



16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence #EnoughViolence 2019



Introduction

This year's 16 Days Campaign was conducted to help raise awareness on preventing and addressing Gender-Based Violence in Libya. The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is an international campaign that takes place every year between 25 November and 10 December and seeks to: (a) raise awareness at the local, national and international levels regarding violence against women; strengthen local work; (b) link local and global activism; (c) provide a forum for dialogue and strategy-sharing; (d) pressure governments to implement the commitments they have made in national and international legal instruments; and (e) demonstrate the solidarity of activists around the world. The 16 Days Campaign takes shape as local, national, regional and international initiatives around the world.

The principal objective of the 16 Days Campaign for 2019 in Libya was to attract the members of the Libya community to be active participants and engage in the fight to eradicate violence against women and girls; hence, the country theme for this year: **“Take Action; violence is not a solution.”** Additionally, the campaign aimed to expand accountability to address gender-based violence (GBV) issues in Libya by all; combine technology, social media, the arts, journalism, religion, culture and customs, business and activism to draw attention to the many ways violence against women and girls affects the lives of all people in all communities around the world; ensure mass mobilisation of all communities to promote collective responsibility in the fight to eliminate violence against women and girls; encourage society to acknowledge that violence against women and girls is *not* a government or criminal justice system issue, but a societal issue that needs to be addressed to combat and prevent GBV in the society; and emphasise the fact that the solution to GBV lies with all of us.

UNFPA Libya, and its partners, namely the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), Ministry of Education (MoE), Psychosocial Support (PSS) Team, Huna Libya, Scouts, Al-Bayan, Amazonate, Y-PEER and Women Union, conducted a series of massive activities covering the whole of Libya. The activities began prior to the beginning of the campaign, on 23 November, through TV, Radio and Social Media to build up to introduce the public to the 2019 campaign and its slogan: “Take Action; violence is not a solution.” This was followed by the Launching Events, awareness sessions, discussion panels and more Radio, TV and online advocacy. This report covers the activities conducted across the country from 23 November to 10 December 2019.

Prior to the launch of the 16 Days Campaign, UNFPA worked in partnership with Huna Libya to build digital communities for social change. Huna Libya created online platforms for which they design content, engagement and moderation strategies, including one of the well-known online platforms reaching the general Libyan public and youth in particular. UNFPA and Huna Libya developed a questionnaire to ask the Libyan public about GBV definition, classifications and its consequences on the individuals, family and the society.



The aim of the questionnaire was to ensure full engagement from the Libyan communities in designing the theme for this year and also in designing the messages to be used throughout the campaign. Around 2,545 participants engaged in the discussion and they flagged the issue of domestic violence as the major problem in the Libyan society.

Out of 2,545 participants, 1,147 were Female and 1,398 Male



THE LAUNCH OF 16 DAYS CAMPAIGN – 25 NOVEMBER

In Spain:

UNFPA Representative in Libya, Ms. Berangere Boell-Yousfi, launched the campaign in Madrid, Spain with the Spanish International Cooperation Agency on 25 November 2019, which marks the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. Ms. Boell-Yousfi highlighted in her speech that “the 16 Days of Activism Campaign is a chance for UNFPA and the Libyan Ministries of Social Affairs and Education to join forces and work hand-in-hand towards ending gender-based violence and harmful practices throughout Libya. Protecting women and girls from violence and harmful practices is not only a moral and human rights imperative, it is also critical to the economic and social progress of any society”.

UNFPA Libya is proud to see the commitment of the Libyan government and the national partners working to eliminate gender-based violence and to ensure more equal opportunities for women and girls in Libya.

Berangere Boell-Yousfi – UNFPA Country Representative in Libya

UNFPA Libya organized the 16 Days Campaign together with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Education and local partners to advocate and raise awareness on gender-based violence, especially against women and girls. The campaign involved many local organizations and institutions throughout the entire country.



