

MWIA Statement
For the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

Now is the time to stand up and stop Violence Against Women. November 25th in the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations says we must all play our part. The UN launched the Say NO - UNiTE campaign to end violence against women. Realizing the role that men play in ending this inequality in women's lives, Ban Ki-moon started the HeForShe campaign where women and men have united to work for equality for women, including eliminating violence against women.

There is a global call to action to Orange Your Neighbourhood as part of the UNiTE to End Violence Against Women. The orange theme will continue through the 16 days of activism against gender based violence from November 25 to December 10th, ending in Human Rights Day.

Phumzil Mlambo-Ngcuka, Director of UN Women, says that more often than not, violence against women is committed by an intimate partner. Of all women killed in 2012, almost half died at the hands of a partner or family member. It is no exaggeration that the overall greatest threat to women's lives is men, and often the men they love. She goes on to say that the Beijing Platform for Action spelled out key strategies to end violence against women, empower women, and achieve gender equality.

As women physicians, we are on the front lines. Women experiencing violence often come to us first, hoping that we will be able to help. It is our duty to offer the best treatment and support for these victims of violence.

MWIA is pleased to be writing a Training Manual for Physicians on Ending Violence Against Women, to ensure that we know how best to offer support. The time for action is NOW!

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