

Say **NO** to Violence against Women

Counting down to 25 November!

More than 500,000 people have already given their names to UNIFEM in the **Say NO to Violence against Women** campaign, helping to break the silence and give a voice to women and girls who have experienced violence.

What is the 25 November challenge? To deliver one million names to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

Why is it so important? To demonstrate international support for making the issue of violence against women a top priority

The UN reports that as many as one in every three women will be beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime, and the abuser will usually be someone known to her. In October 2008 the General Assembly was told by the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women that the problem remains endemic. "In spite of considerable achievements, violence against women persists in every country as a pervasive and universal violation of human rights and a major impediment to achieving gender equality."

UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador Nicole Kidman helped to launch the online global **Say NO** campaign and has been raising awareness of the need for concerted action. "Invite friends and colleagues to sign on to the campaign and inform your family", says Nicole. "The more people sign and show their support, the stronger the case for our cause. Let survivors of violence around the world know that they can count on us."

To date, over 500,000 individuals from across the world have signed up, together with ministerial representatives of more than 50 governments. Gareth Thomas, Minister for Trade and Development, signed on behalf of the UK Government at the Millennium Development Goals summit in New York this September.

We need your help now to meet the 25 November challenge - click on the box below, join the call for action and get your friends to do the same

Every signature counts!



www.saynotoviolence.org