

MADRE, a UN Trust Fund grantee, at the the first radio station to focus on women's rights in the North Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua where the show "Voices of the Women of Wangki Tangni" is recorded. Photo: UN Women/UN Trust Fund: Mildred Garcia

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS



The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development aims to reach the most underserved people first and to leave no one behind.¹ This means that ending violence against indigenous women and girls, who are among the world's most underserved populations, must be a priority.

Indigenous women face multiple forms of discrimination due to their intersectional identities, which expose indigenous women and girls to an increased risk of violence.²

The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women [UN Trust Fund] recognizes the often acute and high levels of global violence against indigenous women, including femicides and disappearances.³ For this reason, many of the projects it supports aim to prevent violence or

address the factors that contribute to violence against indigenous women, such as limited access to legal and social services.⁴

THE COLOMBIA NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (ORGANIZACIÓN NACIONAL DE INDÍGENAS DE COLOMBIA, ONIC) – COLOMBIA

ONIC is running a project that recognizes the multiple⁵ forms of discrimination faced by indigenous

women based on their gender, race and ethnicity. The project, which works with the Kankuama and Nasa communities, is:

- documenting violence against indigenous women;
- raising awareness about violence against women among community and relevant authorities;
- training indigenous women as rights advocates; and
- providing psycho-cultural, social, legal and psychological support to survivors of violence and their families.

ONIC and its partners recently released a prevention and care guideline on all forms of violence against women and guidelines on how to respond to cases of sexual violence, which include the processes to access justice through both the indigenous and formal justice systems. The ONIC project is

1 United Nations. Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. Report of the Secretary-General. E/CN.6/2015/3

2 file:///C:/Users/adina.wolf/Downloads/un_strategy_for_inclusion_and_visibility_of_indigenous_women_digital_0.pdf

3 Manjoo, R. 2012. "United Nations report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, on the expert group meeting on gender-motivated killings of women".

4 ile:///C:/Users/adina.wolf/Downloads/un_strategy_for_inclusion_and_visibility_of_indigenous_women_digital_0.pdf

5 UN Women. Strategy for Inclusion and Visibility of Indigenous Women. Page 17. Histories of colonization, poverty and exclusion of their wider communities intertwine with experiences of violence among indigenous women and girls. Indigenous girls and women are also at risk of violence in situations of intra-communal and inter-communal conflicts, as such conflicts often result in displacement, loss of livelihoods and forced migration

part of a campaign to operationalize the National Council of Indigenous Justice System as a national justice body responsible for establishing a strategy for prosecuting cases of violence. The Council guarantees the participation of women. So far, 150 cases have been registered, of which nearly half have received support services.

THE WOMEN'S JUSTICE INITIATIVE (WJI) – GUATEMALA

WJI is using innovative methods to prevent violence against indigenous women in 18 rural Mayan communities in Patzún, Chimaltenango department. Despite the introduction of national laws and policies to end violence against women and girls, the violence in these communities was not reduced, especially in rural areas.

With UN Trust Fund support, WJI is running a mobile, legal outreach programme and a legal literacy course for Mayan women. In its first year, the programme has helped nearly 700 people access justice and support services, including 187 survivors of violence. In 2016, WJI provided legal services to 288 women, well over double the number assisted in the previous year.

MADRE – NICARAGUA

The national pandemic of violence against women and girls is acute in the north Atlantic Coast region of Nicaragua, particularly for indigenous women whose needs

are often neglected in remote areas. In order to reach out to them, the international women's rights organization MADRE and its local Nicaraguan partner Wangki Tangni launched the groundbreaking radio project, "Voices of the Women of Wangki Tangni", which established in mid-2016 the first radio station to focus on women's rights in the region.

“It makes us happy that we hear the men from our communities are listening to the radio and saying ‘no more violence’ and acknowledging that women have rights.”

—Luisa Ruiz*, a listener of the radio programme from UN Trust Fund grantee, MADRE

So far, MADRE has provided over 350 solar radios to 115 communities to

allow more people to hear the station. It has also trained 30 comunicadoras [communicators] on effective broadcasting techniques, and provides a safe space for women and girls, as well as men and boys, to learn about women's rights, human rights and indigenous concepts of peaceful living. It is the region's only radio station that airs programmes in the local Miskito language.

The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund)

The UN Trust Fund, created in 1996 by the UN General Assembly and managed by UN Women on behalf of the UN system, is the only global grant-making mechanism dedicated exclusively to addressing all forms of violence against women and girls. To date, the UN Trust Fund has supported 462 initiatives in 139 countries and territories with grants totalling US\$129 million. Its current portfolio consists of 106 grants in 77 countries and territories totalling US\$54 million.

**Name changed to protect her privacy.*



Meeting with the Kankuamo indigenous community. The integral assistance route provides information on how to access protection and legal assistance in Valledupar, Colombia. Photo: UN Women/UN Trust Fund: Mildred Garcia



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