

"GENDER EQUALITY MUST BECOME A LIVED REALITY"

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### FOCUS: 16 DAYS ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN CAMEROON



## Cameroon commemorates the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls, and kicks off the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence Campaign.

UN Women Cameroon in collaboration with other UN agencies, government and civil society organized the official launch of the 16 days activism against gender based violence.



Ministers, Heads of UN agencies, ambassador flanked by participants during official launch of 16 days activism against gender based violence . Photo credit: J Fajong/UN Women Cameroon

The Cameroon Minister of Women's empowerment and the family Marié Theres Abena Ondoua has called on the family, educational, religious and private institutions in Cameroon to double efforts in the crusade to end violence against women and girls. She also called on men and boys to join the bandwagon to fight against gender based violence.

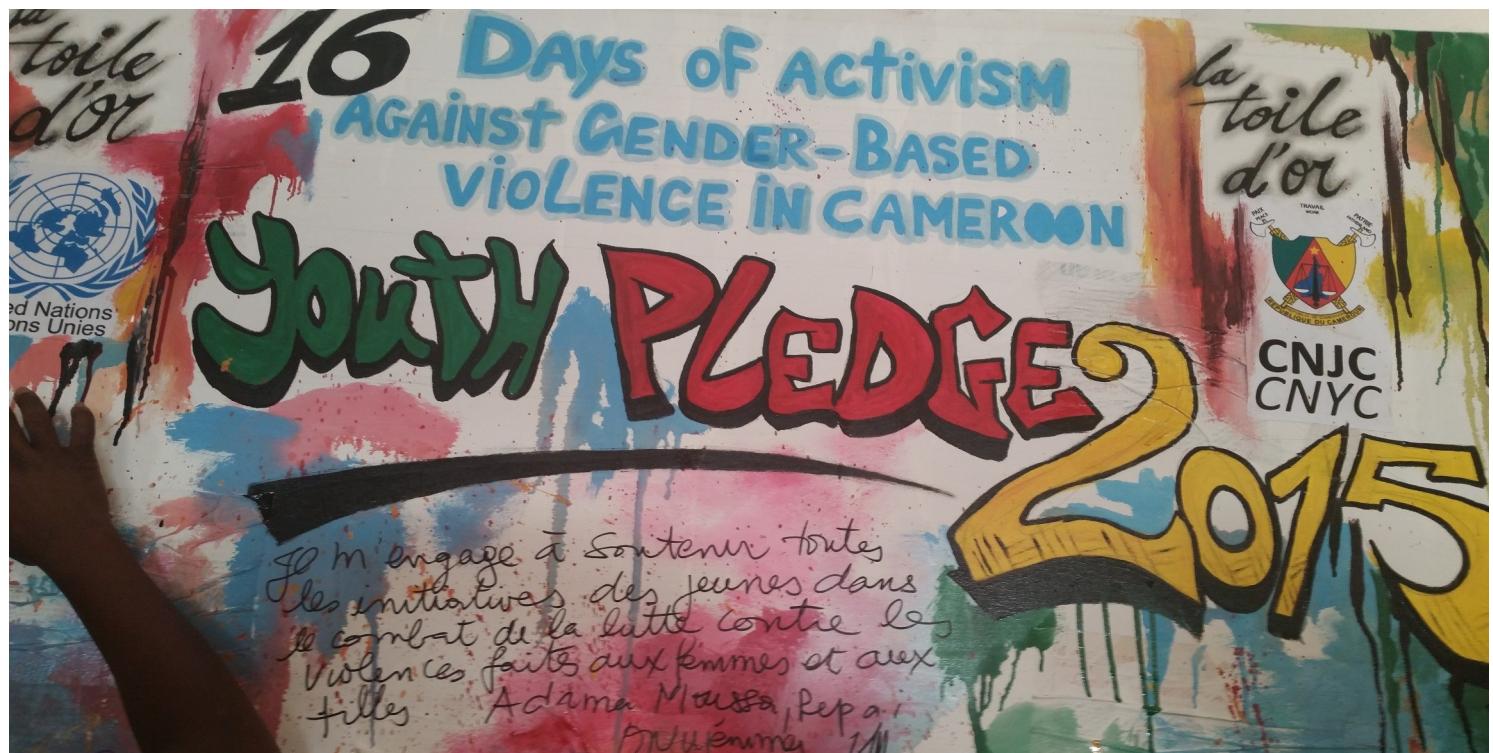
The Minister was speaking November 25, 2015 during the official ceremony to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and girls and the launch of the 16 Days of activism against Gender based violence campaign.

