



# The Reykjavík Dialogue 2021

**RENEWING ACTIVISM**

**TO END VIOLENCE  
AGAINST WOMEN**

16-18th AUGUST

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## REYKJAVIK DECLARATION ON ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS 18 AUGUST 2021

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Activists, survivors, practitioners have for decades led the struggle to put violence against women and girls on the public agenda. All the forms of violence about which we speak and on which we work have been named and defined by us. **We envision and expect nothing less than a world which sees women and girls as fully human and entitled, as is their right, to live without violence and its threats.** We mourn the lives lost and harms borne by too many women and girls across the world, over too many generations.

We have made much noise, taken to the streets and in many creative ways shaped the progress of work against violence against women and girls. This has included work to examine how inequality and discrimination works within our organisations and movements as well as naming and undoing **historically established structures of inequity, marginalisation and exclusion.**

We honour those who have led this struggle before us; we stand on their shoulders and we strive to continue their legacy. Our strategies change and evolve over time but our collective work continues. We are activists, survivors, practitioners, researchers and many of us do not belong to only one of these categories – **survivors are many and we are everywhere.** We recognize that our best knowledge and understanding comes from listening to and learning from survivors and from working together. **Specialist services are rooted in this knowledge and can never be substituted by generalist work.**

All those who take up resources and space in this struggle must be accountable to survivors

and the activists who have led this work. **We shall be watching, monitoring, pushing and critiquing.** We shall continue to expect nothing less than the best for survivors and will denounce it when we see otherwise.

VAWG is more than a shadow pandemic during the CoViD-19 crisis: it is an **ongoing global emergency.** Governments and their international organisations will need to do much better in their formal systems, their prevention work and holding abusers to account. Existing justice systems must work for survivors and **what justice looks and feels like** for them must be better understood. Those who are most marginalized, those who have been excluded, have particular experiences that will drive effective and meaningful action towards equity.

We are concerned that in 2021 resistance and challenges to our organising suggests a worrying confidence amongst those who would shut down our work. We live with and are impeded by **chronic underfunding** for, as well as hostility to, our work. The many billions of dollars now committed to ending gender inequality must include secure and predictable funding for those on the frontlines – activists and survivor-led work.

We will organize, struggle and support each other towards a world where every woman and girl can enjoy freedom and joy.

We call on States, governments, IGOs, funders and INGOs to endorse this declaration; consult, learn from and support survivors and activists; and advocate for others in enabling roles to listen and learn from them in this work.