

WAGGGS CALL TO ACTION

Say no to violence against women

Big or small, every action counts towards reaching 10,000 actions by March 2010

[Say no to violence against women](#) is a campaign launched by Unifem together with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) and other international organizations. In its second phase, civil society, governments and UN agencies around the world will help fight violence against women by collecting 10,000 actions by March 2010.

Use your next Girl Guide/Girl Scout meeting to do one or more of the actions listed below. You can theme the entire meeting on the 'Say no to violence against women' campaign, spend five minutes on one of the activities or simply close the meeting with a thought of the day related to the topic. Whatever you do make sure you log on to the [say no WAGGGS action page](#) afterwards to make your actions count!

Your national Guiding association might already be taking action to prevent violence and empower girls and young women. These actions count as well so log on to the [say no WAGGGS action page](#) and make sure all your actions since the campaign was launched in November 2009 are counted.

What you can do

Shine a light – light a candle to raise awareness of the fact that up to 70 per cent of women experience violence from men in their lifetime.

Update your status – put 'say no to violence against women' on your facebook, twitter, Unite4Climate or other social network account and tell all your friends to do it as well.

Display a poster – Start the debate and show your support by creating and putting up a poster on the theme in your school, meeting place, home or your car. Use the Unifem [overview](#) and [facts and figures](#) and [logos](#) as basis for your poster.

Install website banner – download the say no [website banner](#) and display it on your personal, group or national association website to inform others about the campaign.

Watch Nicole Kidman – watch and share the [video messages](#) from Nicole Kidman, Unifem Goodwill Ambassador and other interesting videos about fighting violence.

Collect signatures – download the [signup sheet](#) and collect supporting signatures in your group, school, family and community.

Defend yourself – offer, organize or attend a self defence class for girls and women. Self defence is a very effective way to prevent violence against girls and women

Hold a fundraiser – raise funds through a fun activity and donate the money to a local organization supporting victims of violence against women.

Play – this empowerment game is a great way to raise awareness with young and old

Form two rows facing each other and forming a narrow corridor. Ask for a volunteer to stand at the beginning of the corridor. Explain that this volunteer is a young woman feeling vulnerable and scared; she doesn't know what lies ahead and fears for her safety. Then the young woman walks along the corridor and the people lined up at each side whisper encouraging and friendly messages to her. Ask the volunteer how her feelings changed due to the support of her surroundings and discuss the outcomes with the whole group.

FOR YOUNGER MEMBERS:

Picture a strong woman – ask the children to make a drawing or sketch of a strong woman. How does it demonstrate that the woman is strong? What is she holding in her hands, how is she dressed, what might be her job, how many children has she got, what are her hobbies?

FOR OLDER MEMBERS:

Learning by doing: support and prevention – visit a home or support organization for women who fell victim to violence and find out what you can do to support their work. Also find out how to protect yourself from violence and what you can do if you or somebody close to you is affected.

FOR CO-EDUCATIVE SETTINGS:

Combat violence together – Most of the above actions are easily adaptable for a co-educative sessions. However, the voice of boys and men is key in the debate on violence against women and the issue should be addressed especially in a co-educative setting to enable young people to grow into responsible adults. Try this role play to stimulate discussion:

Split the group in groups of three and outline the start of the story: a boy's friend is bragging about how he slapped his girlfriend for flirting with another boy. Let each group play their own version how the story continues. Discuss why people get angry, what would justify somebody slapping somebody else. Also discuss how this scenario might have unfolded if it were two a girl being upset about her boyfriend flirting with another girl. Use recent high profile violence cases – such as Rhianna and Chris Brown – as examples.

IMPORTANT: How to count your actions on the [say no WAGGGS action page](#)
Please follow the link and register on the page to report and count your actions.

Group activities and activities addressing a wider audience: Every person involved, attending and addressed by an action counts as one action. For example, every participant in your meeting, every signature collected and every candle lit counts.

Fundraising activities: each dollar/pound/rupee/dinar/shilling etc is one action

Awareness raising activities: if you don't know how many people are reached by your awareness raising action, estimate a likely number – for example, if you change your status update count the number of facebook friends you have or if you display a poster in your classroom count the number of pupils in your class.

Other actions and actions in the past: Many WAGGGS members are already actively involved in combating violence against women. Your actions need to be counted as well if they happened any time since the campaign was launched in November 2009.

Not a WAGGGS member? Only if everybody works together we can fight violence against women so go on and show your support. Your action will be counted just as well.