



**EVERY  
WOMAN  
TREATY**

The next step  
in ending violence  
against women & girls.

## Talking Points

Violence against women and girls is the most widespread human rights violation happening today

- At least 1 in 3 women experience violence, or 35 percent of women around the world

Despite the size and scope of the problem, violence against women is solvable

- Research shows that when nations adopt evidence-based interventions, rates of violence plummet

How do we get nations to implement these interventions?

- A global treaty

The Every Woman Treaty would create a *legal* mandate for nations to act on violence against women

- The current tools—the UN declaration on violence against women and General Recommendation on violence against women—are not legally binding instruments
- Treaty creates the political will that gets things done
- Treaty catalyzes the funding needed to do the work; 36 hours after Landmines treaty was signed, nations had pledged US\$500 million in implementation funding

The Every Woman Treaty will require nations to:

- Reform laws
- Train and hold accountable health, justice, and security professionals such as police, judges and doctors who serve survivors
- Hold violence prevention campaigns and trainings
- Offer services to survivors
- Allocate funds for these interventions

Result: a safer world for women and girls, everywhere

- Change the system of silence into one of accountability and safety
- Change lives for women, girls, families, communities, nations, ultimately, the world

We need activists like you!

- Join the global call! Read it. Sign it. Share it.



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## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What countries have signed on so far?**

The treaty is not yet open for signature. The treaty is in development and we are recruiting lead nations (the countries that will advocate for the treaty at the United Nations). The more people that sign on to the global call, the more clout we build to encourage nations both to become lead nations and to sign the treaty down the road when it opens for signature.

Our ultimate goal is for every nation on earth to ratify the treaty and implement its proven, evidence-based interventions to the highest degree possible.

### **So what am I signing?**

You're signing a short version of the treaty, called the People's Call to Nations. The actual treaty is in development and will take about four years to write.

### **Who has signed on the short version, the People's Call?**

Women and men around the world! Including Nobel Peace Laureates Tawakkol Karman (Yemen), Dr. Shirin Ebadi (Iran) and Jody Williams (USA). People from 150 nations have signed. The total number of signers is on the homepage of our website.

### **I've heard of CEDAW, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. How is Every Woman Treaty different?**

CEDAW is a treaty that addresses inequality and discrimination. It covers violence against women in General Recommendations 19 & 35. But while CEDAW is legally binding on discrimination, it is not legally binding for violence against women. General Recommendations 19 & 35 are recommendations to states, not legally binding instruments like a treaty. Without a treaty specific to violence against women, there is no legally binding tool at the global level to hold states accountable.

### **Isn't violence against women covered by declarations on human rights? Why do we need a treaty?**

In an ideal world, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights would be all we needed to live in a peaceful and safe world. But its principles are not upheld and treaties force nations to live up to the principles they have pledged to uphold. There are treaties against torture, human trafficking, the use of landmines, child safety, and others. Treaties are a crucial and necessary part of global stability, human rights, and safety.

### **But do they really work?**

They do. CEDAW, the treaty for women's equality, has enabled women's rights groups to get equality written into laws. With the treaty in hand, women's rights groups have been able to say to lawmakers, we signed this, we need to comply. It has also helped bring equality into conversations and actions plans in governments, business, and organizations around the world.



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The Landmines Treaty and Tobacco Treaty are two other examples. The Tobacco Treaty shifted the global norm from “My right to smoke” to “My right to breath clean air” and today, smoking is largely gone in public places. The Landmines treaty got governments to destroy stockpiles and clear fields, saving countless lives in multiple nations.

Treaties are powerful tools. A treaty on violence against women and girls is next step we must take to end this pandemic.

### **How did Every Woman Treaty get started?**

In 2013, women’s rights activists Lisa Shannon stumbled upon a gap in the legal framework on violence against women and discussed the idea of global treaty with Charlie Clements, then the director of Harvard’s Carr Center for Human Rights Policy. The two held a meeting at Harvard with women’s rights activists around the world to discuss the need for a new global treaty. From that initial convening, Every Woman Treaty was launched and grew into a coalition of 1,700 women’s rights activists, scholars, lawyers and experts both developing and calling for a new global treaty.