We want to see the elimination of violence against women and girls

With this priority, all women and girls will be empowered in their right to live free from violence. Survivors will be responded to with dignity, care and protection. This priority tackles a number of social issues including, but not limited to: domestic violence (sometimes referred to as family violence), sexual violence, femicide, human trafficking and modern slavery, FGM, child marriage, conflict-related sexual violence, digital violence.

This priority is strongly linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals: Good Health and Well-Being, Gender Equality.

RECENT STATISTICS

- One woman or girl is killed by someone in her own family every 11 minutes. 9
- More than 1 in 4 women have been subjected to intimate partner violence at least once in their lifetime. 10
- As a result of the pandemic, up to 10 million more girls are at risk of becoming child brides by 2030. 11
- Women migrants report high rates of sexual violence in transit to their destination. In 2020, up to 53% of women travelling along Western and Central Mediterranean routes report experiencing or witnessing violence, compared to 19% of men. 12

With thanks to the International Social Justice Commission for their support and resources. Find out more: www.salvationarmy.org/isjc

As The Salvation Army continues its global efforts to achieve gender equity, international Women's Ministries has identified and prioritised three focuses, forming a battle cry for individuals and groups involved in Women's Ministries across the world. We want to see:

- Improved access to healthcare and a better understanding of women’s health
- Increased education and development opportunities for women and girls, with fair compensation for their skills and labour
- The elimination of violence against women and girls.

These areas of focus, key in raising the value of women and girls, each link with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which have been embraced by The Salvation Army since 2015. The SDGs are based on a shared vision of a future that is secure, sustainable and based on equality of all peoples both between nations and within nations.

The goals identify issues and promote values very familiar to Salvationists; values that shine through the Bible. All people, without exception, are made in the image of God and are equally precious to him (Genesis 1:27-31). In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus declared: ‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God’ (Matthew 5:9). Jesus declared that he came that we ‘may have life, and have it to the full’ (John 10:10).

Having established our cause, we commit to investing in the physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual development of women and girls by use of our time and resources. We commit to seeking out, hearing and amplifying the voices of women and girls with dignity and sincere interest. We commit to engage in healthy relationships in all spheres of our lives, knowing that all people are held in the love of a shared Heavenly Father.

We want to see improved access to healthcare and a better understanding of women’s health.

With this priority, women and girls will be empowered through autonomy over their bodies and a knowledge of their physical and mental health, as well as sexual health, which includes education around sexual consent. This priority encounters a number of social issues including, but not limited to: early childbearing, female genital mutilation (FGM), sexual health, maternal care and postpartum care, domestic violence (also known as family violence), research and funding for women’s illnesses.

This priority is strongly linked to the following SDGs: No Poverty, Good Health and Well-Being, Gender Equality.

We want to see increased education and development opportunities for women and girls, with fair compensation for skills and labour.

With this priority, women and girls will be equipped with the tools they need to generate income, become self-sufficient and less vulnerable to risks such as child marriage, sexual violence and exploitation. Increased opportunities for women and girls may also involve education and training in typically male-dominated fields, such as STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), and improved representation of women in positions of leadership. This priority encounters a number of social issues including, but not limited to: illiteracy (functional, financial), lack of leadership and managerial representation, economic empowerment, political participation, financial security, child marriage, exploitation, early childbearing.

This priority is strongly linked to the following SDGs: No Poverty, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Decent Work and Economic Growth.

RECENT STATISTICS

- Only 57% of women (15-49 years) are making their own informed decisions on sex and reproductive health care.¹
- By 2030, as many as 2 million additional cases of FGM are projected due to COVID-19-related service disruptions.²
- More than half (55%) of mothers with newborns receive no maternity cash benefits.³

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RECENT STATISTICS

- More than half of the nearly 130 million girls not enrolled in formal education worldwide (54%) reside in crisis-affected countries.⁴
- On average, women in the labour market still earn 24% less than men globally.⁵
- Out-of-school girls are at increased risk of violence, child marriage, child labour, trafficking and early childbearing. But only 42% of countries had measures to support girls’ return to school in early 2021.⁶
- It would take another 40 years for women and men to be represented equally in national political leadership at the current pace, with women’s share in national parliaments being 22.4% in 2015 and 26.2% in 2022.⁷
- Women suffered steeper job losses than men during the pandemic, with the number of employed women declining by 54 million. 45 million left the labour force altogether.⁸

¹ United Nations, 2021
² Ibid
³ Ibid
⁴ United Nations, 2022
⁵ United Nations, 2021
⁶ Ibid
⁷ Ibid
⁸ Ibid