



Declaration from the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations

Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls

How long will our world endure the innumerable acts of violence visited upon our women and girls?

The World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO), an NGO established in over 60 states, denounces strongly the violence that millions of women endure, sometimes since ancestral times, simply because they are women. This aggression against the dignity and the integrity of their persons is the visible sign of the discriminations that are inflicted on them, discriminations that break and destroy them, the very persons who are bearers of new life.

In the fight against these discriminations, WUCWO and all its member organisations are enrolling all their political, financial, human and social resources and competences to achieve the following goals:

- That all women enjoy the fundamental rights to life (from conception to birth), education, work, healthcare and shelter.
- That all women and girls be respected as human persons so that they can contribute to the welfare of their families and of society.
- That all women be freed from male dominations associated to ancestral traditions that are contrary to the dignity of their persons.
- That women take part in the decision making process at the highest level so that they can promote or modify laws that respect their rights.

The fight against forced early marriage, the prevention of inappropriate sexualization of children, the assistance to street children, the fight against poverty, sexual exploitation of children, and help to migrant populations are current active works for WUCWO and all its member organisations.

In the face of violence, solidarity between people is the only rampart that will assure each woman, each girl that her physical, moral and psychological integrity has inalienable value ultimately connected to her dignity.