

PRESS RELEASE
10 December 2020

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

THE HAGUE – To conclude our campaign of *16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence* (GBV), the World Federalist Movement/Institute for Global Policy (WFM/IGP) expresses its deep concern about the global rise of GBV during the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has exacerbated domestic violence as well as conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), both of which disproportionately target women and girls while also affecting men and boys.

Noting that today is Human Rights Day, WFM/IGP stresses that the rights and contributions of women and girls are paramount to COVID-19 recovery efforts. As such, we have joined UN Women's call for governments to ensure their COVID-19 response plans mainstream the elimination of GBV.

Our specific demands for gender equality and ending GBV include the following:

COVID-19

- Governments and other members of the international community must make the necessary policy and financial commitments to counter the gendered impacts of COVID-19 that have exacerbated gender disparities in, for example, access to health care, economic power, and physical security.

Justice

- Laws, policies, and procedures must be non-discriminatory and seek to dismantle patriarchal systems, gender stereotypes, and cultures of victim-blaming in order to respect, protect, and promote women and girls' rights to access to justice and to equality before the law.
- National, regional, and international systems must adopt measures to increase the meaningful representation and participation of women in the legal and judicial sectors.
- Governments must ratify regional and international legal instruments that recognize GBV as a human rights violation.

Conflict and Atrocity Prevention

- Governments and members of the international community must mainstream gender equality into conflict and atrocity prevention initiatives, including by recognizing the various roles of women and girls in both conflict and peace-building, women and girls' differentiated needs, and the discriminatory impacts of conflict on women and girls.

Leveraging our Coalition Operating Model and our network members, WFM/IGP already adopts a gender perspective in our efforts to advance justice for CRSV and to prevent conflict and mass atrocities. Our approach to Women, Peace, and Security programming centers the voices of our in-country partners. Through our partnerships with women leaders who are on the front lines of the fight against ordinary and extraordinary GBV and impunity for such violations, WFM/IGP aims to amplify their voices and champion their work on the global stage.



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Please support our growing initiatives to advance our women partners' efforts to promote gender equality and eliminate GBV around the globe with a tax-deductible contribution today.

About WFM/IGP

WFM/IGP, founded in 1947, is a non-profit, non-partisan civil society organization that campaigns for the establishment and strengthening of multilateral frameworks that can effectively address violent conflict, human rights violations and other grave transnational challenges. WFM/IGP uses a Coalition Operating Model and hosts the Secretariats of two hugely influential coalitions: the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC), a global network of over 2,500 civil society organizations in 150 countries, and the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP), a global network of over 90 civil society organizations.

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