



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

5 November 2009

Excellency,

I am pleased to invite you to join a Network of Men Leaders who will work with me and the United Nations to advocate ending violence against women. We are witnessing a growing commitment worldwide to prevent and combat violence against women. We must, however, intensify our efforts in a systematic way if we are to end this scourge.

Around the world, one in three women is beaten, coerced into sex, or suffers some type of abuse in her lifetime. This violence disproportionately affects women and girls in conflict and other emergency situations.

In February 2008, I launched a multi-year United Nations campaign "UNite to End Violence against Women". The campaign seeks to increase global advocacy on gender-based violence. It also seeks to strengthen partnerships for concrete action at regional and national levels and increase the leadership role of the United Nations.

The Network of Men Leaders is a further way to strengthen this collective effort. I am convinced that men are indispensable partners in eradicating violence against women and mobilizing public opinion to ensure that policymakers work to protect and empower women. You can help advance this noble cause at the national, regional and international levels.


His Excellency  
Mr. Franco Frattini  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the  
Republic of Italy  
Rome

Franco Frattini  
Drafted by: OSAGI  
Read by: Manongi  
Approved by:  
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Attached is a letter of acceptance and affirmation, which I request that you give careful consideration to before committing yourself to this campaign. Should you decide to accept this invitation, my Special Adviser on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women, Ms. Rachel Mayanja, will contact you in the coming weeks to provide you with information on the initial meeting to officially launch this important Network.

We need your commitment and I urge you to join this groundbreaking Network of Men Leaders.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



BAN Ki-moon