

**16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM
GAMCOTRAP ENGAGES WITH
“CRAFT THEM YOUNG”
ON 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM
DECEMBER 1ST 2024**



Today marks a very important day as we engage in commemorating The 16 Days of Activism campaign which calls for action against one of the world’s most persistent violations of human rights – violence against women and girls.

The 16 days begins with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and ends with International Human Rights Day on 10 December– highlighting that violence against women is a fundamental violation of human rights.

Why does this matter?

Everywhere, it is acknowledged that violence against women continues to occur at an alarming scale in every country in the world. Too often it is accepted as normal behavior and the global culture of discrimination against women allows violence to occur with impunity. Recent movements such as #MeToo and #TimesUp have propelled this issue onto the global stage.

Similarly, at the home front in Gambia #UPHOLD THE ANTI-FGM LAW as a movement to call for accountability of National Assembly Members to Protect the Girl-Child.

Speaking out against women's rights abuses is something that women's rights organisations, NGOs, CSOs and CBOs including GAMCOTRAP do every day. From lobbying governments to improve laws and services to working with communities to change discriminatory attitudes and behaviours, organisations and individuals are working all over the world to respond to and prevent violence against women.

However, violence against women is a global problem and it requires global action. Calls for action like the 16 days of Activism are crucial because they shine a spotlight on the issue of violence against women. They are a moment to create public awareness about what needs to change to prevent it from happening in the first place at local, national, regional and international levels.

Who needs to be involved?

To end violence against women, we need to challenge the attitudes that perpetuate, rationalise and normalise that violence, and deny women's right to safety. Men are overwhelmingly the perpetrators of gender-based violence. To see violence truly eliminated, the attitudes of men need to change. Shifting these behaviours is hard and slow, but gender equality means all of us, and working with all genders is the only way to see true change.

In the Gambia women's rights organizations and NGOs are engaging at different levels. Today GAMCOTRAP, is engaging the young people organisations to close the generation gap on the reasons for 16 Days of Activism. The young ones have to understand the history of the struggles of feminist activists and must celebrate them and call attention to the issues similar in the context they are coming from.

During the course of the 16 Days of Activism GAMCOTRAP will be travelling to the regions to engage with the communities, Radio Stations and various target groups to reflect and discuss the way forward and how to ensure that FGM is over in the Gambia. We take this opportunity to thank UNFPA Country Programme for making this possible.

Thanks

Executive Director

GAMCOTRAP

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