



TEN-YEAR REPORT

The Global
Women's Institute

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Celebrating
a Decade



THE GLOBAL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

At the George Washington University, the Global Women's Institute (GWI) advances gender equality around the world. GWI believes that positive change happens when actions are driven by research, and that the most authentic evidence is generated in partnership with those who work in and know the context best.

As a leading global research institution on violence against women and girls, including in conflict and humanitarian settings, GWI understands the value of partnerships. GWI supports, documents, and amplifies the work of women's movements to end gender-based violence globally. The institute convenes world-class faculty, researchers, practitioners, activists, donors, and policymakers to focus on the most critical issues facing women and girls today.

As a university-wide institution at a premier academic establishment in Washington DC, GWI prepares the next generation of leaders. By strengthening the global knowledge base on gender issues and violence prevention, GWI is a catalyst for justice and social change to benefit women and girls worldwide.



It is hard to believe that it has been 10 years since I was given the honor of serving as the Global Women's Institute's Founding Director. As we look to our next chapter, we are proud of the foundation we have built, the partnerships we have nurtured, and the momentum we have achieved. GWI is now recognized as a preeminent institution for research, policy, and action on gender equality and violence against women and girls (VAWG). This anniversary report summarizes our achievements and future direction.

Our research shows that VAWG can be prevented. In some cases, our research shows how interventions have reduced the prevalence of violence by more than half and explores where and how such approaches can be scaled up for greater impact globally. With a growing body of evidence, what is needed now is political will, resourcing, and action that enables grassroots women's rights organizations and local civil society groups to lead and expand this work. GWI is committed to continuing to accompany these efforts.

Together, we can end VAWG:

- When we **build the global evidence base** on VAWG, by generating research that drives action in partnership with affected communities.
- When we **promote evidence-based interventions** to prevent VAWG, including in conflict and humanitarian settings, by convening world-class faculty, researchers, practitioners, activists, donors, and policymakers to focus on this issue.
- When we **use our research findings to advocate for better global policies** and investments to promote gender equality and prevent VAWG as we are doing through the What Works to End Violence Programme and other initiatives.
- When we **support, uplift, and document the work of women's movements** to end gender-based violence globally by standing with and learning from women human rights defenders, activists, and women's groups around the world, and by championing the Women Engaged Against Violence Everywhere (WEAVE) Collective.
- When we **prepare the next generation of leaders**, by offering courses through remote learning and on campus, such as GenderPro, a first-of-its-kind program to professionalize, standardize, and strengthen the field of gender and international development.

Preventing violence against women and girls requires action by all of us. We are proud to work with you to be part of the solution.

