

Amnesty International's campaign goes global

On 5 March Amnesty International launched its worldwide campaign to STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.

With marches, demonstrations, flags and music, Amnesty International members and supporters declared to the world that this human rights scandal could no longer be ignored.

From **Israel** to **Iceland**, **Nepal** to **Australia**, men and women put their handprints on giant banners to symbolize their pledge to stand up, speak out and demand action to end violence against women. Among them were women whose courage in the face of violence are an inspiration to us all.

At a press conference in London, **China Keitetsi**, who endured years of abuse as a **child soldier in Uganda** and as a young mother in search of refuge, described what the campaign meant to her, and her hopes for the future of young women everywhere. Speaking movingly of his own experiences as a young child witnessing his father's attacks on his mother, **Hollywood actor Patrick Stewart** called on men everywhere to join the campaign.

There are women like China suffering in **every country in the world** – victims of physical abuse, rape and female genital mutilation, women battered by partners or relatives, women imprisoned for wishing to choose who to marry, women trafficked into sexual slavery. Yet governments, communities and individuals turn a blind eye and allow violence against women to continue.

Human rights, including the right to be free of violence, are universal. Governments have an obligation to ensure that women are protected whether in public or in private. But the responsibility to create a world where women are free of violence lies with **every one of us**.

Amnesty International is launching this campaign to show that violence against women is not normal or acceptable. It can and must be stopped – **it's in our hands**.

[Links:]

Read more about the campaign launch

Hear China Keitetsi, Patrick Stewart, Eve Ensler and AI Secretary General Irene Khan [\[link to launch video\]](#)

Find out more about violence against women [\[link to issues\]](#)

Join Amnesty International's campaign

NEWS IN BRIEF

Every week, two British women die at the hands of their partner or former partner. Domestic violence accounts for a quarter of all violent crime in the UK. One woman in four and one man in six will experience domestic violence in the course of their lifetime.

» [Read more](#)

On 8 March, international women's day, 200 people in Kenya gave up the tools of their trade – female genital mutilation – and vowed to fight this custom. Every year two million girls are put through the terrifying and painful experience of female genital mutilation, but traditions can be changed.

» [Read more](#)

In the past 11 years, more than 370 women have been murdered in the Mexican cities of Ciudad Juárez and Chihuahua. Many of the victims suffered sexual violence. After years of inaction, the Federal Government of Mexico was finally forced to confront this national scandal following a powerful campaign by the mothers of the murdered women, supported by organizations such as Amnesty International. But more needs to be done.

» Read more [[link to AMR 41/003/2003](#)].

1. take action

[this section will highlight a different Stop VAW action each time]

Women under attack in Burundi

Sexual assault has been used by all sides of Burundi's 10-year civil war to terrorize and humiliate the population. During the past year reports of rape have increased alarmingly. The suffering of Burundi's women must stop now.

» Take action [<http://web.amnesty.org/actforwomen/bdi-240204-action-eng>]

2. spread the word

Thank you for signing our pledge, agreeing to speak out and demand action to stop violence against women. We need more people like you. Please e-mail friend, family and colleagues and ask them to sign the pledge and join our campaign.

3. send a postcard

Tell others about the campaign

Send a virtual postcard to others who may be interested in Amnesty International's campaign.

» Send a postcard [<http://web.amnesty.org/actforwomen/postcard-index-eng>]

4. go global

Find out how Amnesty International is fighting Violence Against Women worldwide.

[there will be 2 links & photos here based on the contents of <http://web.amnesty.org/actforwomen/goglobal-index-eng> for each language – if you would like to suggest 2 for your language, please do so

For English we have:

Turkey: Red card for violence against women!

» AI Turkey

USA: Salma Hayek Unveils Mural

» AI USA]

5. also on www.amnesty.org

[there will be a featured item here from other parts of the whole AI website – if you would like to suggest different parts for your language, please do so.

For English we have:

The use of the death penalty against child offenders – people under 18 at the time of the crime – is clearly prohibited under international law, yet a handful of countries persist with child executions.]

» go to www.amnesty.org