

**Joint News Release
UNIFEM/UNFPA/ UNAIDS /WHO
November 18, 2009**

National Advocacy Campaign “16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence”
in Tajikistan in the frame of
UN Secretary General’s Campaign to End VAW 2008-2015



“We must unite. Violence against women cannot be tolerated, in any form, in any context, in any circumstance, by any political leader or by any government. The time to change is now. Only by standing together and speaking out can we make a difference”.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan, November 17, 2009

The UNIFEM, UNFPA, UNAIDS, WHO are calling to strengthen the protection of women from violence and empowerment of women to have leading role in society.

WHO Report 2000 states that 50% of women of Republic of Tajikistan have reported experiencing some form of violence by a family member, with 47% reporting sexual violence by their husbands.

According to MICS 2005, about 75% of married/in-union women (aged 15-49) believe that their partner has the right to beat or hit them. Acceptance is highest among young married women (85% of women aged 15-29 compared to 69% among women aged 45-49).

It is planned to organize joint advocacy events in the frame of the International Campaign “16 Days Against Violence”. On this occasion it is also planned a conduction of national events on women’s human rights, promotion of gender equality and combating gender-based violence and discrimination.

The joint campaign’s objectives are:

- To improve public understanding and awareness on women’s human rights and needs for comprehensive response to GBV;
- To bring new partners (specifically men and boys) to advocate on non-discrimination and non-violence as human rights’ standards and norms;

- To contribute to the national dialogue on women's human rights;
- To advocate on the state's commitments on prevention of VAW (awareness on CEDAW Committee recommendations for Tajikistan);
- To agree on next steps for lobbying for adoption of domestic violence law and CEDAW Optional Protocol.

WHEN, WHAT and WHERE:

- **November 24-29** - Week of Campaign on National Violence Against Women will take place in Dushanbe:
- **November 24** – Round table “Strengthening National response to end VAW” will take place in Kohi Vahdat. At the round table the report by UN Special Rapporteur on VAW on the country visit to Tajikistan will be presented and discussed. **Agencies-organizers: OHCHR, OSI, OSCE, UNIFEM**
- **November 25:**
 - 10:00 - Launch of the Handbook "Breaking the silence" by AVEDIS Project on Prevention of Domestic Violence (PDV funded by SDC) and UNIFEM, UN Conference Hall (39, Aini street);
 - 10:00, 15:30 – Special issue of “Nasli Solim” radio program on “Asia Plus” radio devoted to the campaign;
 - 16:00 - Theater performance by UNFPA/Y-PEER national network on VAW and gender issues, Mayakovskiy theater, Dushanbe
- **November 27** – Special issue of “Chi boyad kard?” TV program on Safina TV Channel devoted to the campaign;
- **November 28-29:** Joint Action by Tahmina Niyazova, Goodwill Ambassador of the network of people living with HIV in Tajikistan and the National Federation of Taekwondo during the national taekwondo tournament;
- **First week of December** – visit by Tahmina Niyazova, the Goodwill Ambassador and Shahlo Mukhammedrahimova, 2007 World Champion on taekwondo, to Center for Girls from orphanages and poor families (established by the Committee for women and family affairs).

SPECIAL RESOURCES:

The outcomes and results of the following events will be provided and available on the www.untj.org/gender, www.unfpa.org, www.unaids.org and www.euro.who.int/Tajikistan websites. Photos of the events also will be available on the following websites.



World Health Organization
Regional Office for Europe

For more detailed information on the program of the events and participants please contact:

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Any materials, information, publications and other WHO materials also may be found from the following web site: www.euro.who.int/Tajikistan

Any information, material, publications and other UNIFEM information may be found from the following web site: www.unifemcis.org and www.untj.org/gender;

Say NO – UNiTE to End Violence against Women – UNIFEM Global Campaign - www.saynotoviolence.org

Any information, material, publications and other UNFPA information may be found from the following web site: www.unfpa.org.

Any information, material, publications and other UNAIDS information may be found from the following web site: www.unaids.org.