Global 16 Days Campaign Theme 2022

TAKE ACTION TO PREVENT FEMICIDE AGAINST WOMEN

#LetsEndFemicide
In 2021, the Center for Women’s Global Leadership marked the 30th anniversary of the Global 16 Days Campaign, with a special anniversary theme of Ending Femicide. The Campaign released an Advocacy Guide to call attention to the rise in femicide worldwide, commitments made by governments to address femicide, and the alarming retrogression on gender equality, and launched a petition on December 10, Human Rights Day, to mobilize support calling on the UN to declare December 6 as an International Day to End Femicide. The petition has more than 2100 signatures to date, and it needs more!

This year, the Campaign, along with its allies, is continuing its advocacy to end femicide. It will spotlight the heightened vulnerabilities faced by certain populations of women and girls stemming from multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination because of factors including, but not limited to, their age, race, ethnicity, disability, employment, migrant status, and gender identity.

When looking at femicide, the Campaign is drawing on definitions from the Former Special Rapporteur, on violence against women (SR VAW), the World Health Organization (WHO), and South Africa’s Femicide Watch, while recognizing the prevalence of the different types of gender-related killing of women and girls, which may or may not be described universally in these terms, in law or in practice.

Come November 25-December 10, the Global 16 Days Campaign will step up its global call to action to end femicide.
WHAT CAN YOU DO TO END FEMICIDE?

This Action Guide recommends activities for a range of individuals, including you as a member of the community and as an activist, and for key actors, such as government officials, policymakers, employers, media, and academic institutions.

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WHAT CAN INDIVIDUALS DO?

Sign the petition to declare December 6 the International Day to End Femicide:

December 6th falls within the annual 16 days of the campaign and it is the anniversary of the 1989 Montreal Massacre, when a man singled out and murdered 14 students for being female at the École Polytechnique at the Université of Montréal because he had not been accepted to the university and blamed women for taking his seat. The violent act of one man laid bare the gendered and misogynistic nature of violence against women and prompted individuals worldwide to mobilize in protest. It was followed by the launch of new campaigns, such as the Global 16 Days Campaign, and networks like the Men Engage Alliance, which connected activists globally. The observance of an international day will provide an opportunity to shed light on a wide gamut of sex and/or gender-related killings of women, girls, non-binary persons, and persons who identify as female, which are happening with impunity for perpetrators and to help expose the systemic nature of these crimes. By joining forces on a dedicated day each year to demand accountability, as we continue our advocacy all year round, we can make the world a safe place for every person.

Once you have signed the petition, please share the link with your friends, colleagues, and other networks to let them know that you support the declaration of an international day.

Reach out to your local community, government officials, and organizations near you to encourage them to engage in femicide awareness and advocacy using the following activities.

PROMISING PRACTICE HIGHLIGHT:

Rosa Page, a nurse from Arkansas, is the founder of Black Femicide US. Since seeing an increase in violence and femicides in her community, she has been working to gather data on Black femicides in the United States, which she reports via social media pages on Facebook and Twitter.

Her work aims to both bring awareness to the prevalence of the issue of Black femicide, which not only receives less attention from institutional gatekeepers, but also has harmful stereotypes replicated in the media reports that cover these crimes, as well as help families who have lost loved ones. Page is also planning to hold protests and marches to encourage the government to enact national legal and policy reforms.

More information on upcoming events will be released on the Black Femicide US social media pages.
ACTIVITY:

Femicide occurs in different forms, both direct and indirect. For example, intimate partner violence (IPV) that leads to the death of a woman is a form of direct femicide, whereas maternal mortality, is a form of indirect femicide that may result from discriminatory treatment or the denial of timely health care.

Can you identify which of the following types of femicide, as classified by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences exist in your own community and why?

Do other forms of sex and/or gender-related killings exist which are unique to your community?

Diagram:
- **Dowry Related Killings**
- **Death from a Poorly Conducted, Clandestine Abortion**
- **Deaths Linked to Human Trafficking, Drug Dealing, or Organized Crime**
- **Honor Killing**
- **Targeting of Women Workers**
- **Deaths from Harmful Practices**
- **Deliberate Acts or Omissions by the State**
- **Accusations of Sorcery or Witchcraft**
- **Violence and Killing Due to Ethnic of Indigenous Identity**
- **Violence and Killing Due to Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation**
- **Death of Women and Girls from Simple Neglect, Starvation, or Ill Treatment**
- **Armed Conflict Related Killing**
WHAT CAN LOCAL COMMUNITIES DO?