The Minister also used the occasion to decry the use of young girls as suicide bombers by terrorist groups in Cameroon.

The message of the Secretary General of the United Nations Ban Ki –moon was delivered by the representative of the UN system Coordinator to Cameroon, calling for collective action to put an end to violence against women.

*"Let us join forces to end this crime, promote full gender equality and realize a world where women and girls enjoy the safety they deserve – for their sake and for all of humanity"*, The SG message stated.

The official kick off of the campaign by the Minister was preceded by a joint conference between the government, UN system and the civil society organization on the distance covered in ending gender based violence in Cameroon.



**C**lose to one thousand Cameroonian youth drawn from all walks of life have taken the firm commitment to put an end to gender based violence in their respective schools and communities.

They took the engagement on Friday November 27, 2015 during an activity jointly organized by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the empowerment of Women- UN Women in partnership with the National Youth Council of Cameroon. It was organized within the framework of activities marking the commemoration of 16 days activism against gender based violence in Yaounde.

*"The National Youth Council on behalf of all the Cameroonian youth pledge to actively fight against gender based violence"*, stated Mr Kungaba Fongoh Leonel, representative of the National Youth Council President.

The youth representative further promised that UN Women can count on their contributions in putting an end to violence against women and girls but also requesting technical and financial support to better execute their activities.

While addressing the youth, the Cameroon country Officer-in charge of UN Women Mr Adama Moussa, made reference to the message of UN Secretary General by calling on the youth to join hands in the fight against gender based violence.

Following a presentation by Mr Ngoro Joseph, Program Officer at UN Women on the role of UN Women in ending violence against women and girls, ensuing discussions focused on how best youth can contribute in ending violence against women in Cameroon.

The youth presented their signed engagement to the Representative of UN Women as a special gift.





**Motorized caravan to end violence against women and girls**

Photo credit: J Fajong/UN Women

**Buea-Cameroon:** Close to 100 commercial motor bike riders flanked the Mile 17- Muea stretch of road in the South West Regional headquarters of Buea, Cameroon on Thursday December 3, 2015 in a motorized caravan, publicly declaring their commitment in joining the bandwagon to end violence against women and girls in Buea.

The motorized caravan which was proceeded by educative talks was organized by the United Nations system in Cameroon in collaboration with Cameroon Youth and Students Forum for Peace (CAMYOSFOP). It was organized as part of activities to commemorate 16 days of activism to end violence against women and girls.

According to the National Communication Expert of UN Women Cameroon, Joseph Fajong Lereh, the objective of the motorized caravan was to engage the bike riders in Buea to mobilize the population on ending violence against women and girls, but also to sensitize them on the importance of friendly family communication between both sexes.

Some of the commercial motor bike riders in Cameroon have been identified as perpetrators of violence against women.

In 2013 at the Mimboman neighborhood of Yaounde, close to 15 young girls were kidnapped and killed with their sexual organs mutilated. Police investigations indicated that the “ritual killings” were carried out with the complicity of motor bike riders.

During the educative talks with the motorbike riders, Charles Linjap, Senior strategist of CAMYOSFOP sensitized them on the various forms of violence against women and how they can contribute in putting an end to it.

At the end of the educative talks, the commercial motor bike riders unanimously agreed to protect women from violence. *“We, members of the motor bike rider’s trade union in Buea say no to violence against women in our homes and in our communities”*, they declared.