In Tripoli:

The 16 Days Campaign was launched through two events in Tripoli on 25 November. The larger of the two was held in the morning in “Jamal Ftis Hall”, at the Ministry of Tourism. The occasion was graced by the Minister of Social Affairs, Ms. Fadi Al-Shefai. It was attended by over 150 participants comprising of the Ministry of Social Affairs, UNFPA, UNFPA partners and invited guests from local civil society actors in Tripoli.



Minister of Social Affairs giving her speech during the event at the Ministry of Tourism.

The celebrations started at 10:00 am with a word of prayer which was followed by a welcome speech from the Executive Director of PSS Team, followed by the speech of the Minister of Social Affairs. Advocacy messages were passed through an interactive theatre performance on domestic violence. They reiterated the need for increased protection of women and girls and increased services to prevent risks of GBV, including violence against women. The activity received positive feedback from the participants and was covered by 2 TV channels for the evening news.



The second event was held at the UNFPA Women and Girls Safe Space, ran by UNFPA local partner Albayan. The event involved a lecture on GBV and the existing laws, focusing on domestic violence,

followed by survivors sharing their success stories. The event was attended by 65 women. The event was also covered by a local radio and a TV channel.

In Sabha:

UNFPA local partner in Sabha, Women Union, celebrated the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November at the Women and Girls Safe Space sustained by UNFPA, with a number of women participants. The focus of the event was to raise awareness of GBV issues and specifically of domestic violence. In addition, Women Union organized an open talk at the local radio “Ramdan” in Sabha discussing GBV issues.



In Benghazi:

A half-day training workshop was conducted at the Benghazi UN Hub on 25 November, the first day of the campaign. The training workshop was conducted for 19 UN staff and consisted in two sessions on gender-based violence and gender-based security, led by UNFPA GBV/SRH Programme Specialist and one session on security awareness conducted by UNDSS. The results of the post-training questionnaire showed positive feedback and beneficial results for the staff who participated in the training.



Distribution of Campaign IEC Materials



For this year’s campaign’s visual identity, UNFPA Libya decided to utilize the growing public’s interest and admiration for digital art and freestyle calligraphy seen over the last decade in Libya. The freestyle calligraphy was used for the typography, using a trending art form in a creative way to reach the widest audience and deliver the key messages. Four slogans were selected for this year’s campaign and were turned into freestyle digital calligraphy works by the 23-year-old Libya calligrapher and Arts Student, Salem Mezwhgi. They were then used for the campaign IEC materials that UNFPA shared with Libyan authorities, UN Agencies and local and international NGOs across Libya.

TV Spots

Significant commitment and engagement showed up by the Libyan local media this year, including TV channels, in addressing the GBV issue in Libya. Certain TV shows, including evening news on different channels, participated in raising the awareness level about different topics related to the GBV. The campaign started with a TV appearance on *Alwatan channel* of representatives from the Ministry of Social Affairs, Albayan (UNFPA local partner in Tripoli) and Women Union (UNFPA local partner in Sabha), introducing the Campaign, its slogan, plan and objectives and the theme of domestic violence. An additional 9 TV appearances were made subsequently, including 3 on International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, 1 International Women Human Rights Defenders Day, 1 on International Day of Persons with Disability. All of these appearances focused on presenting GBV and this year's theme in a culturally-sensitive manner. Overall, there was positive feedback from views and TV channels alike, increasing the number of requests for UNFPA and its partners to do more TV advocacy than what initially planned for this year's campaign, which all parties happily accommodated. The activities of UNFPA implementing partners in Tripoli also saw news coverage on 25 November on 5 channels (Panorama, Libya Alwatan, Libya Al-Rasmiya, Salam, and Libya Ahrar).



5 different national TV channels have been part of this year's campaign advocacy plan, to ensure a broad reach and neutrality.



Radio Spots

Different radio stations also contributed in joining the efforts in supporting the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV. A total of 19 radio appearances were made across 9 radio stations (Sabaa FM, Libo FM, Nass FM, Alshababiya FM, Ramadan FM, Wad FM, Libya Future FM, Tadamon FM, and Benghazi Radio Station), 12 broadcasting in Tripoli, 2 in Benghazi, 4 in Sabha and 1 in Al-zawia. The live shows and in particular the Open Day on *Alshababiya FM* in Tripoli received very positive feedback and many calls from population listeners. The show focused on GBV and the law, with Libyan activists, authorities, lawyers and UNFPA staff, addressing GBV and solutions for domestic violence. A total of 20 radio appearance and 90-second promotional campaign messages have been running on *Alshababiya FM* since 25 November and on *Nass FM* since 26 November in Tripoli, until the end of the campaign on 10 December. One message was to be aired every hour for the entire day, for a total of 48 adverts to be aired daily.



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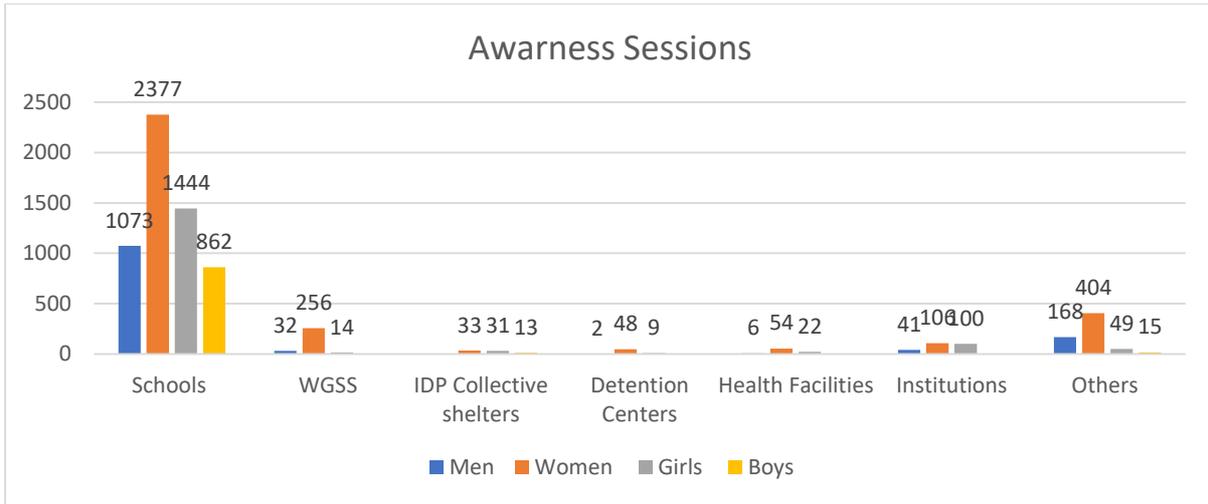
Radio Stations have been part of the advocacy plan for this year's campaign.

Awareness Sessions & Discussions

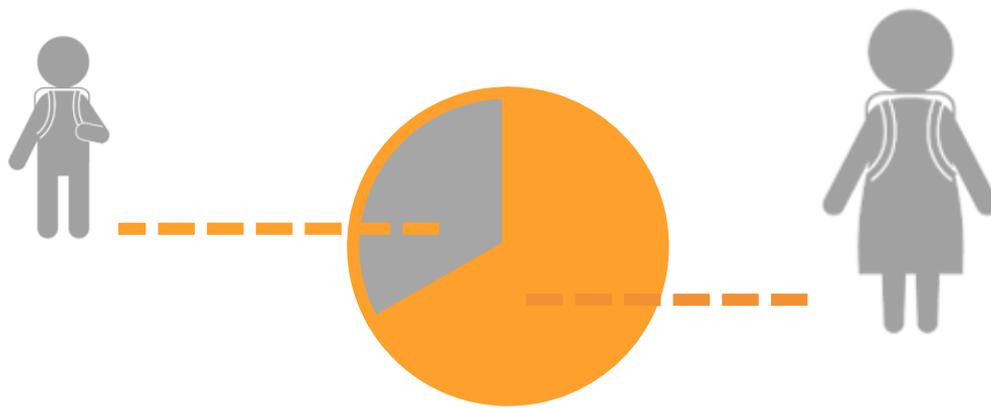
Local Partners, with support from UNFPA, implemented a series of awareness-raising activities throughout the 16 Days of Activism. They started by raising community awareness on key GBV issues focusing on domestic violence and other issues related to child marriage, denial of resources and sexual abuse and harassment, explaining to the community the objectives of the 16 days of activism, and the different activities that will be implemented. **75** awareness sessions have been conducted in Tripoli, Tajoura, Benghazi, Sabha, Janzour, Khoms, Ghrian and Misrata. **67%** were conducted in schools (21 Sabha, 21 Tripoli, 3 Benghazi, 1 Tawrgha, and 4 in Gharian), whilst the remaining sessions were held in UNFPA Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSS) in Tripoli, Benghazi and Sabha, in IDP Camps in Benghazi, in collective shelters in Tripoli, detention centres and other locations. These sessions targeted locals, migrants and IDPs. **7,327** individuals benefited directly from these sessions; **69%** of them were women and girls.



