
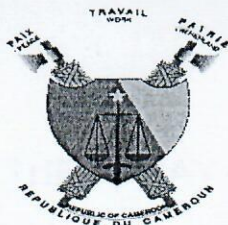


REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
Paix-Travail-Patrie

MINISTRY OF WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND THE FAMILY

SECRETARIAT GENERAL

ORGANISING COMMITTEE FOR THE 18TH EDITION OF THE
16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM CAMPAIGN ON
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS 



REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
Peace-Work-Fatherland

MINISTRY OF WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT AND THE FAMILY

SECRETARIAT GENERAL

ORGANISING COMMITTEE OF THE 18TH EDITION OF
THE 16 DAYS ACTIVISM CAMPAIGN ON VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

18th EDITION OF THE GLOBAL CAMPAIGN
"16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS
25 November - 10 December 2024

THEME:

**‘RESPONDING AND REBUILDING AFTER THE
ABUSE’**

TERMS OF REFERENCE



I. BACKGROUND TO THE 16-DAY CAMPAIGN

The '16 Days of Activism against Violence against Women and Girls' is a global campaign that begins on 25 November, the 'International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women', and ends on 10 December, 'Human Rights Day'.

This international campaign, which reminds us of the urgent need to combat acts of injustice suffered by women and girls throughout the world, was launched by activists at the inauguration of the Women's Global Leadership Institute in 1991. It has as objective to raise awareness of the impact of violence on women and girls and to build commitment for behaviour change, while offering individuals and organisations, including the United Nations and partners worldwide, a strategy for mobilisation and action to strengthen awareness-raising, advocacy, knowledge-sharing and innovation efforts.

It is based on six key principles:

- the survivor-centred approach;
- non-discrimination and inclusion: 'Leave no one behind';
- make the voice of young feminists and youth-led organisations heard;
- honour and recognise women's movements and their leadership in preventing and combating violence against women and girls in general;
- implement government strategies to prevent violence against women and girls;
- developing the transformative approach.

In support of this civil society initiative, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is calling for global action to raise awareness, galvanise advocacy efforts and share knowledge and innovations to end violence against women and girls (VAWG) through the global 'UNiTE' campaign launched in 2008¹. This multi-year advocacy effort aims to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls worldwide.

II. CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION

Apart from being a political issue, the fight against violence on women and girls is gradually becoming an important concern within the human rights and humanitarian agendas. Acts of violence are now considered as a pandemic, since they continue to be the most common and widespread human rights violation (UN, 2023), with millions of visible and invisible² victims³. On a daily basis, these victims are subjected to more insidious forms of brutality that affect them, regardless of their age, economic status, level of education or social background,⁴ and are detrimental to their physical integrity and mental health.

With the imminent review of the 30th anniversary of the implementation of the

¹United Nations (2024, October 4). *Unite_16 Days Concept note*.

² DEQUIRE, A. F. (2015). Violence against women, an age-old battle. *cairn info, Human and Social Sciences*, pp. 390-393.

³ Clair, I. (2012.). "*Sociologie du genre*" (*Sociology of gender*), Paris: Armand Colin.

⁴ DEQUIRE, A. F. (2019). Violence against women in the world: a pandemic? "*Pensée Plurielles*" (*Plural Thinking*), pp. 21-33.

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and following the call for accelerated progress towards the 2030 Agenda by the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Summit, violence against women and girls remains extremely prevalent in private and public spaces in all forms, including its most extreme manifestation - the killing of women and girls⁵.

In Cameroon particularly, the figures from various associations and institutional sources since the beginning of 2024 are overwhelming: close to sixty cases of femicide. Four years ago, the National Institute of Statistics (2020) shed light on the scope of violence against women throughout Cameroon. The 2018 DHS results show that 39% of women have been subjected to physical violence since the age of 15, 7% of pregnant women are victims of physical violence, about 11% are married at an early age, 13% have been victims of sexual abuse and 22% have endured emotional and psychological violence.

At the international level, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action were adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995. This programme for action reaffirms the fundamental principle that the rights of women and girls are "an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights". With regard to reparations and support services for survivors of gender-based violence, Recommendation No. 35 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), under paragraph 33, calls for the implementation of the following measures in relation to reparations for sexual abuse and gender-based violence:

- financial compensation;
- legal, social and health services;
- sexual, reproductive and mental health services for a full recovery;
- satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition.

These remedies should be appropriate, rapidly provided, holistic and proportional to the seriousness of the harm suffered. Referring to psychological reconstruction after rape, AYANNA Mouflet, an activist from Martinique, emphasised that the "psychosocial reconstruction" of women who have been victims of sexual abuse is (...) an essential step in the overall reconstruction of society.

At the regional level, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, adopted in 2003 (Maputo Protocol) and ratified by Cameroon in 2012, promotes through its provisions, the right to life, integrity and security of the person (Art 4), the protection of women against violence, including harmful traditional practices (Art 5), and the protection of women in armed conflicts.

