



**25 November, the International Day against Violence Against Women, marks the start of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence**

**Why these 16 days?**

Observed since 1991, the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence came out of the Global Campaign for Women's Human Rights. The campaign would highlight the connections between women, violence, and human rights from 25 November to 10 December 1991. The time period encompassed four significant dates: 25 November, the International Day against Violence Against Women; 1 December, World AIDS Day; 6 December, the anniversary of the Montreal Massacre, when 14 women engineering students were gunned down for being feminists; and 10 December, Human Rights Day.



**25 November is also observed as White Ribbon Day**

On this day men and boys are urged to wear a white ribbon as visible pledges never to commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women.

Violence against women is a worldwide phenomenon. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee) of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in its general recommendation on violence against women No. 19 (1992), helped to ensure the recognition of gender-based violence against women as a form of discrimination against women.

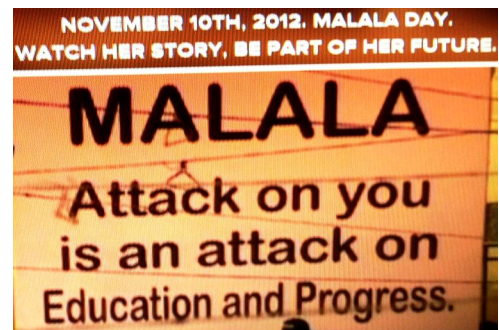
The UN General Assembly adopted a Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women in 1993 that laid the foundation for international action on violence against women. In 1995, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action identified the eradication of violence against women as a strategic objective among other gender equality requirements

**Message for the International Day to End Violence against Women**

**Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director of UN Women** - <http://saynotoviolence.org/around-world/news/message-michelle-bachelet-international-day-end-violence-against-women-0>

**The Example of Malala**

An appalling act of violence against women was perpetrated in Pakistan in October when Malala Yousufzai, aged 15 years, was shot in the head by the Taliban for her promotion of girls' right to education. She is now recovering in a British hospital. Follow the link to learn more about the issues and what is being done - [http://edition.cnn.com/2012/11/10/world/asia/pakistan-malala-gordon-brown/index.html?iid=article\\_sidebar](http://edition.cnn.com/2012/11/10/world/asia/pakistan-malala-gordon-brown/index.html?iid=article_sidebar)



**The Council of Europe**

On 7 April 2011, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted a landmark new Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Convention CETS No. 210). This Convention is the first legally binding instrument in the world creating a comprehensive legal framework to prevent violence, to protect victims and to end the impunity of perpetrators. It defines and criminalises various forms of violence against women (including forced marriage, female genital mutilation, stalking, physical and psychological violence and sexual violence).

The Convention was opened for signature in Istanbul on 11 May 2011 and was signed by 13 countries.

Read about progress -

[http://saynotoviolence.org/commit?utm\\_source=Say+NO+%E2%80%93+UNiTE+to+End+Violence+against+Women&utm\\_campaign=1aeb65c269-Invitation to online discussion&utm\\_medium=email](http://saynotoviolence.org/commit?utm_source=Say+NO+%E2%80%93+UNiTE+to+End+Violence+against+Women&utm_campaign=1aeb65c269-Invitation+to+online+discussion&utm_medium=email)

# The Millennium Development Goals

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In 2000, 189 nations made a promise to free people from extreme poverty and multiple deprivations. This pledge turned into the eight Millennium Development Goals.

The Eight Goals to be achieved by for 2015 are:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development.

## Progress towards achievement of goals

Three important targets on poverty, slums and water have been met three years ahead of 2015, says this year's Report on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Meeting the remaining targets, while challenging, is possible - but only if Governments do not waiver from their commitments made over a decade ago.

## Highlights

- Extreme poverty is falling in every region
- The poverty reduction target was met
- The world has met the target of halving the proportion of people without access to improved sources of water
- The world has achieved parity in primary education between girls and boys

## Useful links

- **Millennium Development Goals 2012 Progress Chart** - an easy-to-read visual - [http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/2012\\_Progress\\_E.pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/2012_Progress_E.pdf)
- **United Nations Development Programme -The Millennium Development Goals Report 2012** <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/mdg/the-millennium-development-goals-report-2012/>
- **Sustainable Development Solutions Network** - On 9 August 2012, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched a new independent global network of research centres, universities and technical institutions to help find solutions for some of the world's most pressing environmental, social and economic problems. <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/beyond2015.shtml>

**Australia's poverty rate** has increased since 2003 with one in six children now living in desperate need. The inaugural Poverty in Australia Report recently released, says about 2.26 million Australians lived below the poverty line in 2009 . 2010. In Australia in 2010 the poverty line was (50% of the median income) for a single adult \$358 per week, for a couple with two children \$752.

Link to the inaugural Poverty in Australia Report 2012 -

[http://acoss.org.au/uploads/ACOSS%20Poverty%20Report%202012\\_Final.pdf](http://acoss.org.au/uploads/ACOSS%20Poverty%20Report%202012_Final.pdf)

## Prime Minister Julia Gillard to co-chair the MDG Advocacy Group

In June 2012, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed Prime Minister Julia Gillard to co-chair the MDG Advocacy Group, with a specific focus on MDGs 2 and 3. Her co - chair is Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda. The Group supports the Secretary-General in building political will and mobilizing global action for the benefit of the poor and most vulnerable, aiming for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by the 2015 target date.

<http://www.pm.gov.au/press-office/millennium-development-goals-advocacy-group-annual-meeting>

We look forward to hearing from clubs about your activities and welcome questions from you. Please send me information by the end of January 2013 for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Jan Landsberg  
Chairman  
District 22 UN Committee

