

AFRICAN UNION

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Directorate of Information and Communication

MEDIA ADVISORY

16 Days of Activism Against Gender- Based Violence Campaign

INVITATION TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEDIA

WHAT: The African Union Commission Chairperson is hosting a Discussion and Dinner Reception to observe the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign under the theme: “Leave no one Behind: End Violence Against Women”. The AUC Chairperson will also switch on “orange lights”, the official colour of the campaign, in the AUC compound to represent an Africa that is free from violence against women and girls.

WHEN: 04 December, 2017

Time: 18 -21pm

WHERE: Medium Conference Hall and Multipurpose Hall, AUC Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

WHO: The African Union Commission through its Women, Gender and Development Directorate (WGDD).

Objective: The campaign focuses on raising awareness about violence against women and girls, and its negative consequences on individuals, community and national development as well as to encourage AU Member States to develop and implement legislation and policies to combat gender based violence and support the efforts of networks, public and private institutions that work to eradicate violence against women and girls.

A specific focus is to increase understanding and buy-in at Member State level of AU legal instruments, policies and actions in support of gender equality and women’s empowerment. Ending violence against women is a key priority for the AU and campaigns at continental, regional, national and community levels are considered key and concrete enablers to achieve this objective.

Background: The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is an international campaign to end violence against women and to advocate for the promotion and protection of women's rights. The campaign runs annually from 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) to 10 December (International Human Rights). The campaign was incepted in 1991 and calls on all people in all parts of the world to take action in their communities, play their part and stand up against violence against women and girls. The 16 Days of Activism is used as an organizing strategy by individuals and organizations around the globe to advocate for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.

Africa's Agenda 2063 commits AU Member States to end violence and discrimination against women and girls as well as to end all harmful social norms and customary practices that promote violence and discrimination against women and girls in Africa.

Journalists are invited to cover the Discussions and the Dinner/Reception on Monday, 4th December 2017 at African Union Commission (AUC) Headquarters, Addis Ababa Ethiopia.

For more information:

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