

About the Database

In October 2006, the Secretary-General of the United Nations launched his in-depth study: *Ending violence against women - From words to action*.

In response, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a comprehensive resolution calling for an intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women. It also requested the Secretary-General to create a coordinated database on violence against women.

The database will:

- Ensure easy access to comprehensive and up-to-date information on all forms of violence against women, as well as actions undertaken to address such violence
- Encourage further collection, availability, use and dissemination of data on violence against women, as well as analysis of such data
- Increase opportunities for exchange of experiences and promising practices in addressing violence against women
- Improve tracking of trends in addressing violence against women
- Strengthen the knowledge base for effective policy responses to prevent and address violence against women

The database will be hosted on the website of the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women.

Content of the Database

The database will contain information on measures undertaken by States to address violence against women in the following areas:

- Legal framework
- Policies and programmes
- Institutional mechanisms
- Domestic, regional and international coordination and collaboration initiatives
- Services for women victims/survivors of violence
- Resources
- Awareness raising and capacity-building
- Research and evaluations
- Data and statistics
- Promising practices

The information on the database will be searchable by:

- Region (global, regional, national)
- Measures undertaken
- Forms of violence addressed
- Year measure was undertaken

The information will be in English and/or the language in which it was submitted. Whenever available, the full text of laws, policies, action plans and other measures will also be provided.

Sources of Information

Member States are encouraged to provide information for inclusion in the database.

- A questionnaire (see reverse panel) serves as the primary tool for information collection

Other sources of information include:

- States parties' reports to human rights treaty bodies
- Information provided by Member States in follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995); for reports of the Secretary-General; and statements made at the United Nations
- Information available through relevant United Nations entities

Launch of the Database

The database will be launched in March 2009, during the fifty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women. It will be expanded and updated as additional information becomes available.

Queries and Contact Information

For queries please see the FAQ section at <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/> and/or send an email to vawdatabase@un.org.

Questionnaire to Member States

What is the questionnaire?

The questionnaire is the primary tool for gathering information from Member States on measures taken to address violence against women. This information will be used to create and update the coordinated database on violence against women.

What type of information are Member States requested to provide?

- Information on measures undertaken to address violence against women
- Any available data on violence against women, preferably disaggregated by sex, age, race and other relevant characteristics
- Full text of relevant laws, policies, data and reports referred to in their response to the questionnaire, where available

When responding to the questionnaire, Member States are encouraged to gather information from different levels of government (national/sub-national/local); departments/agencies; and other entities. If information sought by the questionnaire is not currently available, Member States are invited to provide updates at a future date.

When are responses due?

Information received by January 2009 will, to the extent possible, be included in the launch of the database. Information received thereafter, as well as any new or additional information will be used to update the database on an ongoing basis.

About DAW/DESA

The United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DAW/DESA) advocates the improvement of the status of women of the world and the achievement of their equality with men. It supports the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (1995), the outcome of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly (2000), and relevant recommendations of other global conferences and their reviews; and decisions taken by the General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women on gender equality and empowerment of women.

United Nations Publications on Violence against Women

The following are some of the publications available at the website of DAW, at:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/>

E-Newsletter on Violence against Women, produced quarterly by DAW/DESA

Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Good Practices in Legislation on Violence against Women (forthcoming), Vienna, 26-28 May 2008

Ending violence against women - From words to action. Study of the Secretary-General (New York: United Nations, 2006)

Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Indicators to Measure Violence against Women, Geneva, 8-10 October 2007

Brochure prepared by UN/DAW,
October 2008



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A coordinated database

