### **#TIMESUP #QUELLAVOLTACHE** #НЕМОЛЧИ **#CUÉNTALO** 🖌 li# #WET00 #WITHYOU #YOTAMBLEN #SENDEANLAT **#BALANCETONPORC #METOO #NIUNAMENOS #TIMEISNOW** ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

# #BRINGBACKOURGIRL #WOMENSHOULD #ENDFGM #CEFAKAЖУВАМ #EVERYDAYSEXISM #DONTTELLMEHOWTC

**UN WOMEN** is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide.

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to implement these standards. It stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on five priority areas: increasing women's leadership and participation; ending violence against women; engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; enhancing women's economic empowerment; and making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.

# #HEFORSHE #RICEBUNNY #YESALLWOMEN #THISGIRLCAN

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### THE TIME IS NOW FOREWORD BY UN WOMEN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka visited a camp for people displaced by conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Despite the terrors of war and sexual violence, women leaders are forging ahead to make new, better lives for themselves and other women in the camp.

#### IN 2017 WE SAW AN UNPRECEDENTED UPSURGE OF MOVEMENTS FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS, EQUALITY,

**SAFETY AND JUSTICE.** The tireless work of activists has been central to this global drive, and women all over the world continue to demonstrate the power of many voices speaking as one. Together, we are calling for opportunity and accountability, drawing momentum from grass-roots networks and forging coalitions that stretch right up to the leaders of governments, businesses and civic institutions.

There is a profound hunger for change in women's lives, and a growing recognition that when women band together they can achieve it—whether online through social media or offline through more traditional mobilization. They are confronting, challenging and condemning the practices that have normalized gender inequality, poverty, sexual misconduct, exclusion and discrimination across every area of life.

As our Annual Report shows, UN Women is supporting women politicians, electoral officials, voters, lawmakers, civil society activists and many others to claim their equal right to lead and be heard. The report highlights the experiences of a multitude of formidable women, from individuals like Alice Wahome, Kenyan parliamentarian, to the combined success story of the 14,000 Nepalese women who won an unprecedented 41 per cent of local government seats in 2017.

We salute these women leaders in formal positions as well as all those who have bravely spoken out against sexual harassment and violence through the #MeToo movement, and others. We commend the women who spoke out in the International Criminal Court against those who used rape as a weapon of war. We celebrate activists who campaigned for equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people.

We recognize those who advocated for legal reform in countries such as Tunisia, to end a provision that allowed rapists to escape persecution if they married their victims. We acknowledge those who have taken to the streets in India to condemn the murder and rape of young children, turning protests into broader-based movements that engage entire communities. We honour the indigenous leaders who have stood up for their custodial rights to land and traditional practices, and the human rights defenders who have even lost their lives for their cause.

Through our report we celebrate individuals we have supported, whose life experiences represent hundreds of thousands of others like them, and whose achievements are accelerating progress towards gender equality. Small business owner Olga Macz of Guatemala told us about the increased income, independence and mobility that came with learning professional production and marketing skills. Training also brought her increased understanding and assertion of her rights. In Egypt, more than 17,000 women from the poorest and most marginalized rural areas now have their first access to community-based village savings and loan associations, building not just savings and business opportunities but confidence and increased autonomy.

The time is now to end all forms of gender inequality. The culture of gender-based poverty, abuse and exploitation has to end with a new generation of equality that lasts for all women and girls, no matter where they live, or how they live. We must leave no one behind.

UN Women has a special relationship with the women's movement; we arose from that activism. Civil society has had a historically crucial role in leading global action on gender equality by promoting reform, highlighting the complexities of the challenges facing women, influencing policies, participating in monitoring, and upholding accountability. We are working to create stronger support for women's political activism and a broader space for women's civil society voices so that our efforts combine to benefit those who truly need change most.

At the same time, we also need a movement of male feminists, and young men and boys who value and respect women and girls. Today's activism needs to alter the way we listen to women and the way we look at them, recognizing the power of stereotypes to influence how we value people. Activists and leaders in the HeForShe movement in 2017 found tangible and scaleable solutions for inequalities, like the 3,500 child marriages annulled in Malawi by local chiefs, or the practical accountability actions taken in Iceland to make sure that companies put the equal pay law into practice.

