Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2012

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/67/450 and Corr.1)]

67/144. Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women

The General Assembly,


Reaffirming the obligation of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and reaffirming also that discrimination on the basis of sex is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other international human rights instruments and that its elimination is an integral part of efforts towards the elimination of all forms of violence against women,

Recalling the rules of international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977,

Reaffirming the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Beijing Declaration and
Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women

Platform for Action,\textsuperscript{10} the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”\textsuperscript{11} and the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2010 of the Economic and Social Council,\textsuperscript{12}

Reaffirming also the declarations adopted at the forty-ninth\textsuperscript{13} and fifty-fourth\textsuperscript{14} sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, and welcoming in that regard that the priority theme of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission will be “Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls”,\textsuperscript{15}

Reaffirming further the international commitments in the field of social development and to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, as well as those made in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,\textsuperscript{16} at the 2005 World Summit\textsuperscript{17} and at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,\textsuperscript{18} and noting the attention paid to the elimination of all forms of violence against indigenous women in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the Assembly in its resolution 61/295 of 13 September 2007,

Recalling the inclusion of gender-related crimes and crimes of sexual violence in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,\textsuperscript{19} as well as the recognition by the ad hoc international criminal tribunals that rape and other forms of sexual violence can constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity or a constitutive act with respect to genocide or torture,


Recalling further Human Rights Council resolutions 17/11 of 17 June 2011 on accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: ensuring due diligence in protection,\textsuperscript{20} 20/6 of 5 July 2012 on the elimination of discrimination

\textsuperscript{10} Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.
\textsuperscript{11} Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.
\textsuperscript{15} See Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/15, para. 2 (d).
\textsuperscript{16} Resolution 55/2.
\textsuperscript{17} See resolution 60/1.
\textsuperscript{18} See resolution 65/1.
against women and 20/12 of 5 July 2012 on accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: remedies for women who have been subjected to violence,

Recalling the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework, including the responsibility of business enterprises to respect human rights, bearing in mind the different risks that may be faced by women and men,

Recognizing the importance of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and its role in leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women,

Expressing its appreciation for the efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls and the high number of activities undertaken by the United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, including by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children,

Deeply concerned about the pervasiveness of violence against women and girls in all its different forms and manifestations worldwide, and reiterating the need to intensify efforts to prevent all forms of violence against women and girls throughout the world and to re-emphasize that violence against women and girls is unacceptable,

Recognizing that violence against women and girls is rooted in historical and structural inequality in power relations between men and women and that all forms of violence against women seriously violate and impair or nullify the enjoyment by women and girls of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and constitute a major impediment to the ability of women to make use of their capabilities,

Recognizing also that women’s poverty and lack of empowerment, as well as their marginalization resulting from their exclusion from social policies and from the benefits of education and sustainable development, can place them at increased risk of violence, and that violence against women impedes the social and economic development of communities and States, as well as the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Acknowledging the need to address violence against women and girls holistically, including through the recognition of linkages between violence against women and girls and other issues, such as HIV/AIDS, poverty eradication, food security, peace and security, humanitarian assistance, education, health and crime prevention,

Acknowledging also that trafficking in persons is one of the forms of transnational organized crime which exposes women to violence and that concerted efforts are needed to combat it, and in this regard stressing that full and effective

22 A/HRC/17/31, annex.
implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,\(^\text{23}\) as well as the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,\(^\text{24}\) will contribute to the elimination of all forms of violence against women,

*Expressing its appreciation* for the efforts and the high number of activities undertaken by States to eliminate all forms of violence against women that have resulted in the strengthening of legislation and the criminal justice system, such as adopting national action plans, strategies and national coordination mechanisms, implementing preventive and protective measures, including awareness-raising and capacity-building, providing support and services for women facing or subjected to violence and improving data collection and analysis,

*Emphasizing* that States should continue to adopt legislation, in accordance with their international human rights obligations and commitments, which addresses the issue of violence against women in a comprehensive manner by not only criminalizing violence against women and girls and providing for punishment of the perpetrators, but also including protection and preventive measures, with provisions for adequate funding for their implementation,

*Recognizing* that domestic violence remains widespread and affects women of all social strata across the world and the need to eliminate such violence,

*Recognizing also* the important role of the family in combating violence against women and girls and the need to support its capacity to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls,

*Recognizing further* the important role of the community, in particular men and boys, as well as civil society, in particular women’s and youth organizations, in the efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls,

1. *Stresses* that “violence against women” means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life;

2. *Recognizes* that gender-based violence is a form of discrimination that seriously inhibits women’s ability to enjoy rights and freedoms on a basis of equality with men;

3. *Also recognizes* that violence against women and girls persists in every country in the world as a pervasive violation of the enjoyment of human rights and a major impediment to achieving gender equality, development, peace and the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals;

4. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women,\(^\text{25}\) as well as the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences on violence against women with disabilities;\(^\text{26}\)


\(^{24}\) Resolution 64/293.