With the exception of the awareness session conducted at a collective shelter in Tajoura (where the participants showed reluctant at first to cooperate due to their growing frustration related to their current situation as IDPs), all other sessions received positive feedback. This included participants asking questions and sharing their stories in many instances. A panel discussion was also held in UNFPA WGSS in Benghazi on UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on women, peace, and security. The panel was implemented by UNFPA local partner Amazonate and lead by a dialogue and speech specialist.



2,306 targeted School Children



Street billboards

A number of 12 street billboards were set up in the main streets of different big cities across Libya, from the east in Tobruk, Albayda and Benghazi, to the west in Misurata, Tripoli, Janzour and Zawia, as well as in the south in Sebha. These street billboards carried prevention messages on GBV that were worked on by UNFPA along with its local partners, including governmental and non-governmental bodies.



Hotline Launch-1417

In line with the 16 Days of Activism and as part of the Campaign, UNFPA, the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) and Psychosocial Support Team (PSS Team) have launched the first psychosocial hotline in Libya (1417). The launch event was attended by the Ministers of Social Affairs, Health, Transportation, Women Affairs, the Administrative Control Authority, Deputy Ministers, Hospitals Directors, Directors of Ministers Departments, NGOs, academics and massive media outlets of TV, Radio, and newspapers, for a total of around 172 participants. The objective of this hotline is to assist the most vulnerable population, survivors of violence, providing them with guidance and access to psychosocial support, legal counselling, and referral services to health and other essential services.



Media Competition:

UNFPA and the Scouts called for all the Libyan and specifically the youth to participate in a media competition addressing this year’s campaign and present their art works such as poems, stories, songs, plays, drawings, etc. A total of 65 participants took part in the competition.



The Scouts, through SKYLINE media company and with experts in media, filtered the art works submitted and selected the 20 best art works. On 6 December 2019, an awards ceremony was held at the Scouts Headquarters for the best works presented during the 16 Days of Activism Campaign and an announcement of the winners was made in various media.

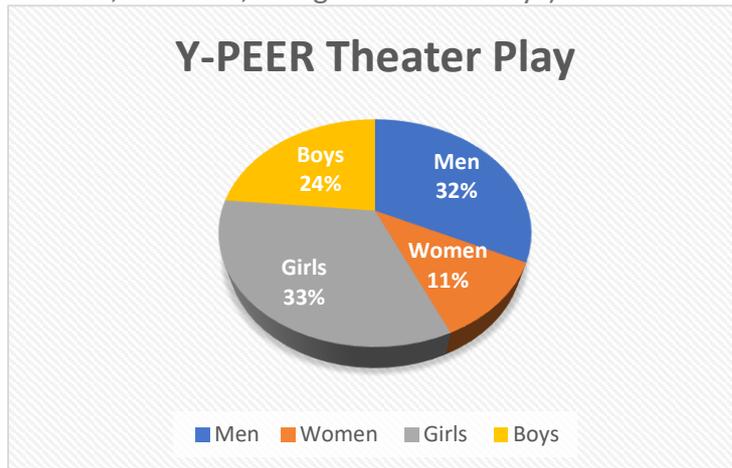


In the same event, a number of local Libyan artists have participated in an interactive live art work creation, using freestyle calligraphy on large sheets on the ground in a street art display.



