
**CALL
TO
ACTION**

**ON PROTECTION FROM
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
IN EMERGENCIES****STATEMENT BY THE CALL TO ACTION ON PROTECTION FROM GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN EMERGENCIES, INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2021**

International Women's Day marks a call to action for accelerating gender equality, which is deeply aligned with the [Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies](#) (Call to Action). The very purpose of the initiative is to challenge and transform the way gender-based violence (GBV) is addressed in humanitarian action.

The increase in gender-based violence during the COVID pandemic is the latest reminder that GBV remains a horrifying reality for women and girls globally. It is a power, health, human rights and protection issue that is deeply rooted in gender inequality and structural norms that disempower and discriminate. As we have seen in the pandemic and in multiple humanitarian crises, the risks of violence, exploitation and abuse is heightened during emergencies and especially during forced displacement.

Early and sustained action to prevent, mitigate and respond to GBV is at the heart of the humanitarian mandate. The Call to Action challenges every partner to meet this mandate in its own work. It also challenges the humanitarian system to recognize that fulfilling the mandate is a collective responsibility. Everyone must do their part, in full partnership with national and local organizations, particularly women's organizations.

The Call to Action initiative includes states and donors, international organizations and non-governmental organizations. Partners recently updated the multi-year [Road Map](#) that guides joint efforts to achieve three essential objectives:

- Ensure specialized GBV services for survivors are accessible to anyone affected by GBV and are in place from the onset of an emergency.
- Integrate and implement actions to prevent GBV and mitigate GBV risks across all levels and sectors of humanitarian response from the earliest stages of an emergency and throughout the program cycle.
- Mainstream gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls throughout humanitarian action.

On this International Women's Day, we raise our voices to affirm continued commitment to the Call to Action and to accountability for results. We pledge to increase support for women and girls and their organizations working on the front lines to address GBV in humanitarian crises. We respectfully encourage other states and organizations engaged in humanitarian action to choose to challenge GBV by joining the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies.

(For additional information on the Call to Action and how to become a partner, please visit www.calltoactiongbv.com)