



There is one universal truth, applicable to all countries, cultures and communities: violence against women is never acceptable, never excusable, never tolerable.

SECRETARY-GENERAL BAN KI-MOON

All segments of society must unite for the dignity and well-being of women and girls. Now is the time to build a society based on respect for fundamental human rights and the equal rights of men and women.

MS. THORAYA AHMED OBAID, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UNFPA

Declaration of Commitment To End Violence against Women

**International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
November 25, 2009,**

Opening ceremony of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

Parliament of Georgia

We, the undersigned, commit ourselves to come together in commemoration of the 16 days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence to demand an end to the most pervasive, yet, least reported human rights abuse in the world – *Violence against Women*.

We acknowledge that globally every day, women and girls are subject to domestic violence, exploitation, sexual violence, trafficking, honor crimes, harmful traditional practices, such as early marriages, and other forms of violence against their bodies, minds and human dignity.

We note the marked progress in the improvement with regard to women's rights and gender-based violence in recent years in Georgia and support the efforts to promote these achievements by national and local governments, civil society representative, young people, UN agencies, international organizations and local NGOs.



We also note that significant challenges remain ahead in Georgia and worldwide.

In this regard, we join a new network of men leaders led by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as part of the United Nations UNiTE Campaign to end violence against girls and women launched at the official UN observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. In adherence to the UniTE campaign, we pledge to achieve the following five goals in Georgia by 2015:

- Adopt and enforce national laws to address and punish all forms of violence against women and girls
- Adopt and implement multi-sectoral national action plans
- Strengthen data collection on the prevalence of violence against women and girls
- Increase public awareness and social mobilization
- Address sexual violence in conflict (*with special reference to the UN Security Council resolutions 1888 and 1889 that strengthen accountability to women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations*)

Today, we call on our colleagues in the Parliament, our counterparts in the Government, donor community, NGO sector, private organizations and media (especially men and boys) to join the campaign and actively engage in the cause end widespread violence against girls and women.

Let us all take a stand and say loud and clear 'No to violence against women'.

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Signed by: