

STANDING TOGETHER FOR GENDER EQUALITY

The European Union's commitment to advancing women's rights and ending gender-based violence

GENDER EQUALITY

A foundation for inclusive and sustainable societies

PARTNERSHIPS

Working with governments, UN, AU and civil societies

ACTION

Prevention, protection and accountability

A GLOBAL COMMITMENT

Gender equality is a core value of the European Union and a foundation for peaceful, inclusive and sustainable societies. Through its internal policies and external partnerships, the EU works to advance women's and girls' rights, strengthen participation and leadership, promote economic and social empowerment, and address structural inequalities.

PARTNERSHIPS THAT MATTER

The EU works with governments, the United Nations, the African Union, civil societies, women's rights organizations and other partners to turn commitments into action. Political dialogue, financial support, capacity building and multilateral cooperation help advance locally led solutions, particularly for women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

FROM PREVENTION TO PROTECTION

Combating gender-based violence requires action across the full cycle: preventing harmful norms and practices, strengthening laws and institutions, improving access to justice, and ensuring survivor-centred protection and support. EU action addresses different forms of violence, including physical, sexual, psychological, economic and online violence, as well as harmful practices.

Examples of programs and initiatives:

- Spotlight Initiative Africa Regional Programme ([SIARP 2.0](#)), launched in 2017 by the European Union and the United Nations with an initial EUR 500 million EU investment, is the world's largest dedicated global partnership to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls through a comprehensive, systems-based approach— See [SHINE](#)
- [Advocacy, Coalition Building and Transformative Feminist Action to End Violence Against Women \(ACT programme\)](#), strengthens feminist and women's rights organisations, coalition building, advocacy, accountability, and access to justice to end violence against women and girls complementing Spotlight Africa 2.0's focus on implementation and institutional support.
- European and African partners are joining forces to improve [Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights \(SRHR\) in Sub-Saharan Africa](#), particularly among adolescent girls and young women, to empower and enable them to reach their full potential hence the initiative, which enhance coordination and collaboration among partners

A LONG-TERM COMMITMENT

Gender-based violence is not a one-off issue or campaign. Sustainable progress depends on long-term political commitment, adequate resources, accountable institutions and meaningful participation by civil society and survivors. The EU continues to work with partners to prevent violence, protect those affected, challenge discriminatory structures and advance a world where women and girls can live, participate and lead free from violence.



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