

# UNITE!

## INVEST TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS REMAINS ONE OF THE MOST PREVALENT AND PERVASIVE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

At least once in her life,

840 MILLION

women and girls aged 15 and older have experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner.

#### THE ISSUE



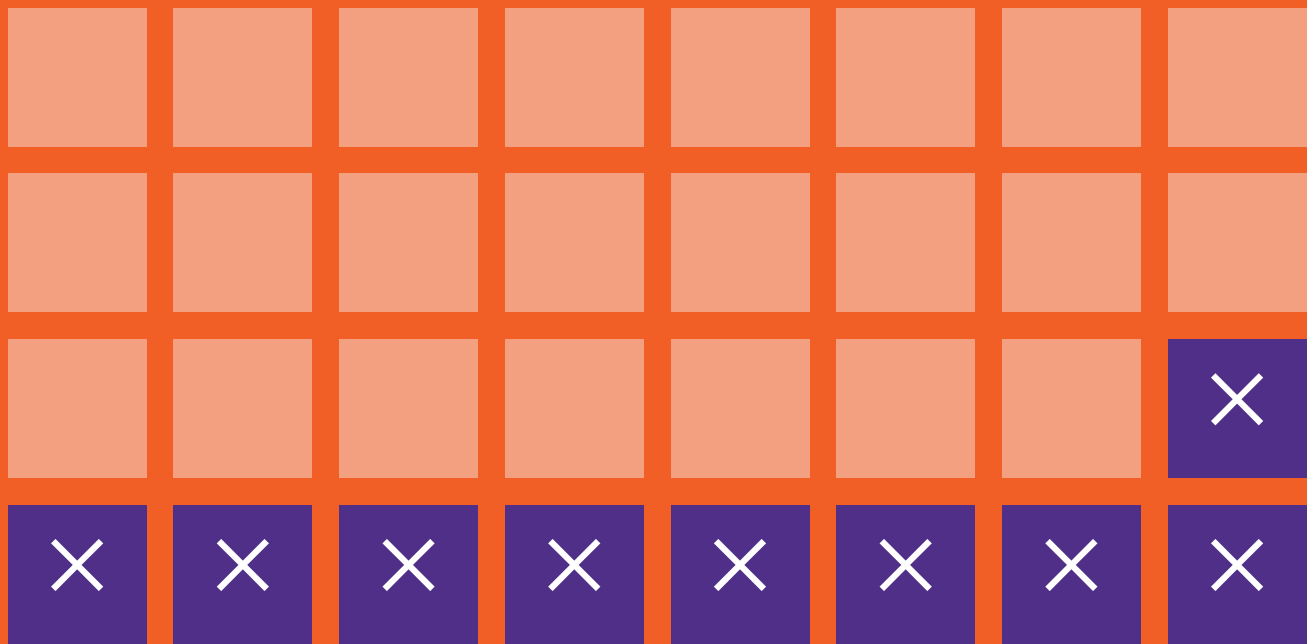
MORE THAN 4 IN 5

women and girls live in countries without robust legal protections against violence.

### ECONOMIC CRISES, CONFLICT AND CLIMATE CHANGE CONTINUE TO DEEPEN VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS, INCREASING THEIR VULNERABILITY

~50,000

women and girls were killed by an intimate partner or family member in 2024 alone — roughly one every 10 minutes.



IN 2025–26, 0.2 PER CENT OF GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AID REACHED PROGRAMMES TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN — AND FUNDING FELL FURTHER

In conflict-affected Oceania (excl. Australia and NZ), the rate of intimate partner violence reaches

38 PER CENT

— more than 3x the global 12-month average of 11 per cent.

**ALSO TRUE TODAY:** Following Hurricane Katrina, the rate of rape among women displaced to trailer parks rose to **50.3 times** the baseline rate in Mississippi that year — a pattern repeated after major disasters since.

# TECHNOLOGY CONTINUES TO FACILITATE AND HEIGHTEN NEW FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS



Globally, studies show

**58 PER CENT**

of women have personally experienced some form of tech-facilitated gender-based violence.

Among women human rights defenders, journalists and activists,

**7 IN 10**

now report experiencing online violence — sharply up since 2023.

In the Arab States region, in 2021,

**60 PER CENT**

of women internet users had been exposed to online violence in the past year.

## IMPACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Violence negatively affects

**WOMEN'S PHYSICAL  
AND MENTAL HEALTH  
AND WELL BEING**

— and impacts their professional development and economic empowerment.



Violence against women also has broader

**SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC  
CONDITIONS**

for families, communities and societies.

In Australia alone, workplace sexual harassment costs the economy

**\$3.8 BILLION**

every year in lost productivity, turnover and legal costs.

## THE SOLUTION

**WE KNOW WHAT WORKS:** A COMPREHENSIVE, ROBUST RESPONSE THAT INVESTS IN PREVENTION THROUGH STRENGTHENED LEGISLATION, IMPROVED SERVICES FOR SURVIVORS, AND SOUND EVIDENCE AND DATA.

### WHAT THIS MEANS IN AUSTRALIA

Since 2023, employees have been entitled to **10 days of paid family and domestic violence leave** under the National Employment Standards. Combined with the Positive Duty introduced under the Sex Discrimination Act, Australian employers now carry a proactive legal obligation to prevent — not just respond to — workplace sexual harassment.

# PREVENTION IS KEY

Working with schools, communities, media and religious/traditional leaders to **promote positive social norms, awareness and behaviour-change campaigns**, engaging men and boys.

