Women and girls comprise 80 percent of the estimated 800,000 people trafficked annually, with the majority (79 percent) trafficked for sexual exploitation.

Among women aged between 15 and 44, acts of violence cause more death and disability than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents and war combined.

Half a million women were raped in the 1994 Rwandan genocide, and 60,000 in the war in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. In Sierra Leone, up to 64,000 women and girls were forced into sexual violence in the war in Sierra Leone from 1991 to 2001.
UP TO 70 PER CENT OF WOMEN WILL EXPERIENCE VIOLENCE DURING THEIR LIVES. THE MOST COMMON FORM OF VIOLENCE IS PHYSICAL VIOLENCE INFlicted BY AN INTIMATE PARTNER, INCLUDING BATTERING, Forced SEXUAL INTERCOURSE OR ANY OTHER FORM OF ABUSE. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT ONE OUT OF FIVE WOMEN WORLDWIDE WILL BE A VICTIM OF RAPE OR ATTEMPTED RAPE DURING HER LIFE. YOUNG WOMEN ARE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TO FORCED SEX AND ARE AT GREATER RISK OF BECOMING INFECTED WITH HIV/AIDS. YOUNG PEOPLE BETWEEN 15 AND 24 YEARS OLD REPRESENT OVER HALF OF NEW HIV INFECTIONS WORLDWIDE; OVER 60% OF THEM ARE WOMEN. WOMEN BODIES HAVE BECOME PART OF THE BATTLEFIELD FOR THOSE WHO USE TERROR AS A WAR STRATEGY; WOMEN ARE RAPEd, KIDNAPPED, HUMILIATED AND SUBJECTED TO FORCED PREGNANCY, ABUSE AND SEX SLAVERY. THE UN HAS NEVER APPOINTED A WOMAN AS THE MAIN MEDIATOR IN A PEACE PROCESS SUPPORTED BY THE ORGANISATION. SIXTY MILLION GIRLS WORLDWIDE ARE FORCED TO GET MARRIED BEFORE THEY ARE 18. AN ESTIMATED 600,000 TO 800,000 WOMEN, MEN AND CHILDREN ARE TRAFFICKED ACROSS INTERNATIONAL BORDERS EVERY YEAR; GIRLS AND WOMEN COMPRISE 80 PER CENT OF THIS GROUP. THEY ARE TRAFFICKED FOR FORCED SEXUAL WORK, NON-REGULATED DOMESTIC WORK OR WORK IN FACTORIES WHERE THEY ARE EXPLOITED. IN 2005, APPROXIMATELY HALF OF THE 12.7 MILLION REFUGEES AROUND THE WORLD WERE WOMEN. THE IMPUNITY ENJOYED BY AGGRESSORS, INSUFFICIENT SUPPORT SERVICES FOR VICTIMS/SURVIVORS, ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOURS THAT PERPETUATE NEGATIVE STEREOTYPES AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, AND A GENERAL LACK OF RESOURCES TO IMPLEMENT MEASURES ARE PERSISTING OBSTACLES TO PREVENTING AND ERadicATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.

THEY ARE NOT JUST FIGURES, THEY ARE LIVES. HELP US STOP ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN. 25 NOVEMBER – 10 DECEMBER. 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.