At the 2018 UN Commission on the Status of Women, youth captured the urgency of the moment. They highlighted the importance of being present and participating fully in all the issues that affect their lives. They emphasized working in an intergenerational context so that they can learn from those who have been around for much longer and contribute to giving us direction for the future.

#### THE TIME IS NOW TO HOLD OURSELVES AND OUR LEADERS ACCOUNTABLE FOR PROGRESS, FOR ALL WOMEN.



**Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka** United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director

## ACTIVISTS CHANGING #TIMEISNOW

#### "I STARTED TO SPEAK OUT. I STARTED TO SHOUT."

### JAHA DUKUREH

Jaha Dukureh is UN Women's Regional Goodwill Ambassador for Africa on ending Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and child marriage. She is an outspoken young activist, leading the movement to end the cultural practice that may include cutting and stitching parts of girls' genitalia, with lifelong consequences for their bodies, health and relationships. In many parts of the world, it's also a prelude to child marriage.

"My story starts when I was one week old, when I went through FGM..."

"I came to New York City on Christmas Day when I was 15 years old to marry a man whom I had never met. When you force a girl to marry, you've given a man a right to rape her every single day." Dukureh escaped the marriage, completed her education and married a man of her own choice later. "It wasn't until I was pregnant with my daughter, that I started to speak out against FGM. I didn't want my daughter to ever have to go through what I had...I started to speak out, I started to shout."

When asked what her biggest accomplishment is, she says, it's yet to come—the day when she succeeds in drastically reducing the number of girls and women experiencing FGM. "We are at a tipping point in the movement to end FGM... where women are leading the change."



#### **TARCILA RIVERA ZEA**

**PERU** A Quechuan activist from Ayacucho, Peru, Tarcila Rivera Zea is one of the most recognized indigenous activists in Peru and the world. As a child, Rivera Zea became a domestic worker in exchange for education. She founded Chirapaq in 1986 to support the cultural reaffirmation of indigenous peoples. Rivera Zea was recently appointed to the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and is a member of the UN Women Civil Society Global Advisory Group.

# **WOMEN'S LIVES**



#### SHIRLEY PRYCE

JAMAICA A dedicated human rights activist and a former domestic worker herself, Shirley Pryce is the founder and president of the Jamaica Household Workers Union. Beyond Jamaica, she is co-founder and current chairperson of the Caribbean Domestic Workers Network and executive member of the International Domestic Workers Federation. Following Jamaica's recent ratification of the ILO Convention on Domestic Workers, Pryce is advocating for a national law to protect the rights of domestic workers.

### DINA SMAILO

KAZAKHSTAN ■ Dina Smailova, a survivor of gang rape, decided to break her silence 25 years after the attack. Today, she leads the national movement against sexual violence in Kazakhstan. With UN Women's support, she initiated the NeMolchi movement, which means Don't Keep Silent. She has consulted, guided and supported 200 women survivors and was instrumental in winning seven sexual violence cases just in 2016.





#### **ÞÃO PAÍA**

**MOZAMBIQUE** Adão Paía started his activism after participating in a HOPEM (Men for Change Network) project called "Men in the Kitchen", supported by UN Women, in Maputo, Mozambique. Today, he works to convince men and boys in his community to share domestic responsibility with women and reject genderbased violence.

MALAYSIA ■ Syar S. Alia is a young woman advocate for gender equality from Malaysia. Her journey as an advocate began with the first Young Women Making Change workshop for cis and trans women in Malaysia, supported by UN Women Fund for Gender Equality.





**TUNISIA** Salma Belhassine is an activist from Tunisia and part of the Youth Leadership Programme, an initiative by UNDP in partnership with UN Women which has trained more than 1,000 young people in 14 countries across the Arab States region, strengthening youth leadership and innovation skills. She is currently working on SafeNes, a mobile app to protect women from sexual harassment in public spaces.

# SUPPORTING GENDER STANDARDS



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