

The ICA Gender Equality Committee Webinar:

Theme: “Cooperatives: Together to end violence against women and girls”.

Friday, 25 November 2022, 14h00 – 15h30 PM (CET)

This year, the United Nations Secretary-General’s “UNiTE by 2030 to End Violence against Women and Girls” campaign will be marked under the theme, **“UNITE! Activism to end violence against women and girls”**. UNiTE calls for global action to increase awareness, galvanise advocacy efforts and share knowledge and innovations to end violence against women and girls once and for all. The [16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence against women and girls](#) is an international civil society led campaign that takes place each year. It commences on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and ends on 10 December, Human Rights Day, indicating that violence against women is the most pervasive breach of human rights worldwide. To support this UN campaign and to culminate the involvement of the cooperative movement in this global campaign, **the ICA Gender Equality Committee** will organize a webinar on the 25 November 2022 from 14h00 to 15h30 CET, themed **“Cooperatives: Together to end violence against women and girls”**.

Objectives

Over the last years, **the ICA GEC** has actively supported the UNiTE campaign with webinars, statements etc. This year **the ICA GEC** will again join the global debate against gender-based violence to raise awareness within cooperatives and beyond about violence and what can be done.

The webinar has the intention to activate, motivate and inspire cooperatives and other parties to continue with initiatives to reduce violence. Furthermore, it aims to show the added value of cooperatives in this battle and intends to increase the recognition of cooperatives as valuable actors.

The webinar will give an overview on the status of gender-based violence against women and girls (VAWG), efforts made to fight against it and recommendations on what needs to be done to eradicate it in the future. A representative from the UN will highlight on the efforts made by the UN towards the prevention and elimination of VAWG. Also, representatives from the cooperative movement will share about the role of cooperatives in the fight against gender-based violence, giving case studies and best practices. **The ICA GEC** and its regional representatives will also share some of the concrete actions developed and implemented in different regions.

Draft Programme

14:00 Opening by the ICA GEC Chair: Xiomara Nuñez de Céspedes

14:05 Presentations by two panelists (30 minutes):

- Presentation by Paz Arancibia Roman (ILO)
- Presentation by Priti Patel (Gujarat Mahila Credit Cooperative)

14:35 Q&A (15 minutes)

14:50 Presentations by the Regional GEC Chairs on initiatives in their regions (5 to 7 minutes per region)

- Presentation by Africa - Prof. Esther Gicheru
- Presentation by Americas - María Eugenia Pérez Zea
- Presentation by Asia-Pacific - Chitose Arai
- Presentation by Europe - Katia De Luca

15:20 Q&A and closure by the ICA GEC Chair - Xiomara Nuñez de Céspedes

About the ICA GEC

The [ICA Gender Equality Committee \(ICA GEC\)](#) is a Thematic Committee of the International Cooperative Alliance. The ICA GEC is a catalyst for change to make gender equality a reality in all cooperatives, it promotes equality between women and men and gender integration in the cooperative movement and society. It serves as forum for the discussion and exchange of experiences and ideas on issues related to gender equality, including violence against women and girls.

About the ICA

The [International Cooperative Alliance \(ICA\)](#) unites, represents, and serves cooperatives worldwide. Founded in 1895, it is one of the oldest non-governmental organizations and one of the largest ones measured by the number of people represented: 1 billion cooperative members on the planet. It is the apex body representing cooperatives, which are estimated to be around 3 million worldwide, providing a global voice and forum for knowledge, expertise and coordinated action for and about cooperatives.