



UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador Nicole Kidman invites you to  
**Say NO to Violence against Women**  
[www.saynotoviolence.org](http://www.saynotoviolence.org)



## The UN Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women

*Violence against women is an issue that cannot wait ... That is why it was so important that the General Assembly set up the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women.*  
—UN Deputy Secretary-General, Asha-Rose Migiro

*The more I've learned about the people and organizations this Trust Fund supports, the more I've wanted to get involved. We all know in our heads and our hearts that every woman is entitled to a life free of violence. Let's make that a reality.*  
—Nicole Kidman, UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador

At least one out of every three women around the world has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime. Violence against women and girls is perhaps the most pervasive human rights violation. It devastates lives, fractures families and communities, and stalls development. Failing economies, coupled with discrimination and inequality, heighten women's vulnerability to violence, keeping them dependent, their options limited. In conflict and post-conflict countries, women are singled out for sexual abuse and human trafficking by competing armed forces.

In 1996, the UN General Assembly established the UN Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women. This Trust Fund is the only global multi-lateral grant-making mechanism exclusively devoted to supporting local, national and regional efforts of government and non-governmental organizations to combat gender-based violence. Since it began operations in 1997, the Trust Fund has awarded more than US\$19 million to 263 initiatives to address violence against women in 115 countries. UNIFEM, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, administers the Trust Fund.

With grants ranging from US\$100,000 to US\$300,000, UN Trust Fund projects support public education and awareness campaigns and provide much-needed services for survivors of violence. Grantees help to train judges and police to better respond to and prevent violence. Many projects strive to alter community attitudes and involve men as allies. To build efforts that strengthen enforcement and accountability, the UN Trust Fund is focusing on projects that work to implement national policies and laws to end gender-based violence. A second focus lies on addressing the linkage between violence against women and HIV and AIDS.

The UN Trust Fund puts out an annual call for proposals. Decisions on final approvals are made by committees that are convened by UNIFEM at both global and sub-regional levels and comprise representatives of UN agencies and leading experts from civil society. In 2007, 21 UN entities participated in the process.

### Resources for Action

UNIFEM, as the administrator of the UN Trust Fund, reaches out to governments, the private sector, nongovernmental organizations, and individuals to encourage voluntary contributions to reduce gender-based violence. Over the past years, there has been an encouraging increase in resources. But demand for resources far exceeds the amount of funding available. Typically, the Trust Fund receives around 20 times more requests for applications than it is able to award. In 2007 the Trust Fund has awarded grants for a total value of US\$5 million, but received requests amounting to US\$104.9 million. The overwhelming number of submissions demonstrates the commitment worldwide to expand work on the ground to combat gender-based violence. But the challenge is clear: the lack of resources severely constrains the

scale and scope of comprehensive activities to change attitudes and laws, build constituencies and accountability, provide shelter and services.

To contribute online, go to UNIFEM's website at: <http://www.unifem.org/support/#online>.

US tax deductible donations by check or money order should be payable to:

United Nations Foundation  
Attn: Fund for UNIFEM  
1225 Connecticut Avenue NW  
Fourth Floor  
Washington, DC 20036

Please indicate "UN Trust Fund to End VAW" in the memo field of the check.

The United Nations Foundation is UNIFEM's partner providing fiduciary services. Contributions are tax-deductible under IRS guidelines. For additional information, please contact the Public Affairs Specialist, Joan Libby-Hawk, +1 212 906-6390, [joan.libby-hawk@unifem.org](mailto:joan.libby-hawk@unifem.org)

## **Providing Support Where It's Needed Most**

### **India: Better Legal Options Equal More Justice for Women**

In Indian households, often organized around extended families, violence can erupt in many forms. It occurs between siblings, sexual partners, in-laws, children and parents, young and old. While violence against women within a marriage has been a crime, the narrow scope of existing laws and lack of legal measures for victims led women's groups to campaign for a new and broader civil statute. In 2005, they successfully pushed through the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act. The Lawyers Collective, one of the groups that led the campaign, uses a grant by the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women to help the Indian legal system adjust the ways it handles domestic abuse cases.

### **Bolivia/Ecuador: Remote Indigenous Communities Work towards Local Protection**

Deep in the Amazonian jungle along the border between Bolivia and Ecuador live a variety of indigenous communities. Poverty rates are high; social services for health and education are scarce. There is little knowledge about national laws. For a woman who does know her rights and is strong enough to flout conventions that accept domestic violence as a fact of life, reporting a case of abuse to state authorities would still require an arduous trip across rivers and through untamed forest. That's why a project in both countries, funded by the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, is taking support for anti-violence measures where it matters most: to indigenous communities themselves. Under the leadership of indigenous women's human rights advocates, trained local people conduct community dialogues on the issue of violence and examine existing national laws to determine which parts both respect local cultures and protect women's rights. Backed by state resources, communities, this information is then used to devise local service and protection mechanisms.