



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM 2023

SOLIDARITY! INVESTMENT! ACTION!

CAMPAIGN OVERVIEW

○ Background

The 16 Days of Activism Campaign against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) began in 1991. Ever since, it starts on 25th November on the day of Elimination of Violence against Women and ends on 10th December on Human Rights Day. The GBV Prevention Network has actively participated in the campaign by taking the lead with its members and providing Action and Advocacy Kits focused on a regional theme, encouraging activism across Horn, East, and Southern Africa since 2004. For over 30 years, activists have collectively advocated for women's rights and safety and built a powerful movement through the 16 Days of Activism. As we embark on this year's journey, we call for Solidarity in Action to prevent violence against women.

○ Solidarity! Investment! Action! For VAW Prevention

Activists across Horn, East, and Southern Africa are working to prevent violence against women (VAW), protect women's rights, and advance feminist social change. In order to achieve feminist social change, which entails eradicating VAW and advocating gender justice and equity, requires a conducive ecosystem that involves activists, funders, policy makers, and researchers.

However, in recent years, we have witnessed the shrinking of spaces for civil society to advocate feminist social change, provide safety, and prevent VAW. There has been a consistent backlash against women's rights agenda. The anti-rights actors are penetrating civil society organizations and religious institutions and using politicians to pass on their messages. They are also using threats against their political opponents and distorting the extent of their public support to advance their agenda. These negative developments are a threat to the advancement of feminist agenda and could cause regression.





As we embark on the 2023 16 Days of Activism campaign, we invite you to explore ways to show solidarity in reclaiming spaces, prioritizing women's rights agenda including increase investments towards VAW prevention, to achieve the elimination of VAW by investing in sustained action to ensure political commitments and implementation of well-funded, evidence-informed strategies across multiple sectors.

Together, we stand united in our voices and present a powerful front as we push for investment, pushing back against the backlash.

Campaign goals

In this campaign, we unite as a force, transcending borders and backgrounds, to champion gender equality and justice. Through shared experiences, understanding, and empathy, we build a robust network of support, fostering an unbreakable bond that empowers women to rise and thrive together. We stand resolute against backlash with pockets of resistance and avenues of hope nurtured by the shelter of solidarity embraced by individuals, organizations, and communities alike. To forge this solidarity, we must rally around our shared goal and our unwavering dedication to the feminist movement.

To achieve these objectives, we invite activists, organizations, and communities to participate as follows:

Individuals:

The power of many starts with the power of one! The actions we take as individuals, small or big, can inspire others to do so, and spark change.

The actions can take various forms:

- Connect to your inner activist and those that have supported your journey
 - a. Think about the experiences that provided you with support in difficult times.
 - b. Reflect on how that experience guided you to advocate for your personal well-being.
 - c. Pen that experience as a memoir
 - d. If possible, convey your appreciation to those who supported you, or share your story with someone you wish to build a stronger sisterhood with.
 - Take a moment to commemorate and honor these special bonds that helped you thrive.
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Activist Organization/Funders

- Challenge the competitive nature of the funding ecosystem by dreaming and building collaborative goals with sister and allied organizations
- Cultivate a spirit of movement generosity around resourcing for VAW prevention.
- Create an intentional space for the voices that are often not heard in your organization
- Discuss strategies to enhance intersectionality within feminist social change movements, ensuring a more inclusive approach to gender justice and equity.
- Celebrate the bonds and friendships formed within your organization, drawing from one another to advocate for programs and investments to prevent VAW.

Communities

How can your community collectively invest in VAW prevention?

- Establish a safe space within your community where individuals can share their stories, perspectives, and experiences, fostering empathy and understanding.
- Initiate dialogues around how to unite in our diversity, and collaborate across movements
- Provide a platform encouraging empathy among community members.
- Promote the well-being of all individuals within your community.
- Celebrate supportive bonds within the community, championing the prevention VAW.

Solidarity in Action aims to unite people, offering support, bonding, and sisterhood as we advocate for a violence-free reality. By investing in funding, interventions, community programs, political commitments, and strengthened policies, we can nurture this safer world together.

Explore our kit, designed to engage individuals, organizations, and communities. Tailor the options to your context, ensuring a unique, easy-to-understand language that emphasizes the importance of investing in VAW prevention. Together, let's stand firm, united in our voices, and resolute in our actions, pushing back against the tide of backlash and forging a future without Violence against Women.