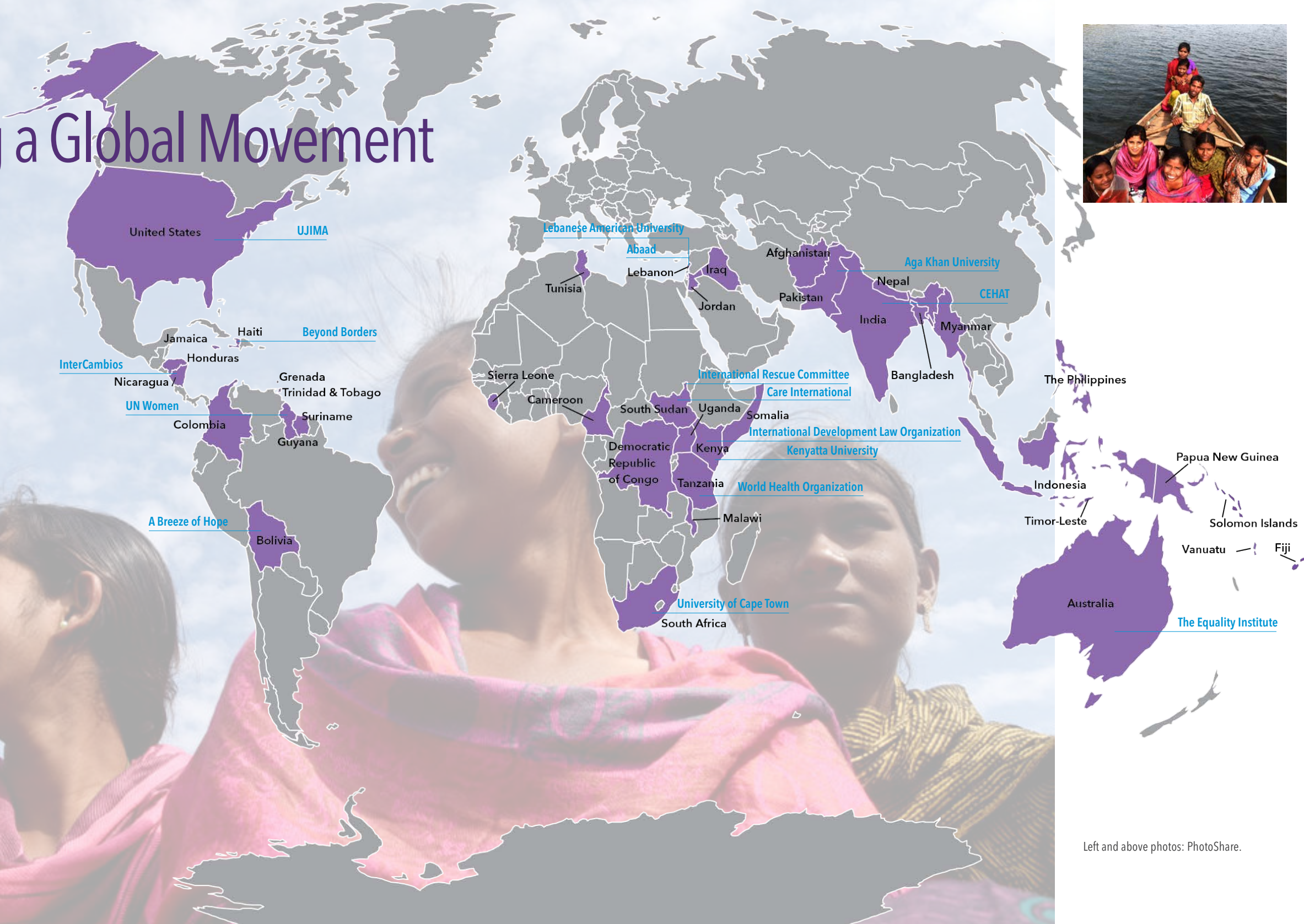


Mary Ellsberg
Founding Director

Cover and left photos: PhotoShare.

Strengthening a Global Movement for Change

Our impact is grounded in our commitment to and shared vision with partners around the world. Highlighted are some of our closest partners and the countries we have worked in over the last decade.



Left and above photos: PhotoShare.

At a Glance: Building Momentum and Evidence

Launched the Global Women's Institute as a pan-university initiative housed in the office of the GWU president and with Dr. Mary Ellsberg as Founding Director.

2012

Created a Resource Guide for universities and secondary schools based on the inspiring memoir by Nobel Prize winner Malala Yousafzai, **I am Malala**, together with the Malala Fund.

2013

Launched Arts for Gender Justice with the GWU Theatre and Dance department to engage students on campus and globally, using art to cultivate awareness about women's empowerment and social norms.

2014

Conducted a groundbreaking, comprehensive review of evidence-based interventions to prevent violence against women and girls from around the world. Published in [The Lancet](#), in the journal's first-ever special issue on violence against women and girls.

2015

Led first population-based study on violence against women and girls in conflict-affected areas of South Sudan. This [study](#) influenced subsequent peace negotiations.

2016

Carried out a 20-year follow-up study to previous research in Nicaragua, finding a 70% reduction in the past year in intimate partner violence. This study demonstrated that violence against women and girls can be prevented through a multi-sector approach, combined with feminist organizing.

Assessed the Australian Government's international programme to end VAWG evaluating the impact of investments to improved women's access to justice, services, and prevention.

2017

Launched GenderPro, a first-of-its-kind program—delivered virtually and available globally—to professionalize, standardize, and strengthen the field of gender within international development.

2018

Evaluated successful programs to prevent VAWG. GWI evaluated the Rethinking Power Program developed by Beyond Borders and Raising Voices to assess its impact in southeast Haiti. This program is now a proven solution that has reduced intimate partner violence by nearly 45%.

2019-22

Developed and led Empowered Aid, a multi-year, multi-country participatory action research project that explores sexual exploitation and abuse of women and girls in refugee settings, including Lebanon and Uganda. Empowered Aid recognizes women and girls as contextual safeguarding experts and engages them as co-producers of knowledge.

2021

Selected to lead the world's largest ever, multi-year, global research consortium to study and upscale effective measures to prevent gender-based violence. The second phase of the What Works to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls: Impact at Scale program is funded by the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

2022



Developing the Evidence Base on VAWG

GWI's works to improve the quality and availability of evidence on the prevalence, drivers, and consequences of VAWG, as well as the effectiveness of different strategies to prevent it. As a first step, we led a systematic review of reviews on evidence-based interventions to prevent violence against women and girls which was published as a Working Paper by the World Bank. *The Lancet* published our findings in a special issue on violence against women and girls.