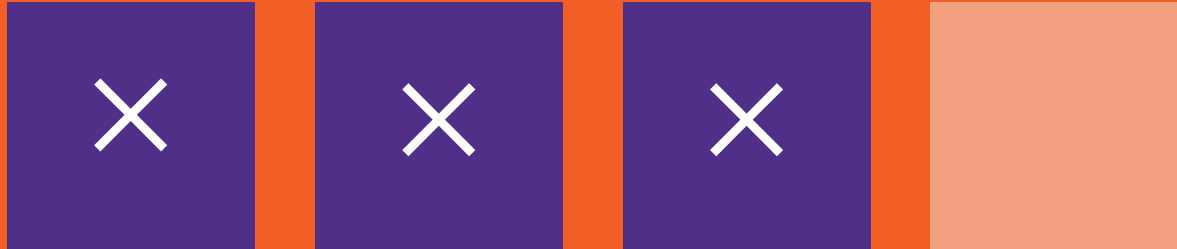
Violence against women and girls needs to be addressed in a **holistic way** and incorporated into broader policies and programmes — including social protection systems that strengthen women's economic security and autonomy, promote safer workplaces, and reduce the risk of violence.

The presence of a strong and **autonomous feminist movement** is the single most critical factor driving policy change to end violence against women, both domestically and globally.

## THE CHALLENGE

### LIMITED INVESTMENT IN PREVENTION — A GAP THAT IS WIDENING, NOT CLOSING

Without **DEDICATED INVESTMENT** countries will not achieve the elimination of violence against women and girls.



**3 OUT OF 4 COUNTRIES**

do not have systems to track budget allocations for gender equality overall. Comparable national data on violence against women remain scarce.

**78 PER CENT** of countries have **BUDGETARY COMMITMENTS**

to implement legislation addressing violence against women.

However, only **42 PER CENT**

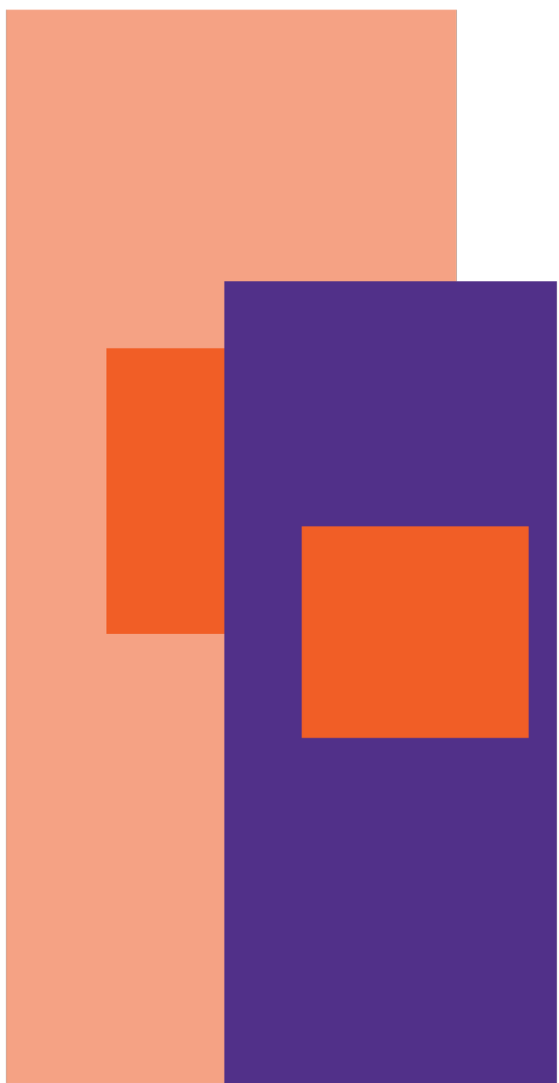
**SERVICES FOR SURVIVORS**

## PROMISING PRACTICES

In Bolivia, budget mandates require municipal autonomous governments to use at least

**15 PER CENT**

of total resources for Citizen Security to address violence against women and girls.



In Australia, the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032 is backed by a dedicated

**\$3.4 BILLION+**

national investment package, including funding for frontline services, prevention and the family law system.

## CALL TO ACTION

### EVERYONE

Be an ally in preventing violence against women and girls. Take a stand publicly and engage in activities and events to raise awareness in your community — including by joining a fundraising challenge like Safe. Everywhere. Always.

### MEMBER STATES

Allocate dedicated national budget to prevent violence against women and girls, including through national action plans and prevention programming across education, health and social protection sectors.

### STATES, PRIVATE SECTOR, FOUNDATIONS, OTHER DONORS

Increase ODA and long-term, sustainable investment in autonomous women's rights organisations working to end violence — closing the gap between the USD 2.1 billion now requested annually and the funding actually available.

### PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR

Invest in workplace policies and measures, including Positive Duty compliance, that ensure women's economic security and safety at work.

### MEMBER STATES, DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS, PHILANTHROPIES, PRIVATE SECTOR, UNIVERSITIES AND ALL ACTORS

Close the evidence and data gap on technology-facilitated violence, and back the laws, platform accountability measures and survivor services needed to confront it.

**THIS 16 DAYS**, every action counts. Whether you're signing a workplace pledge, donating to a frontline organisation, or simply starting a conversation — prevention begins with all of us.

#NOEXCUSE #NOEXCUSE #NOEXCUSE  
#16DAYS #16DAYS #16DAYS #16DAYS  
#ORANGETHEWORLD #ORANGETHEWORLD  
#NOEXCUSE #NOEXCUSE #NOEXCUSE