

## About the database

On 5 March 2009, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dr. Asha-Rose Migiros, launched the Secretary-General's database on violence against women.

The database was developed in response to United Nations General Assembly resolution 61/143 which called for an intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, and requested the Secretary-General to create a coordinated database on violence against women.

It is designed to:

- provide easy access to comprehensive and up-to-date information on measures undertaken by Member States to address all forms of violence against women
- increase opportunities for exchange of experiences and promising practices in addressing violence against women
- strengthen the knowledge base for effective policy responses to prevent and address violence against women
- encourage the further collection, availability, use and dissemination of data on violence against women, as well as analysis of such data
- improve tracking of trends in addressing violence against women

The database identifies measures undertaken pursuant to the Secretary-General's Campaign "UNiTE to End Violence Against Women" 2008-2015, as indicated by Member States. For further information on the Campaign, please visit: <http://endviolence.un.org>.

## Content of the database

The database is the first global "one-stop site" for information on the following types of measures undertaken by Member States to address violence against women:

- legal framework
- policies and programmes
- institutional mechanisms
- services for women victims/survivors of violence
- preventive measures and training
- research and statistical data
- other (e.g. engagement in international/regional initiatives, and the creation of specialized police, prosecutors, and courts)

The database also contains information on the evaluation of measures undertaken and examples of good or promising practices.

The information in the database is searchable by:

- type of measure undertaken
- form(s) of violence addressed
- country/region
- year measure was undertaken
- keyword(s)

Users may search the database in all six official languages of the United Nations. However, the information contained in the database is available only in English and/or the language in which it was submitted.

## Questionnaire to Member States

The primary source of information for the database is responses to the questionnaire sent to all Member States of the United Nations in September 2008.

The questionnaire is available in all six official languages of the United Nations at: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/v-q-member.htm>

When responding to the questionnaire, Member States are encouraged to consult all relevant entities, at different levels of government (federal, state, provincial, municipal and/or local), as well as different departments and agencies, including the national statistical office, and other entities such as research organizations and service providers.

Those Member States who have not yet submitted their responses to the questionnaire are encouraged to do so at their earliest convenience.

## Other sources of information

In addition to responses to the questionnaire, other sources of information for the database include:

- States parties' reports to human rights treaty bodies
- information provided by Member States in follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995); for reports of the Secretary-General; and in statements made at the United Nations
- information available through relevant United Nations entities

## Updating of the database

The database will be updated on an ongoing basis. To ensure that the information provided in the database is as comprehensive, up-to-date and accurate as possible, Member States are encouraged to:

- submit new information to the secretariat as it becomes available, including:
  - details of new measures undertaken; and
  - the full text of laws, policies, and other documents; and
- identify a focal point responsible for communicating with the secretariat on any matters related to the database

The secretariat will also continue to use the other sources of information listed in this brochure to update the database.

## Contact information

The United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women/Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DAW/DESA) functions as the secretariat of the database.

DAW/DESA may be contacted at:

Address:  
2 UN Plaza,  
DC2-12th Floor,  
New York, NY 10017, USA  
Fax: +1-212-963-3463

Member States wishing to update information in the database, and those with queries, should send an email to: [vawdatabase@un.org](mailto:vawdatabase@un.org).

## About DAW/DESA

The Division for the Advancement of Women in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DAW/DESA) supports the work of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

DAW/DESA was responsible for the preparation of the Secretary-General's in-depth study on violence against women (2006), and now supports the follow-up to the study, including work mandated by General Assembly resolutions 61/143, 62/133 and 63/155.

The DAW/DESA webpage on violence against women (<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw>) provides a range of resources in relation to violence against women.

Some of the publications available on the DAW/DESA webpage on violence against women are:

*Handbook for legislation on violence against women*, DAW/DESA, 2009

*Report of the Expert Group Meeting on indicators to measure violence against women*, Geneva, 8-10 October 2008

*Ending violence against women - From words to action*. Study of the Secretary-General (New York: United Nations, 2006)

*Words to Action* newsletter on violence against women, produced quarterly by DAW/DESA

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[www.un.org/esa/vawdatabase](http://www.un.org/esa/vawdatabase)

