



KEY MESSAGES AND TWEETS: “ORANGE CAMPAIGN 2018”

From 25 November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to December 10, Human Rights Day, the United Nations **UNiTE Campaign: 16 Day of Activism to End Gender-based Violence** is a time to galvanize action to end violence against women and girls everywhere. As a bright and optimistic colour, **Orange** has been chosen by the United Nations as the colour to represent the Campaign’s goal of a future free from violence.

The theme and activities of the UNiTE Campaign in 2018 under the global banner *Orange the World: #HearMeToo* will mobilise all UNiTE networks, including the UN system, government partners, civil society, schools and universities, private sector, sports associations and individuals to stand in solidarity with women’s human rights defenders who are working to end violence against women and girls. To find out more about the UNiTE campaign [CLICK HERE](#)

Key messages:

Sexual and gender-based violence is one of the most pervasive and egregious human rights violations.

Intimate partner violence and sexual violence is a major public health problem and a violation of women's human rights. <https://bit.ly/2ILiR10>

Violence can negatively affect women’s physical, mental, sexual, and reproductive health, and may increase the risk of acquiring HIV in some settings. <https://bit.ly/2ILiR10>

In some regions, women who experienced sexual violence from an intimate partner are 1.5 times more likely to acquire HIV and 1.6 times more likely to have syphilis, compared to women who have not experienced such violence. <https://bit.ly/2z1ruNj>

Older women in Africa have been disproportionately impacted by the AIDS pandemic which is both a cause and consequence of violence against women. They have been left to raise millions of AIDS orphans and hold their communities together.

Many older women, especially in Africa, are subjected to physical, sexual and psychological violence, verbal and financial abuse, abusive traditional practices (such as wife inheritance) and neglect.

The violence older women experience remains largely invisible, and “uncounted”. It often begins in childhood and is exacerbated by early marriage and exclusion from health services, education and economic opportunities. Transitions to motherhood, widowhood and aging increase their vulnerability.

The impact violence has on women’s health is immense. It is associated with chronic pain, asthma, difficulty sleeping, irritable bowel syndrome, heart disease, diabetes, stroke and sexually transmitted diseases. <https://bbc.in/2SdaVqm>

The risk of developing depression, PTSD, substance use issues or becoming suicidal is three to five times higher for women who have experienced violence. <https://bit.ly/2yAr1vc>

A major barrier keeping girls from receiving a quality education is the prevalence of violence in and around schools.

Globally, sexual violence has affected an estimated 150 million girls and 73 million boys under the age of 18. Most cases of sexual violence are committed by people the child may know – including teachers, peers and members of the community.

Childhood violence is associated with an increase in adult physical interpersonal violence; efforts to prevent violence against children & provide care and support to adult survivors are critical to interrupt the cycle of violence. <https://bit.ly/2CEXR7T>