Hold a community dialogue and discuss the following:

Since femicide lacks a legal definition in most national contexts, it can be widely prevalent and, at the same time, virtually invisible. An activity at the community level can be a catalyst for a transformative conversation. When led by a trusted local individual or organization, it can help make the different types of gendered killings of women more visible in the local community, which is where cultural transformation is needed to denormalize and interrogate these killings.

Build solidarity and commitment around the common purpose of exposing and naming femicide as a crime and make that the basis for future action. Integrate a call to action to end all forms of femicide, direct and indirect, in your current work by drawing on international law and noting the structural root causes of these preventable killings and deaths.

Organize a symbolic collective action in your community, such as a public reading of names, to give visibility to the issue of femicide:

Formally request that a local political leader hold a public reading of names of women and girls killed or who have died prematurely in the previous months or year. Include the names of those whose cases have both been reported, investigated, and prosecuted as well as those which have not been pursued.

Use the event to draw attention to the prevalence of femicide. Name the different causes and types of femicide and publicly question the lack of government attention. Show them what is possible by highlighting good practices, such as in Argentina, where the government has not only adapted the Criminal Code to establish femicide as a form of aggravated assault, but also has established a national femicide registry and femicide observatory to collect and publish disaggregated data on the crime.1 For more examples of promising practices, see the 2021 Global 16 Days Campaign Femicide Advocacy Guide.

Hold the hearing in a prominent public space to publicly demand an end to the impunity surrounding these killings and arrange for media coverage to capture the symbolism of the event as well as any actions, reactions, or commitments that might follow.

Initiate a community survey on femicide with the following objectives:

Generate findings about trends which can be shared with local government officials and the media to draw their attention to the issue and start demanding action including the provision of support services. A survey can pave the way for a formal and more detailed study in the future.

Examine the circumstances of killings and deaths which have already occurred. Assess whether there has been any recognition and redress provided to families who have lost loved ones to femicide.

Identify women and girls in local communities that are more vulnerable by paying attention to patterns of structural violence, e.g., domestic violence, unavailability of quality maternal health care services, and legal restrictions on abortion, and in doing so potentially help save lives.

Build solidarity for those most affected by the trauma and emotional voids created by femicide and create a safe space for community dialogue on its occurrence as well as the institutional failings that contribute to these killings.

Mobilize community leaders to develop and invest in strategies to create femicide free zones.

Here is a survey that can be easily tailored and translated to help individuals get started to gather data on femicide in the community.

**PROMISING PRACTICE HIGHLIGHT:**

In 2020, following a rise in violence and femicides spurred by the COVID-19 pandemic, including the murder of a woman in their own community, by her fiancé, members of the Makiki neighborhood in Hawaii mobilized to prevent another femicide.

By organizing vigils and sign waving to canvas the community to provide localized access to prevention and intervention resources, the Makiki neighborhood board established Hawaii’s first “Femicide Free Zone.”

A local community effort, this is a way to combat gender-based violence (GBV) where the State alone has not been successful.

**ACTIVITY:**

Data shows that home is one of the most dangerous places for a woman, as IPV and domestic violence that is left unchecked can culminate in femicide. In fact, a woman is killed by an intimate partner or a family member every 11 minutes.

However, femicides occur in and have impacts on the public sphere as well, as seen in the targeted assassination of female journalists and judges.

Can you identify other areas in either the public or private spheres where femicide is likely to occur?

What actions can be taken to make these spaces safer for women?

Get together with a local group, your family and friends, or colleagues to discuss and debate potential solutions for your community.

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WHAT CAN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOS) DO?

Bridge the gap between decision makers and what is happening at the grassroots:

Conduct advocacy that documents data, media reports, and other evidence of femicides which can give a face to the stories from the ground and humanize them. This can be used to draw the attention of local and national political authorities to the various forms of femicide in their community and to put pressure on governments to act.

