

Changing the world
with **women and girls**
act:onaid

About ActionAid

ActionAid is an international charity that works with women and girls living in poverty. Our dedicated local staff are changing the world with women and girls. We are ending violence and fighting poverty so that all women, everywhere, can create the future they want.



Nour, an ActionAid staff member working in the West Bank, talks to 11-year-old Ameerah.

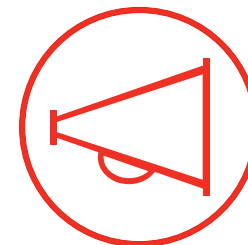
The denial of women and girls' rights is one of the biggest causes of poverty worldwide and a grave injustice. Our work benefits men and boys too, but we put women and girls first because no community can prosper when half its citizens are denied their rights.

Ending violence against women and girls

One in three women worldwide will experience physical violence or sexual abuse in her lifetime, most likely at the hands of someone she knows. This is wrong and it needs to stop.

ActionAid is ending violence against women and girls. We create change by enabling women and girls to learn about their rights, develop leadership skills and gain the tools to help them earn an independent living.

We also work with women's rights organisations, local leaders, men, boys and the media to shift societal attitudes and behaviours and create long-term change for good.



We have successfully campaigned to change laws around female genital mutilation (FGM), child marriage and domestic violence.

ActionAid worker Fatema (left) supports Rohingya refugee women and girls in Bangladesh.

“When we do this work, women can open up and talk to us more comfortably,” she says.



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Women’s economic empowerment

ActionAid is fighting for women and girls’ rights to economic opportunities. These include the right to earn the same as men, the right to own land and the right to access safe work that pays a decent wage.

Supporting women to access these economic rights is vital in enabling them to have control over their own lives. To end poverty and reduce gender inequality, it’s essential that women’s work – both in and outside the home – is recognised, valued and rewarded fairly.

Women and girls’ rights in humanitarian crises

When disaster strikes, ActionAid does things differently. Our unique approach is to empower local women like Fatema (pictured above) to lead the emergency response and get life-saving supplies quickly and fairly to those who need it most.

Fatema is a counsellor and paramedic working with ActionAid in a makeshift Rohingya refugee camp in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh. She provides emotional and medical support to Rohingya refugee women and girls fleeing rape and other forms of violence in Myanmar.



© Georgina Goodwin/ActionAid

Christina works in a peanut butter factory set up by ActionAid and our local partners to empower survivors of sexual violence in Kenya. “We get together and share our experiences. It helps us to heal a lot,” she says.



© Abbie Traylor Smith/ActionAid

Case study: Road to recovery

When Talat married at 17, her husband's family began to abuse her. They would demand money and prevent her from leaving the house on her own – not even to see her mother.

Talat sought help from staff at ActionAid India's Gauravi One-Stop Crisis Centre in Madhya Pradesh. There, she received medical treatment, legal help and counselling

– all under one roof. Talat was also given the opportunity to train as a rickshaw driver.

Despite initially lacking confidence, Talat now feels happy behind the wheel. In the future, she hopes to transport women and girls to and from the centre, as well as teach other women to drive.

Girls' clubs

ActionAid supports girls' clubs in schools, where female students can discuss any problems or concerns that they have and share their experiences in a safe and welcoming environment.

These clubs are led by teachers or local ActionAid workers who understand the issues that the girls face. At the clubs, girls learn about puberty and saying no to child marriage, as well as harmful traditional practices like female genital mutilation (FGM).

Girls also learn how to demand their rights, including their right to have control over their own bodies and to access an education.

Rahma, Zeinab and Asha attend an ActionAid girls' club at their school in Zanzibar.



© Rachel Palmer/ActionAid

Get involved

Visit our website to set up a monthly or one-off donation. Just £15 a month could help educate girls about their rights.
[actionaid.org.uk/donate](https://www.actionaid.org.uk/donate)

Or if you are able to give more, please visit:
[actionaid.org.uk/philanthropy](https://www.actionaid.org.uk/philanthropy)

For 65p a day, you can sponsor a child and support their community to tackle poverty and gender inequality.
[actionaid.org.uk/sponsor-a-child](https://www.actionaid.org.uk/sponsor-a-child)

Take part in a challenge event or fundraise for ActionAid at home, school or work.
[actionaid.org.uk/fundraise](https://www.actionaid.org.uk/fundraise)

Take action locally to tackle gender inequality, from lobbying MPs to representing ActionAid at festivals and marches.
[actionaid.org.uk/campaign](https://www.actionaid.org.uk/campaign)

Nominate us as your company's chosen charity and raise funds for us with your colleagues.
[actionaid.org.uk/corporates](https://www.actionaid.org.uk/corporates)

Opposite: These nine-year-old pupil's lives changed when ActionAid helped provide their school in Nepal with access to safe drinking water and educational materials.



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