## 16 days of activism: Vice Chancellor, University dons, students say “NO” to Violence against women and girls in Cameroon.



Vice Chancellor (second from left in orange), Regional Delegate of Women's empowerment and the family (fourth from left) and UN staff say “NO” to violence against women in Cameroon.

Photo credit: UN Women

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Buea-Cameroon and the entire university community have highlighted the need of having a campus void of violence against women and girls. They have also hailed the United Nations, particularly UN Women Cameroon on the strides made in ending violence against women.

*“We are all surrounded by activities of violence, with the latest killing in California-USA, perpetrated by a couple. Violence is an important theme in our society today”,* the Vice Chancellor of the state University of Buea, Pr. Nalova Lyonga, regrets.

She added that equal opportunities must also be provided to both sexes if violence against women and girls must become history. *“The two sexes must have access and the same opportunities to all facilities that belong to humanity”,* the Vice Chancellor stressed.

The University community took the engagement to guard against violence against women.

It was taken during a round table discussion which was part of activities to commemorate the 16 days of activism to end violence against women and girls, organized by the United Nations System in Cameroon in collaboration with Women for a Changed Cameroon on 4 December 2015 in the University of Buea.

The main objective of the round table conference was to sensitize the University community on violence against women, but equally to spur the university to have a campus free from violence against women. Discussions focused on the theme *“Ensuring gender equality: making education safe for all”*.

From the presentations of the United Nations Gender thematic group by Julie Mballa, the University of Buea by Dr Christie Abonge and the government by the South West Regional Delegate for Women's Empowerment and the Family, Judith Moffah, it was noted that: the struggle to end violence against women should be a combined efforts; education is a fundamental human rights; gender education is imperative and that perpetrator of violence should be severely punished for nothing can justify violence against women.

# Déclaration de Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Secrétaire générale adjointe et Directrice exécutive d'ONU Femmes

Le 25 novembre, Journée internationale pour l'élimination de la violence à l'égard des femmes



Partout dans le monde, la violence à l'égard des femmes et des filles demeure l'une des violations des droits humains les plus graves et les plus tolérées, tant comme cause que comme conséquence de l'inégalité des sexes et de la discrimination basée sur le genre.

Sa présence continue est l'un des signes les plus clairs de sociétés en déséquilibre, et nous sommes toutes et tous déterminés à changer cela.

En cette Journée internationale pour l'élimination de la violence à l'égard des femmes, nous le réaffirmons :

Ce type de violence n'est pas acceptable ;

Elle n'est pas inévitable ;

On peut y mettre fin.

Bien qu'il n'existe pas de réponse unique à une question aussi complexe, il est de plus en plus évident que certains types d'actions peuvent stopper la violence avant même qu'elle ne se produise, surtout lorsqu'elles sont prises en même temps.

Des recherches plus approfondies menées actuellement aboutiront à la mise au point de manière définitive d'un plus grand nombre de stratégies et d'interventions permettant de prévenir la violence.

Nous sommes persuadées et persuadés que si toutes les parties concernées, pouvoirs publics ou simples citoyennes et citoyens, agissent de manière concertée, nous pourrons nous attaquer à l'inégalité des rapports de force et des structures qui existent entre les femmes et les hommes et mettre en avant les changements nécessaires en termes d'attitudes, de pratiques et d'institutions.

Essayez de vous figurer comment le monde des filles qui grandissent aujourd'hui pourrait être différent si nous pouvions empêcher les mariages précoces et les mutilations génitales féminines, et si nous cessions de fermer les yeux sur la violence conjugale, les SMS injurieux, l'impunité dont jouissent les violeurs, l'esclavage des femmes dans les zones de conflits, les meurtres des femmes qui défendent les droits humains ou l'hostilité des commissariats de police et des tribunaux face aux témoignages des femmes sur la violence dont elles sont l'objet.

