



E-NEWS

MARCH 2013

A PROMISE IS A PROMISE

Aldijana Sisis, UNiTE Campaign Manager

This first issue of the UNiTE campaign E-News will be distributed at the beginning of the 57th session of the Commission on Status of Women (CSW) which takes place in New York from 4th – 15th March 2013. During the two weeks of discussions, governments will focus on preventing and ending violence against women and girls. Expectations are high and rightly so. They are founded in a conviction that human rights belong to all and in a shared vision of a world free of violence against women and girls. They are guided by collectively agreed promises and the voice of victims and survivors.

It is those internationally agreed promises that will provide a structure and the specific framework for all CSW discussions. But it is voices of victims and survivors from around the world, the hopes of real women and girls behind the statistics and numbers, that will be a reminder that must guide discussions beyond just ink and paper, towards a real change.

In my work as a human rights practitioner I am very privileged to meet individuals whose lives, work or knowledge in one way or the other, shape my efforts in working to end violence against women and girls. These are people I learn from, who motivate me to go forward, take an extra step or 'push the envelope'. Among them, there are two extraordinary women who will no doubt be a source of my inspiration for time to come, Enisa from Bosnia and Lingya Chea from Cambodia.

I had the honor of meeting Enisa as one of the speakers in an event organized by the UNiTE campaign during the 55th session of the Commission on the Status of Women in 2011. She was invited to tell her story. During the war in Bosnia, Enisa

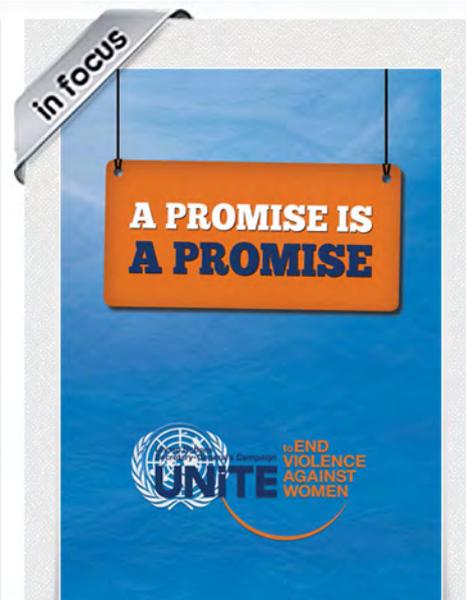
was taken to a "rape camp," where she was held for months and repeatedly raped by soldiers. Wanting her story to be told, she participated in a documentary *Healing The Wounds of War*, produced by United Nations TV, and courageously went back to the place where she was held. It was a very emotional experience and in her words, she did it for "all the women who suffered like she did but did not have a voice".

Lingya Chea, a 19 year-old resident and leader in AFESIP Somaly House center in Kampong Cham in Cambodia, I met last year at the UNiTE campaign Global Youth Forum. She was one of the 40 young men and women who came from all over the world to share with us their knowledge, experiences, successes and the challenges they have faced in working to end violence against women and girls. Lingya Chea's personal story, individual courage and her determination to build a safer future for young women in Cambodia touched us all.

"My father was a gambler and I didn't know what they discussed with him. He told me that he wanted me to work in Thailand with those two men. I could not reject his word. He told me to do as I was told. I didn't know what to do but to follow them. I had no choice, so I went to Thailand with those two men. But when I was brought to the border with Thailand, I didn't get the job that they promised. They sold me to a brothel while I was only ten."

Violence against women and girls is no abstraction - it is personal and intimate. Whether in times of peace or war, women and girls are subjected to it simply because they are women and girls - they are beaten, raped, murdered and assaulted on a daily basis. Enisa and Lingya Chea's stories are all of their stories - millions of them, severe, hidden, widespread and with many different shapes and forms.

So, yes, hopes are high.



UNiTE CAMPAIGN BROCHURE

The new UNiTE campaign global brochure was launched at the beginning of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence last year. [English](#), [French](#), [Russian](#) and [Spanish](#).



UNiTE CAMPAIGN VIDEO

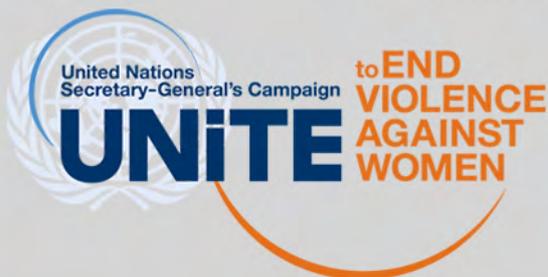
Launched on the occasion of the United Nations Official Commemoration of the International Day to Eliminate Violence against Women last year, the Official UNiTE campaign video is a call for action.

[Watch it here!](#)

UNiTE RIBBON



SYMBOL OF ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS



E-NEWS

MARCH 2013

ORANGE THE WORLD



In July last year the UNiTE campaign proclaimed every 25th of the month as Orange Day! Initiated and led by the [UNiTE campaign Global Youth Network](#), the action strives to highlight the issue of violence against women and girls, not only once a year, on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, but every month. Orange Day aims to spark worldwide interest and conversation, highlight the fact that violence against women and girls is a violation of human rights and call for its eradication without reservation, equivocation or delay. The Orange Day action is gaining ground and has many supporters all over the world. The members of the [Zonta Club](#) of Pierre/Fort Pierre wore orange to expand its effort to increase local awareness regarding violence against women and kicked off the 16 Days of Activism with the help of the local volunteer fire department and their advocacy slogan, "Real Men Raise Their Voice Against Violence". In Argentina, partnership with civil society resulted in an [orange day video](#). Also, check out the Facebook Page of [KULT](#) in [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) whose members are also members of the UNiTE Global Youth Network.