Interactive Theatre Plays

A total of 13 interactive theatre plays were conducted as part of the Campaign (8 Tripoli, 1 Sabha, 1 Al-Khoms, and 3 in Ghrian). The plays were mainly conducted in schools. The aim of the theatre plays was to raise the awareness of GBV issues through interactive discussions directly with the community. The activity was conducted in partnership with the Y-PEER Network in Libya. In total, the theatre plays reached 1,729 participants (194 females, 556 men, 573 girls and 406 boys)



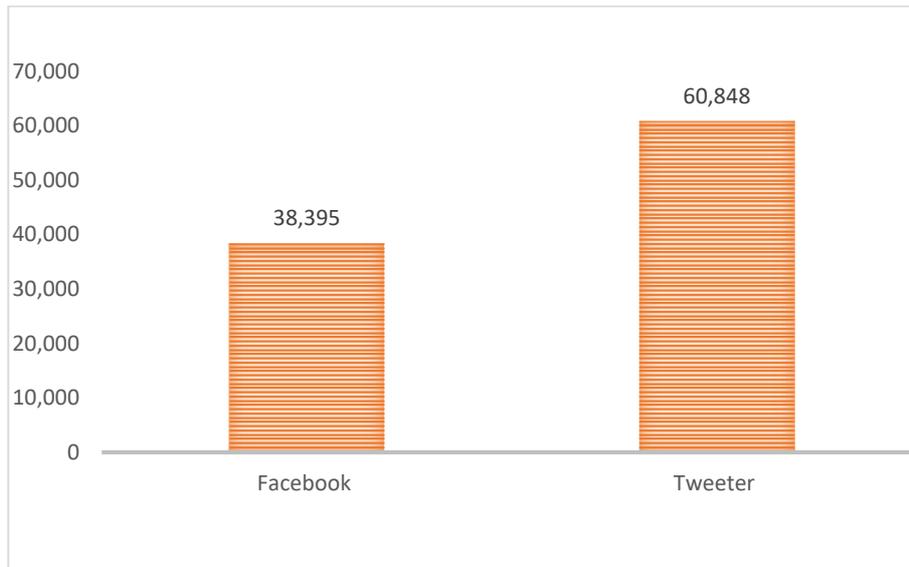
Dignity kits distribution: in the prison

On 2 December, in collaboration with the Libyan Ministry of Justice (MoJ), UNFPA supported the female inmates inside the Women Prison that is under the authority of Libyan Ministry of Justice, by providing 80 dignity kits to meet their urgent needs. This has been followed by a field visit to the Women Prison facility to stand on the needs of the female inmates during their time inside the prison.



UNFPA Social Media (Facebook & Twitter):

Using UNFPA Libya social media platforms (Facebook & Twitter) and the official UNFPA Libya website, the campaign has got a great reach: the online platforms show that more than 99,243 persons were reached (38,395 on Facebook and 60,848 on Twitter). To raise awareness about Gender-Based Violence, UNFPA Libya have sent out more than 50 tweets and retweets both in Arabic and English, and more than 20 Facebook post and shares across the campaign in different publishing tools (text, photos, links, videos, GIFs)



Huna Libya Platform:

