



WorldYWCA

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS



The World YWCA believes that addressing violence against women and girls is a priority.

Violence against women and girls is the world's largest human rights violation and is pervasive in our society. YWCA member associations in more than 70 countries provide support for survivors of violence and those at risk of violence. This includes emergency accommodation, legal services, community education and advocacy for legal and political reform.

YWCA provides safe spaces where young women and girls can discuss sensitive issues and episodes of violence in a trustworthy and non-judgemental environment, and be redirected to health professionals or legal aid.

As one of the largest global women's movements reaching over 120 countries, the World YWCA is actively engaged at the global level to

advocate, together with its partners, to ensure that women and girls exercise their right to freedom from violence.

The World YWCA plays a crucial role in monitoring the implementation of international commitments at the country level, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the UN Security Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security.

The World YWCA seeks to mobilize women's transformative leadership towards to create a safer world, while advocating for women's rights and providing human rights-based programmes and services at the community level.

Global Facts



Worldwide, up to **50%** of sexual assaults are committed against girls **under 16**.



Women and girls comprise **80%** of the estimated **800,000** people trafficked annually.



Each year, **15** million girls are married before the age of 18. That is 28 girls every minute.



As many as **1 in 4 women** experience physical and/or sexual violence during pregnancy



58% of new HIV infections among young persons in 2015 occurred among **adolescent girls** and **young women**. Violence or the threat of violence affect the ability girls and young women to protect themselves from HIV.

Our approach

We mobilize communities: The World YWCA creates Safe Spaces within local communities where young women and girls can discuss sensitive issues and effects of violence in a trustworthy and non-judgemental environment, and be referred to health or legal services. Through the NoXcuses campaign, the World YWCA mobilizes communities at the local, national and regional level to raise awareness on and act to end violence against women.

We build capacity: Through international training opportunities, YWCAs all around the world share good practices, develop global and regional advocacy strategies and strengthen women and girls' advocacy skills and human rights knowledge.

We advocate for change: The World YWCA advocates for the implementation of international commitments on women, young women and girls' rights through the CEDAW reporting mechanism, the UN Commissions on the Status of Women, and the Human Rights Council. The World YWCA seeks to bring the experience and knowledge developed at the community level to national, regional and international policy-makers.

We partner for impact: We believe in the importance of strategic partnerships to end violence against women and girls. By acting together, we better assess the diverse perspectives of those directly affected, we create broader ownership and increase the chances of success.

Our outreach

61 countries

providing services
on violence against
women

42 countries

Campaigning against
violence



24 countries

Responding to
trafficking of women
and girls

13 countries

Working to end child,
early and forced
marriage

9 countries

Working to end
female genital
mutilation

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