

## DAY ONE: 25th November

### 'International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women'

#### Grooming leading to Violence....

Within days of getting engaged to her wonderful fiancé John, Susan, a bright university student, was on her way to a new life in his country. Waking up on her first morning, Susan discovered she was alone, locked in the apartment and her passport was gone. That evening John brought home some friends, one of whom followed her into the bedroom and violently raped her. Later a cold, indifferent John told her they needed money and this was the quickest way to earn it...  
(As told to writer, names changed for anonymity)

#### Question:

What is my reaction to this true story?

.....



<https://pixabay.com/en/fear-woman-stop-1131143>

#### Global Facts re Violence Against Women

- **Gender-based violence** knows no religion, age, nationality, culture, or socio-economic class.
- **One in Three women** worldwide has experienced physical or sexual violence.

**87,000 women** were intentionally killed in 2017. The majority of these killings were committed by an intimate partner or family member of the victim. (2018 report - UN Office on Drugs and Crime)

- **The global cost of violence against women** had previously been estimated at approximately US\$1.5 trillion. That figure is rising because tragically, violence has increased during the covid-19 pandemic.

#### SEE:

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/in-focus-gender-equality-in-covid-19-response>

**Laudato Si** - Pope Francis' encyclical to the world, 2015, highlights the link between: 'The Cry of the Earth and Cry of the Poor'

".... **each human being is a subject who can never be reduced to the status of an object**" (Paragraph 81)

**UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** most of these reference Women, particularly SDG # 5:

**Achieve gender equality and empower all Women and Girls**

**Make your voices heard** – every voice counts!



#### CEDAW

(Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women)  
Adopted in 1979 with the aim of:

- ✓ **Reducing** feminized poverty and exclusion
- ✓ **Ending** violence against all women
- ✓ **Achieving** gender equality during peace times / eliminate rape as a weapon of war

Suggest reading CEDAW during the **16 Days**  
[www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/)

#### UDHR

**Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

**Article 3:** Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

**Article 5:** No-one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, degrading treatment.

**ACTION** to promote respect and equality:

- o **Teach** children to respect one another irrespective of gender.
- o **Donate** - <https://donate.unwomen.org/en>
- o **Support the #WithHer movement**  
<https://spotlightinitiative.org/withher/withher>

Prepared by 'Future We Need' (FWN), a faith-based group with members from the Columbans, Franciscans, Josephites, Mercy, Presentation and Salesians.

(Updated November 2020)

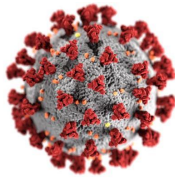
## **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

is a systematic and widespread human rights violation.

It cuts across age, socio-economic, educational and geographic boundaries...



[www.google.ie/search?q=images+of+orange+the+world+for+free](http://www.google.ie/search?q=images+of+orange+the+world+for+free)



### **BEFORE**

#### **THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC**

**243 million** women and girls, aged 15-49, experienced sexual and/or physical violence by an intimate partner in the past year.

### **SINCE THE PANDEMIC**

violence against women, especially domestic violence, has increased dramatically.

### **EXACERBATING FACTORS INCLUDE**

security, health and money worries, cramped living conditions, isolation with abusers, deserted public spaces, limited access to support services.

In some countries, resources and efforts have been diverted from responses to violence against women, to immediate COVID-19 relief.  
([unwomen.org](http://unwomen.org))

### **"The Shadow Pandemic: Domestic Violence in the wake of COVID-19"**

(60-second film narrated by actor Kate Winslet)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IINP\\_bW-o0&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IINP_bW-o0&feature=emb_logo)

**SEE:** <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/multimedia/2020/4/infographic-covid19-violence-against-women-and-girls>

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/16-days-of-activism>



**OF ACTIVISM  
AGAINST  
GENDER  
VIOLENCE...**

**DAY ONE...**  
**25th November**

**INTERNATIONAL DAY  
for  
ELIMINATION  
of  
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**



**2020 UNiTE Campaign Theme:**

**"Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!"**