Work with your local or national statistical offices to encourage the utilization of the statistical framework developed by UNODC and UN Women for measuring the gender-related killing of women and girls. Use it as a building block to document femicides and identify forms that are specific to your national context.

STATISTICAL FRAMEWORK FOR MEASURING FEMICIDES BY UNODC AND UN WOMEN

The statistical framework developed by UNODC and UN Women for measuring femicides recognizes that the gender-related killing of women and girls can occur within different perpetrator-victim relationships, across both private and public spheres.

These include intimate partners, family members, and other known and unknown perpetrators. These data blocks correspond to core variables which reflect the “relationship between perpetrator and victim,” and the “modus operandi or context of the intentional homicide.”

As per the framework, “at least one of these factors has to have occurred for an intentional homicide to be considered a gender-related killing.”

Core variables for identifying gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data blocks of gender-related killings (femicide/feminicide)</th>
<th>Core variables</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Killings of women and girls by intimate partner</td>
<td>I. Relationship between the perpetrator and the victim: intimate partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Killings of women and girls by other family member</td>
<td>II. Relationship between the perpetrator and the victim: other family member (blood relatives or relatives by marriage or adoption)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Killings of women and girls by other perpetrator, such as:</td>
<td>III. Modus operandi and context of the intentional homicide:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Perpetrator with a relationship of authority/care with the victim</td>
<td>1. Previous history of violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Friend/acquaintance/work relationship</td>
<td>2. Illegal exploitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other perpetrator known to the victim</td>
<td>3. Abduction or illegal deprivation of liberty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Perpetrator unknown to the victim</td>
<td>4. Involvement of victim in the sex industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Unknown perpetrator</td>
<td>5. Sexual violence on the body of the victim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6. Excessive mistreatment of the body of the victim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7. The body of the victim was disposed of in a public space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8. Hate or bias against women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*NB: all the variables above need to be collected for intentional homicides of female victims and at least one of them has to have occurred for an intentional homicide to be considered a gender-related killing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Focus on helping survivors or families of victims:

By providing physical and mental health services, legal services, food, and shelter, CSOs can make a difference in the lives of individuals and families that have been affected by femicide.

Children of victims, especially of those killed due to IPV, can also be vulnerable. CSOs can provide or help secure shelter and counseling for these children to help break the cycle of violence, address the trauma, and get out of a potentially dangerous situation.

Work with men:

Engaging with male allies can help elevate the issues that women are facing while also encouraging other men to take action and make small changes in their own lives, families, and households.

Calling on men in positions of power to use their authority to draw attention to the issue of femicide and its precursors, e.g., domestic violence, can help remove stigma and barriers to exposing the occurrence of violence and seeking redress and support.

Encourage participation of women in decision-making and support services:

When women have a seat at the table and can share their experiences, they bring to light some issues and nuances that may be otherwise overlooked.

Women who are experiencing or are at risk of violence may be more comfortable speaking to other women about their concerns.

Women of different socio-economic backgrounds and in situations of vulnerability should be adequately represented, invited to speak, and heard.

PROMISING PRACTICE HIGHLIGHT:

In 2021, the Champions of Change Coalition, comprised of men in positions of power and influence who step up beside women leaders to shift gender inequality in the world of work, released a framework, Playing Our Part: A Framework for Workplace Action on Domestic and Family Violence.

This framework contains resources and recommends actions for organizations to take in order to help prevent and respond to domestic and family violence in the world of work.

Domestic violence in the world of work not only impacts the wellbeing of employees, but also negatively impacts productivity and safety at work.

To learn more about the impacts of domestic violence in the world of work, see the Global 16 Days Campaign's Advocacy Guide.
**ACTIVITY:**

This year, the Global 16 Days Campaign is highlighting the situation of certain groups of women that are more vulnerable to femicide due to their age, race, ethnicity, disability, immigration status, Indigenous status, political status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

Can you identify other groups of women in your own community that could also be at greater risk of violence or femicide?

Use some of the activities mentioned in this Action Guide to take steps to help them and make your community a safer place.
WHAT CAN ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS DO?

Increase awareness, education, research, and documentation on femicide:

One of the biggest challenges in addressing femicide is the lack of data, especially that which links femicide to structural causes. Research institutions and universities can help bridge the data gap by collecting and recording the numbers of different forms of femicide (i.e., direct forms, such as IPV or dowry deaths, and also indirect forms, such as maternal mortality or armed conflict femicides).

