

## DAY THREE: 27th November

### **Sexual Harassment**

#### **Marianne's story**

Marianne was on her way to university when she was approached by a man on a motorbike who grabbed her, took her to an isolated location and poured acid on her face. The area was deserted, so despite her calls for help no one came to her aid. Marianne's face burned, stinging and swelling to the point where her lips and eyes were no longer visible. The assailant – Marianne's brother-in-law – had long been harassing her, initiating unwanted sexual advances and imploring her to marry him.

(*europaebreakingnews.net* - Aug. 2017)

#### **Questions:**

What is your reaction to this true story?  
Why do you think some men think it is OK to treat women in this way?

#### **Global Facts:**

- **Gender-based violence** knows no religion, age, nationality, culture, or socio-economic class.
- **Violence against women and girls** is a **global issue** with 1 in 3 women across the world experiencing violence. (*London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, 2013*)
- **1 in 5 women and girls** aged 15-49, reported experiencing physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner within a 12-month period.\*



*pexels.com*

*"Today in many places we hear a call for greater security. But until exclusion and inequality in society and between people is reversed it will be impossible to eliminate violence."*

Pope Francis Evangelii Gaudium 59

\* Data is latest available (2005-2016) for women and girls aged 15 to 49, across 87 countries. [www.unwomen.org](http://www.unwomen.org)

## **Laudato Si**

Pope Francis' encyclical or letter to the world in 2015, highlights the link between the 'Cry of the Earth and Cry of the Poor'.

*"Human life itself is a gift which must be defended from various forms of debasement" LS 5*



## **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

Many of the SDGs reference Women. Of significance are:

#### **SDG 5 - Targets 2:**

- ELIMINATE ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SPHERES, INCLUDING TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL AND OTHER TYPES OF EXPLOITATION

#### **SDG 11 – Target 7:**

- PROVIDE UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO SAFE, INCLUSIVE & ACCESSIBLE GREEN & PUBLIC SPACES, IN PARTICULAR FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN, OLDER PERSONS.

## **CEDAW**

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

(Suggest you read this during the **16 Days**)

**CEDAW Article 16:** ". . . provides men and women with "the same right to enter into marriage, the same right freely to choose a spouse . . . "

**ACTION** I will take to promote respect and equality between all women and men....

1. Read more on the subject – <http://endviolence.un.org/orangeday.shtml>
2. Make a donation to [UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women](http://www.unwomen.org)

Prepared by 'Future We Need' (FWN), a faith-based group with members from the Columbans, Franciscans, Mercy, Presentation and Salesians.

## **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

is a systematic and widespread human rights violation. It cuts across age, socio-economic, educational and geographic boundaries.



[www.google.ie/search?q=images+of+orange+the+world+for+free](http://www.google.ie/search?q=images+of+orange+the+world+for+free)

## ***16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence...***



**49** Countries have no laws to protect women from domestic violence.

***DAY 3...***

***27<sup>th</sup>***

***November***

## **CHILD MARRIAGE....**



[www.google.ie/search?q=Photos+of+child+brides+pixabay](http://www.google.ie/search?q=Photos+of+child+brides+pixabay)

15 million girls under the age of 15 are married each year.



See [www.mercyworld.org](http://www.mercyworld.org)