

16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



ONLY

21%

OF GOVERNMENT
MINISTERS ARE
WOMEN

1

CHILD DIES
EVERY
5 MINUTES
AS A RESULT
OF VIOLENCE

25%

OF THE GLOBAL
POPULATION
LIVES IN
CONFLICT-
AFFECTED
COUNTRIES

PROMOTE PEACEFUL & INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE & INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

NOTICING

The world is experiencing the highest number of violent conflicts since 1945, forcibly displacing 89.3 million people by the end of 2021. Globally, 50% of children and 1 in 3 women have been subjected to physical and/or sexual violence. Although government representation is becoming younger and more gender-diverse, at the current rate, gender equality in the highest positions of power will not be reached for 130 years. One in 6 businesses pay bribes to public officials.

INTERPRETING/EMPATHIZING

Trust is essential to peaceful societies and effective, inclusive social institutions. But individual and structural bias, prejudice, racism, and discrimination impedes trust between people and institutions. Persons who belong to marginalized social/ethnic groups or who identify as certain sexual orientations/gender identities are at greater risk of suffering violence or being trafficked. Violence causes serious and long-term physical, mental, and behavioral consequences, which ultimately undermine the social and economic development of communities and nations. Compassion is fundamental to achieving SDG16 and the realization of all other SDGs.

TAKING ACTION

SDG16 requires radical commitment to the principle of common humanity in order to connect structures of power and the people they are supposed to serve. Gender equality and women's empowerment are powerful pathways for preventing conflict, and sustaining peace. So too are governments that promote transparency, participatory, inclusive, and accountable governance—as exemplified by the [Open Government Partnership](#), which is co-creating reforms with 78 countries, hundreds of local governments, and thousands of civil society participants.

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WHEN WE LABEL PEOPLE AS VULNERABLE, DEFICIENT, OR PROBLEMATIC, WE DEFINE THEM OUT OF COMMUNITY AND REDEFINE THEM, NOT AS FRIEND AND AS NEIGHBOR, BUT AS CLIENT IN A SERVICE SYSTEM. WHEN WE DO THAT, WE TAKE SOME OF THE SOUL AWAY FROM THE PERSON, ALL IN THE NAME OF HELPING THEM.

CORMAC RUSSELL,
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