By collecting and publishing this research, academia can not only be at the forefront of helping to educate communities on what femicide is, how to prevent it, and how to get justice for those who have been affected by femicide, but also use the research to call for the recognition of various forms of femicide, policy changes, and stronger legal measures.

Host femicide related events on campus to raise awareness in the student body:

Invite guest lecturers to campus or host panels that bring together academics, students, and community leaders to examine various forms of femicide and recognize its prevalence in different spheres, its leading precursors (e.g., domestic violence and systemic discrimination, including harmful gender stereotyping), and gaps in law and policy, as well as promising practices from around the world to prevent and end femicide.

Encourage student clubs and organizations to host their own Global 16 Days Campaign events to raise awareness about femicide and how it affects them.

PROMISING PRACTICE HIGHLIGHT:

In 2017, the Centre for the Study of Social and Legal Responses to Violence (CSSLRV) at the University of Guelph, Canada, established the Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability (CFOJA) as a response to the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences’ ask to create femicide observatories or watches in every country.

Today, CFOJA focuses on documenting social and state responses to femicide in Canada, as well as works towards the prevention of femicide by “collecting, producing, distributing and sharing research, knowledge, ideas, education, information, resources and strategies which can help reduce femicide and, in turn, improve the lives of girls and women in Canada.” (CFOJA)
ACTIVITY:

In many communities and States, the exact word “femicide” (or its local translation) is not used, which leads to a lack of recognition of its many forms.

Many gendered killings have other names. For example, in Latin America, the word “feminicidio” is commonly used and recognized.

However, in South Asia, dowry related deaths (an indirect form of femicide) are common but are not referred to as femicides.

Can you identify other names for femicide used around the world, including in both its direct and indirect forms?

Check if an academic institution, law enforcement, statistics bureau, or a femicide watch near you uses “type of femicide” as one of the parameters in collecting data.
WHAT CAN BE DONE THROUGH THE MEDIA?

Journalists can draw national attention to femicide:
National, regional, and local media coverage can help draw attention to the occurrence of femicide and generate an outcry. It can also help build solidarity with those fighting for justice, including mothers and other close family members, and draw attention to their plight as they are victims too and may face retaliation. It can also help create general awareness about the early signs of a potential femicide and possibly pre-empt new cases.

Individuals can write Op-Eds and Blogposts to give visibility to femicide:
Amplify the voices and experiences of survivors or families of victims, share expertise, and express solidarity. Answer the questions: who? what? when? where? and why? Draw from the analysis in the Advocacy Guide to frame femicide as a human rights concern and a public health issue and to call for action. An op-ed should be 600-800 words. A blogpost can be more informal, and lengths can vary. Here are some additional tips for writing an op-ed or blogpost.

Individuals can engage with journalists to write and publish articles on femicide:
When discussing GBV, take a survivor-centered approach and ensure that confidentiality is maintained in accordance with the wishes of surviving family members and that their consent is obtained. Here are some additional tips to help effectively pitch articles to your local media outlets.

Individuals can issue a press release to highlight incidents of femicide:
Highlight activities and the messages and stories of women whose killings have been ignored. It should be 300-500 words long. Include relevant information (i.e., who, what, when, where, and why), facts and figures, contact information for expert sources, and dates and times of any events/webinars/public sessions. Here are some additional tips for writing a press release.
Journalists and other writers can use the following resources created by the Journalism Initiative on GBV (JiG), to produce insightful and impactful coverage of GBV and femicide:

- **Silence and Omissions: A media guide for covering gender-based violence** is a new publication from JiG to help journalists cover GBV more effectively.
- **War on Indigenous Women: A Short Guide for Journalists Reporting on MMIWG** is a tip sheet that provides specific nuances for reporting on femicides of indigenous women.
- **Reporting Tip sheet on Digital Violence: A practical reference guide for journalists and media** is a resource produced jointly by JiG and UNFPA for journalists reporting on online violence.