Nous avons fait des progrès en améliorant les lois qui caractérisent de tels actes (et d'autres actes) comme violents et portant atteinte aux droits humains. Quelques 125 pays ont promulgué des lois contre le harcèlement sexuel et 119 contre la violence domestique, mais seulement 52 pays disposent d'une législation concernant les viols conjugaux.

Nous savons que les leaders, directrices et directeurs généraux, premières et premiers ministres, enseignantes et enseignants, peuvent donner le ton de la tolérance zéro contre la violence.

La mobilisation des communautés et les interventions de groupes en faveur des femmes comme des hommes, les programmes éducatifs et l'autonomisation des femmes ne sont que quelques-unes des interventions qui ont un impact lorsqu'elles sont associées à d'autres changements légaux, comportementaux et sociaux.

En Ouganda, par exemple, le fait d'inciter les communautés à discuter du déséquilibre des rapports de force entre les femmes et les hommes a fait diminuer de moitié les chiffres des violences physiques perpétrées par les hommes contre leurs partenaires.

Au Myanmar, la fourniture de services d'assistance juridique aux femmes rurales améliore l'accès à la justice, et il a été prouvé que rien que la formation d'un petit groupe de responsables masculins a contribué à un changement de comportements chez près de 40 pour cent des hommes dans les communautés cibles.

Nous formons les soldats de maintien de la paix, avant leur déploiement, à tenir compte des disparités entre les sexes et à mieux protéger les populations civiles dans les zones de conflit.

Aux États-Unis, les agentes et agents de police urbains, formés à la reconnaissance des signes annonciateurs de violence conjugale, réussissent à réduire dans une certaine mesure le nombre de femmes assassinées.

Nous lançons aujourd'hui la Campagne « Oranger le monde », en sachant d'avance que les conducteurs de tuktuk au Cambodge, les stars du football en Turquie, les agents de police en Albanie, les écolières et écoliers d'Afrique du Sud et du Pakistan et des centaines de milliers d'autres personnes dans le monde ont pris position, chacune et chacun à sa manière.

Pour la première fois, des objectifs précis d'élimination de la violence contre les femmes ont été inclus dans l'Agenda 2030 pour le développement durable. Ces objectifs requièrent une accélération des actions en cours.

Lorsque plus de 70 leaders mondiaux ont pris la parole à New York le 27 janvier 2015 à l'occasion de la Réunion des leaders mondiaux sur l'égalité des sexes et l'autonomisation des femmes, la majorité d'entre elles et eux a déclaré que mettre fin à la violence contre les femmes et les filles était devenu une action prioritaire.

C'est en effet une priorité.

Je suis persuadée que si nous unissons nos efforts, si les gouvernements, les organisations de la société civile, le système de l'ONU, les entreprises, les écoles et les personnes se mobilisent au sein de nouveaux mouvements de solidarité, nous finirons par créer un monde plus égal, une Planète 50-50, où les femmes et les filles pourront vivre et vivront effectivement à l'abri de la violence.



**1 FEMME SUR 3  
EST CONFRONTÉE  
À LA VIOLENCE AU COURS  
DE SA VIE.**

#16jours  
#orangetheworld



**4,5 millions de personnes  
sont victimes d'exploitation  
sexuelle. 98% d'entre elles  
sont des femmes et des filles.**

#16jours  
#orangetheworld



**Une adolescente a  
aujourd'hui 1/3 de moins  
de risque de subir  
une excision  
qu'il y a 30 ans.**

#16jours  
#orangetheworld



**Dans certains pays, jusqu'à un tiers des jeunes filles déclarent que leur première expérience sexuelle leur a été imposée.**

#16jours  
#orangetheworld





Cross section of Police Officers brainstorming on how to better protect women and children in group work.

Photo credits: J FAJONG/UN Women

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ome 150 law enforcement officers, drawn from the Police corps across the East Region of Cameroon are poised to protect women and children in humanitarian situations-armed and non-armed conflict areas. They have also taken the commitment to respect the rights of refugees and pay particular attention to the plights of women and children.