Systematic Review of Reviews

A decade later, we updated our original evidence review to capture the enormous growth in VAWG prevention research that has occurred, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. This review, carried out with the World Health Organization, was used to update the evidence underpinning the UN RESPECT Women framework with current evidence on what interventions work to prevent violence and identify where more research is needed.



Building Capacity in the Caribbean

GWI provided technical assistance to five Caribbean national governments to carry out national prevalence surveys on VAWG. With the support of UN Women and the Inter-American Development Bank in Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago, Guyana, Suriname, and Grenada, GWI worked side-by-side with national ministries to collect nationally representative data on the scale and characteristics of VAWG. At the same time, GWI helped increase local and national capacities for conducting ethically and methodologically sound research on the prevalence of VAWG globally.

Community-Based Solutions in Haiti

GWI evaluated the Rethinking Power program, which is now a proven solution that has reduced intimate partner violence by nearly 45%. In Haiti, the Rethinking Power program is a community mobilization intervention.

The program's model was originally designed in Uganda by the SASA! program of Raising Voices and is being adapted by Beyond Borders, a humanitarian organization based in Haiti. GWI evaluated the implementation of the Rethinking Power program in the Southeast Department of Haiti using a mixed-methods approach, measuring the model's impact on women and girls' experiences of violence.

The Tangentyere Women's Family Safety Group at a care retreat. Photo: Courtesy of the Equality Institute.



GWI and What Works partners attending a meeting in London. Photo: Courtesy of GWI.

Supporting Survivors in Honduras

In Honduras, GWI carried out a study to assess the feasibility of integrating screening and counseling for pregnant women in violent relationships. Carried out in partnership with the Honduran Ministry of Health, the Pan American Health Organization, and the Nicaraguan-based organization InterCambios, the study found that a brief empowerment intervention raised women's use of safety measures, their use of support services, and their emotional wellbeing.

This type of intervention has the potential to disrupt the intergenerational transmission of violence by reducing the number of children who experience or witness violence and diminishing their susceptibility to repeat the cycle of violence later in life. GWI is carrying out a similar study in Nyaragusu refugee camp in Tanzania with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

The Largest Global Research Initiative on What Works

What Works to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls: Impact at Scale is the world's largest ever, multi-year, global program to identify, scale up, and evaluate effective measures to prevent gender-based violence. It is the second phase of a landmark initiative funded by the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

GWI is proud to lead the consortium delivering the research component of this program. GWI's core partners are Aga Khan University (Pakistan), the Equality Institute (Australia), Johns Hopkins University (USA), University of Cape Town (South Africa), and the Women's Economic Empowerment Hub at Kenyatta University (Kenya). Dozens of individual and organizational resource partners from around the world have joined this research consortium. Our research consortium works alongside an implementation consortium led by the International Rescue Committee (IRC), with Raising Voices, CARE International, Social Development Direct (SDD), and Breakthrough. They will support innovative programs and scale up successful interventions.



Learning from Women

The Women Engaged Against Violence Everywhere (WEAVE) Collective is a joint initiative exploring how feminist movements worldwide contribute to ending violence against women and girls at a local, national, and global level.

Australia

Indigenous women have shaped and influenced policy and programming for prevention of violence against women in Australia. The Indigenist Feminist Movements (InFem) project, highlights Indigenist feminist work. Indigenist feminist methodology centers on the voices, experiences, and perspectives of Indigenous women and their work developing knowledge in ways that uplift and support the priorities of Indigenous women.

India

Indian women's movements brought to bear a critical feminist lens to reform the legal and policy frameworks on violence against women over four decades (1980 to the present). The WEAVE case study in India explores women's struggles against violence, and the women's movements and the State's policy engagement and contestation around issues of violence.

The emerging narratives show the intersectionality of the distinct struggles and lessons. These lessons contribute to a collectively held pool of "movement wisdom" that draws from multiple movements holding different positions.

South Africa

Women's movements played a vital role in shaping a democratic South Africa. And yet, the struggles for gender equality and women's experiences of gendered violence during apartheid are strikingly absent from the historiography of South Africa. Women's experiences of gender-based violence during the apartheid struggle were deliberately silenced for the bigger cause: to dismantle apartheid.

Building intersectional feminisms and solidarities across differences is increasingly significant to mitigate racial tension and mistrust in South Africa and the region. Younger generations of feminists have questioned the commitment of older, middle-class feminists to radical change and have raised concerns about whose interests are protected through human rights policies, legislation, discourses, and practice. In this context, intersectional feminisms and collaboration across differences are increasingly necessary to achieve impact.

