



16 Days of Activism – Day 11

In 2015, all 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Through its 17 goals, the Agenda 2030 calls for global action over the next 15 years to address the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social, and environmental. All the Sustainable Development Goals (“SDGs”) are fully integrated with one another; thus, we cannot think of them in isolation. However, Zonta International is focusing its efforts on Sustainable Development Goal 5, which recognizes gender equality and the empowerment of women as a key priority.

A framework such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a specific target on ending violence against women, offers a huge promise to significantly change the lives of women and girls worldwide. **However, a promise is not enough.** Adequate and durable resources are needed to increase efforts to prevent violence, provide survivors with access to essential services, and ensure that laws and policies are implemented and enforced with real world impact. The SDGs acknowledge that violence against women has serious economic and financial impacts, leading to a barrier to development. Governments and the international community are challenged to provide adequate response services for survivors and to put in place prevention mechanisms to stop violence against women and girls from happening in the first place. Achieving Goal 5 by 2030 will require a concerted international effort, a key part of which is realizing global spending that recognizes both the scale of the problem and the potential benefits of a world free of violence against women. All available evidence shows the immense cost of violence against women and girls on many levels. It also illustrates how even relatively small-scale investments that are timely and well targeted can bring enormous benefits to women and girls and to their wider communities.

Investing in preventing and ending violence against women and girls is not only a human rights imperative, it is essential to sustainable development. A recent study estimated that the cost of violence against women in 2013 could be as high as 11.2% of the global economy, with intimate-partner violence accounting for 5.2 per cent of the total. Zonta International strives to promote and protect the human rights of all women and girls and reduce the incidences of violence against them. Through funding from the Zonta International Foundation, the Zonta International Strategies to End Violence Against Women (“ZISVAW”) Program has provided more than \$5.5 million to support projects to prevent and end violence against women and girls in 42 countries. During the 2016-2018 Biennium, two projects are being supported by the ZISVAW Fund:

- [Respecting the Rights and Responding to the Needs of Adolescent Girls in Niger.](#)
- [The Future We Want: Creating Sustainable Foundations for Addressing Human Trafficking and Unsafe Migration of Women and Girls in Nepal.](#)

Another important source of funding for initiatives focusing on preventing and ending violence against women and girls is the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women. The Fund is a good example of the potential impact and local results that are possible when programs aimed at ending violence are adequately funded. The UN Trust Fund’s grants range from youth engagement programs, to community-based interventions, to initiatives providing social, medical, financial, and psychological support to survivors of violence and those at risk. Since its creation in 1996, the UN Trust Fund has awarded \$129 million to 462 initiatives in 139 countries and territories.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? TAKE ACTION!

- Focus your government’s attention** on the need for and results of adequate financing for programs to prevent and end violence against women in the context of the SDG target on violence against women.
- Call for concrete monetary commitments** to address the prevention of and response to violence against women and girls in your community.
- Donate to the **Zonta International Foundation ZISVAW** fund or your local Zonta Club.

Says No to Violence Against Women