

038

2 A UN priority of our age: eliminating violence against women

The question of women's rights has always been a priority for the United Nations. In 1979, the UN General Assembly adopted the Convention of the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

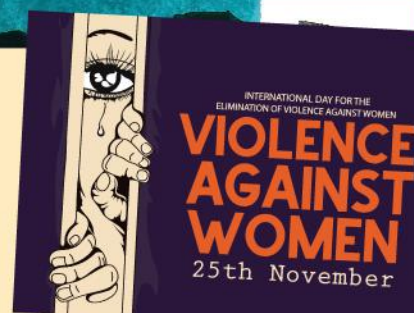
Violence against women and girls, however, remains a problem all over the world. In 1993, the UN issued the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women.

This resolution gave clear definitions of the many forms of physical, sexual and psychological violence suffered by women and girls, together with a list of rights for women. It concluded with indications of what states and the international community could do to eliminate gender-based violence in the world. On 7th February 2000, the General Assembly of the UN officially designated 25th November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. It invited governments, international organisations as well as **NGOs**¹ to join together and organise activities on that date which would make people more aware of the problem.

Yet, there is still a long way to go. **To date**², only two out of three countries worldwide **have outlawed**³ domestic violence and 49 countries still have no laws protecting women from domestic violence.

Glossary

- 1 **NGOs (non-governmental organisations):**
ONG (organizzazioni non governative)
- 2 **to date:** a oggi
- 3 **have outlawed:** hanno dichiarato illegale



3 ANALYSIS & INTERPRETATION Answer the following questions.

Text 1

- 1 What two factors characterised the 1960s as an age of liberation?
- 2 How did women begin to choose their clothes in this decade?

Text 2

- 1 What important change can we see between the UN resolutions of 1979 and of 1993? What is the focus in the 1993 resolution?
- 2 What does the 1993 declaration seek to achieve?
- 3 What two disappointing results are mentioned in the last paragraph?



4 COMPARING PERSPECTIVES Google "Ten ways to promote gender equality in the classroom" and read the advice given by Provide Education. Then answer the following questions.

- 1 What examples are given of challenging the idea that some jobs are for men and some for women?
- 2 Why should teachers avoid the word 'guys'?
- 3 What two examples are given of stereotypical gender characteristics?
- 4 What should educational materials show?
- 5 Think about your own school. Are boys and girls separated in any activities?

5 DEBATE



Life Skills

Debate the following 'motion' in two teams: Proposition team vs Opposition team.

"We believe that men and women are different and must have different roles in society. Gender equality is an impossible dream and not a useful ambition."

Consider your own ideas and experience. You might use some of these expressions:

prejudice • rights • respect • opportunity • stereotypes • new models of society