

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence in Lao PDR

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Fri, Dec 15, 2023 at 2:19 PM

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16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence in Lao PDR



This year, the 16 Days of Activism in Lao PDR brought together **over 50 partners**: “**Unite! Invest to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Women and Girls**”. Various public events and outreach activities, including art and sports, took place in 08 provinces with UNFPA technical support to strengthen **advocacy, sensitization, outreach and community mobilization interventions**.

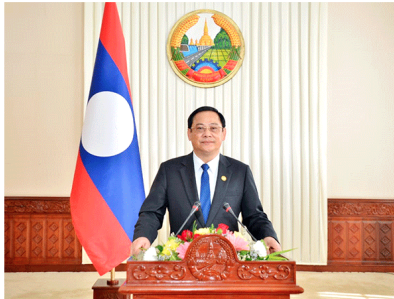
The campaign was kicked off by UNFPA, UNRCO, UNDP, the Lao Women’s Union, senior government officials, donors, and development partners. The 16-day campaign was set in motion and reinforced by a strategic statement from the Prime Minister, H.E. Mr. Sonexay Siphandone, as reflected in the government media outlets.

The Prime Minister’s statement includes ten key actions to eliminate GBV, a set of strategic actions important in light of the ASEAN chairmanship of Lao PDR in 2024.

PM voices support for ending violence against women

Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone has delivered a speech to mark International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on November 25, which this year takes the theme "Unitel Invest to Prevent and Respond to Violence against Women and Girls". People in Laos and many other countries mark this day, when governments reaffirm their commitment to preventing and responding to violence against women and girls.

Around the world, women are experiencing increasing violence, in various environments.



Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone.

The physical and mental abuse of women has both economic and social consequences, for individuals, families and communities, as well as hindering the achievement of sustainable development goals.

The PM Sonexay said eradication of violence can be successful only through the prevention of the use of violence, especially the coordination of many parties, the commitment of leadership in promoting such work, the implementation of laws and policies that promote gender equality, investing in women's organisations, allocating resources to prevent and respond to discrimination in many forms that women are facing every day, empowering women and girls in all areas of society, ensuring services to help survivors of violence; create a safe environment for women and girls, reduce poverty by starting with women's economic empowerment or the family economy.

All over the world, women have experienced increasing violence in various environments, including in the workplace and remotely via the internet. The use of violence against women also has extensive socio-economic consequences for individuals, families, communities and society, as well as hindering


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Laos marks International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

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KPL (KPL) Lao PDR has marked the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on November 25, under the theme "Unitel Invest to Prevent and Respond to Violence against Women and Girls".

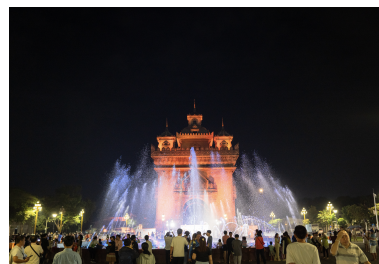


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 Commemorate International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
 25 November 2023

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Launching the 16 DoA, Vientiane Capital's landmark monument: Patuxay was lit up in orange as well as many other buildings in the city.





During the 16-day campaign, the Government of Lao PDR also launched **the 10th Periodic Report on the implementation of the CEDAW** (*prepared with UNFPA's technical support*) jointly with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Back in early November, the global CEDAW Committee shared a list of issues and questions, which the government is committed to take actions and respond to in New York in September-October 2024.

The Government of Lao PDR committed to broaden the scope of the current Violence Against Women (VAW) strategic frameworks to embrace broader GBV issues and envisage the 1st-ever GBV survey after the last survey on VAW conducted ten years ago, back in 2014, which will require technical and financial resources.

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The officially launches the 10th Periodic Report in Vientiane on Nov 27

UNFPA, the Government of Japan, Lao Women's Union and Provincial authorities opened **the 5th and 6th protection shelters for survivors of GBV** supported by UNFPA and funded by Japan.

Government of Japan supports UNFPA, LWU to protect survivors of violence in Borikhamxay, Champassak

The Lao Women's Union, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and UN-Habitat, with generous contributions from the Government of Japan, officially opened two new Counselling and Protection Centres for Women and Children in Borikhamxay and Champassak provinces on Thursday.



Japanese Ambassador to Laos, Mr Kenichi Kobayashi (second right), cuts a ribbon to open new Counselling and Protection Centres for Women and Children.

These are the country's fifth and sixth protection centres for survivors of violence to seek accommodation and shelter, counselling, psychosocial support, legal advice, and vocational training. Staff can also refer survivors to additional health and justice services available in the province and nationwide. One in three women worldwide has experienced physical or sexual violence, and these global statistics correspond with the 2014 national Violence against Women prevalence study conducted in Laos.

The study revealed that one in three women in Laos had experienced physical, sexual and emotional violence at the hands of their partner. The national survey also showed that only 10 in 100 women shared their experience of violence with others, and only 2 in 100 survivors sought assistance and services.

The President of the Lao Women's Union, Mrs Aly Vongnoubhountham, said "From this moment onwards, these centres will provide services based on the Standard Operating Procedures for the social and health sectors, and coordination and referral pathways for gender-based violence. I trust that the great leadership at the provincial level will ensure that survivors

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New Protection Centers Opened in Laos for Survivors of Violence

By Chono Lapuekou - December 14, 2023

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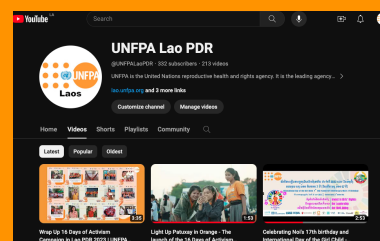


(Photo: UNFPA)

To wrap-up the 16 DoA campaign, UNFPA held a closing ceremony jointly with the Embassy of Germany, UNDP and Lao Women's Union, which brought together representatives of development partners, donors, civil society, the private sector, government sectors, and various stakeholders.



Watch more: 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence in Lao PDR



**Light Up
Patuxay in
Orange - The
launch of the
16 Days of
Activism
campaign**



**Wrap Up 16
Days of
Activism
Campaign in
Lao PDR 2023**



Read full articles:

KPL: Laos ignites prevention efforts to end violence against women and girls

VTE Times: Laos ignites prevention, response efforts to end violence against women, girls

VTE Times: Government of Japan supports UNFPA, LWU to protect survivors of violence in Borikhamxay, Champassak

The Star: Laos PM wants govt to take all steps in ending violence against women

[LA] Lao Economic-Social: Light Up Patuxay in Orange to commemorate the international day to elimination of violence against women

[LA] Lao Women's Union: Light Up Patuxay in Orange to commemorate the international day to elimination of violence against women

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From
the People of Japan

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