\(^{25}\) A/67/220.

\(^{26}\) See A/67/227.
5. Also welcomes the efforts and contributions at the local, national, regional and international levels to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences;

6. Expresses its appreciation for the progress achieved in the Secretary-General’s 2008–2015 campaign “UNiTE to End Violence against Women” and the regional components of the campaign, and stresses the need to accelerate the implementation of concrete follow-up activities by the United Nations system to end all forms of violence against women;

7. Welcomes the contributions already made by States, the private sector and other donors to the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to End Violence against Women, while stressing the importance of further funding in order to meet the annual target of 100 million United States dollars by 2015;

8. Strongly condemns all acts of violence against women and girls, whether those acts are perpetrated by the State, by private persons or by non-State actors, including business enterprises, and calls for the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence in the family, within the general community and where perpetrated or condoned by the State;

9. Recognizes that all human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated and that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, and stresses that, while the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

10. Stresses that it is important that States strongly condemn all forms of violence against women and refrain from invoking any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to its elimination as set out in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women; 9

11. Also stresses that States have the obligation, at all levels, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including women and girls, and must exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls and eliminate impunity and should ensure protection, including adequate enforcement by police and the judiciary of civil remedies, orders of protection and criminal sanctions, and provision of shelters, psychosocial services, counselling and other types of support services, in order to avoid revictimization, and that to do so contributes to the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women subjected to violence;

12. Reaffirms that the persistence of armed conflicts in various parts of the world is a major impediment to the elimination of all forms of violence against women, and, bearing in mind that armed and other types of conflicts and terrorism and hostage-taking still persist in many parts of the world and that aggression, foreign occupation and ethnic and other types of conflicts are an ongoing reality, affecting women and men in nearly every region, calls upon all States and the international community to place particular focus on the plight, and give priority attention and increased assistance to relieving the suffering, of women and girls living in such situations and to ensure that, where violence is committed against them, all perpetrators of such violence are duly investigated and, as appropriate, prosecuted and punished in order to end impunity, while stressing the need to respect international humanitarian law and human rights law;
13. *Stresses* the need for the exclusion of killing and maiming of women and girls, as prohibited under international law, and crimes of sexual violence from amnesty provisions in the context of conflict resolution processes and to address such acts during all stages of the armed-conflict and post-conflict resolution process, while ensuring the full and effective participation of women in such processes;

14. *Also stresses* that, despite important steps taken by many countries around the world, States should continue to focus on the prevention of violence against women as well as on their protection and the provision of services, in order to complement more effectively the improved legal and policy frameworks, and should therefore monitor and rigorously evaluate the implementation of available programmes, policies and laws and improve, where possible, their impact and effectiveness;

15. *Further stresses* that States should take measures to ensure that all officials responsible for implementing policies and programmes aimed at preventing violence against women and girls, protecting and assisting the victims and investigating and punishing acts of violence receive ongoing and adequate training and access to information to sensitize them to the different and specific needs of women and girls, in particular those who have been subjected to violence, so that women and girls are not revictimized when seeking justice and redress;

16. *Stresses* that States should take all possible measures to empower and protect women against all forms of violence, to inform them of their human rights, including by disseminating information on the assistance available to women and families who have experienced violence and ensuring that timely and appropriate information is available to all women who have been subjected to violence, including at all stages of the justice system, and to inform everyone of women’s rights and of the existing penalties for violating those rights;

17. *Calls upon* States, with the support of United Nations entities, to fully engage men and boys, as well as families and communities, as agents of change in preventing and condemning violence against women and girls and to develop appropriate policies to promote the responsibility of men and boys in eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls;

18. *Urges* States to continue to develop their national strategies, translating them into concrete programmes and actions and a more systematic, comprehensive, multisectoral and sustained approach, aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against women, including by achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and by increasing the focus on prevention, protection and accountability in laws, policies and programmes and their implementation, monitoring and evaluation, so as to ensure the optimal use of available instruments, by, for example:

(a) Establishing, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders and at all relevant levels, a comprehensive integrated national plan dedicated to combating violence against women and girls in all its aspects, which includes data collection and analysis, and prevention and protection measures, as well as national information campaigns, using resources to eliminate in the media gender stereotypes that lead to violence against women and girls;