The Police Officers took the commitment during the series of capacity building workshops on how they can better protect women and children in humanitarian conflicts.

*"We, the law enforcement officers in the East Region promise to put into practice and vulgarize all what we have apprehended as we go back to our various duty stations and police posts"*, the representative of the participants pledged at the end of the training.

Assiga Thomas, Senior Police Commissioner and Director of Training at the General Delegation for National Security lauded UN Women for the initiative but also requested more capacity building workshops.

*"We are pleading on UN Women to consider assisting us in formulating a training module that can be integrated as a full course for initial training in Police schools in Cameroon"*, the Director requested.

The Program Officer at UN Women, Joseph Ngoro, seating in for the Country Representative told participants that *"UN Women intends to train 150 Police Officers and set up Gender Desks-specialized units on gender based violence, in Police stations in Bertoua, Batouri and Meiganga"*.

During the training workshops, the Police officers were drilled on the current state of humanitarian situation in Cameroon, gender based violence and the role of the Police, legal and in situational frameworks in the area of protecting women and children in humanitarian crises among others. The capacity building workshop which was organized by UN Women Cameroon falls within the framework of the project on the provision of life-saving integrated GBV services and protection for women and girl refugees in Adamaua and East Regions of Cameroon, supported by Japan.



**Family photograph of UN Women Cameroon and CAR staff**

**Photo credits: J FAJONG/UN Women**

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women is more than ever before determined to achieve its gender equality goals in Cameroon. The country office will bring on board and open up collaboration with more implementing partners (IPs) including the government, civil society organizations working in the area of gender equality and economic empowerment of women, International organizations and other UN agencies.

This was the major conclusion made during the office traditional annual retreat in Limbe, South West region of Cameroon which brought together the entire staff of UN Women Cameroon but equally colleagues from the Central African Republic led by Chantal Ekambi, from 26-30 January 2016.

*"For the purpose of effectiveness and efficiency, we intend to reduce direct implementation in 2016, open up more collaboration with implementing partners and stream down our areas of intervention"*, stated Mr Adama Mousa, UN Women Representative during the retreat.

The Representative added that UN Women Cameroon has streamlined its areas of intervention to include; ending gender based violence, economic empowerment of women and humanitarian interventions. *"These priority areas will be hinged on the flagship programs"*, he emphasized.

A panoramic but succinct sector-by –sector presentation of the implementation of the 2015 AWP was done in the following areas; economic empowerment, violence against women, gender sensitive planning and budgeting and humanitarian actions.

Results were equally presented in the areas of coordination, operations, finance, procurement and administration, monitoring and evaluation, communication, partnership and resource mobilization. The same areas of interventions were the focus of brainstorming in group works for the 2016 AWP for Cameroon and the Central African Republic. During these sessions, sub activities, tasks, responsibilities, time frame and implementing partners were identified and allocated on the final AWP.

Training sessions to reinforce the capacity of staff on some administrative procedures were equally done.

**FOCUS FOR NEXT EDITION:****31ST EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY IN CAMEROON**

THEME

**« GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT: MEETING THE CHALLENGES AND OVERCOMING THE OBSTACLES »**

Créée en juillet 2010 par la résolution A/64/289 de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, ONU FEMMES, l'Entité des Nations Unies pour l'égalité des sexes et l'autonomisation des femmes œuvre, entre autres, pour l'élimination de toute discrimination à l'encontre des femmes et des filles ; l'autonomisation des femmes et l'égalité entre hommes et femmes en tant que partenaires et bénéficiaires du développement, des droits de l'homme, de l'action humanitaire, de la paix et de la sécurité.

Ce deuxième programme d'ONU FEMMES au Cameroun pour la période 2014-2017 se propose de contribuer aux efforts du Gouvernement pour « Accélérer les progrès vers l'égalité de genre et l'autonomisation des femmes les plus vulnérables dans un contexte de féminisation de la pauvreté».

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