

# Violence against Women



*Regional Campaign: For a response to violence against women and HIV/AIDS*

## Call to Action!

**16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence and HIV/AIDS  
November 25 – December 10, 2005**

### **Violence against Women and HIV/AIDS**

Sexual and domestic violence and the HIV/AIDS constitute two serious health and human development problems in Latin America and the Caribbean. Both subjects overlap in multiple spheres of life and the health of women, and its effects impact all the stages of their life cycle. Given the implications for public health and the ability of women to exercise their rights to health due to these two public health problems, PAHO/WHO joins the international campaign to promote policies and strategies to stop violence against women, HIV/AIDS, and the growing health risks to women posed by the intersection of these two epidemics.

### **What can we do in our communities?**

- Carry out awareness-raising activities regarding gender violence and HIV/AIDS and its personal, family, and social implications;
- Work to reduce the stigma associated with gender violence and HIV/AIDS in our communities;
- Support initiatives that show better practices to address both problems in an integrated way;
- Develop scientific evidence that serve as the basis for the development of policies and programs that address both issues;
- Integrate the prevention, testing, counseling, and treatment for HIV in the local care networks that work on domestic and extra-family sexual violence;
- Ensure that ethical norms for care and treatment of HIV and gender

violence are applied in all care programs and research activities;

- Support the intersectoral collaboration and creation of mechanisms for joint, sustainable work among organizations that work on both issues;
- Develop public policies with necessary financial and human resources to adequately address gender violence and HIV/AIDS.

### **New PAHO Initiative to address gender violence and HIV/AIDS in the Region**

In order to develop proposals for policies and programs that articulate gender violence and HIV/AIDS among women and girls in the Region, PAHO/WHO's HIV/AIDS Unit and the Gender, Ethnicity, and Health Unit (GE) are implementing the "Care Networks for violence against women as the entry point for the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS" project in Belize, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

The project's expected results are:

- a. Multi-centric study about HIV/AIDS and violence against women;
- b. Proposals for priority interventions that address both problems incorporated in care programs and HIV and violence against women; protocols;
- c. National and regional campaigns;
- d. Capacity-building and educational materials about HIV and violence against women

**For more information about this initiative, contact Diny Luciano [luciano@paho.org](mailto:luciano@paho.org) or Farah Nageer [nageerfa@paho.org](mailto:nageerfa@paho.org).**

## What is the 16 Days campaign?

The 16 Days campaign against gender violence, observed between the International Day against Violence against Women, November 25, and International Human Rights Day, December 10, is a global campaign against all forms of violence against women based on their sex. It calls for global recognition of all forms of violence based on gender as a violation of a person's human rights, and action by women and men around the world to oppose gender violence.

This year, as in last year, the 16 Days campaign will also focus on the growing HIV/AIDS epidemic among women and girls and the link between HIV/AIDS and gender-based violence.

The campaign is organized by the [Gender, Ethnicity and Health Unit](#) and the [HIV/AIDS Unit](#), PAHO/WHO.

## Regional Resources and Initiatives

1. **PAHO Fact Sheet: [Gender-Based Violence and HIV/AIDS](#)**
2. **PAHO Advocacy Pack- Gender and HIV/AIDS:** <http://www.paho.org/English/AD/GE/advocacypacks.htm>
3. **PAHO Electronic Bulletin: Violence against Women:** <http://www.paho.org/English/AD/GE/VAW.htm>
4. **PAHO HIV/AIDS Unit:** <http://www.paho.org/english/ad/fch/ai/aidprog.htm>
5. **World Health Organization:** <http://www.who.int/gender/violence/sixteendays/en/>
6. **NIFEM:** [www.unifem.org](http://www.unifem.org)
7. **The Center for Global Women's Leadership:** <http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/16days/home.html>
8. **Isis International:** [www.isis.cl](http://www.isis.cl)
9. **Comité de América Latina y el Caribe para la Defensa de los Derechos de la Mujer (CLADEM):** [www.cladem.org](http://www.cladem.org)
10. **Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network:** <http://www.reddesalud.org/espanol/sitio/portada.htm>

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