



Ending gender-based violence: Community-led projects that unlock the potential of women and girls

NGO CSW69 Forum - virtual Parallel EVENT

March 14, 2025 8:30am

(Register via this zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUscuiurD4iEtKlqNWE9FcYU2gkVvmnqtte>)

Organized by International Presentation Association, and co-sponsored by the Government of Chile, International Association of Charities, Graduate Women International, Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council of North and South America, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Soroptimist International, UNANIMA International, Women in Agriculture for Sustainable Development

Violence affects women and girls' ability to enjoy their rights and freedoms equally with men and boys. Violence against women and girls has devastating lifelong effects, including their physical and mental health. Beyond its impact on individuals, violence against women and girls has serious and negative consequences upon families, communities, societies and entire countries.

Violence against women and girls remains one of the most prevalent and pervasive human rights violations in the world. Globally, almost one in three women have been subjected to physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, or both, at least once in their life. For at least 51,100 women in 2023, the cycle of gender-based violence ended with one final and brutal act—their murder by partners and family members. That means a woman was killed every 10 minutes. This scourge has intensified in different settings, including the work place, schools, and online spaces, and has been exacerbated by conflicts and climate change.

Women and girls in poverty who lose their homes due to conflict or natural disaster often have no money or resources, and are forced to submit to sex in return for food, shelter, and protection to survive. With limited or no access to education, healthcare, income or other essential rights,



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many women and girls have few options to avoid gender-based violence, such as to leave dependent abusive relationships.

Community-led programmes that empower women and girls as well as strengthen social services for gender-based violence survivors by increasing awareness of their rights will be highlighted during this event. Relevant projects from the grassroots level will indicate that formal and informal education is a powerful transformative tool not only in responding to and advocating against violence, but also in dismantling gender stereotypes, hence preventing violence from occurring before it even starts.

Thirty years after the landmark Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action many advances for women and girls have been achieved. However, progress in strengthening women's and girls' rights has not gone far or fast enough. Much more need to be done, worldwide, to address the backlash against women's and girls' rights and meet the promise of gender equality.

Speakers:

Opening remarks: **Francisca Gallegos Jara**, Undersecretary of Social Services, Ministry of Social Development and Family, Government of Chile

- **Dorothy Fernandes**, PBVM, International Presentation Association, Bihar, India
- **Hawa Dunor-Varney**, Executive Director, Women in Agriculture for Sustainable Development, Liberia
- **Francine Poppo**, BCC, Executive Director SSND Educational Center - **Ling Liu**, Student, SSND Educational Center, United States
- **Sonide Simon-Romain**, Vincentian Family Haiti Initiative, Haiti
- **Niki Devaris-Morgulis**, Coordinating Director, Girl Delegate Program, Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council of North and South America, United States

Moderator:

Dr. Despoina Afroditi Milaki, UN Representative, International Presentation Association



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