Nicaragua

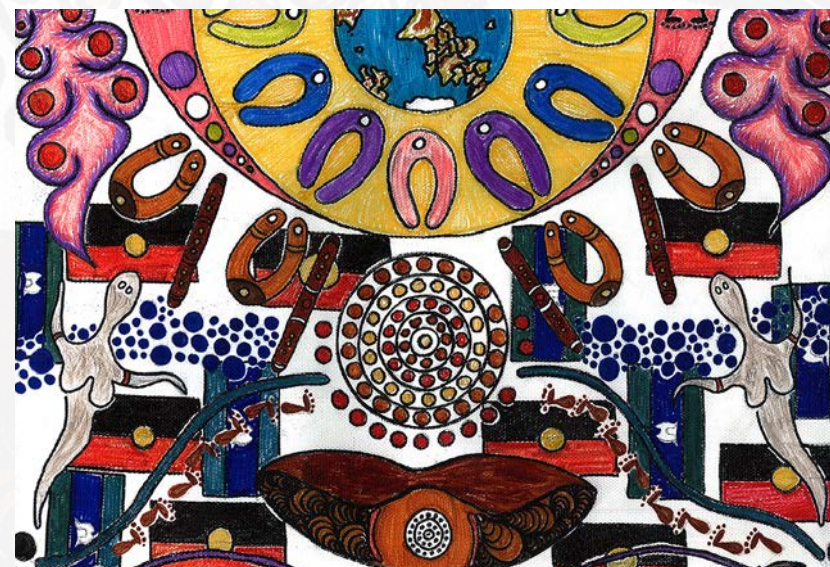
The women's movement in Nicaragua has a rich and diverse history with roots in the Sandinista Revolution of the 1980s. During the 1990s, the Nicaraguan Network of Women against Violence emerged as one of the most important social movements in the country. The network carried out massive public awareness campaigns and lobbied for legal reforms and services for survivors of violence. In 1995, a landmark prevalence study, led by our Director Mary Ellsberg, found that over half of Nicaraguan women had experienced physical violence by an intimate partner. These findings were instrumental in the passage of the country's first domestic violence law.

Two decades later, GWI conducted a new study that discovered that physical intimate partner violence was reduced by 70% between 1995–2015. This study demonstrated that violence against women and girls can be prevented through a coordinated multi-sector approach. Feminist organizing played an important role in the enormous decrease in violence by increasing women's access to services and justice, as well as awareness of their right to live without violence.

Sadly, these gains have been jeopardized by the political and social crisis in Nicaragua that erupted in 2018, with the Ortega government's violent repression of opposition groups, including women's rights organizations. The Nicaraguan Government has closed more than 1,000 NGOs, including 130 women's rights organizations, and imprisoned hundreds of human rights activists, including more than 50 women. Recent releases of political prisoners do nothing to reverse the lasting damage that has been done to the strength of Nicaraguan civil society nor has it resulted in any lessening of the oppressive atmosphere for human rights activists. The Nicaraguan case study builds on the experiences of feminist activists, particularly the young women who led the student protests that catalyzed the civic uprising in 2018 and its aftermath.



Meeting of Nicaraguan women human rights defenders organizing to end VAWG. Photo: Courtesy of GWI.



“

This painting shows strong women coming together from all over the world. Strong indigenous women coming together to share learnings and share what works to prevent domestic and family violence.

– Shirleen Nampaynpa Campbell, Indigenous women's rights activist and artist

Weaving the Stories of Women's Rights Activists into the Global Narrative

The Women Engaged Against Violence Everywhere (WEAVE) Collective is a joint initiative of GWI, the Equality Institute, the University of Cape Town, and Gender at Work involving researchers and activists from Australia, India, South Africa, and Nicaragua.

The WEAVE narratives and data show how women's movements contribute to progressive policies to end violence against women and girls (VAWG) at the local, national, and global level. The information also highlights the current challenges they face. Many countries have witnessed authoritarian backsliding and backlash against feminist movements. The shrinking of democratic spaces and the criminalization of activism have revealed demonstrated progress is not linear and that gains are often fragile.

The WEAVE Collective strives to ensure that the voices and experiences of marginalized women are heard and included in the policies that affect their lives. Each country has its own path, story, and journey to share.

Ending VAWG in Conflict and Humanitarian Settings

VAWG is a pervasive problem around the world that frequently intensifies further in times of armed conflict, state instability, or humanitarian crisis. There are critical gaps in research, policy, and programmatic work to address VAWG in armed conflict and humanitarian emergencies. By pioneering research on prevalence of VAWG in conflict settings, GWI is making progress in very challenging areas. We are developing the methodology and evidence base to assess prevalence of violence against women in emergencies, consolidating current knowledge about such violence in conflict and humanitarian settings, and bringing applied knowledge to key stakeholders who can affect change.



