

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

is a systematic and widespread human rights violation. It cuts across age, socio-economic, educational and geographic boundaries.



[www.google.ie/search?q=images+of+orange+the+world+for+free](http://www.google.ie/search?q=images+of+orange+the+world+for+free)

**49 Countries have no laws to protect women from domestic violence.** <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/violence-against-women-cause-and-consequence-inequality>.

**“GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE - A GLOBAL EPIDEMIC** ... endangers the life of women & girls with negative consequences not only for them, but also for their children & communities. Ending this scourge is integral to the development of women’s human capital & unleashing their contribution to economic growth.” (Feb. 2018 - World Bank study)  
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2018/02/01/more-than-1-billion-women-lack-legal-protection>

## 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence...



**DAY 8**

**2<sup>nd</sup>**

**December**

**Girls Deprived of Education**

## CHILD MARRIAGE....



[www.google.ie/search?q=Photos+of+child+brides+pixabay](http://www.google.ie/search?q=Photos+of+child+brides+pixabay)

New data (2018) confirm that practice of child marriage has continued to decline around the world, with accelerated progress in the last 10 years. However, **12 MILLION GIRLS** are still married in childhood each year (UNICEF 2018).



## Day 8: December 2nd...

### *Girls Deprived of Education*

Education is a human right regardless of your gender. According to UNICEF, "*When we educate a girl, we not only give her the tools and knowledge to make her own decisions and shape her own future, we also help raise the standard of living of her family and her community.*"

### **Anya's Story**

Anya had worked in a factory for two years when she heard that she could learn to read and write in a literacy programme being held after work. She realised that as a child she had been sent to the big city to work in a factory to earn money so that her brothers could attend school. When Anya became literate, she spoke about how she had felt ashamed because she had never gone to school. Anya tried to hide this from her companions at work. The literacy programme was very freeing. Anya no longer felt ashamed because now she could read and write and could join in with her companions at work. *(As told to the writer)*

### **Question:**

What are your thoughts as you read Anya's story?



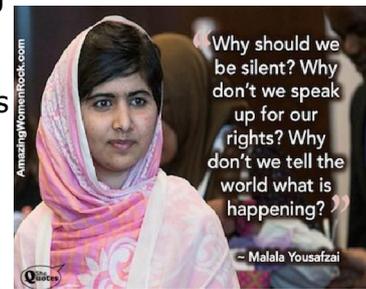
*pexels.com*

### **Global Facts on Education:**

- According to the latest UN reports, the number of out-of-school girls at primary level grew from 32 million [in 2015](#) to 34 million [in 2016](#).  
[www.bridgeinternationalacademies.com](http://www.bridgeinternationalacademies.com) – Sept. 2018
- **Barriers to educating girls:** unfavourable school environments, discriminatory social and cultural factors, early marriage and school-related violence. *(GPE analysis of 42 education sector plans, 2015)*
- **Educated women are less likely to die in childbirth:** If all mothers completed primary education, maternal deaths would be reduced by two-thirds, saving 98,000 lives. *(UNESCO Education for All Monitoring Report – factsheet, 2013)*
- 9 million girls of primary school age will never set foot in a classroom, compared to about 3 million boys. *(UNESCO Statistics, 2018)*

**Pope Francis:** "*Education is the indispensable means for enabling girls to grow into active and responsible women . . .*" (NBC News Video)

The act of pursuing an education can sometimes be life threatening for girls in situations of political turmoil, as the 2012 attack against Malala Yousafzai revealed.



<https://www.google.ie/search?q=google+free+images++girls%27+education&rlz=1C1CHBD:>

### **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**

**CRC Article 6:** '*Every child has the right to life, survival and development.*'

This year (2019) is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the CRC by most countries, but it is still not fully implemented by many of them.

Suggest you read the CRC during the **16 Days:**

[www.childrensrights.ie/sites/default/files/UNCRCEnglish.](http://www.childrensrights.ie/sites/default/files/UNCRCEnglish.)

### **UN Sustainable Development Goals**

Many of the SDGs reference Women and Girls particularly -

**SDG 4.5** '*By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations*'

**SDG 5:** '*Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.*'

### **Actions to ensure Girls are educated:**

1. Promote equal educational opportunities for girls and boys so that both can develop their potential.
2. Avoid stereo-typing so that children feel free to express themselves, according to their gifts.
3. See: '*Overview of Gender Parity in Education*'  
<https://tellmaps.com/uis/gender/#!/tellmap/-1195952519>
4. Call on world leaders to ensure girls in crisis affected areas can stay in school -  
<https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/action/keep-crisis-affected-girls-in-school-ecw>

Prepared by 'Future We Need' (FWN), a faith-based group with members from the Columbans, Franciscans, Josephites, Mercy, Presentation and Salesians.

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