



15 YEARS



**BUILDING
A SAFER
WORLD**



**FOR WOMEN
AND GIRLS**



UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ANNUAL REPORT 2011





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TABLE OF CONTENTS

2	Foreword by UN Women Executive Director Michelle Bachelet
3	About the UN Trust Fund
4	The UN Trust Fund at 15
6	Preventing Violence with New Allies
10	Expanding Survivor Access to Services
16	Making Laws and Policies Work for Women
20	Breaking New Ground and Replicating Proven Approaches
22	Grant-making Cycle 2011
24	2011 Grantees
28	Making a Global Impact

“TODAY VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IS INCREASINGLY RECOGNIZED FOR WHAT IT IS: A THREAT TO DEMOCRACY, A BARRIER TO LASTING PEACE, A BURDEN ON NATIONAL ECONOMIES, AND AN APPALLING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION.”



MICHELLE BACHELET
UN WOMEN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOREWORD BY UN WOMEN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MICHELLE BACHELET

I am often asked whether ending violence against women is possible given the pervasiveness and persistence of these crimes. My answer is yes, it is possible. We are all responsible, and change is happening to varying degrees in countries worldwide.

The first step has been taken: the silence has been broken. Thousands more steps have followed. In Liberia, I met women police officers protecting women and girls and bringing perpetrators of gender-based violence to justice. In Paraguay, I saw young women and men joining forces to end violence against women. Today at least 125 countries outlaw domestic violence.

As more and more people believe that violence against women is neither acceptable nor inevitable, as more and more perpetrators are punished, the change to end violence against women grows in proportion to these crimes.

The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women is now celebrating its fifteenth anniversary—15 years of working to create a world in which violence against women and girls is unacceptable. Over that time, the Trust Fund’s grantees have spearheaded groundbreaking innovations to support survivors, to end impunity for these crimes, to change harmful beliefs and practices, and, most importantly, to prevent violence from happening in the first place.

A recent study commissioned by the UN Trust Fund provides powerful evidence of the impact of its grant-making. The study found that in addition to the direct impact on women and girls, these initiatives mobilized others to change their behaviour, amend laws and policies, engage with communities to end harmful practices, and expand support services to survivors.

This special anniversary issue of the UN Trust Fund’s Annual Report reviews the accomplishments of 2011. It also takes a further look back at what can be learned from grantees and their experiences over the last decade-and-a-half. How can men be enlisted as allies in the struggle to end violence against women? What features do successful laws and policies share? Which channels are most effective for spreading anti-violence advocacy messages? How can services be designed to reach women who suffer multiple forms of discrimination? What types of support do survivors really need, beyond immediate medical care, to rebuild their lives?

Today violence against women is increasingly recognized for what it is: a threat to democracy, a barrier to lasting peace, a burden on national economies, and an appalling human rights violation. Fifteen years of Trust Fund experience, and the activism of women and partners in countries around the world, have shown us what works. There is no more time for complacency or excuses. Let us mobilize greater resources for those providing support and services on the ground. Let us muster the political will and energy to end violence against women once and for all. Yes, it is possible.

Violence against women and girls has been a grim constant in societies around the world for all of recorded history. From the bedroom to the schoolhouse to the workplace, at the hands of loved ones and coworkers and strangers, violence and the threat of violence have long robbed women and girls of their bodily integrity, physical and mental health, freedom, and a range of other basic human rights.

**THE UN TRUST FUND
WORKS TO CREATE
A JUST WORLD WHERE
WOMEN AND GIRLS
ARE FREE FROM
FEAR, ABLE TO LEAD
REWARDING LIVES
WITH DIGNITY AND
EQUALITY.**

On 16 February 1996, at its fiftieth session, the United Nations General Assembly said “no more.” No more would the international community be complicit in the world’s most widespread violation of human rights. No more would it stand on the sidelines while violence against women and girls hobbled development progress and denied the worth and dignity of half of humanity. With Resolution 50/166, the General Assembly called for the creation of the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women. This landmark event did not take place in a vacuum. Grass-roots women’s organizations and international coalitions had been working for years to overturn the notion that violence against women is a private matter or an inevitable fact of life, successfully reframing violence as a human rights issue.

The establishment of the UN Trust Fund resulted from and contributed to this profoundly consequential shift in the way in which governments, the international community, and, increasingly, people themselves view violence against women and girls. As the first and only global mechanism to address the problem with funding and expertise, the UN Trust Fund brought synergy and coherence to the United Nations’ work in this critical field. In subsequent years, additional UN General Assembly Resolutions and the UN Secretary-General’s global campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women 2008-2015 have intensified international attention and galvanized action.