**PROMISING PRACTICE HIGHLIGHT:**

In addition to JiG, organizations like the Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN) have also released guidelines for their members to better report on femicide. GIJN’s **Investigating Femicide** guide not only gives staggering statistics about the prevalence of femicide around the world, but also aims to give journalists an additional resource to understand femicide, find data, and interview experts and survivors.

The guide also provides a list of organizations around the world that are working to end femicide as a starting point for journalists.

**ACTIVITY:**

While the media can play a vital role in fighting femicide, women journalists are often at risk of being killed, just for doing their jobs. For example, in August 2017, Danish journalist Kim Wall was murdered by inventor Peter Madsen, who she had met for an interview aboard his submarine.

Days after she was reported missing, her dismembered torso was found washed ashore, and weeks later the rest of her body was discovered. After conflicting accounts from Madsen, it was concluded that he had planned a premeditated murder with intentional and sexual motives.

Can you identify steps that newspapers and media outlets can take to protect women journalists?

Reach out to your local news agency to see what protocols they have in place.
If left unchecked, GBV in the world of work can culminate in femicides. To this end, employers and trade unions should work with governments and encourage them to ratify ILO Convention 190 (C190) to put in place national laws, regulations, workplace policies, and monitoring and enforcement mechanisms to address GBV and femicide in the world of work.

Employers and trade unions should implement the provisions of C190 and Recommendation 206 (R206) through workplace policies or collective bargaining agreements.

Women workers should be allowed to unionize and collectively bargain so that they have formal channels to express their concerns, call for the creation of institutional remedies, and to use them when they face gendered violence or threats of such violence.

For more information, please see the Global 16 Days Campaign’s Advocacy Guides on C190: ILO Convention 190: GBV in the World of Work, C190 and Informal Women Workers, and Domestic Violence and the World of Work.

PROMISING PRACTICE HIGHLIGHT:

Jeyasre Kathiravel was an Indian Dalit woman garment worker and union member organizing against GBV and harassment at Eastman Exports, a supplier unit in India for the global fashion brand H&M. Jeyasre faced months of sexual harassment by her supervisor before she was murdered in January, 2021. The “Justice for Jeyasre” Campaign was launched when Jeyasre’s trade union, Tamil Nadu Textile and Common Labour Union (TTCU), joined hands with its partners, the Asia Floor Wage Alliance (AFWA) and Global Labor Justice-International Labor Rights Forum (GLJ-ILRF).

The campaign was joined by labor and women’s rights organizations across the world to demand accountability from global fashion brands like H&M to address violence and harassment against women workers in global supply chains. In April 2022, the campaign achieved a landmark victory when TTCU, AFWA, and GLJ-ILRF signed the legally-binding Dindigul Agreement with the supplier Eastman Exports, as well as with H&M, to prevent GBV and harassment, resulting in the protection for 5,000 garment workers in Tamil Nadu.

Among its provisions, the Dindigul Agreement to Eliminate Gender Based Violence and Harassment (GBVH) includes a “broad definition of GBVH taken from ILO Convention 190, an independent investigation mechanism that builds on the strengths of India’s Prevention of Sexual Harassment at the Workplace (POSH) Act, TTCU-led training based on AFWA’s Safe Circles model including peer education that empowers women workers, and worker-led monitoring of GBVH and caste-based discrimination by shop floor monitors throughout the factories.”

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4 Horwitz, Jacob. “#JusticeforJeyasre Campaign Victory!”. Email, 2022.
ACTIVITY:

Can you identify the professions and sectors in which women workers are more vulnerable to femicide?

You can watch the Global 16 Days Campaign’s CSW66 Parallel Event, Femicide in the World of Work: How the Gendered Aspects of Lethal Violence are Being Ignored to get started.
WHAT CAN YOU ASK YOUR GOVERNMENT TO DO TO END FEMICIDE?

Make recommendations for the highest executive authority to seek formal commitments to:

Create a government-funded femicide watch to systematically gather disaggregated data on the prevalence of femicide. This data will not only be based on the types of femicide and identify the relationship between the victim and perpetrator, but also should collect data in the way described in the SR mandate, so that it can be compared with that of other states on different levels.

Launch a task force to assess institutional responses to femicide and key gaps.

Strengthen measures to prevent femicide, protect women, prosecute cases, and coordinate efforts across different sectors to end femicide.

Improve oversight of the police and security personnel to prevent abuses of power by providing gender-responsive training.

