

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

Help for Rape Victims worldwide— steered by Lindau

Today, November 25th, the world commemorates discrimination and violence against women and girls. The Lindauer *Foundation Peace Dialogue of the World Religions and Civil Society*, Ring for Peace, is permanently launching very concrete projects to remedy this situation:

Millions of women and children become victims of sexual violence every year. They are deeply humiliated and seriously injured physically and emotionally. All too often, the perpetrators go unpunished. Also because the crimes are difficult to trace and prove. A novelty should change this: With the DNA-Kit (information - <https://ringforpeace.org/projects/dna-kit/>) this simple smear test, victims can secure DNA traces themselves after an assault, which can convict the criminal beyond doubt - even if they cannot expect help from medical personnel or police. The DNA kit is designed to prevent sexual violence simply by its existence: Potential perpetrators should shy away from assaults simply because they must assume that they will be identified and punished in any case.

If you are interested in a report on the DNA kit, we are happy to offer you the opportunity to talk to the following contact persons:

- **Lisa Smith**, Professor of Criminology at the University of Leicester developed the DNA-Kit.
- **Barbara Fölscher**, author and communication expert in the Cape Community and official representative of *Ring for Peace* is working to make the DNA-Kit known in South Africa.
- **Wangu Kanja**, founder of the NGO "Wangu Kanja Foundation" is active as a contact point for victims of sexual violence in Kenya and uses the DNA-Kit in her work.

In addition, an interview with **Sima Samar**, the first minister for women's affairs after the loss of power by the Taliban in Afghanistan in 2002, goes online today in *Ring for Peace's digital Magazine common future, issue "Transforming Tomorrow"*. The interview is entitled: "I believe that women are one of the main reasons for the survival of mankind" (<https://ringforpeace.org/article/6-interview-with-sima-samar/>). In it she describes how the situation for many women in Afghanistan has changed fundamentally during her term of office.

In order to shed light on the topic of sexual violence against women in a larger context, it was discussed in several discussion forums at the conference *1st Assembly on Women, Faith & Diplomacy from 10 to 13 November 2020* (<https://ringforpeace.org/projects/women-faith-diplomacy/>). We particularly recommend the panel discussion on "Gender Equality", which you can view here afterwards: <https://vimeo.com/480705819>

We would be happy to put you in touch with experts who are involved in the prevention and therapy of victims of sexual violence:

- **Ela Gandhi**, anti-apartheid activist and former member of the South African Parliament, is actively promoting the DNA-Kit.
- **Dr. Lilian Sison** has led interfaith mental health and trauma healing in post-conflict Philippines as part of *Religions for Peace's* "Restoring Dignity" campaign.

If you are interested in further information or in arranging an interview, please contact:
presse@ringforpeace.org

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