

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IS PANDEMIC.



In Eritrea 99% of Muslim women experience FGM and 92% of Christian women.

—The Penguin Atlas of Women in the World, 2006

More than 60 million girls worldwide are child brides, married before the age of 18, primarily in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

—Unifem fact sheet

As many as 1 in 4 women experience physical and/or sexual violence while pregnant.

—Unifem fact sheet

In most wars and many post-conflict situations, women and girls suffer rape and sexual exploitation on a massive scale.

—The Human Rights Defender, Amnesty International, April 2004

Domestic violence alone costs approximately US\$1.16 billion in Canada and \$5.8 billion in the USA.

—Unifem fact sheet

Three quarters of the world's illiterate adults are women. Countless girls drop out of school because of sexual harassment and violence, or fear of violence.

—WIRE, Amnesty International, Feb/March, 2010

## RESOURCES/LINKS

Women's Ministries, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

[www.adventistwomensministries.org](http://www.adventistwomensministries.org)

END IT NOW Campaign

[www.enditnow.org](http://www.enditnow.org)

AdventSource

[www.adventsource.org](http://www.adventsource.org)

Breaking the Silence brochures

[www.adventistwomensministries.org](http://www.adventistwomensministries.org)

SDA Church Official Statements

[www.adventist.org/beliefs/statements](http://www.adventist.org/beliefs/statements)

Women and Men Against Sexual Harassment and Other Abuses

[www.tagnet.org/wash](http://www.tagnet.org/wash)

Say No to Violence Against Women

[www.saynotoviolence.org](http://www.saynotoviolence.org)

United Nations Development Fund for women who work to foster women's empowerment

[www.unifem.org/gender\\_issues](http://www.unifem.org/gender_issues)

Men Engage Global Alliance

[www.menengage.org](http://www.menengage.org)

CATW (The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women)

[www.catwinternational.org](http://www.catwinternational.org)

Keep Girls Safe ADRA Thailand

[www.adrathailand.org](http://www.adrathailand.org)

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

womensministries@gc.adventist.org  
301-680-6608

Department of Women's Ministries  
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
12501 Old Columbia Pike  
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600 USA



### NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINES

USA: 1-800-799-SAFE(7233)

Canada: 1-800-363-9010



## THE SITUATION



# enditnow

Adventists Say No to Violence Against Women

This happens in  
OUR HOMES  
OUR CHURCHES  
OUR COMMUNITIES

INSIDE:  
WHAT YOU  
CAN DO  
ABOUT IT



Women are subjected to violence as women, irrespective of economic status, rural or urban, faith or geographic location.

—UNITE to end violence against women

The UN estimates that globally, at least one in three women experiences physical and/or sexual violence in her lifetime.

—New Internationalist, November, 2010

Among women aged 15 to 44, acts of violence cause more death and disability than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents and war combined.

—Unifem United States National Committee/NCC online, November, 2010

In South Africa a woman is killed every 6 hours by an intimate partner.

—Unifem fact sheet

Women and girls constitute 80% of the estimated 800,000 people trafficked annually, with the majority (79%) trafficked for sexual exploitation.

—United Nations fact sheet

Between 100 and 140 million girls and women in the world have experienced female genital mutilation/cutting [FGM], with more than 3 million girls in Africa annually at risk of the practice.

—Unifem fact sheet

## WHAT IS IT?

- » Child Marriage: any child under the age of 18
- » Dowry murders
- » Honor killings
- » Daughter neglect/son preference
- » Rape
- » Incest
- » Domestic violence
- » Female genital mutilation or cutting
- » Sexual harassment
- » Forced pregnancy or sterilization, unwanted abortion
- » Sexual slavery
- » Prostituted women
- » Trafficking
- » Inheritance customs
- » Pornography

Violence against women is perhaps the most pervasive human rights violation that we know today. Violence against women devastates lives, fractures communities and stalls development. It takes many forms and occurs in many places—domestic violence in the home, sexual abuse of girls in schools, sexual harassment at work, rape by husbands or strangers, in refugee camps or as a tactic of war.

## ABUSE DEFINITIONS

“...violence against women means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”

—UN General Assembly (resolution 48/104 December 1993)

## WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT

### CALL TO ACTION: IDEAS

1. Pray for wisdom
2. Be aware. Look around you
3. Get involved
4. Learn to say NO
5. Be assertive
6. Educate women and men
7. Teach boys that it is not okay to hurt girls or women
8. Use GCWM Abuse Day materials on the 4th Sabbath in August every year
9. Urge your pastor to preach about this
10. Donate to ADRA Keep Girls Safe Project
11. Sign the END IT NOW petition and pledge
12. March in parades for END IT NOW
13. Watch & share the END IT NOW video
14. Tell your own story
15. Ensure health services are adequate for women in your area
16. Write, blog, join networks
17. Provide a camp for abused women
18. Be a member of your conference committee

Open your mouth for the speechless, in the cause of all who are appointed to die. Open your mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.

Proverbs 31:8,9 (NKJ)

### IF YOU ARE ABUSED...



- » FIND A SAFE PLACE
- » SPEAK UP TO THOSE IN AUTHORITY
- » EXPECT JUSTICE
- » PRAY

19. Help set up a refuge or volunteer at an existing one
20. Speak up in your community and government
21. Encourage young women to be lawyers, educators, preachers, etc.
22. Challenge and help change traditional norms

## WHAT DOES GOD REQUIRE?

“Learn to do good; devote yourselves to justice, aid the wronged, uphold the rights of the orphan, defend the cause of the widow.”

Isaiah 1:17 (Tanak – Jewish Scripture)

“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”

Isaiah 41:10 (NKJ)

“I’m God and I act in loyal love. I do what’s right and set things right and fair, and delight in those who do the same things.”

Jeremiah 9:24 (The Message)

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God, and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”

1 John 4:7–9 (NKJ)



### A PRAYER

Gracious God, We know you are a God who is able. But today we come before you with heavy hearts. We will no longer ignore the abuses perpetrated against women. Empower us to help end violence against women. Give us the wisdom and the courage to end abuse—in our church and in our community. Remembering the immense value you, our Creator and Redeemer, place on each one of us, may we reflect your love. Give us knowledge, courage, wisdom, strength, and understanding. We ask in Jesus’ name, Amen.