



PRESS RELEASE

From 25 November to 10 December, the **Regional Thematic Group on Gender for West and Central Africa** of the United Nations will organize the celebration of « **16 Days of Activism against Violence against Women** » around the theme « **From Peace in the House to Peace in the World : an Education for All** ».

The year 2016 marks the 25th year of the campaign of 16 days of activism against violence against women, which started in 1991 and has been coordinated by the Center for Women's Global Leadership. The theme chosen for this year recognizes that discrimination and structural inequalities are perpetrated in a cycle of endless violence including in the private and public sphere and when young girls pursue their education. Gender-based violence is also a constant threat in accessing the right to education because it is also present in public spaces, schools and homes. It is a major obstacle for the development and fulfillment of the universal human rights of young girls and women to access education.

The global objective of the campaign that starts on 25 November, [International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women](#), until 10 December, [Human Rights Day](#), calls for state and non-state actors, populations and individuals around the world to take action to end all forms of violence against women and young girls with all possible tools.

Through this campaign, the participating agencies of the United Nations, FAO, HCDH, OCHA, OIM, ONUSIDA, UNDG, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UN Women, and WFP, and coordinated by UNESCO, will mobilize and support governments and state actors to respect their commitments to end violence against women and young girls. The aim of these 16 days of activism is to carry out a major action of awareness-raising and mobilization of populations on the issue of violence against women and young girls in the communities and at local level, with the voices of beneficiaries on the ground.

The key messages will be broadcast through a series of debates on West Africa Democracy Radio (WADR) dedicated to different themes directly related to the campaign and to the action of the United Nations in the West and Central Africa region.

The themes addressed in the radio shows are as follows:

- Education and justice for all genders: Consequences of structural discrimination against women and young girls (26 November)
- The role of women in peace negotiations, the establishment of peace, diplomacy and decision-making (27 November)
- The prevention and prosecution of sexual and gender-based crimes and protection of victims of sexual and gender-based crime (28 November)
- Food security and women (29 November)
- Violence perpetrated by state and non-state actors, in schools and other places, affecting the right to education (30 November)
- World AIDS days: HIV/AIDS and gender-based violence (1 December)
- Denial of education for girls stigmatized because of sexual violence (2 December)
- Violence, maternal health, and the economic cost of violence (3 December)

- The presence of militarized police within social institutions (schools, public spaces, etc...) (5 December)
- Sexual assaults in schools (6 December)
- Sexual violence perpetrated in all impunity towards school children and young people (7 December)
- Vulnerability of young girls and boys, of young women and men deprived of access to education in refugee camps and displaced persons (8 December)
- The UN Plan of action on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity; women journalists and gender-based violence in the field (9 December)

Two public debates will also be recorded, on 25th November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and to celebrate International Human Rights Day, on 10th December.

All the radio shows can be replayed on the links here below:

[UNESCO Dakar](#)

[UN Senegal](#)

Links of West Africa Democracy Radio:

[WADR](#)

[WADR Soundcloud](#)

Press contacts

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