

grandmothers
Advocacy Network



Mouvement de soutien des
grands-mères

Advocating for Grandmothers, Vulnerable Children and Youth in Africa
Soutien aux grands-mères, enfants et jeunes vulnérables en Afrique

Ending Violence against Women

Gender inequality and poverty intertwine to make women and girls of all ages vulnerable to physical, sexual and emotional violence. In Sub-Saharan Africa, violence against women is both a cause and a consequence of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, making grandmothers and the children in their care particularly vulnerable.

Child, Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM)

CEFM is a human rights violation that has devastating consequences to women and girls in Sub-Saharan Africa and around the world. In Sub-Saharan Africa 40% of women are married before age 18. CEFM perpetuates gender inequality and powerlessness that is a barrier to girls developing their full potential. It usually ends their education and exposes them to health risks, abuse and violence. It is also a barrier to sustainable development and helps perpetuate the cycle of poverty. We are pleased that eliminating CEFM has been included as a clear target under Sustainable Development Goal #5 Gender Equality.

We are heartened that the Canadian government has identified ending CEFM as a foreign policy and development priority. **We urge Canada to continue its strong commitment to address CEFM by providing continued and increased funding for programs that will accelerate an end to CEFM.** These include programs advancing the rights, participation and development of adolescents and youth; education, especially for girls; access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, including comprehensive sexuality education; and programs promoting delayed marriage and childbearing. **GRAN also encourages the Canadian government and its partners to integrate ending child marriage throughout their work on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health.**

Violence against Women and Girls in Conflict Areas

In conflict affected communities, women and girls are at extreme risk as gender-based violence is often used as a weapon of war. Africa has witnessed the world's highest number of conflicts over the last three decades and has been hardest hit with conflict-related sexual violence. **GRAN calls on Canada to take meaningful steps to help bring an end to violence against women in conflict areas in sub Saharan Africa.**

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