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### Letter from the Director

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Welcome to the first issue of *Words to Action: an electronic newsletter on violence against women*.

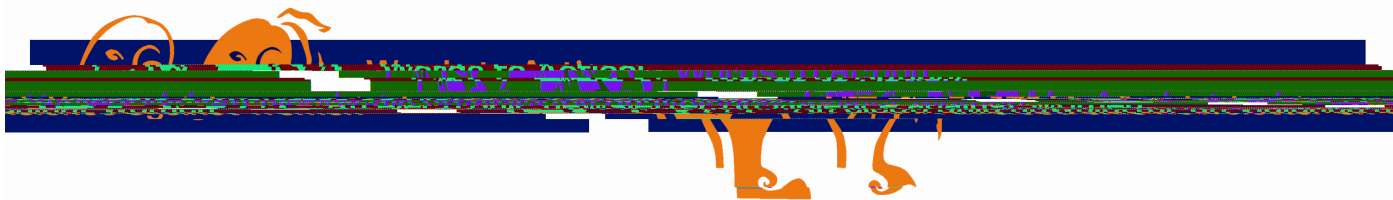
The launch, in October 2006, of the Secretary-General's in-depth study on all forms of violence against women has accelerated the global momentum for action to prevent, and effectively respond to, this pervasive violation of women's human rights.

As a follow up to this study, in December 2006, the General Assembly of the United Nations provided critical leadership when it adopted a comprehensive and action oriented resolution (A/RES/61/143). This resolution called on States, United Nations entities and other stakeholders to increase their efforts to address violence against women.

Since then, many actors at different levels have stepped up their work, and new stakeholders are increasingly joining this common endeavour for the first time.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations is leading this effort with his Global Campaign to end violence against women, launched in February 2008. The Campaign will continue until 2015 to coincide with the target date of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

*Words to Action* is intended to serve as a vehicle for more effective information-sharing on new initiatives and good practices in preventing and



## **About *Words to Action***

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*Words to Action* is a quarterly newsletter produced by the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women (UNDAW).

Feature Item: Each newsletter will contain a succinct discussion of a particular topic or issue.

The newsletter will disseminate information about work to address violence against women by:

Investigative and research of the United Nations, including the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and its Functional Commissions, the Human Rights Council and its subsidiary machinery

Expert bodies, including the human rights treaty bodies

Groups of States at the regional or sub-regional level

Entities of the United Nations system

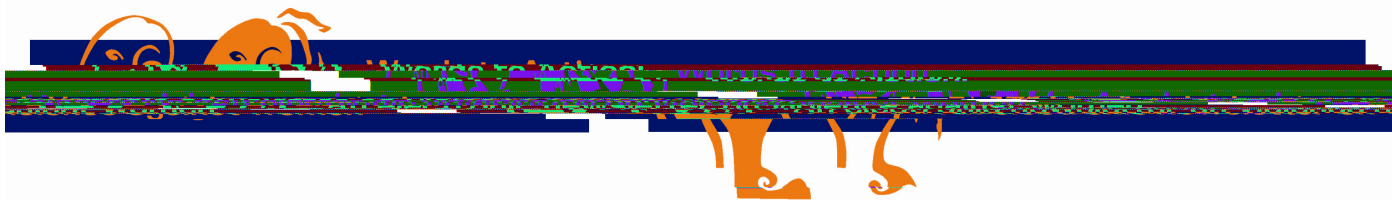
Future issues of *Words to Action* will contain the following main sections:

News & Highlights: This section will highlight developments from the United Nations system, including the Division for the Advancement of Women.

## **About DAW**

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The Division for the Advancement of Women in Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat supports the work of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations on gender equality and the empowerment of women. For more information, see <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/>



## News & Highlights

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**25 February 2008:** The Secretary-General of the United Nations launches his global campaign to end violence against women and girls. <http://endviolence.un.org/>

**March 2008:** Ten entities of the United Nations issue an interagency statement calling for the elimination of female genital mutilation (OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNECA, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIFEM, WHO). [www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/52sess.htm#statements](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/52sess.htm#statements)

**26-28 May 2008:** The Division for the Advancement of Women holds an expert group meeting on good practices in legislation on violence against women, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Vienna, Austria. [www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/vaw\\_legislation\\_2008/vaw\\_legislation\\_2008](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/vaw_legislation_2008/vaw_legislation_2008)

**3 June 2008:** The United Nations General Assembly holds a thematic debate on human trafficking. [www.un.org/ga/president/62/ThematicDebates/humantrafficking](http://www.un.org/ga/president/62/ThematicDebates/humantrafficking)

**19 June 2008:** The United Nations Security Council adopts resolution 1820 (2008) on women, peace and security, which focuses on sexual violence in armed conflict. [www.un.org/Docs/sc/unscl\\_resolutions08](http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/unscl_resolutions08)

**8 July 2008:** The United Nations Economic and Social Council holds a dialogue with the chairpersons of the functional commissions on the role of the Economic and Social Council in addressing violence against women in all its forms and manifestations. [www.un.org/ecosoc/docs/pdfs/08CSPanel\\_III.pdf](http://www.un.org/ecosoc/docs/pdfs/08CSPanel_III.pdf)

## Feature Item

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### Indicators to measure violence against women

Indicators summarize complex data into a form that is meaningful for policy makers and the public. They are part of the knowledge base that supports informed policy- and decision-making and enable an evidence-based comparison of trends over time. They have a critical role in monitoring progress towards achieving specific goals and commitments, and in awareness raising and advocacy.

There are two main types of indicators on violence against women: indicators that measure the extent of