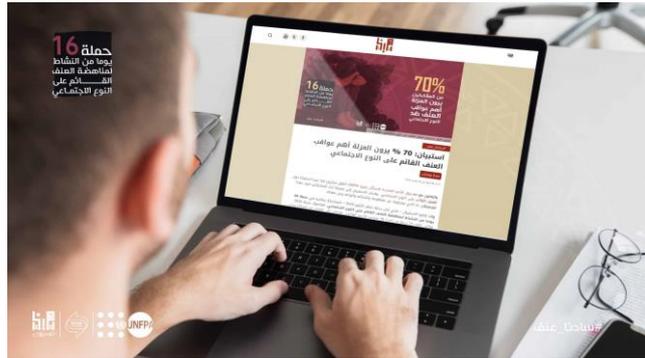
UNFPA along with Huna Libya project of RNW media launched the 16 Days of Activism Campaign to Eliminate GBV in Libya focusing on addressing domestic violence as a main topic of discussion, targeting young men and women from 18 to 30 years old with awareness-raising messages about GBV, its forms, and violence against women and girls in specific. The platform witnessed a huge number of participants engaged in the discussions in different events conducted via <https://hunalibya.com/>.

Since the beginning of the campaign, Huna Libya published on daily, varied, and accurate on its own platform and its accounts on other social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, whether educational articles, interactive publications, press reports, comics, or meetings of experts, legal, and psychologists. In addition, they created an open space for online discussions with the community. The social media platforms of Huna Libya show that more than 1,423,311 persons were reached (1,243,300 on Facebook and 180,011 on Twitter).



Huna Libya first launched the hashtag and filter frame for the campaign via its pages on social media platforms, which were circulated well between interested individuals and relevant non-governmental institutions, especially partners. Subsequently, the campaign officially started with the beginning of the project website, a teaser and several GBV awareness materials specifically designed for this year's campaign. Huna Libya published its contributions almost daily without interruption during the 16 days. Contributions dealt with the issue of gender-based violence in general, such as the definition, the issue, forms and types with focus on domestic violence – a space of dealing with the GBV this year - in all its forms, types, and practices.

The contributions included: one article, two survey reports, 2 comics, 3 videos, 4 news articles, and UNFPA report on domestic violence. It is noticeable in these contributions the use of diversified subjects, articulated and presented in a different way using the new technologies. It also witnessed the female contributions prevalence over males, at a rate of 4:3 in favour of females.



Key Figures:

- 1,281,695 total reached in the campaign through Facebook (38,395 through UNFPA Libya Facebook page and 1,243,300 through Huna Libya Facebook page)
- 240,859 total reached in the campaign through Twitter (60,848 through UNFPA Libya Twitter page and 180,011 through Huna Libya Twitter page)
- 7,327 total reached in the campaign through awareness sessions
- 128 activities conducted across Libya with awareness activities
- 768 Radio messages aired through the radio channels
- 1,400 people reached through the radio
- 8,200 people reached through the TV
- 7 Open dialogues conducted in the TV
- 19 radio appearance conducted through different radio stations

Highlights links:

- The announcement of hotline tweet:
<https://twitter.com/HunaLibya/status/1202342273180155904>
https://www.facebook.com/HunaLibya.ly/photos/a.440740422745536/1589940931158807/?type=3&_tn=-R
- 24/7 Job, A video about Family Abuse:
<https://twitter.com/HunaLibya/status/1200733319064956928>
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2257002931071516>
- Enough Violence, A video about IPV:
<https://twitter.com/HunaLibya/status/1201987914844057601>
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=515380575733498>
- Not just a story, a story about child marriage:
<https://twitter.com/HunaLibya/status/1200130765964693509>
https://www.facebook.com/HunaLibya.ly/photos/a.440740422745536/1584572708362296/?type=3&_tn=-R
- A Life of violence, from young age to adulthood violence against women comic:
<https://twitter.com/HunaLibya/status/1203660809643188224>
- GBV: Types, forms, and identification. An Introduction article to GBV. By Naser Shamri: <https://hunalibya.com/youth-and-health/8831/>
- Survey: 70% of YP sees isolation as the biggest result of GBV. Insights article from the survey constructed by Huna Libya and UNFPA late October 2019. By Huna Libya: <https://hunalibya.com/youth-and-health/8918/>
- Family house, when it turns to a jail. A story about a GBV survivor, and how the Libyan authorities represented by the Law are dealing with it. By Khadija Rafida: <https://hunalibya.com/youth-and-health/8960/>
- What if you were the victim? A social experimental video about GBV. By Huna Libya: <https://hunalibya.com/society/8993/>
- It's Salty, A comic about IPV and violence against women. By Abdullah Hadeeya: <https://hunalibya.com/society/9017/>
- Family Abuse and its effects on the community. An article about the consequences of Family abuse. By UNFPA Libya: <https://hunalibya.com/youth-and-health/9035/>

