



# 16

## Days of Activism 2024

**Recommit! Be Accountable! Resource Prevention!**

### Campaign Overview

#### Background

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign is a global event that has been organized since 1991 to promote women's safety and right to live free from violence. The campaign takes place annually from November 25th to December 10th, starting on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and ending on Human Rights Day. The GBV Prevention Network has led regional efforts in the Horn, East, and Southern Africa using Action and Advocacy Kits for almost 20 years.

This year's campaign focuses on the upcoming 30th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA), which was adopted in 1995 at the Fourth World Conference on Women. BPfA is a landmark document in the history of global women's rights, in which world leaders made a commitment to advancing the strategic objections and actions across 12 areas of concern, including Violence against Women. This year, we invite the BPfA signatories and stakeholders to recommit to these priorities, develop and implement accountability mechanisms to monitor their progress, and provide the necessary resources to escalate this work. Our campaign emphasizes the urgent need to end all forms of violence against women and girls, calling for robust policies, greater awareness, and concrete actions by all stakeholders to protect their rights and ensure their safety worldwide.





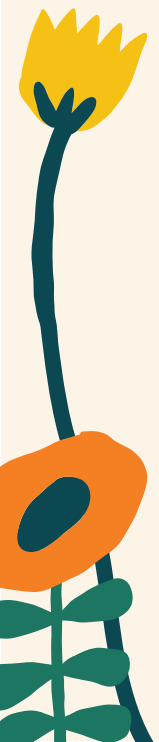
# Recommitting to EVAW through Well-Resourced Accountability Mechanisms

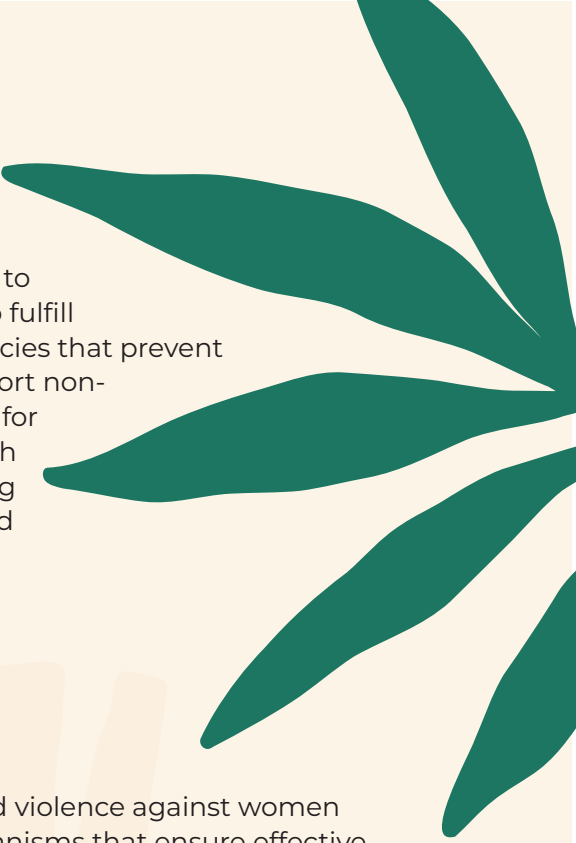
The Beijing Platform for Action emphasizes state responsibility for preventing and responding to VAW through the creation of strong accountability mechanisms. Accountability efforts outlined in BPfA include developing and enforcing laws that criminalize gender-based violence, ensuring that state agents such as police and security forces are held to account if they perpetrate VAW, and providing justice mechanisms for survivors of violence to seek redress. The Platform also stresses the importance of systematic data collection and reporting to monitor progress and identify areas that need improvement.

Additionally, BPfA highlights the necessity of adequate resources to effectively end violence against women, including funding for comprehensive survivor services like legal aid, healthcare, shelters, and psychological support. The platform encourages states to fund public education that transforms the attitudes and behaviors which condone violence and implement training programs for professionals who work with survivors. BPfA encourages states to allocate resources through the government budget to implement plans of action to end VAW.

Since this historic document was signed almost 30 years ago, the landscape for addressing VAW has evolved greatly. In the past decade, we have mobilized evidence to demonstrate that it is possible to prevent VAW through gender transformative programming. Many countries have enacted laws criminalizing gender-based violence, providing a foundation for justice and perpetrator accountability. The availability of services like shelters, hotlines, and legal aid has expanded, offering critical support to survivors. We have also seen an increase in the number of actors who are addressing VAW within and across diverse sectors. We know that the change we seek must be led through the expertise of local women's rights organizations, who have the flexible, multi-year funding needed to build a more just society.

However, challenges persist. Rising authoritarianism around the world has led to a proliferation of anti-gender initiatives that seek to undo the progress we have made. The inconsistent implementation and enforcement of laws, coupled with insufficient funding for programs and services, undermine efforts to protect women effectively. Many regions still lack systematic data collection, making it difficult to understand the full scope of violence against women and to measure progress. Deep-rooted cultural and social norms continue to perpetuate gender inequality and violence, creating barriers that prevent women from seeking help or reporting abuse. Women's rights organizations and feminist movements are still chronically underfunded by donors who do not always seek to balance power with those that they fund. To truly eliminate violence against women, a renewed commitment is needed to ensure robust enforcement, adequate funding, comprehensive data, and unfettered belief in the power of feminist movements.





As such, we stand with the global 16 Days Campaign in urging stakeholders to recommit and strengthen their efforts to eliminate VAW. We need concrete plans from governments to fulfill the commitments they made 30 years ago: to implement policies that prevent and respond to violence, to provide sufficient funding to support non-governmental efforts, to strengthen targeted efforts to EVAW for women in all of their diversity, including migrants, women with disabilities, young girls and women, and queer women, among others, and to ultimately nurture a world where all women and girls can live free from violence.

## Campaign Goals

Recommit to the Beijing Platform for Action's mandate to end violence against women and girls by establishing and resourcing accountability mechanisms that ensure effective prevention, protection, and response to all forms of violence against women.

### Individuals

Practice personal accountability by speaking out against violence, supporting survivors, and educating yourself and others on the commitments made to end violence against women and girls in the Beijing Platform for Action

### Organizations

Collaborate with feminist organizations to amplify and fund their critical work, pooling resources and expertise to push for systemic change at local, national, and international levels.

### Communities

Create safe spaces where survivors can seek help without stigma, and collaborate with local women's organizations to challenge harmful social norms that perpetuate violence against women

### Governments

Strengthen and implement accountability mechanisms to monitor, enforce, and report on anti-violence laws and policies, while allocating sufficient resources to support comprehensive survivor services and prevention initiatives.

