



Summit of the Future Action Days Side Event

Accelerating Spotlight Initiative's High-impact Effort to End Violence Against Women and Girls

[21 September, 2024, 16:00-17:15, UN Headquarters, Conference Room 2 (CR2)]

Organized by: United Nations Spotlight Initiative, Belgium, Ecuador, Sierra Leone, the European Union, the World Bank and Spotlight Initiative's Global Civil Society Reference Group

Background on the event (one paragraph)

Spotlight Initiative's side event showcased the Initiative's impact, secured commitments from new partners, and mobilized additional political and financial resources in support of efforts to end violence against women and girls, stimulating progress across all Sustainable Development Goals. It featured the participation of government partners (Belgium, Ecuador, Sierra Leone, and the European Union as co-sponsors), in addition to Aruba; as well as the World Bank (also a co-sponsor), UN Women, and Spotlight Initiative's Global Civil Society Reference Group. It also featured the participation of a panel of activists, including a UN Global Advocate, a UN Regional Ambassador, a Civil Society Partner, and an Olympic athlete who shared their stories and experiences in responding to and addressing gender-based violence. A more detailed summary of the event may be found [here](#).

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Despite significant progress achieved, gender-based violence persists as one of the most egregious human rights violations worldwide. Globally, 1 in 3 women have directly experienced violence, and every 11 minutes, a woman is killed by a partner or family member.

- Policy and legislation addressing gender-based violence and harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation and child marriage, are vital. However, they must be accompanied by multisector implementation plans to ensure accountability and justice for survivors.
- As online violence increasingly threatens the safety of women and girls, unique solutions are required to address this pervasive problem.
- The multisectoral approach of Spotlight Initiative, working with national governments, donor governments, international financial institutions, the private sector, civil society, local and women's led organizations, and communities has proven to be the most effective for tackling root causes and ensuring long lasting change.
- Conversation and close collaboration involving all stakeholders and all levels of society is important for creating and sustaining solutions that respond to the unique challenges faced by communities.
- To uphold the principles of "leaving no one behind" and "do no harm," gender-based programming should be survivor-centered and follow an intersectional approach.

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

- Continued close collaboration with and support of civil society and the women's movement is critical for effective programming to end gender-based violence
- Robust engagement of men and boys is essential for changing harmful social and cultural norms and realizing gender equality.
- For Spotlight Initiative's 2.0 Fund to accomplish its ambitious goals, sustained and scaled-up financial support is required from the international community, including from member state donors, international financial institutions, and the private sector.
- To fully achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, which are interconnected, the meaningful participation of women and girls is imperative.
- Amidst growing pushback against women's rights and gender equality, and acknowledging the persistent and severe nature of gender-based violence globally, political commitments and targeted legislation must address the problem comprehensively.
- As crises, conflict, and climate change continue to disproportionately impact women and girls, urgent action must be taken at all levels and with all actors to prevent and respond to gender-based violence globally.

Webpage to find more information:

<https://www.spotlightinitiative.org/> and side-event [webstory](#)