Empowered Aid: Gender and Power Dynamics in Humanitarian Aid

Historically, the humanitarian aid community's focus on addressing sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH) has primarily rested on establishing reporting mechanisms and punitive actions, and only recently shifted toward applying documented, proactive measures to mitigate risk and prevent abuse and exploitation from occurring. Empowered Aid seeks to further examine the mechanisms through which aid is delivered and how these processes might inadvertently increase the risks of SEAH within affected populations. The goal is to support the creation or adaptation of aid delivery models that actively work to reduce power disparities and give women and girls a sustained voice in how aid is delivered.

Empowered Aid utilizes participatory action research, a method that proactively acknowledges and addresses power imbalances between the affected population and researchers and humanitarians. Together with GWI and operational partner agencies—CARE International and URDA in Lebanon, and the International Rescue Committee and World Vision in Uganda—members of the affected population help guide the identification and prioritization of ways to make aid distributions safer. These approaches are tested in small-scale pilots in humanitarian aid operations. Lessons are then documented and shared with the humanitarian community.



Empowered Aid Phase 2.0 work in Lebanon: Elizabeth Hedge, Georgette Al Karnawayta, Farah Hallak, Alina Potts, Angeliki Panagoulia, and Diala Mouhayeb. Row below: Mona Tahera, Samah Antar, and Loujine Fattal. Photo: Courtesy of GWI.

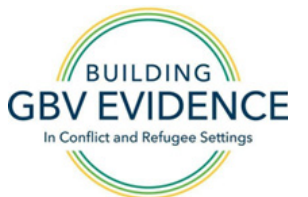
No Safe Place: A Lifetime of Violence in South Sudan

GWI carried out the first large-scale, population-based study on violence against women and girls in conflict-affected areas of South Sudan, one of the world's most intractable conflict regions. The research documented the experiences of women and girls, as well as men and boys. In some areas, as many as 73% of women have experienced sexual and/or physical intimate partner violence, and at least one in three women have experienced some form of sexual abuse, including rape and sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian actors. The results were cited at the UN Security Council and influenced subsequent peace negotiations and the mandates for UN Peacekeeping missions in South Sudan. The study also created a model for carrying out rigorous and ethically safe research in conflict settings that is now replicated in other countries.



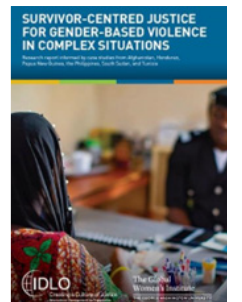
Building GBV Evidence in Conflict and Refugee Settings

GWI's Building GBV Evidence program relies on those who live in and know the contexts best to build local development and implementation of evidence-building activities among refugee populations. This program strengthens the capacity of humanitarian agencies to conduct their own GBV research, develop their monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems, and improve their GBV programming. The project has three major components: the Building GBV Evidence course, a no-cost individualized course available virtually; in-kind technical advising and support for humanitarian agencies seeking to conduct GBV research or improve their M&E systems; and direct support to humanitarian agencies and academics in the Global South.



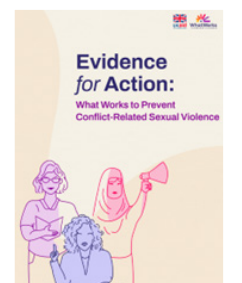
Survivor-Centered Justice

To assist programming on GBV against women and girls, GWI and the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) developed an issue paper on lessons, best practices, and approaches on justice-related programming to respond to GBV in complex settings. This paper explores the particular challenges of accessing justice for GBV survivors in six countries: Afghanistan, Honduras, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, South Sudan, and Tunisia. These countries were selected to represent a diversity of regions and challenges, including fragility, post-conflict, health emergencies, organized crime, and other complex and humanitarian situations.



What Works to Prevent Conflict Related Sexual Violence

We are very proud to have led the report and policy brief *Evidence for Action: What Works to Prevent Conflict Related Sexual Violence (CRSV)* which served as the flagship report for the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative Conference (PSVI) in London in November 2022. During the PSVI Conference, Dr. Mary Ellsberg presented the report on a panel with Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell, the UK Minister for Development, and engaged in high-level conversations about CRSV with Members of Parliament and members of governments from around the world. The main author of the report, Maureen Murphy, also presented the information in a webinar to over two-hundred attendees. The findings were repeatedly and widely mentioned throughout the conference, offering participating members a unique opportunity to influence UK policy conversations related to CRSV.