To Be ORANGED Up is Totally OK!

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL DAY TO ELIMINATE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

A series of global, regional and national activities of the United Nations Secretary-General's [UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign](#) were organized for the International Day to Eliminate Violence against Women (25 November) and 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence (25 November – 10 December) last year. These took place in the particular context of preparations for the [57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women](#) which is now taking place, and focuses on the prevention and elimination of violence against women as its priority theme. The International Day to Eliminate Violence against Women was officially commemorated at the UN Headquarters with the event "[A Promise Is A Promise](#)". The United Nations Secretary-General [Ban Ki-moon](#); Under Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, [Michelle Bachelet](#); H.E. Ms. Marjon V. Kamara (Liberia), Chair of the CSW for the 57th session; Marai Larasi (UK), [Imkaan](#) Executive Director and Mr. Dhruv Aroa (India), Founder of [GotStared.At](#) took part in the event that was moderated by the award-winning ABC Correspondent [Ms. Juju Chang](#).

UNiTE AND RISE



Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson addresses special event to end violence against women and girls. UN Photo/Rick Bajornas

On what is traditionally Valentine's Day in a number of countries, hundreds of UN staff members danced and collectively rose up to call for an to end violence against women during a [special event at United Nations headquarters in New York](#). The event was organized by the UNiTE campaign and it was part of a series of events that took place worldwide in support of the [One Billion Rising](#) initiative, Eve Ensler's global civil society campaign which shares this goal.

"On this special day, I urge all governments to send us a Valentine message: a concrete commitment of action to end violence against women and girls," said the Secretary-General of United Nations in his [message](#), delivered by Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson. Adding a few [remarks](#) of his own, Mr. Eliasson underlined that women are disproportionately the victims of attacks but many times are left out of decision-making processes to respond to gender violence.

UN WOMEN ISSUES A CALL TO HEADS OF STATES

While continuing to focus on mobilizing constituencies throughout the world and underlining violence against women and girls as a human rights violation, the UNiTE campaign has highlighted the initiative recently launched by UN Women, "[COMMIT](#)" as a call to all Heads of States for specific national commitments to strengthen and accelerate initiatives to prevent and end violence against women and girls. At the time of writing this E-News, 43 governments announced specific and new national commitments to support the elimination of violence against women and girls in their countries.



UNiTE WORLDWIDE

MARCH 2013

AFRICA

RIDE ON SPEAK OUT TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



A remarkable young man from **Tanzania**, 24-year-old Mwasapi Kihongosi won the global UNiTE campaign T-shirt design competition in 2011, climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in March 2012 and led a **Caravan for Change** against violence and harmful traditional practices in November 2012. Mwasapi **tells us** how the plight to end such forms of violence became his passion.



Bikers of the Ride On Speak Out Initiative about to hit the road to raise people's awareness of violence against women and girls issues. **See who they are!**

As part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, UN Women in South Africa partnered with the City of Johannesburg, Mercedes Benz, Sandown and Harley Davidson as well as civil society organizations, to organize **Ride On. Speak Out to End Violence Against Women** – a motorcycle ride across Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Swaziland

FAST FACTS:

- 15 bikers
- 9 Southern Africa countries
- 7,800 km in 16 days

DANCE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS



In **Kazakhstan** action on Orange Day was led by the popular youth break-dance group “**Hy погоди**”. Alexander Sysoev, the leader of the group, is a champion of Europe and Kazakhstan in break-dance.



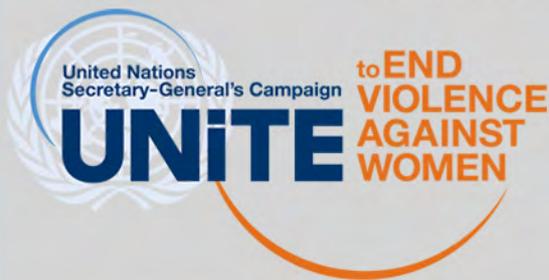
Salseros UNiTE to say NO to violence against women and support Orange Day in **Jakarta, Manila, Los Angeles, Pattaya...**

ASIA AND PACIFIC



In support of the UNiTE campaign, UN Women's office in **India** has launched a **photo competition** and winners will be announced on 6th March 2013.

The UN Women office in **China** and its partner NetEase Women Channel (the major internet company in China) launched an online **Orange Day campaign** on 25 November last year. All-China Women's Federation and other NGOs provided their support through social media.



UNiTE WORLDWIDE

MARCH 2013

MEN UNITED TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



Edin Džeko, striker for Premier League club Manchester City and the Bosnia and Herzegovina national football team supports the “Real Men League” on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. [Watch his message here.](#)

As part of the UNiTE campaign, UN agencies in [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) recently launched a nation-wide initiative to challenge social beliefs and attitudes related to violence against women and girls. The campaign established a “[Real Men League](#)” constituted of well-known Bosnian actors, musicians, journalists and sportsmen. Watch their [call to action!](#)

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the National Institute of Women at their programme “Alliance for a life without violence” commemorated UNiTE Orange Day with a session at the Colegio San Jose de Malambo School, in the locality of Arraijan (Panama), for the prevention of violence in dating. The objective was to sensitize students on the importance of the prevention of dating violence.



The [Regional Young Women Forum](#), Leadership and Governance took place in Panama with the support of the UNiTE campaign.

SPORT AGAINST VIOLENCE



In [Kyrgyzstan](#) a friendly football match dedicated to the first International Day of the Girl Child (11 October) between junior female teams “U14” of Bishkek city and Chui oblast was played. It was the third football match within the framework of the UN Secretary-General’s Campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women and was held under the slogan “Football and all - against violence - come along!”.



[Tajikistan TaeKwonDo Federation](#) joined UNiTE campaign and its Orange Day.