

The United Nations and The European Union present:

City Of Joy

The screening will be introduced by Dagmar Schumacher, Director, of UN Women office in Brussels and will be followed by a panel discussion with:



Christine Schuler Deschryver

Co-Founder and Director of City of Joy, and Director V-Day Congo

As Director of V-Day Congo and City of Joy, Christine oversees all aspects of V-Day's work on the ground in the Congo, including the City of Joy and coordinating campaign activities on the local, provincial, and national levels. After her best friend was raped and murdered in 1998, Christine devoted her life to the women of Congo and to ending 'sexual terrorism.' She is an internationally renowned human rights activist who has worked as a teacher, an administrator for CARE CANADA, and, for 13 years, as an administrator for the German Technical Cooperation, where she oversaw a staff of over 100. She was named one of The Guardian's Women of the Year for 2011 and travels widely advocating for Congolese women's rights.



Jean-Louis De Brouwer

Director for Europe, Eastern Neighbourhood and Middle East (ECHO)

Jean-Louis is Director for Europe, Eastern Neighbourhood and Middle East in the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, better known as DG ECHO, where he started working in 2012. His current responsibilities in ECHO include inter alia policy work on gender and sexual-and gender-based violence. In the context of the EU's engagement in relation to SGBV, ECHO is currently leading the global initiative "Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies".



Sietske Steneker

Director of the Brussels Office of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Sietske, a national from the Netherlands, has previously worked as UNFPA Representative in the Russian Federation, Honduras and El Salvador. as Adviser in UNFPA's Latin American and Caribbean Division and as Deputy UNFPA Representative in Bolivia. She holds a Masters Degree in International Law and Public Health in Developing Countries. UNFPA delivers a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.



Petra Hongell


Information Officer at UNRIC, United Nations Regional Information Centre

Petra works as an Information Officer at the United Nations Regional Information Centre, responsible for communication and public outreach to the Nordic countries. She is the moderator of the debate as well as the Coordinator of UN Cinema (Ciné ONU) in Sweden and Finland. Previously, she has worked for the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the Finnish Permanent Representation to the European Union.

Follow the discussion on **Twitter, Facebook and Instagram:**

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#HearMeToo
END VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN
AND GIRLS



Around the world, sexual violence continues to be used as a tactical, effective and cost-free strategy to terrorize communities and facilitate territorial, political and economic gains in the war field. Deep-seated gender discrimination, harmful cultural practices, and the low social status of women and girls in the Democratic Republic of the Congo contribute to high rates of sexual and gender-based violence. However, over this decade, we have witnessed groundbreaking advancements in the fight against conflict-related sexual violence, including successful prosecutions by national and international tribunals against perpetrators who appeared untouchable; legislative reforms to enhance protection and ensure access to justice for survivors and witnesses; comprehensive sets of specialized services for survivors, including socioeconomic rehabilitation initiatives and reparations; codes of conduct for security forces to ensure sensitization and training on conflict-related sexual violence; and an overall global mindset that firmly renounces these crimes and supports the efforts of women and their organizations to eliminate them. Medical assistance was provided to over 5,200 survivors of sexual violence by United Nations agencies in 2017, with a further 2,243 civilians receiving counselling and referrals in legal clinics supported by the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo MONUSCO. (source: <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/countries/democratic-republic-of-the-congo/>)

Director of City of Joy, Madeleine Gavin, interview November 8th 2016

“What drew me to this project was hearing stories from Congolese women a couple of years before we ever started shooting this film. At the time, my mind was blown open by the horror of what I was hearing. (...) They had in many cases lost everything that was meaningful to them. It was crushing to imagine both what they had been through and how they could go on.

But what was equally arresting was the resilience of these women. This was palpable. (...) And so I was in awe: I was in awe of women who believed that life could be meaningful after what they had endured. That is what initially drew me to this story.”

(<https://womenandhollywood.com/doc-nyc-2016-women-directors-meet-madeleine-gavin-city-of-joy-37c2f1b1b36b/>)

Orange the World: #HearMeToo UNiTE to End Violence against Women Campaign’s Initiative for 16 Days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence

In recent years, the voices of survivors and activists, through campaigns such as #MeToo, #TimesUp, #Niunamenos, #NotOneMore, #BalanceTonPorc and others, have reached a crescendo that cannot be silenced any more. Advocates understand that while the names and contexts may differ across geographic locations, women and girls everywhere are experiencing extensive abuse and their stories need to be brought to light.

This is why the UNiTE Campaign’s global advocacy theme this year is:

Orange the World: #HearMeToo

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an international campaign that takes place each year. It commences on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, Human Rights Day.