Strengthening Foreign Assistance

To enhance government programming on violence against women and girls and support for local women's organizations, GWI assessed the Australian Government's international aid to end gender-based violence. The resulting report served as the catalyst for the Australian Government to increase their yearly investment in ending VAWG tenfold, to approximately 40m AUD. Soon afterwards the government committed 500m AUD to Ending Violence Against Women (EVAW) over the following 10 years, making Australia at that time the largest donor on VAWG among OECD countries.



Australian women during a demonstration.
Photo: Courtesy of the Equality Institute.

In 2017, GWI was invited to conduct a ten-year follow up to that original study in partnership with the Equality Institute. The study found that Australian aid for EVAW was a critical factor in improving women's access to justice, comprehensive services for survivors, and prevention activities. These achievements notwithstanding, the high-level report concluded that sustained, long term investments were needed to achieve a reduction in the prevalence of VAWG. In particular, the report highlighted the critical role of continued funding to women's rights organizations in order to build on current advances. The recommendations were accepted in full.

Influencing National Strategies

National Action Plans to end gender-based violence are a core element of ensuring government actions are coordinated strategically and have the maximum effect. GWI has worked intently to help shape comprehensive government strategies, including the US National Action Plan.

On March 8, 2021, US President Joseph Biden issued an Executive Order on Establishment of the White House Gender Policy Council to develop a government-wide strategy for advancing gender equity and equality and for preventing and addressing gender-based violence in the United States and, when applicable, around the world. GWI has supported this process by organizing listening sessions attended by both US officials and global GBV experts to share lessons learned from processes in other countries. GWI also co-organized, with the University of Miami School of Law and UN Women, a Gender Justice and Human Rights Symposium in April 2022 in Miami.



Mary Ellsberg at a London event focused on government policies that impact global development.
Photo: Courtesy of GWI.

As part of this work, GWI is supporting a civil society alliance to ensure that the voices of traditionally marginalized women, particularly women of color, are centered in the policy discussions and the implementation of the US National Action Plan. This alliance was awarded a grant from the Ford Foundation to support grassroots organizing around GBV with communities of color. The project is led by Ujjima: the National Center on Violence against Women in the Black Community.

Preparing the Next Generation of Global Leaders

Global Reach through Distance Learning

A Gendered Approach to International Development

GenderPro is a first-of-its-kind program to professionalize and standardize the gender and development field to strengthen the intergration of gender. Created by GWI with support from UNICEF and the Gates Foundation, GenderPro provides mid and senior level development professionals with an online course, an online resource center, and a certification examination. Since 2019, more than 500 participants have taken the GenderPro course and more than 100 colleagues have passed the credential exam. In line with our values to provide equitable access, GWI offers scholarships to 20% of all enrolled participants in every cohort, particularly for participants from the Global South. GWI also adapts the course to help organizations build their capacity around gender. GWI is currently working with Gavi: The Vaccine Alliance to develop tailored courses with a focus on gender and immunizations that will train more than 180 immunization professionals.

Improving GBV Risk Mitigation in Aid Delivery

In October 2021, GWI launched Empowered Aid's Online Course to Mitigate Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) Risks in Aid Distribution. This course details the project's findings, recommendations, and methods and supports humanitarian and aid actors in applying the risk mitigation measures and tools developed and tested during the first three years of the project. The course is free and includes a completion certificate. Over 700 learners from approximately 90 countries have enrolled and 300 have completed the course, which is available in English, French, Arabic, and Spanish. Donors have cited Empowered Aid as a best practice for organizations they fund. The resources are shared publicly through fora such as the Global Interagency Security Form (GISF).

Capacity Development Initiative for Regional VAW Prevalence Surveys

Despite enormous advances globally in the rigorous collection of prevalence data on violence against women and girls, there remain key regional gaps in the evidence and a need for increased regional research capacity on prevalence data collection. GWI has partnered with the Arab Institute for Women (AiW) at the Lebanese American University to develop a virtual research training for VAW prevalence data collection in the Arab States. This project was funded by the UN Women and WHO, as part of their Regional Capacity Development Initiative for VAW Prevalence Surveys.



For over 10-years, GWI staff and students have led activism to end violence against women and girls. Photo: Courtesy of GWI.

On Campus

Engaging Our University Community

GWI has become an integral member of the George Washington University community, partnering with students and faculty across campus.

For years, via the Red Flag Campaign, GWI has led efforts to bring bystander intervention strategies to campus. Through this endeavor, GWI works with the student body to address and prevent sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking and to promote a safe and healthy interactions.