Develop a femicide indicator within the statistical framework of national statistical follow-up on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by incorporating the “rate of femicide per 100,000 women” as a complementary indicator in relation to SDGs 5 and 16.

Adapt and use the newly developed statistical framework developed by UNODC and UN Women to collect comparative data on various types and forms of femicide at the national level, identified and distinguished on the basis of the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator (e.g., intimate partners, family members and other perpetrators based on the modus operandi and the context of intentional homicides).

Here is a template that can be easily tailored and translated to help CSOs or individuals reach out to the highest executive authority in government with a call to action on femicide.

Recommendations for the Ministry of Health (or equivalent) to strengthen the institutional response to patterns of GBV which often culminate in femicide:

Training for healthcare professionals to respond to the short-term and long-term impacts of GBV through the provision of emergency services and timely identification of those at risk of lethal violence.

Services to address the mental health needs of victims and survivors of GBV, since trauma and psychological dysfunction resulting from the abuse can heighten the risk of suicide among them, and establishment of the means to connect them with support services via the health system.

Recognition of violence against women as a major public health concern in national health policies and strategies so that specific funds can be earmarked for addressing direct and indirect forms of femicide.

Here is a template that can be easily tailored and translated to help CSOs or individuals reach out to the Ministry of Health (or equivalent) with a call to action on femicide.
Recommendations for the Ministry of Justice (or equivalent) to strengthen the institutional response to patterns of GBV which often culminate in femicide:

Establish a legal framework criminalizing all forms of femicide to enable the investigation, prosecution, and dispensation of appropriate sentences in cases of femicide.

Conduct training for judges and police to strengthen the investigation, prosecution, and adjudication of specific cases. Address gender-bias and stereotyping by institutional actors.

Strengthen the availability and enforcement of protection orders to address threats and incidents of violence that precede femicide.

Here is a template that can be easily tailored and translated to help CSOs or individuals reach out to the Ministry of Justice (or equivalent) with a call to action on femicide.

Inquire about and address gaps or cuts in government funding made during the COVID-19 pandemic, or since then, so that they can be filled or reinstated to strengthen femicide prevention and redress. Areas of focus may include:

Hotlines and shelters for those at risk of extreme violence and femicide.

Access to a full range of timely and quality reproductive health services including contraception, pre- and post-natal care, safe abortion, pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis, and protection from female genital mutilation.

Legal aid for those seeking recourse against violent acts, including threats, and in cases of femicide where family members are seeking justice.

Timely issuance and enforcement of restraining orders and other protective measures.

Proper handling of reports of femicides and unbiased and timely investigations.

Launch formal inquiries led by National Human Rights Institutions into the occurrence of femicide to:

Establish the prevalence, scope, and risk of femicide faced by women and girls, both direct and indirect, as well as in context-specific settings and multiple spheres of their lives.

Issue recommendations for legal and policy reform to prevent and address femicide in accordance with international law and the recommendations issued by human rights mechanisms.

Here is a template that can be easily tailored and translated to help CSOs or individuals reach out to National Human Rights Institutions with a call to action on femicide.

Light up public buildings in purple colors to show solidarity with the Global 16 Days Campaign and the fight for women’s rights:

Purple has long been used to symbolize Domestic Violence Awareness (as it is seen as the color of a bruise) and has been used by women’s rights movements as a color of both femininity and resistance.

Both CWGL and the Global 16 Days Campaign use purple in solidarity with international women’s movements and as a symbol of dignity and feminism.
**PROMISING PRACTICE HIGHLIGHT:**

In 2020, following the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mauritius noted a rise in domestic violence, a major precursor to femicide. Since then, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare has begun the process of setting up the Observatory on GBV, which will have the role of a femicide watch.

Additionally, the Government of Mauritius has set up a Family Welfare and Protection Unit (FWPU) to address GBV and is working to amend the Protection from Domestic Violence Act to help victims.

**ACTIVITY:**

Article III of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* states, “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.” Femicide, or depriving women of the right to life, is a violation of the UDHR. Article II of *CEDAW* “condemn[s] discrimination against women in all its forms,” which includes femicide.

