



SDJF Newsletter

The 16 Days of Activism -Against Gender-Based Violence, International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

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Every year, the 16 Days of Activism campaign begins on November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and continues until December 10, International Human Rights Day. The 16- day activism campaign against gender-based violence was first launched in 1991 by a women’s activist group called the Women’s Global Leadership Institute. However, the Center for Women’s Global Leadership currently hosts a campaign each year. The campaign, which was started by the Women’s Global Leadership Institute to prevent gender-based violence against women and girls, uses many individuals and organizations around the world as an organizing strategy to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls around the world.

The UN Secretary-General announced the UNITE to End Violence Against Women campaign by 2030. This campaign runs concurrently with the 16 Days of Activism. The UNITE campaign theme is changed every year, and it focuses on a specific area related to gender-based violence. The theme for this year is “UNITE! Activism to end violence against women and girls”.

What is the Gender based Violence.

Gender-based violence has been debated in the context of human rights for decades. It is deeply concerned with gender equality and rooted in gender

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AROUND THE WORLD IS MORE COMMON THAN YOU MIGHT IMAGINE.

- ⇒ 1 in 3 women around the world has experienced physical or sexual violence.
- ⇒ Globally, 1 in 3 women, or around 736 million, are subjected to physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner or sexual violence from a non-partner.
- ⇒ 1 in 5 women around the world has experienced stalking.
- ⇒ 95% of victims trafficked for sexual exploitation around the world are women.



-inequality. Gender-based violence, on the other hand, is regarded as one of the most serious human rights violations in all societies. Simply put, gender-based violence can be defined as violence directed against a person based on their gender. The majority of victims are Female. Although, both male and female face different type of gender-based violence in society. Gender-based violence and violence against women are two terms that are frequently used interchangeably, as it is widely acknowledged that the majority of gender-based violence occurs against women and girls by men. Intimate partner violence, which is the most prevalent form, as well as acts of violence committed in online forums are all examples of gender-based violence. Gender-based violence, on the other hand, is a difficult problem to solve because every second, even one woman or man, faces gender-based violence around the world. Gender-based violence and inequality are inextricably linked, as inequality in society is one of the causes of gender-based violence. Inequalities experienced by a person related to their race, (dis) ability, age, social class, religion, and sexuality can also drive acts of violence. This means that while women face violence and discrimination based on gender, some women experience multiple and interlocking forms of violence.

“In violence, we forget who we are - Marry McCarthy”

Gender Based Violence in Sri Lanka

Violence has become part of the everyday lives of women in Sri Lanka. In the home, at school, or on public or private transportation, at least one in four women experiences violence in a day. In general, the cultural situation of Sri Lankan families or homes also justifies women being beaten

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Creating an incubator space to promote gender equality and prevent gender based violence among Sri Lankan youth.

Gender inequality is one of the serious issues that exist in Sri Lanka, and it is one reason that affects gender-based violence in the country. Sri Lanka is one of the South Asian countries where women face numerous challenges as a result of patriarchy. Due to cultural norms and teachings, many Sri Lankan women provide less participation in the workforce and education, and the few females who participate in the labor force also face many difficulties and challenges, including gender-based violence due to gender inequalities. Although promoting gender equality in Sri Lanka is a difficult task due to social, and economic conditions, the SDJF has participated in this social responsibility. Under the (Inspire) project, which

by their husbands. Women and children are being sexually abused by men, and often it is also justified by the social conditions. Gender inequality persists in Sri Lanka, a majority country where women are still considered second-class citizens. Also, the minor participation of women in the workforce is justified. Domestic violence affects three out of every five women in Sri Lanka, and those who are aware of the legal system have an advantage.

Unfortunately, the majority of Sri Lankan women do not have much knowledge about the domestic or international legal systems regarding domestic violence. Hence, only one victim out of four uses the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act to obtain redress. On the other hand, the female, who also has knowledge about the legal system, does not go to court to complain against

is funded by the European Union, the SDJF promotes gender equality with its partner organizations, (Helvetas) among Sri Lankan youth. . The project has been conducted with the four Sri Lankan universities, including the University of Jaffna, the University of Peradeniya, Sri Jayewardenepura, and South-East Universities. Over the course of a year, the project has conducted various trainings and workshops on various topics, including gender equality. As part of this project this year, SDJF and its partner Helvetas were able to establish



incubator spaces in those universities with the funding support of the EU. The first incubator space lunch took place at the, University of Peradeniy on November 10, 2022, with the participation of students and distinguished guests. The incubator space is a new concept in Sri Lanka, when

students can enroll in various debates on democratic values such as gender equality. The incubator space, which was established at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura on November 21st, is also a part of this project, and both male and female students can use this space to raise their



domestic violence due to social, cultural, and household factors. Sri Lanka has a high incidence of sexual violence. Every 90 minutes, women are raped everywhere in Sri Lanka. The worst consequence is that 97% of rapists face no legal consequences.

However, to prevent gender-based violence, a few domestic and international laws are being implemented in Sri Lanka. Article 12 of Sri Lanka's Constitution of 1978 provides for equality for women and men and non-discriminate based on the sex(12). Sri Lanka ratified the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1981 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1991.

voices against the gender-based violence in Sri Lanka and to promote equal rights among male and female. During both opening ceremonies, undergraduate students who are studying at the Universities of Peradeniya and Jayewardenepura shared their experience and thoughts regarding (Inspire) projects. They discussed the democratic value they derived from their online and offline learning experiences. Such as equality and equal participations.



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