and girls, be that heads of state, or women scientists or civil society or school children.

I want to listen to and learn about their experiences.

I am an ally and advocate for gender equality, I want to hear directly from women and girls what it is that will be most useful for them. "

Gender Equality team in the OPGA 76:

Ambassador Darja Bavdaž Kuret, PGA's Special Adviser on Gender Equality
Zeena Didi, Team Leader | Futoon Alammadi, Adviser | Fernanda Rios, Intern
Email: opga@un.org Twitter: [@UN_PGA](https://twitter.com/UN_PGA) Instagram [@UNPGA](https://www.instagram.com/UNPGA)

#PresidencyOfHope #Deliver4Equality