

ActionAid UK explains

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Violence against women and girls



Who are we?

ActionAid is an international charity that works with women and girls living in poverty. Our dedicated local staff are changing the world with women and girls. We are ending violence and fighting poverty so that all women, everywhere, can create the future they want.

We work in 45 countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America. In each country, we have dedicated staff members and local partner organisations who support women and girls as they claim their rights and help lead their communities out of poverty.

What do we do?

ActionAid puts the rights of women and girls at the heart of all we do, because we know the denial of these rights is one of the biggest causes of poverty worldwide, and a grave injustice.

Our three main areas of work are promoting women's economic empowerment, prioritising women's rights and leadership during humanitarian emergencies and ending violence against women and girls.





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Ending violence against women and girls

One in three women worldwide will experience physical violence or sexual abuse in their lifetime, most likely at the hands of someone they know. This is wrong, and it needs to stop.

With the help of our partner organisations and supporters, ActionAid is ending violence against women and girls. Together, we are creating spaces where women and girls can learn about their rights, develop leadership skills and gain the tools to earn an independent living. We work with women's rights organisations, local leaders, entire communities, men and boys and the media to shift societal attitudes and behaviours and create long-term, positive change.

From an SMS helpline in Kenya to a community therapy group in Brazil, our initiatives are tailored to suit the community and are successfully supporting women taking a stand against gender-based violence.

But there is still so much more to be done.



We have successfully campaigned to change laws around female genital mutilation (FGM), child marriage and domestic violence.

Everlyne (above) is part of a project in Kenya that uses technology to end violence against women. The SMS platform operates 24 hours a day to link survivors with paralegals, health workers, the police and counselling and medical support services.

Case study

An advocate for change

Bose Ironsi (pictured opposite) is the founder and executive director of ActionAid's partner organisation, the Women's Rights and Health Project (WRAHP) in Lagos, Nigeria.

Nigeria is ranked as one of the most dangerous countries in the world to be a woman, and WRAHP is trying to change that by combating gender-based violence and empowering survivors to seek counselling and legal advice.

The project started in 2008 with just two staff members. It has since expanded across the city, and its counselling and support service has worked with over 500 survivors.

It's a cause that is very close to Bose's heart as a survivor of gender-based violence herself. When she was a child, Bose experienced abuse and had nowhere to find support.

Then, she became a nurse, where she often treated survivors of gender-based violence, and ever since, Bose has become a tireless and passionate advocate for change.

There is still a lot that needs to be done to address the deep-rooted issues in Nigeria and end violence against women and girls. However, Bose is proud that WRAHP is providing survivors with a safe space - something she didn't have.





Stand with women and girls

We want to continue supporting teams like the Women's Rights and Health Project (WRHAP) and your generosity helps make that possible. Here are some of the ways you could stand with women and girls who have experienced violence:



£12

could provide essentials like clothing, underwear, soap and sanitary protection for survivors of violence who have fled with nothing



£23

could pay a counsellor's salary for a month, giving a woman or girl access to crucial emotional support to help her recover after experiencing violence



£56

could pay the court fees for a survivor, helping her access the justice she deserves

Get in touch

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