



# Change

Empowerment & Restoration



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## WHO announced as a Global Leader of the Generation Equality Action Coalition on ending gender-based violence

The Generation Equality Forum—a global gathering for gender equality, convened by UN Women and co-hosted by the governments of Mexico and France in partnership with civil society—today announced the leaders of the Generation Equality Action Coalitions, to achieve gender equality and all women's and girls' human rights. WHO, together with The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) have been invited to co-lead the Action Coalition focusing on ending gender-

based violence.

The Action Coalitions will deliver concrete and transformative change for women and girls around the world in the coming five years. They will focus on six themes that are critical for achieving gender equality. In addition to the coalition on gender-based violence there are five other coalitions on economic justice and rights, bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights, feminist action for climate justice, technology and



## The Partnership



innovation for gender equality, and feminist movements and leadership. Adolescent girls and young women will be at the heart of each Action Coalition's work.

The 65 initial leaders of the Action Coalitions represent Member States, diverse feminist and women's rights organizations, youth-led organizations, philanthropic entities, UN agencies and other international organizations ( full list here). The Action Coalitions' leaders bring deep commitment to and experience in advancing gender equality and women's human rights and reflect the different experiences and identities of women and girls from around the world.

Further appointments of the Action Coalitions' leaders will be made in the next few months, including private sector companies and youth-led organizations, to ensure intersectional and intergenerational leadership.

The Action Coalitions' leaders were selected by the Generation Equality Forum Core Group, which includes France, Mexico, Civil Society and UN Women. Five criteria were followed to select the leaders, including evidence of leaders' commitment and past record of achievement in the respective Action Coalitions' themes.

The Action Coalitions are one of the key outcomes of the Generation Equality

Forum that will kick off in Mexico City, Mexico, and culminate in Paris, France, in the first half of 2021. The Generation Equality Forum, accelerated by the Action Coalitions, will mobilize urgent action to make irreversible progress towards gender equality and women's and girls' human rights globally.

This announcement comes as the world responds to the impacts of COVID-19, which is exacerbating gender and other inequalities and disproportionately affecting women and girls in all countries. In this context of the pandemic, the Generation Equality Forum and Action Coalitions are important and urgently needed to get through this pandemic, to recover faster, and build a more just, inclusive, and equitable future for everyone.

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## CYPRUS: Violence against women is being tolerated

Concerned over the high number of women murdered by their partners and domestic violence cases, Cyprus MPs have launched a campaign over the



need to stop this worrying trend and for the authorities to act.

A major concern is that not much is being done by the authorities to protect women from harassment, abuse and even murder.

Prompted by the murders of 5 foreign women and two of their children at the hands of a convicted serial killer, AKEL MPs Skevi Koukouma, Evanthia Savva and Eirini Charalambidou tabled the issue for discussion in parliament. A total of 37 women have been murdered since 2000, the majority were killed at the hands of their partner or ex-partner.

Society needs to change

Koukouma argued that a lot has to be done at a societal level, like the way women are treated stems from the values of a patriarchal society.

She said the media has a role to play like the way it covers stories when a woman has been murdered is far from appropriate.

“Media headlines following the recent murder of a young woman by her ex, who then shot himself, were disgraceful, to say the least. We saw headlines such as “Love put the gun in his hand” and read stories of a love which ended tragically. No, it was a woman murdered.”

Chair of the House Human Rights Committee DISY MP Stella Kyriakidou said that Cyprus police do not have a protocol in dealing with reports of domestic violence, with which the risk is assessed, and action needed is decided.

A Police representative confirmed before parliament that the force does not have a special task force trained in dealing with cases of violence against women.

The DISY MP said that a bill regarding violence against women has been prepared and will be tabled soon.

A Ministry of Justice official told the House that a Women’s safe house will

be up and running by the end of the year.

During the debate, Professor Andreas Kapardis, a law professor at the University of Cyprus, presented a study conducted by the university on the causes of femicide and suggested measures to be taken to prevent such phenomena.

The survey found that most killings could be avoided with the timely and effective protection of women-victims and children, as in most cases police were informed of violent incidents before the killings.

Kapardis suggested that a special Intervention taskforce be set up to protect victims of domestic violence.

The discussion in parliament is to be continued in September, after the House recess, with the Human Rights Committee seeking to support related legislation as soon as possible.

# Urgent action needed to end pandemic of gender-based violence, say women’s rights experts

On 14 July 2020, GREVIO joined UN and regional experts on violence against women and women’s rights in their call for urgent action to end the pandemic of gender-based violence. As countries imposed lockdowns to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, the world saw “dramatic increases in cases of domestic violence, including violence by intimate partners, sexual violence and femicide,” the experts making up the End Discrimination and Violence against Women Platform (EDVAW Platform) said in a joint statement. “Urgent steps must be taken to combat this pandemic within a pandemic.”

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On June 19 the United Nations celebrates the ‘International Day for the Elimination of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence’, to raise awareness among governments to combat this phenomenon and to provide adequate aid.

Violence against women has always been an underestimated phenomenon due to the lack of complaints. When this violence occurs in warring or conflict-torn territories, complaints are even rarer. The UN estimates that for each reported case of rape there are at least 20 others that remain unknown.

The United Nations General Assembly has chosen to celebrate World Refugee Day on June 20 of each year with Resolution 55/76. The document was approved on December 4, 2000 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. The purpose of this day

is to intensify efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts and contribute to the peace and security of refugees.

UN expert calls for end to gender-based violence against women journalists

In an appeal to Member States, Dubravka Simonovic, Special Rapporteur on violence against women, said that action was needed now, to combat an “emerging fundamentalist discourse” and a “global backlash against women’s rights”.

She also called on Governments to keep women journalists safe by “fully implementing human rights



# C4C Updates: Competence Framework is complete!

instruments that are specifically aimed at eliminating discrimination against women and gender-based violence”.

While rights’ movements, such as #MeToo and #NiUnaMenos, have highlighted sexual harassment and other forms of gender-based violence as well as offered a platform for women journalists to speak up against abuse, many are still reluctant to do so, according to the Special Rapporteur.

Despite some progress, the UN independent envoy maintained that “much remains to be done”, to stem the “alarming increases in gender-based violence against women around the world, including women journalists, during the Covid-19 pandemic”.

She renewed her call to all countries to “support the elaboration of a UN system-wide coordinated approach or strategy to combat and prevent violence against women and a global

implementation plan on violence against women”.

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## Intellectual Output 1

C4C Competences Framework will surely add value to existing youth work competences by combining them into a comprehensive approach and integrate these frameworks with a RJ perspective on GBV prevention, making attention to distinguish prevention activities from the intervention after the violent event.

Although the basic principles of RJ and Media literacy are included in different laws relating to GBV, and they support training that includes these competencies, explicit competency frameworks that include all three together have not been found, which

supports the need for the framework proposed by A chance for change (C4C). The framework includes the following competences:

Domain A: Domain Competences.

These are the youth worker and volunteer competences adapted specifically to Gender Pedagogy and GBV prevention

Domain B: Domain Competences. These are the youth worker and volunteer competences adapted specifically to GBV prevention within the Restorative Justice paradigm

Domain B: Enabling Media Education Competences. These are media education competences adapted to the Youth Worker context that enable them to carry out their role in GBV prevention.



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