Identify other international, national, or local laws in your country that codify women’s rights and protections and criminalize different forms of GBV and femicide. If you cannot find any, use the [letter templates and tips](#) provided to write to your elected representatives to request the information and urge implementation.

See if your government has reported to the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences’ [call for inputs](#) describing the steps taken to end femicide.
WHAT CAN BE DONE AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL?

Mobilize regionally to end femicide:

Increase the utilization of regional normative frameworks and networks of organizations working actively to end GBV to make femicide more visible as a regional human rights concern.

Call for joint action and technical cooperation to end femicide across regions through comparative data collection, assessments, and shared promising practices.

Report cases of femicide to an international human rights mechanism:

Submit credible information about cases of femicides in the community via the Communications Procedure for the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences and the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls can increase pressure on governments to address the occurrences of femicide and the structural root causes.

Report cases of retaliation against women human rights defenders fighting to end femicide:

Submitting credible information about retaliation against human rights defenders protesting against femicide via the Communications Procedure for the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls or the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders could prompt a formal communication to governments, pressuring them to act.

Access the website here and the online form here or write to them directly at urgent-action@ohchr.org.

Find ways to integrate the goal of ending femicide into your work relating to the Sustainable Development Goals:

Goal 5 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which aims to “Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls,” is a good place to start to help shape actions and commitments to help end femicide.

Encourage Femicide Observatories near you to follow the example of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin American and the Caribbean (the Observatory), which has specifically developed a femicide indicator within the statistical framework of the regional statistical follow up of the Sustainable Development Goals by incorporating the “rate of femicide per 100,000 women” as a “complementary indicator” in relation to the achievement of specific targets under SDGs 5 and 16, which call for the following, respectively: i) SDG 5.2 “Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.” ii) SDG 16.1 “Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.”
Connect with the Global 16 Days Campaign and activists worldwide!

Read or re-read the 2021 Femicide Advocacy Guide for a foundational analysis of femicide and its different types and forms.

See the fact sheets produced by the Global 16 Days Campaign to learn more about specific groups of women that are more vulnerable to femicide and take action: Black women in the USA; Indigenous women in North America; women workers in the informal sector; women workers in the formal sector; women with disabilities; and women receiving unsafe abortions.

Use the Global 16 Days Campaign Social Media Toolkit to join our call to action to end femicide, especially in vulnerable groups of women.

Follow the Global 16 Days Campaign on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter and tag us using the handle @16DaysCampaign.

Add a #16DaysCampaign frame to your profile picture to show solidarity.

Join or initiate Twitter chats, Twitter Spaces, Tweetathons, Facebook/Instagram live conversations, or other social media calls to action and engage @16DaysCampaign accounts on social media, using hashtags #LetsEndFemicide, #30YearsOfActivism, and #16DaysCampaign.

Wear purple to any Global 16 Days Campaign events you attend to show solidarity with the global fight to end violence against women and be sure to tag @16DaysCampaign when you post any photos of the events.

PROMISING PRACTICE HIGHLIGHT:

The European Observatory on Femicide (EOF) aims to prevent femicide by collecting and sharing comparable data on femicides throughout Europe.

With focal points in 23 countries and 4 established observatories so far, EOF uses collaborative research on a regional scale to combat violence against women and femicide regionally throughout Europe. Each focal point gathers local and regional data on femicide, and the Georgian Observatory on Femicide even hosts a repository of stories, that include narratives of femicide in conflict zones and neighboring countries.

Members of the EOF also make up FEM-UnitED, which contributes to international efforts to improve responses to IPV and domestic violence in Europe to reduce harm to women and children and prevent femicides.
The Global 16 Days Campaign was launched in 1991 at the Center for Women’s Global Leadership (CWGL) at Rutgers University by feminists from around the world. Since then, CWGL has served as the global coordinator of the Campaign, and over 6000 organizations in over 187 countries have utilized the Campaign, reaching over 300 million people worldwide.

Running annually from November 25th (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) to December 10th (Human Rights Day), the 16-day period reinforces the recognition of violence against women as a human rights violation. For each Campaign year, CWGL has announced either annual or multi-year themes related to ending GBV.
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This Action Guide is dedicated to all the women who have been victims of femicide as well as their families, friends, and communities who continue to fight for justice and demand action and accountability to make a world without violence possible.