At national level, Cameroon has ratified almost all international and regional legal instruments relating to the protection and promotion of the rights of women and girls. The national legal arsenal is indeed very rich. The principle of gender equality is asserted right from the 1996 Constitution to the 2016 Penal Code. Efforts continue to be made, namely advocacy to put an end to impunity for perpetrators, the drafting of a bill to combat violence

⁵ UN. (2024, October 4). *Unite_16 Days_Conceptual note*

against women and girls, capacity-building for actors in the gender-based violence intervention chain, advocacy for the creation of more safe spaces, the domestication of international and regional provisions ratified by Cameroon, and alignment with the national legal framework, to name but a few.

III. PRESENTATION OF THE THEME

This year, Cameroon is aligning itself with the theme chosen by the United Nations: 'Responding and rebuilding after violence'. This is a challenging theme in more ways than one. It focuses on the measures put in place to prevent, protect and manage victims/survivors and the strategies adopted to mobilise resources for their socio-economic reintegration. This theme is also in line with the priority theme of the 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), i.e. '**Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly**', particularly in the area of violence against women.

Survivors must become aware of their situation, by reporting the violence they have suffered in order to break the silence. To this end, emphasis must be placed on mechanisms to punish perpetrators so that survivors feel safer.

Rebuilding requires specific support that takes into account the holistic dimension of case management and the complementary nature of the actors in the intervention chain of GBV management. How can the survivor/victim be helped to continue leading a normal life after violence and abuse? What kind of support should the survivor receive? In the process of rebuilding, stakeholders are called to reflect on the operability and effectiveness of support mechanisms for survivors put in place by the government and other stakeholders.

This year, the "UNITE" campaign aims to mobilise people around the priorities of the Beijing +30 review on the urgent need to strengthen the accountability of everyone (government, technical and financial partners, civil society organisations, private sector, communities, opinion leaders, families, etc.) to put an end to violence against women and girls. It calls for concrete action, including the accountability of perpetrators and improved holistic care through appropriately resourced national strategies and increased funding for women's rights movements. (UN, 2024).

IV. OBJECTIVES

1. General Objective

Strengthen mechanisms to combat violence against women and girls.

2. Specific Objectives:

- Build the capacity of stakeholders regarding the mechanisms for preventing and punishing violence, and for protecting and caring for victims and survivors;
- Optimise the operation of platforms to combat GBV;
- Encourage decision-makers to adopt a law on violence against women and girls.
- Encourage media professionals and influencers to adopt innovative approaches to combating violence against women and girls;
- Raise awareness of care services for survivors/victims;
- Invest in survivors/victims.

3. Expected results

- The stakeholders' capacity to prevent and punish violence and to protect and care for victims and survivors has been strengthened;
- The operation of GBV response platforms has been optimised;
- Decision-makers are committed to adopting a law on violence against women and girls;
- The media and influencers are adopting innovative approaches to combating violence against women and girls;
- Survivor care services are popularised;
- The investment in survivors is effective.

V. ACTIVITIES

At central level

- National launch of the campaign;
- Donors' round table on the spotlight initiative;
- Round table of justice stakeholders on the current state of the normative framework for the protection of women and girls;
- Assessment of the Gender Desks;
- Advocacy for the creation of One-Stop Centres for better management of gender-based violence;
- Inauguration of a safe space for women and girls in the Fouda neighbourhood of Yaoundé;
- Stepping up the fight against femicide;
- Continuation of the HeForShe campaign;
- Intensifying the promotion of positive masculinity;
- Capacity-building for care providers;
- Production of the magazine 'Voice' to amplify the voices of women and girl leaders;
- Organisation of communication activities (SMS, spots, documentary capsules, conference debates, radio and television broadcasts and debates, educational talks and socio-legal clinics);
- Monitoring the activities of regional GBV response platforms;
- Design and production of communication media.

At decentralised level

- Handing over of economic empowerment kits to women and girl survivors;
- Organisation of capacity-building sessions in various fields;
- Radio and television programmes and debates (educational talks and socio-legal clinics);
- Production and distribution of leaflets, roll-ups, gadgets, T-shirts and posters;
- Dissemination of documents on gender-based violence;
- Communication on the mechanisms for combating gender-based violence and the services available;
- Evaluation of the operation of regional platforms;
- Dissemination of the 'Voice' magazine on amplifying the voices of women and girl leaders at local level.

VI. STAKEHOLDERS

- Public and semi-public administrations;
- Private sector;
- Decentralised local authorities;
- Development partners;
- NGOs and civil society organisations;
- Traditional, community and religious leaders;
- Out-of-school, school and university environments.

VII. METHODOLOGY.

The 18th edition of the global campaign '16 days of activism against violence against women and girls' will take place throughout the country. Focus will be placed on communication, capacity-building and following-up activities.

MINPROFF will produce a national report. Reports from decentralised services, CSOs, NGOs and partner administrations are expected at MINPROFF's central level, no later than two weeks after the campaign.