

No excuses for violence against women!

International day for the elimination of violence against women

According to UN statistics, at least one woman in three in the world is subjected to violence, often life-threatening, at some point of her life.¹ Increasingly, the international community agrees that violence against women is a serious global problem. In 1993, the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women. In 1999, it designated 25 November as International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

Despite the international consensus on the need to eliminate violence against women globally, violence against women persists in many societies. One key reason for this is the misuse of 'culture' by certain countries, groups and individuals to justify violence against women. Through this misuse of 'culture', these countries, groups or individuals attempt to exempt themselves from complying with laws that support women's rights or with international human rights obligations.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (designated as 25 November by the United Nations) will be commemorated on **Monday, 26 November 2007 at SantralIstanbul Kampusu, Istanbul Bilgi University, and on Tuesday, 27 November at Middle East Technical University (METU), Ankara.**

On 26 November, in Istanbul, under the banner title of 'No Excuses for Violence Against Women', the commemoration will begin with the launch of a [Global Campaign to Stop Stoning and Killing Women](#), organized by Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUML), a key partner of WEMC.

This will be followed by an international forum on **'Culture', Women, Violence: rejecting 'cultural' justifications for violence against women.** The forum will include international and Turkish speakers and participants, many of whom have worked for years in support of women's rights and human rights. Discussions at the Forum are intended to feed into the United Nations Secretary-General's forthcoming report on the implementation of the General Assembly's resolution 61/143, *Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women*. The forum will also provide valuable inputs for the reports of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, Professor Dr Yakin Ertürk, who will be the keynote speaker for the day. There will be a live video-link during the forum to the New York office of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

The international forum is co-organised by WEMC and the European Institute, Centre for Migration Research, and the NGO Training and Research Unit of Istanbul Bilgi University.

On 27 November, the international forum will be repeated in Ankara, co-organised by WEMC and METU.

The forums in Istanbul and Ankara are supported by the Department for International Development (DFID) in the United Kingdom, the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID), and Mama Cash Foundation in the Netherlands.

Read:

1. [The Global Campaign "Stop Stoning and Killing Women!"](#)
2. [Outline of the Consultation Paper: 'Culture', Women, Violence: rejecting 'cultural' justifications for violence against women. Towards a Framework for Analysis, Policy and Action.](#)

¹ GA/SHC/3850, 9 October 2006. 'Violence against women not confined to specific culture or region, Third Committee told as debate begins on advancement of women', United Nations Sixty-first General Assembly Third Committee, 8th & 9th Meetings (AM & PM). New York: UN Department of Public Information, News and Media Division.