About us

The European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN) have embarked on a global, multi-year partnership to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls by 2030, known as the Spotlight Initiative.

We are the world’s largest targeted effort to end all forms of violence against women and girls.

We are responding to all forms of violence against women and girls, with a particular focus on domestic and family violence, sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices, femicide, trafficking in human beings and sexual and economic (labour) exploitation.

We are addressing national legislative and policy gaps, strengthening institutions, promoting gender-equitable attitudes, providing quality services for survivors and victims of violence and their families.

Our interventions are also strengthening systems for collecting data on violence against women and girls and empowering women’s movements.

1 in 3 women worldwide have experienced physical or sexual violence.

Violence against women and girls is a major obstacle to the fulfillment of women’s and girls’ human rights and to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

It occurs worldwide, cutting across all generations, nationalities, communities and spheres of our societies.

Women and girls living with disabilities, from indigenous and migrant communities, the elderly, from ethnic minorities, those living in poverty or from any group facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination are disproportionately subjected to violence.

Through the Spotlight Initiative, we are spearheading a global movement to ensure women and girls can live a life free of violence, in all its forms.

We will give prominence to prevention, protection and the provision of services, alongside broader efforts to ensure grassroots women’s engagement and meaningful participation in the elimination of violence against women and girls.
**Spotlight Initiative** is deploying targeted investments to end violence against women and girls in more than 25 countries across the globe.

**Africa**
Africa regional programme, Liberia, Mali, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Mozambique, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

**Asia**
ASEAN regional Safe and Fair programme, Afghanistan*, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

**Caribbean**
Caribbean regional programme*, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago.

**Latin America**
Latin America regional programme, Argentina, El Salvador, Ecuador*, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico.

**Pacific**
Pacific regional programme, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu.

*Programme under development as of May 2020.

“This Initiative is a crucial contribution to achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.”
- UN Secretary-General António Guterres

The EU has contributed an initial investment of €500 million to fund Spotlight Initiative. Other donors and partners are invited to join the Initiative to broaden its reach and scope.

As a model fund for the Sustainable Development Goals, Spotlight Initiative has been designed to leverage the collective strengths of the entire UN System.

The Initiative is overseen by the Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General.

Its funds are delivered through a UN multi-stakeholder trust fund, administered by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office.

Its programmes are implemented by UN agencies, funds and programmes, including UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF.

At country-level, the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator coordinates and oversees the implementation of Spotlight Initiative programmes with UN agencies and partners, including with national governments, civil society and the private sector.

Each of us has the power to end violence against women and girls.

We invite everyone to support the Spotlight Initiative’s goal of making a real and lasting difference in the lives of all women and girls around the world.

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