- Cold Houses, on Psychological violence in the family. Insights and stories of women faced physiological violence. By Rawasi Abduljalil: <https://hunalibya.com/society/9065/>
- What do you as A Libyan do to counter GBV?. An open question answers in the survey of GBV done by Huna Libya and UNFPA. By Huna Libya: <https://hunalibya.com/youth-and-health/9122/>
- #EnoughViolence Campaign, What's behind the walls. A video on IPV. By Huna Libya: <https://hunalibya.com/youth-and-health/9185/>
- The Hotline announcement Video with UNFPA. By Huna Libya: <https://hunalibya.com/youth-and-health/9212/>
- The Libya Woman: Teacher or Doctor? A story about women and their story with economic violence. By Nama Karkara: <https://hunalibya.com/economy/9242/>
- The Life time of a Libyan Woman, a comic about how Libyan women face violence during their life time. By Hanin AbuFares: <https://hunalibya.com/society/9293/>
- From Depression to self-achievement, a story about a GBV survivor being open about her relationship with her Ex-Husband. By Mohammed Suai: <https://hunalibya.com/youth-and-health/9314/>
- Results and Recommendations of #EnoughViolence Campaign. By Mohammed Momen: <https://hunalibya.com/our-news/9362/>

Recommendations and Lessons Learned:

- It was clearly mentioned and highlighted from the campaign the lack of knowledge of the terms Gender and Gender-Based Violence in Libya.
- People are in need of access to the vital services (health, legal and PSS) in safe and confidential manners. The launch of the hotline in Libya on 6 December and the related feedback received from the communities was very positive. People expressed their dire needs for such programmes and initiatives.
- A need to establish safe shelter for the GBV survivors has been flagged in different open platforms discussions and events.
- Revising the existing discriminative laws focusing on the article 424 and updating the Penal Code by placing real values in the articles (particularly 374, 378, 379, 380, 381 and others), as the current values are considered very low.
- GBV and Technology: Using social media platforms, visual art and graphics to address GBV issues has shown a high outreach in no time. To be effective and sustainable, the campaign focused on using the technology in addressing GBV and targeted different groups of people in their different environments where they live and work. It also made an engagement with different groups of people, such as men and boys, women and girls, parents and children at the individual, organizational, community and societal levels. The #EnoughViolence campaign for this year despite its short duration is a vivid example of this. However, unless campaigns are accompanied by follow-up and actions, the influence of such campaigns ends when the campaign's duration ends.

Conclusion:

Today, and every day, every individual can take action to end violence against women and girls and gender-based violence at large. Throughout the campaign period, between 25 November and 10 December, the action of every individual can go from personal steps to action at the national level. UNFPA aims to use the 16 Days of Activism to tell people that everyone has the capacity to take action to stop Gender-Based Violence and it's the responsibility of each and every one.

The 16 Days Campaign is an opportunity to re-energize our commitments towards the promotion of gender equality, by enhancing women participation in decision making, reviewing the discriminative laws against women through advancing their efforts in leadership, including political participation and economic empowerment. The theme also reminds us about our commitments towards peace in general (Enough Violence - سادنا عنف) and the need to put in place mechanisms that promote safe access to essential lifesaving service package, including health, PSS and access to justice, including safety.



The 16 Days of Activism Campaign is a time for everyone to contribute in the change process that will ultimately create safer environments for women, men, girls, and boys and to thrive. Be part of the change process. Commit now to end violence against women and girls. **Together we work to eliminate all forms of Gender-Based Violence in Libya.**