(b) Reviewing and, where appropriate, revising, amending or abolishing all laws, regulations, policies, practices and customs that discriminate against women or have a discriminatory impact on women, and ensuring that the provisions of multiple legal systems, where they exist, comply with international human rights obligations, commitments and principles, including the principle of non-discrimination;
(c) Evaluating and assessing the impact of current legislation, rules and procedures regarding violence against women and the reasons for low reporting, reinforcing, where necessary, criminal law and procedure relating to all forms of violence against women and, where necessary, incorporating into law measures aimed at prevention and protecting and providing access to redress for women facing or subjected to violence;

(d) Promoting awareness among all stakeholders of the need to combat violence against women, and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, inter alia, through regular and repeated use and funding of awareness-raising campaigns nationwide and other ways to promote prevention and protection, such as international, regional and national conferences, seminars, training, publications, brochures, websites, audiovisual material, social media, television and radio spots, and debates, as appropriate;

(e) Encouraging the media to examine the impact of gender role stereotypes, including those perpetuated by commercial advertisements which foster gender-based violence and inequalities;

(f) Ensuring that there is sufficient knowledge, including expertise in effective legal approaches to eliminating violence against women and girls, awareness and coordination in the legal system and, to that end, where appropriate, appointing a focal point in the legal system for cases of violence against women and girls;

(g) Ensuring also the systematic collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated data to monitor all forms of violence against women, including on the effectiveness of preventive and protective measures, with the involvement of national statistical offices and, where appropriate, in partnership with other actors, in order to review and implement effectively laws, policies, strategies and preventive and protective measures, while ensuring and maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of the victims;

(h) Establishing appropriate national mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of national measures, including national action plans, taken to eliminate violence against women, including through the use of national indicators;

(i) Providing adequate financial support for the implementation of national strategies and action plans to end violence against women and girls and other relevant activities;

(j) Allocating adequate resources to promote the empowerment of women and gender equality and to prevent and redress all forms and manifestations of violence against women;

(k) Adopting all appropriate measures, especially in the field of education, from the entry levels of the education system, to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women of all ages, in order to promote the development of respectful relations and to eliminate prejudices, harmful customary practices and all other practices based on the idea of the inferiority or superiority of either of the sexes and on stereotyped roles for men and women, and by raising awareness of the unacceptability of violence against women and girls at all levels, including through schools, teachers, parents, religious leaders, youth organizations and teaching materials sensitized on gender equality and human rights;

(l) Improving the safety of girls at and on the way to school, including by improving infrastructure such as transportation, providing separate and adequate
sanitation facilities, improved lighting, playgrounds and safe environments, conducting violence prevention activities in schools and communities and establishing and enforcing penalties for violence against girls;

     (m) Developing gender-sensitive curricula for educational programmes at all levels and taking concrete measures to ensure that educational materials portray women and men, youth, girls and boys in positive and non-stereotypical roles;

     (n) Promoting preventive measures at an early stage with families and children exposed to or at risk of violence, such as parenting education programmes, to reduce the risk of possible perpetration of violence or revictimization in later childhood and adulthood;

     (o) Ensuring that the appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures are in place to protect children from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse;

     (p) Ensuring also that the appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures are in place to eliminate the occurrence of child and forced marriages and to provide information regarding the harm associated with these marriages;

     (q) Empowering women, in particular women living in poverty, by, inter alia, strengthening their economic autonomy and by ensuring their full participation in society and in decision-making processes, through, inter alia, social and economic policies that guarantee them full and equal access to all levels of quality education and training and to affordable and adequate public and social services, as well as equal access to financial resources and employment, and full and equal rights to own and have access to land and other property, and taking further appropriate measures to address the increasing rate of homelessness of and inadequate housing for women in order to reduce their vulnerability to violence;

     (r) Treating all forms of violence against women and girls as a criminal offence, punishable by law, contributing, inter alia, to the prevention and non-recurrence of such crimes, and ensuring penalties commensurate with the severity of the crimes and sanctions in national legislation to punish, and redress, as appropriate, the wrongs caused to women and girls who are subjected to violence;

     (s) Taking effective measures to prevent consent from becoming an impediment to bringing perpetrators of violence against women and girls to justice, while ensuring that criminal justice processes are gender-sensitive and that appropriate safeguards and measures to protect women facing or subjected to violence, such as restraining and expulsion orders against the perpetrators, testimonial aids and adequate and comprehensive measures for the rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of violence into society, are in place;

     (t) Encouraging the removal of all barriers to women’s access to justice and ensuring that they all have access to effective legal assistance so that they can make informed decisions regarding, inter alia, legal proceedings and issues relating to family law, and also ensuring that they have access to just and effective remedies for the harm that they have suffered, including through the adoption of national legislation where necessary;

