

One million men. One million promises.

Violence against women: a global tipping point

Men and women together have responded with outrage to dramatic acts of violence from Delhi to Cairo to Steubenville. Effective laws, courts, and cops are essential — but not enough. We need individual and community action to challenge the habits and norms that perpetuate violence. Breakthrough's [One million men. One million promises](#) campaign calls on men to take concrete steps to do just that. **With men as leaders and partners, we can create that global tipping point, today, and build a world in which all of us live freely, fully, and without fear.** See the [celebrities and luminaries](#) who have made their promises — and [make your promise](#) today.

United States

- *January 2013.* In response to a series of high-profile domestic violence cases in the city, Dallas, TX mayor Mike Rawlings — joined by Cowboys athletes — called on the men of the city to help change the culture of violence.
- *August 2012:* An alleged gang rape in Steubenville, OH — and later public bragging and joking on social media by the accused perpetrators and their peers — prompts public outcry, with parallels drawn to the Delhi incident as proof that tolerance of violence against women persists across countries and cultures worldwide.

South Africa

February 2013. The shooting death of Reeva Steenkamp by her boyfriend, famed Olympic athlete Oscar Pistorius, comes two weeks after the gruesome rape and murder of 17-year-old Anene Booysen. Together the deaths remind the country and the world that violence against women cuts across all lines of race, class, and community.

India

December 2012. The gang rape and murder of Jyoti Singh Pandey sparks unprecedented outrage across India and worldwide, with men joining women in calling on leaders — and one another — for individual, legal, social, and cultural change.

Egypt

December 2012. Male and female activists organize to interrupt and prevent the sexual assault and harassment of women protesting in Tahrir Square.

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Pakistan

October 2012. The attempted assassination of 14-year-old activist Malala Yousafza provokes global outrage and draws attention to violence and discrimination against Afghan girls and women in Pakistan.

Ireland

October 2012. Doctors refuse to perform a life-saving abortion on 31-year-old Savita Halappanavar, provoking global outrage and highlighting persistent disregard for women's health and humanity.

KEY STATISTICS

- Globally, at least one in three women and girls is beaten or sexually abused in her lifetime. (UNIFEM)
- 603 million women live in countries where domestic violence is not a crime. (UN Women)
- Women aged 15 to 44 are more at risk of rape or domestic violence than cancer, car accidents, war and malaria combined. (World Bank)
- Globally, the single strongest predictor of men's violence against a partner is having witnessed violence during childhood against their mothers. (UN Women)
- Between 80-99% of women worldwide experience street harassment at some point during their lives. (Hollaback)
- 48 women per hour were raped in Congo during war. (AJPH)
- Domestic violence costs the U.S. more than \$9 billion per year, the U.K. £23 billion per year (£440 per person), Canada more than U.S. \$1 billion per year, and Uganda more than the equivalent of U.S. \$2.5 million per year. (UN)
- Nearly 1/3 of U.S. female murder victims are killed by intimate partners. (FBI)
- A woman is battered, usually by a partner, every 15 seconds in the U.S. (US DOJ)
- In the U.S., over two-thirds of all rapes occur in someone's home. (Psychology of Women Quarterly)
- In the U.S., 83 percent of girls aged 12 to 16 experience some form of sexual harassment in public schools. (UN Women)
- The NYC Police Department responds to 700 domestic violence calls daily. (NYPD)