



High-level meeting to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

Monday, 25 November 2024

**General Assembly Hall
United Nations Headquarters, New York**

CONCEPT NOTE

The President of the General Assembly will convene a one-day high-level meeting to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 78/288.

Background

The year 2024 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of United Nations General Assembly [resolution 54/134](#) which proclaimed the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. This date was selected to honour the Mirabal sisters, three political activists from the Dominican Republic who were brutally murdered in 1960 and whose activism and resistance galvanized global attention to eliminate violence against women.

Over the past 25 years, the international community has taken significant steps to address violence against women and girls, recognizing that violence against women and girls is a major impediment to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and violates and impairs the full enjoyment of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Unfortunately, gender-based violence persists and women and girls continue to face violence across public and private spheres, including online and in digital contexts, and through multiple forms which can lead, in the most fatal cases, to killings.

Violence against women and girls remains the most prevalent and pervasive human rights violation in the world. Globally, an estimated 736 million women—nearly one in three—have experienced physical and/or sexual violence or both at least once in their lives.¹ Globally, over 230 million girls and women have undergone female genital mutilation, representing a 15% increase—or 30 million more girls and women—compared to data from eight years ago.²

Interlocking crises including economic crises, COVID-19, conflicts, humanitarian crises and climate change are further exacerbating violence against women and girls with disproportionate impacts on women in vulnerable situations who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

¹ UN Women, [Facts and Figures: Ending Violence against Women](#)

² UNICEF (2024) [Female Genital Mutilation: A global concern](#)



Significant advances have been made across the world with the adoption of laws and policies to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls, including through prevention strategies and multisectoral services for survivors of violence. As of 2023, 104 countries have comprehensive laws addressing domestic violence.³ 78 per cent of countries now provide budgetary commitments for services addressing violence against women.⁴

Despite such progress, the world is failing to end violence against women and girls as new concerns arise from a growing global backlash against gender equality and women's rights, and the persistent normalization of violence against women and girls in all spaces. Impunity and lack of accountability remain a concern, with only a small fraction of cases resulting in prosecution and conviction of perpetrators. The misuse of information and communication technologies (ICT) has further impacted women's rights, exacerbated existing forms of violence, and created new ones.

Comprehensive, cross-sectoral and whole-of-society approaches are the most effective means to end impunity and eliminate violence against women and girls.

In the Pact for the Future, Member States reaffirmed their commitment to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, to accelerating efforts to achieve gender equality, women's participation and the empowerment of all women and girls in all domains and to eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls.

Objectives:

To mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, with a focus on highlighting achievements, sharing best practices and identifying gaps and challenges to eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls, and to galvanize accelerated efforts on the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls in line with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action as the thirtieth anniversary of their adoption approaches in 2025.

Format

The high-level meeting will take place in-person on 25 November 2024, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. in the General Assembly Hall at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. A more detailed programme will be circulated in due course.

The meeting will consist of an opening segment followed by a plenary segment for statements by Member States and Observers of the General Assembly.

Inscription on the list of speakers for the high-level meeting will open on the e-deleGATE platform on Monday, 4 November 2024 at 10 a.m. and close on Wednesday, 20 November at 5 p.m.

³ World Bank Group (2024). [Women, Business and the Law 2024](#)

⁴ UN Women (2023). [Behind the numbers: good practices in promoting gender equality through legal frameworks](#). This percentage is based on data validated and submitted by 120 countries as part of the review of the SDG 5.1.1 indicator.



The list of speakers will be established in accordance with the practices of the General Assembly, and the time limits for these statements will be three minutes for individual delegations and five minutes for statements made on behalf of a group of States. (the five-minute time limit applies regardless of whether a group statement also includes a national position). Time limits will be strictly enforced by means of automatic microphone cut-off. A live link to the list of speakers will be circulated in advance of the meeting.

In view of the limited time available for the plenary segment, the texts of statements submitted by speakers inscribed on the list that are not delivered by the end of the meeting will be posted on “eStatements” in the Journal of the United Nations. Delegations are encouraged to send their full-length statements to the Secretariat (estatements@un.org) to facilitate interpretation and for posting on “eStatements” at least two hours prior to delivery.

Live and on demand (recorded video) streaming coverage of the high-level meeting will be available in the six UN official languages, on the UN Web TV website at: <http://webtv.un.org>.

Participation

Participation in the high-level meeting will be open for Member States and Observers of the General Assembly, who are invited to participate at the highest possible level (Ministers), with attendance from the United Nations system, international and regional organizations, as well as representatives of nongovernmental organizations having consultative status with ECOSOC.

Accessibility arrangements

Delegations are requested to inform the Secretariat of the accessibility requirements of their delegates in order to facilitate participation in meetings. Upon request, adjustments can be made to seating arrangements with a view to enabling the participation of persons with disabilities. For individual requests, please contact the Meetings Support Section of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (email: accessibilitycentre@un.org; phone: 212 963 7348/9) no later than three working days prior to the meeting.