     (u) Ensuring effective cooperation and coordination among all stakeholders, including all relevant public officials and civil society, in the prevention, investigation, prosecution and punishment of all forms of violence against women and girls;
(v) Developing or improving and disseminating specialized training programmes, including practical tools and good-practice guidelines on how to identify, prevent and deal with cases of violence against women and girls and on how to protect and assist them in an impartial, supportive and effective manner, for all stakeholders responsible for dealing with violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences, including police officers, the judiciary, health workers, law enforcement personnel and civil society, and engaging statisticians, researchers and the media;

(w) Strengthening national health and social infrastructure to reinforce measures to promote and protect women’s equal access to public health-care services, including for sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,27 and address the health consequences of all forms of violence against women, including by providing specialized health services such as supportive counselling, post-exposure prophylaxis for exposure to HIV and other services;

(x) Providing immediate protection and support through the establishment of or support to integrated centres, available and accessible also in rural areas, through which shelter, legal, health, psychological, counselling and other services are available to all women facing or subjected to violence, as well as their children, and, where such centres are not feasible, promoting collaboration and coordination among agencies;

(y) Encouraging the establishment or support of national and local helplines that provide information, counselling, support and referral services to women facing or subjected to violence;

(z) Ensuring that the prison system and probation services provide appropriate rehabilitation programmes for perpetrators, as a preventive tool against recidivism;

(aa) Supporting and engaging in partnerships with non-governmental organizations, in particular women’s organizations, and other relevant actors and the private sector to end violence against women and girls and to protect and support women facing or subjected to violence and witnesses;

19. **Calls upon** the international community, including the United Nations system and, as appropriate, regional and subregional organizations, to support national efforts to promote the empowerment of women and gender equality in order to enhance national efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls, including, upon request, in the development and implementation of national action plans on the elimination of violence against women and girls, through, inter alia, official development assistance and other appropriate assistance, such as facilitating the sharing of guidelines, methodologies and best practices, taking into account national priorities;

20. **Stresses** the contribution of the ad hoc international criminal tribunals and the International Criminal Court to ending impunity, by ensuring accountability and punishing perpetrators of violence against women, and urges States to consider ratifying or acceding as a matter of priority to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,19 which entered into force on 1 July 2002;

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21. **Calls upon** the inter-agency Programme Advisory Committee of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, in consultation with the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, to continue to provide guidance on the implementation of the 2010–2015 strategy for the Trust Fund and to further enhance its effectiveness as a system-wide funding mechanism for preventing and redressing all forms of violence against women and girls and to give due consideration, inter alia, to the findings and recommendations of the external evaluation of the Trust Fund;

22. **Stresses** that, within the United Nations system, adequate resources should be assigned to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and other bodies, specialized agencies, funds and programmes responsible for the promotion of gender equality and women’s rights and to efforts throughout the United Nations system to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls, and calls upon the United Nations system to make the necessary support and resources available;

23. **Also stresses** the importance of the Secretary-General’s database on violence against women, expresses its appreciation to all the States that have provided the database with information regarding, inter alia, their national policies and legal frameworks aimed at eliminating violence against women and supporting victims of such violence, strongly encourages all States to regularly provide updated information for the database, and calls upon all relevant entities of the United Nations system to continue to support States, at their request, in the compilation and regular updating of pertinent information and to raise awareness of the database among all relevant stakeholders, including civil society;

24. **Acknowledges** the work of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, as requested by the Statistical Commission, on the development of guidelines to support the production by Member States of statistics on violence against women;

25. **Calls upon** all United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies and invites the Bretton Woods institutions to intensify their efforts at all levels to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls and to better coordinate their work with a view to increasing effective support for national efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women;

26. **Requests** the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences to present an annual report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth and sixty-ninth sessions;

27. **Requests** the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report containing:

(a) Information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on their follow-up activities to implement resolution 65/187 and the present resolution, including on their assistance to States in their efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women;

(b) Information provided by States on their follow-up activities to implement the present resolution;

28. **Also requests** the Secretary-General to present an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-seventh and fifty-eighth sessions including information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on recent follow-up activities to
implement resolutions 64/137 and 65/187 and the present resolution, including on the progress made in enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women as a system-wide United Nations mechanism and on the progress of the Secretary-General’s campaign to end violence against women, and urges United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to contribute promptly to that report;

29. Decides to continue the consideration of the question at its sixty-ninth session under the item entitled “Advancement of women”.

60th plenary meeting
20 December 2012