



MEN AND BOYS' ENGAGEMENT TO END GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE: DRIVING CHANGE TOGETHER

UNiTE to End Violence Against Women and Girls

#16DaysofActivism

#O3PLUS

Introduction

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international campaign from November 25 (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) to December 10 (Human Rights Day) aimed at galvanizing action to end violence against women and girls worldwide. As part of our commitment to this global movement, UNDP is intensifying efforts to address Gender-Based Violence (GBV) across our programming on the African continent, as well as embedding it within the workplace. The theme for 2024 is “Towards 30 years of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: UNiTE to End Violence Against Women and Girls.” This theme emphasizes the urgency of recommitment, accountability, and resourcing to end violence against women and girls, considering the Beijing +30 review.

While global and local efforts have made strides in addressing GBV, there is a critical need to actively engage **men and boys** as allies, advocates and change agents in ending violence. Challenging deeply rooted patriarchal norms and promoting healthy masculinity are vital in dismantling the systems that perpetuate violence against women and girls.

Background

Gender-based Violence (GBV) continues to be a pervasive problem globally, manifesting in various forms such as domestic violence, sexual violence, human trafficking, female genital mutilation (FGM), child marriage, and online violence. In Africa, 31% of women experience intimate partner violence, highlighting the endemic nature of the issue. [1] With the proliferation of artificial intelligence, new forms of GBV, such as tech-facilitated gender-based violence, are emerging.

Addressing GBV in Africa demands urgent and comprehensive action to counter a range of complex challenges. Beyond the escalation of violence in conflict zones, threats have expanded with technology facilitated GBV and targeted attacks on women candidates and journalists, which threaten their safety and political participation. This is evidenced by the outcomes of a survey conducted in five African countries which showed that 51.6% of women have experienced or witnessed accounts of online violence. [2] Despite the severity and scope of these issues, funding remains critically low, with less than 1% of aid directed toward

GBV prevention and response

Objective:

To empower and mobilize men and boys as active participants in the fight against gender-based violence with a specific focus on ending intimate partner violence and promoting awareness, dialogue and action.

Specific Objectives:

1. **Raise Awareness:** Increase understanding among men and boys about the causes, consequences, and prevention of GBV, with emphasis on IPV.
2. **Foster Accountability:** Encourage men to take responsibility for challenging harmful norms and behaviors within their communities and relationships.
3. **Promote Positive Masculinity:** Highlight the role of healthy, equitable gender norms in creating safer environments for women and girls.
4. **Create Safe Spaces for Dialogue:** Facilitate conversations among men and boys to discuss gender roles, relationships, and the importance of consent and respect.

Expected Outcomes:

1. **Increased Awareness:** Greater understanding among men and boys about their role in preventing IPV and GBV.
2. **Behavioral Shifts:** Positive changes in attitudes and behaviors toward gender equality and respectful relationships.
3. **Stronger Partnerships:** Enhanced collaboration between male advocates, women's rights organizations, and policymakers to address GBV comprehensively.
4. **Sustainable Impact:** Development of ongoing programs and networks that continue male engagement efforts beyond the 16 Days campaign.

Methodology

The session will be on Zoom and live streamed through the ImaraTv main stream media, YouTube, twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook

Target Audience:

- Men and boys across different age groups, including youth, fathers and community leaders.
- Educators, religious leaders and male professionals in key sectors.
- Male-led organizations and networks.

Conclusion:

Engaging men and boys as allies in the fight against gender-based violence is not only critical but also transformative. By addressing the root causes of IPV and fostering a culture of equality, respect and accountability, we can collectively drive meaningful change. This conversation during the 2024 16 Days of Activism is a significant step toward a future free of violence against women and girls.

Join us in driving change because ending GBV is everyone's responsibility.