GWI researchers partner across the university to enhance research and learning. At the Milken Institute School of Public Health (MISPH), GWI collaborates to bring awareness to the public health crisis that is violence against women and girls. At the Elliott School for International Affairs, GWI highlights the prevalence of VAWG and its impact on economic and social development and on local and regional security.

GWI engages with student groups to support their work and organizing. For example, GWI joined with GWU's Iranian Student Association and the Clara Bliss Hinds Women in Medicine and Science Society to organize advocacy activities and raise awareness on the state of women's rights in Iran. At the annual Women's Org Fair, hosted by GWU Leading Women of Tomorrow, GWI meets with campus organizations to encourage their activities and introduce them to GWI research and action opportunities. During the GW Student Research Days, GWI interacts with hundreds of students, reviews proposals, and offers awards to undergraduate and graduate students conducting compelling research on gender issues

Connecting with our Global Network

Over the past decade, GWI has expanded its public interface with students, partners, researchers, and friends. Across Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn, our social media following has grown to amass over 10,000 followers. With about 5,000 recipients, "Updates from GWI" provides weekly notifications about research, career opportunities, upcoming events, and more. We are excited to keep building connections that promote a healthier environment, educate, support change, and connect back to our vision of a safer world for women and girls.



After more than 20 years of working in GBV programming, I came to recognize that inequitable gender norms are the root cause of gender inequality. Therefore, I have made it my mission to address inequitable gender norms to advance gender equality for sustainable development. The GenderPro Capacity Building Program provided me with the opportunity to achieve my mission of advancing gender equality by equipping me with the knowledge and skills to integrate gender into my work.

— Lufuno Barro, GenderPro Graduate

Champions for Justice

As GWI marks its first ten years, we also inaugurate the Champions for Justice Award and redouble our efforts to resist inequity and show our solidarity and support for women human rights defenders.



Left: Brisa De Angulo, her husband Parker, and their children. Photo: Courtesy of A Breeze of Hope. Right: Brisa De Angulo alongside her mom leads a demonstration against VAWG. Photo: Courtesy of A Breeze of Hope.

In 2022, Brisa's case was heard by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, prompting the Bolivian Government to rewrite their sexual violence laws. On January 19, 2023, the court found that the Government of Bolivia is responsible for the violations of due process and human rights. The court's ruling is legally binding in Bolivia and can also be used as precedent in legal arguments in similar cases across Latin America and the Caribbean. This ruling could increase the chances that sex crimes across the hemisphere, a vast majority of which go unpunished, will be prosecuted.

We stand with Brisa, a Champion for Justice, and the countless survivors who have joined her to end impunity in Bolivia and throughout the Americas.



Nicaraguan women human rights defenders marching for justice. Photo: Courtesy of GWI.

Nicaragua's Women Human Rights Defenders

In Nicaragua, thirty-three women human rights defenders were imprisoned between 2021 and 2023, many for nearly two years, for their non-violent activism against government oppression. The incarcerated women included political leaders and presidential candidates, feminists, lawyers, students, and community activists; all are advocates for gender equality and basic human rights.

In prison, they were subjected to inhumane treatment and many were kept in isolation, some were kept in solitary confinement, and in several cases they were unable to communicate with their very young children. Their families refused to abandon hope of seeing them alive and free. Activists from all over the world joined in calling for the release of these prisoners.

On February 9, 2023, all thirty-three women, alongside almost 200 other political prisoners, were released as part of unprecedented action by the Nicaraguan regime. Unconscionably, the Nicaraguan Government stripped the prisoners of their citizenship and deported them to the United States where they are now striving to reunite their dispersed families, create new lives, and continue their fight against the Nicaraguan Government's oppression.

We stand in solidarity with these women who are Champions for Justice and who work to bring greater equality and rights for women in Nicaragua and elsewhere.

Top-down: Nicaraguan ex-political prisoners Ana Margarita Vijil, Evelyn Pinto, Samantha Jirón, Dora María Téllez, Suyen Barahona. Photos: Dánae Vilchez/openDemocracy.



Our Team

GWI Staff

Over the past ten years GWI has grown from a staff of two to over a dozen, including internationally renowned experts in gender with decades of experience and next generation emerging leaders, some of them students. Each staff member brings a wealth of knowledge and their own unique perspective, and each of them has played a major part in our success.



GWI Staff. Photo: Courtesy of GWI.

GWI Leadership Council

The Leadership Council consists of eminent leaders, activists, and scholars from different countries and professions who share a commitment to advancing women's equality. The Leadership Council members lend their high-level expertise and influential networks so that GWI can realize its full potential.