Today, the UN Trust Fund is the leading multilateral grant-making mechanism that supports efforts to end violence against women and girls. The Trust Fund works to create a just world where women and girls are safe and free, able to lead rewarding lives of dignity and equality. UN Women, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, manages the Trust Fund on behalf of the UN system.

Through an open, transparent, and highly competitive process, the UN Trust Fund awards grants ranging from US\$100,000 to US\$1 million to civil society organizations, national governments, and UN country teams in developing and transition countries. To date, the UN Trust Fund has awarded more than US\$78 million in grants, supporting 339 initiatives in 127 countries and territories. The majority of its grants, about 75 percent, support initiatives led by civil society organizations.

The UN Trust Fund’s guiding vision for the coming five years is:

- › **Translating the promise to end violence against women and girls into practice on the ground by supporting efforts to expand prevention programmes and survivor services.**
- › **Paving the way to evidence-based action on ending violence against women and girls by generating and disseminating knowledge on what works.**
- › **Building ownership of the UN Trust Fund throughout the UN system and supporting the UN’s commitment to “deliver as one” to advance the implementation of national strategies to end violence against women and girls.**

The Trust Fund’s long-term goal is clear: a world in which violence against women and girls is unacceptable—and the Trust Fund is no longer necessary.

THE UN TRUST FUND AT 15: BUILDING A WORLD WHERE WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE SAFE AND FREE

1993

The UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women

1995

Adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

1996

Establishment of the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

2000

UNIFEM (now UN Women) publishes the ground-breaking study "With an End in Sight" highlighting promising practices from the UN Trust Fund's grantees in the struggle to end violence against women

2001

An educational soap opera produced by UN Trust Fund grantee Puntos de Encuentro in Nicaragua is rated one of the most popular television programmes in the country

2003

The Government of the Lao PDR invites the Lao Women's Union, a UN Trust Fund grantee, to draft the country's first Law on Development and Protection of Women

2004

A UN Trust Fund-supported programme led by the Human Rights Commission is recognized as one of the three best projects on human rights in Peru

2004

The UN Trust Fund's support to the African Women's Development and Communications Network results in the creation of one of the first men's networks to combat violence against women and promote gender equality in Africa

2005

The UN Trust Fund opens a special funding category addressing the intersection of violence against women and HIV/AIDS

2005

The UN Trust Fund's resources double from the previous year reaching US\$ 1.8 million

2006

With the UN Trust Fund's support, Centro de la Mujer Peruana Flora Tristán develops an approach to creating safe cities for women and girls that has since been replicated globally

2007

The UN General Assembly adopts a resolution strongly encouraging states to “increase significantly their voluntary financial support” to the UN Trust Fund

2008

The UN Secretary-General launches his UNiTE to End Violence against Women Campaign, setting a target to raise US \$100 million for the UN Trust Fund’s annual grant-making by 2015

2008

The UN Trust Fund quadruples its funds, distributing a record US\$ 22 million in grants to 28 initiatives in 38 countries

2008

United Nations country teams are invited to apply for funding from the UN Trust Fund for the first time

2009

Breakthrough, a UN Trust Fund grantee in India, launches the country’s first multi-media campaign against domestic violence, “Bell Bajao,” or “Ring the Bell,” reaching over 124 million people in 4 months

2011

The UN Trust Fund publishes the first-ever study using the “outcome mapping” methodology to analyze outcomes relating to ending violence against women and girls

2011

The UN Trust Fund distributes US \$17.1 million in grants to 22 initiatives in 34 countries, supporting programmes for the first time in Iraq and the newly independent Republic of South Sudan



PREVENTING VIOLENCE WITH NEW ALLIES

“AFTER THE SESSION I UNDERSTOOD THE PROBLEMS MY WIFE AND I ARE HAVING SINCE WE GOT MARRIED. THAT EVENING, I SHARED THE INFORMATION WITH MY WIFE. WE DECIDED NOT TO CIRCUMCISE OUR DAUGHTER.”

— A MALE PARTICIPANT IN A TRAINING COURSE ON THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF FGM

Primary prevention—stopping violence before it occurs by addressing its root causes—is a central focus of the UN Trust Fund’s grant-making. Grantee prevention strategies range from research-based advocacy and awareness-raising to direct engagement with communities and their leaders. Transforming social and institutional norms and practices

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