



# Calendar - 2015

**VIOLENCE  
AGAINST  
WOMEN  
AND GIRLS IS  
SYSTEMIC**

Girls and women often live in fear – at home, at school, in the community – in conflict and in times of peace. This is unacceptable. This is injustice.

Violence is never okay.

Men and boys also experience violence – especially in conflict settings and outside the home – sometimes by women, most often, by other men.

The causes and dynamics of violence against boys and men by girls and women are different than the causes and dynamics of violence against girls and women by boys and men.

Violence against women and girls is systemic. It happens because across the world, societies are shaped by patriarchal norms that give men more power than women.



CEHAT was established 20 years ago when a group of researchers and healthcare professionals decided to create an alternative health research institution which is at the interface of activism and academics. CEHAT comprises of a multi-disciplinary team such as doctors, lawyers, social workers, public health experts and counsellors.

CEHAT through its research, intervention, education and advocacy, has been addressing issues of right to health care to all as well as preventing violence and caring for survivors. All projects are periodically reviewed for scientific rigor and ethical compliance by external review committees. Democratic mode of decision making is the cornerstone of CEHAT's functioning.



### **Dilaasa A Crisis Centre for Women survivors of Domestic Violence**

Dilaasa is India's first hospital based crisis intervention department for Women and was established at K. B. Bhabha hospital, Bandra to make the public health care system accountable to the issue of domestic violence. It was set up in 2001 as a collaboration of the public health department of the MCGM (Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai) and CEHAT (the research center of the Anusandhan trust). Another such department was initiated at Kurla Bhabha Hospital in the year 2006. The strategic location of Dilaasa in a hospital has helped more than 3000 women facing domestic violence in accessing services easily.

Dilaasa means reassurance and it seeks to provide psychosocial support to women survivors of domestic violence. Along with crisis counselling, Dilaasa provides legal, medical and social help to women. The centre also provides training to health care providers on the issues of Violence Against Women.

## **ABOUT THIS CALENDAR**

Violence Against Women is a global phenomenon that happens in every society, every country, every socio-economic group. Women are discriminated against in every walk of life due to their gender, their race, caste, class or status.

This year's calendar is based on the article "Addressing violence against women: a call to action", Lancet Series on Violence against Women (2014) by Claudia Garcia-Moreno, Cathy Zimmerman, Alison Morris-Gehring, Lori Heise, Avni Amin, Naeemah Abrahams, Oswaldo Montoya, Padma Bhate-Deosthali, Nduku Kilonzo, Charlotte Watts. ([http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(14\)61830-4](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(14)61830-4))

The illustrations used are from the popular version of the article "A Call to Action on Violence against Women" (2014) by Lori Michau, Jean Kemitare, Jessica Horn; designed by Samson Mwaka.

For the full series, visit: <http://www.thelancet.com/series/violence-against-women-and-girls>

ESTIMATES OF LOST PRODUCTIVITY FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RANGE FROM **1.2% OF GDP** IN **BRAZIL** AND **TANZANIA** TO **2% OF GDP** IN **CHILE**. <sup>10,11</sup>

The **annual cost of intimate partner violence** has been calculated to cost the world economy more than USD \$8 trillion a year; USD \$5.8 billion in 2003 in the United States; GBP £22.9 billion in 2004 in England and Wales; R28.4 billion in South Africa; and GBP£4.5 billion for Australia. <sup>12-15</sup>

## A Call to **ACTION**

Achieving the goal of women living healthy lives, free from violence, will require not just good intentions, but well-coordinated, funded strategies by international bodies, governments, civil society and communities.

**WE CAN AND MUST LEAD THIS CHANGE.**



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# WHY DOES VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS MATTER?

Basic talking points

Violence against **WOMEN** and **GIRLS...**



is a profound symbol of **gender inequality** and social injustice



**hinders** social and economic development



**prevents** girls and womens equal participation at every personal, social and political level

**hurts** girls and womens bodies, minds and hearts

**reinforces** other forms of discrimination including based on disability, age, race, sexuality, HIV status, class and caste

is **extremely costly** for families, communities and nations



## JANUARY 2015

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# SHOW LEADERSHIP

**Recognise** violence against women and against girls as human rights violations, and a barrier to health and development. **Speak out** against violence, and **allocate** the needed resources to prevent and respond to violence.



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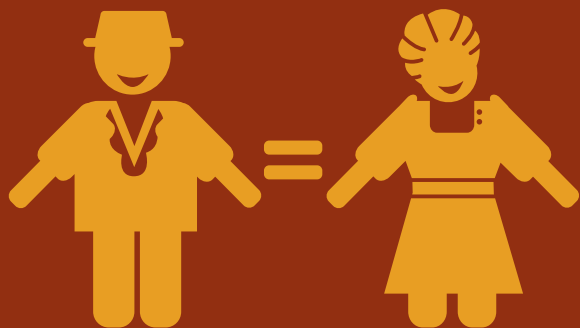
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- Demonstrate leadership by **Publicly condemning violence against women** and girls, and advocating for gender equality.
- Include in the **post-MDG framework a stand-alone goal on gender equality**, with a target to eliminate violence against women and girls.
- **Develop a National Plan of Action** or strengthen existing plans that include specific operational actions, budgets and measurable targets for each sector. This should be multi-sectoral, spanning health, social welfare, police, justice, education, and gender, and include capacity-building and system-strengthening strategies and supporting community-based prevention and response. This should be publically available, and its implementation monitored.
- Establish **a national co-ordinating mechanism**, with sufficient authority and budget to develop, implement and monitor actions to address violence against women.
- **Ensure resources** are available to support the implementation of the national plan, with all relevant ministries, and for the engagement of women's movements/women's organizations.



