

Violence Against Women in Uganda

As we acknowledge the violence perpetrated against women in the United States throughout the month of October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, let us not forget the violence encountered on a daily basis by many of our sisters throughout the world.

In recent correspondence from Sister Stella Sabina of [SITEAW](#) (Shifting Ideas Through Education for African Women and Children), Inc., a project supported by Global Women's [Project](#) which works to educate women and girls in Uganda in an effort end female circumcision and other oppressive traditions aimed at women (including the inheritance, sanctioned beatings and sexual abuse of women), we were given a glimpse of the ubiquitous violence encountered by many Ugandan women. Sister Stella writes:

We are trying as much as we can to encourage the women to be very creative in order to become self-reliant. Many of them are working hard on projects like: basketry, brick laying, mat making, computer literacy, and reading and writing in order to get jobs. The biggest problem we are having right now is the insecurity in the country. People are so poor in general. So, the heavy bodied (men) have decided to get guns and break into every home they come across at night. Women and children are always the victims....Women are in great fear right now. Two of our women were attacked while coming home from the city to sell their baskets and every penny they had made was taken. Thank God they were not killed.

Sister Stella goes on to write, "Please ask everyone to say their prayers facing Uganda." We ask you to keep the women of Uganda, and all women throughout the world who live under the threat of losing their lives and their dignity to violence, in your prayers.

Kim Hill Smith, GWP Steering Committee