



## PRESS RELEASE

### THIRTY-EIGHTH IAW CONGRESS November 24-26, 2020

No. 03

Nov. 26, 2020

#### “16 DAYS AGAINST THE VIOLENCE TOWARDS WOMEN IS NOT ENOUGH”

The UN Secretary-General’s UNITE by 2020 to End Violence against Women campaign yesterday marked the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence (25<sup>th</sup> Nov - 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 2020). This is an excellent campaign and call-out to the world, to end the horrifying violence directed towards millions and millions of women and girls, all over the world. Even before the pandemic Covid-19, 243 million women and girls were abused by an intimate partner in the past year, according to UN Women. Less than 40 percent who experience violence report it or seek help. This problem has unfortunately only increased during lockdown; in some countries domestic violence is said to have five-folded. As schools and institutions close down it has also become harder for women and girls to reach out and ask for help. The closing of schools, workplaces and the economic strains have only left women and girls poorer and even more exposed and vulnerable to abuse, harassment and exploitation.

Although the campaign against violence directed toward women and girls is a necessary and important action, with 146 UN member states stating commitment, 16 days is in no way enough to put an end to this violence. This gender-based violence has been going on forever and with the world as it is today, under a pandemic which will no doubt continue for some time, it will take everyday action, for many days to come, to combat it, once and for all.

“UN Women has ‘handed over the mic’ to ‘partners on the ground’, out of which the International Alliance of Women is one, says President Joanna Manganara. “Our on-going Congress, 24-26<sup>th</sup> November, takes place during these 16 days of activism and has the power to gather women all over the world, of all ages, and all backgrounds with decades of experience working and fighting for women’s human rights, of which being free from violence is a human right enshrined in our Action Plan Our congress addresses these issue and continues the fight against violence towards women - long after the 16 days of activism will have passed.”

Joanna Manganara  
President

Olufunmi Oluyede  
Secretary-General

**President.**  
Joanna Manganara  
Greece.

**Executive  
Vice Presidents**  
Ruhi Sayid, Pakistan  
Natalie Kostus, Poland

**Treasurer**  
Antonia Lavine, USA

**Secretary-General**  
Olufunmi Oluyede, Nigeria  
**Assistant Secretary-General**  
T. Miranda Ruzario, Zimbabwe

IAW on Twitter: #IAWCongress2020, #CaringEconomy, #PuttingPeopleOverProfits, #Feminist  
#OrangeDay #OrangeTheWorld

### **About International Alliance of Women**

The **International Alliance of Women** was founded in Berlin in 1904 and is an international non-governmental organization that works to promote women's human rights around the world, focusing particularly on the empowerment of women and development issues and more broadly on gender equality.

The basic principle of the IAW is that the full and equal enjoyment of human rights is due to all women and girls. It is one of the oldest, largest and most influential organizations in its field.

### **For more information, please contact: IAW**

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