GWI Affiliated Faculty

GWI relies on the support of more than 50 faculty from across the university who carry out research, scholarship, and advocacy to promote women's empowerment and gender equality. We collaborate with our affiliated faculty on joint research projects, teaching, and public events.

For more information on our staff, affiliated faculty, Leadership Council, and more partnerships, visit: <https://globalwomensinstitute.gwu.edu/about-gwi>



I've recently found myself reflecting throughout the day on how I have a job where I can directly impact women and girls and be able to work with colleagues that share and hold the same value as me. If I would be able to tell little Amal that I would work in making the lives of little girls and women just like my own mother and my maternal aunts better, she would be so proud.

— Amal Hassan, former student and current Research Assistant at GWI.

The GWI Catalyst Fund supports the vision and mission of GWI.

Vision

A world where women and girls have the same rights and opportunities as men and boys, and are free from discrimination, violence and coercion.

Mission

To advance gender equality through research, education and action to bring about change.

The Catalyst Fund

will enable GWI's urgent work to continue in perpetuity and ensure future action on critical projects that meet the emerging challenges in this ever-evolving field.

The GWI Catalyst Fund

The Global Women's Institute Catalyst Fund was created by Lauren and Austin Fite to ensure the long-term sustainability of our work to advance gender equality and end violence against women and girls globally. The vision for the Catalyst Fund is to ensure that our most important work can move forward without delay and that critical opportunities for impact can be pursued without the need to first secure external grant support.

The Fites are committed to promoting meaningful change on global issues and in the lives of individual women and girls. The Catalyst Fund merges their philanthropic commitment with GWI's mission to advance gender equality through research, education and action to bring about change. Thanks to their generosity, others may now make gifts of any amount to grow the endowment and increase the impact it will have on the work of GWI each year.



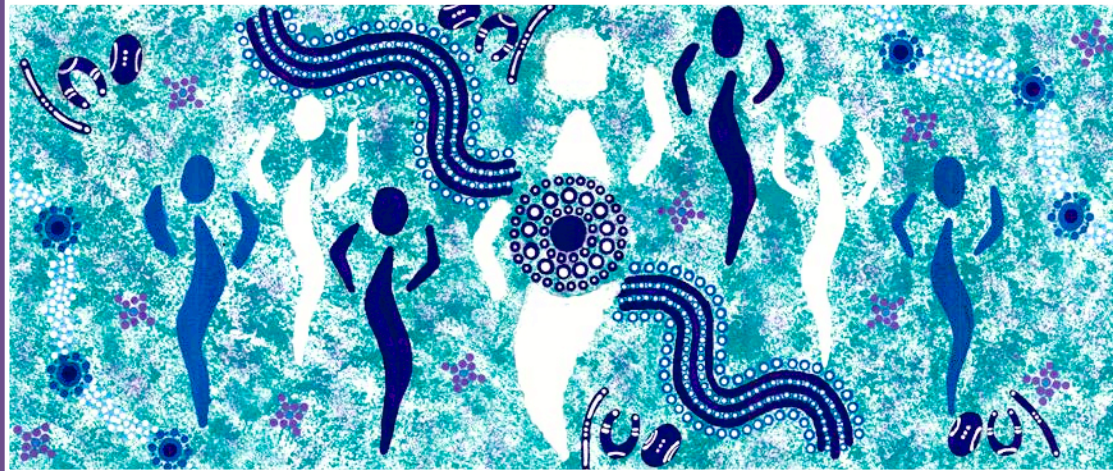
After seeing first-hand GWI's meaningful work, it's important to me to make sure it continues for years to come. In honor of the tenth anniversary, my husband and I are proud to be the founding donors of the GWI Catalyst Fund. This endowment will ensure that GWI can take action when opportunities arise—to be a "catalyst" for change in the lives of women and girls around the world.

— Lauren Fite, Co-Chair of the Leadership Council and founding donor of the GWI Catalyst Fund.



Austin, Lexi (GWU Alumna), and Lauren Fite. Photo: Courtesy of GWU.

More donors are encouraged to join this powerful initiative and include GWI in their philanthropy. To learn more and to make a gift, visit: <https://globalwomensinstitute.gwu.edu>



Thank you to our donors and to our long-term partners and friends for their generous and continued support.

For detailed information about our staff, visit: globalwomensinstitute.gwu.edu/staff

Above: Seven Sisters artwork by Shirleen Campbell, Indigenous women's rights activist and artist. Painting commissioned by GWI to honor their Champions for Justice.





2140 G ST NW / WASHINGTON DC 20052 USA / +1-202-994-7177 / GLOBALWOMENSINSTITUTE.GWU.EDU

The Global Women's Institute

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