# CREATE EQUALITY

Develop and enforce national level laws, implement policies and strengthen capacities of institutions to address violence against women and promote equality between women and men.



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## MAY 2015

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- **Strengthen and enforce laws and policies** to prohibit all forms of violence against women and girls.
- **Ensure national law, policies and institutions in all sectors promote equality** between women and men and eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, including multiple discriminations. Principles and practices in customary and religious legal systems should also be reviewed and aligned to support women's rights, gender equality and freedom from violence.
- Support **women's equal access to education, income and safe job opportunities** through legislation and sector-specific strategies.
- Support actions that **challenge discriminatory attitudes and behaviours** towards women and girls, including the explicit and tacit individual and institutional approval of violence against them, men's control of women's behavior; and constructs of masculinity that encourage men's violence.
- **Support social policies that promote equality** in relationships, such as in health care education, childcare etc.



# CHANGE NORMS

Invest in violence prevention programming, to promote the empowerment of women, gender equitable social norms, non-violent behaviours, and effective non-stigmatising responses for violence survivors.



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## JULY 2015

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- Invest in programming that supports communities to **challenge social norms** promoting discrimination, explicit and tacit approval of violence against women and girls including constructs of dominant masculinity and passive femininity that support men's violence.
- Support interventions that work in communities to change **the social norms that perpetuate gender inequality and violence against women and against girls**, prioritising interventions that foster collaboration between women's and men's programming, and between boys and girls.
- Fund programmes that **support survivors of violence**, including outreach and mentor/advocate programmes.
- **Address individual risk factors such as exposure to violence during childhood**, alcohol and other substance use problems, as well as the multiple discriminations that women and girls face related to the intersection of gender with class, caste, race, (dis)ability, and sexual orientation.
- **Seek synergies in investments across sectors** (micro-finance, agriculture, water/sanitation, etc.) and forms of violence, in particular between different forms of violence against women and with violence against children.



# CHALLENGE SECTORS

Strengthen the role of the sectors (health, security, education, justice, etc) by integrating training on violence against women into curricula, allocating budgets, creating policies and implementing systems to identify and support survivors, as part of a co-ordinated multisectoral response.



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## SEPTEMBER 2015

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- **Integrate training on violence against women and girls and relevant curricula**, at undergraduate and in-service levels, to challenge stigmatising attitudes and ensure that sector staff understand the basics of violence and how to respond appropriately. This training needs to be sustained and supported by on-going supervision and mentorship.
- Create an **enabling policy and professional environment** for health, security, education and justice professional to respond appropriately to violence against women and girls.
- Ensure that **violence against women and girls is addressed in relevant initiatives**, including adolescent sexual and reproductive health, community policing, family courts, national primary and secondary curriculum, maternal, newborn and child health, HIV prevention programmes, mental health, and alcohol/drug use prevention and treatment programmes, etc.
- Address **violence faced by staff of sectors, and the violence and discrimination perpetuated by sectoral staff** through establishing sexual harassment policies, and policies on personal conduct, abuse and disrespect of victims.
- Support mechanisms to promote **co-ordination and collaboration among sectors** at a national and local level, for improving services for survivors of violence.
- Support the drafting of a **“global plan of action to strengthen the role of the health system** within a national multi-sectoral response to address interpersonal violence in particular against women and girls and against children, building on existing relevant WHO work” as proposed in World Health Assembly Resolution 67.15.



# INVEST IN RESEARCH AND PROGRAMMING

Support research and programming to learn how to best prevent and respond to violence against women and girls, inform policies and monitor progress.



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## NOVEMBER 2015

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## DECEMBER 2015

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- **Implement national population-based surveys** on violence against women and girls that measure the magnitude, risk factors and consequences of violence against women every five years.
- **Support civil society organizations to innovate and implement** programs that effectively prevent and respond to violence against women and girls.
- **Support research to address key knowledge gaps.** This includes longitudinal studies on the health and other consequences of intimate partner and sexual violence, studies to understand better some of the less researched forms of violence, including trafficking, rape and the full spectrum of forms of violence against women and girls during conflict, and studies that look at how multiple discriminations affect different communities of women.
- **Invest in programming and research on violence prevention,** including on ways to tackle key structural drivers of violence, such as gender inequality and social norms that condone some forms of violence against women. Such research needs to support effective partnerships between researchers and civil society organizations developing and implementing programmes, and include considerations of intervention cost, scalability and replication.
- **Support evaluation and implementation research,** including on effective models of prevention, health sector interventions, and approaches to intervention scale up.
- **Invest in capacity building to conduct research** and implement effective programming on violence against women and against girls, particularly in low and middle income countries.

**TOGETHER, WE CALL FOR  
GREATER ACTION  
AND AN EXPLICIT  
COMMITMENT TO THE  
ELIMINATION OF  
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.**



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