



## **THIS BLACK FRIDAY AYA AFRICA SUPPORTS THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (25 NOVEMBER 2022)**

While shoppers the world over scramble for deals this Black Friday (25 November) and football fans remain transfixed on one of the strangest World Cups in the history of the tournament, the UN will be marking the day by commemorating [International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women](#). The day also kicks-off the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence which will end on the International Human Rights Day on 10 December.

In 2000, 25 November was chosen to memorialise three Mirabal sisters (Patria, Maria and Antonia), who were political activists fighting the regime of the longtime dictator Rafael Trujillo of the Dominican Republic. The Mirabal sisters were murdered on Trujillo's orders on the aforementioned day in 1960. These heroines exemplify the fighting spirit of so many women of long forgotten eras to the present.

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# TIME

THE WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE



1960  
**The Mirabal  
Sisters**

*Undermining a dictator*





However, the real fight for justice and equality takes place in homes, mansions, homesteads and shanty structures on a daily basis. According to the UN it is estimated one in three women and girls experience violence in their lifetime; one in five women aged 20-24 were married before turning 18 in 2021, and less than 40 per cent of women who experience violence seek help of any sort.

Coupled with physical violence out against women and girls, is the structural violence of poverty and inequality on the basis of gender. This perpetuates poverty and blunts the pursuit and creation of much needed opportunities for the development of communities and countries. We are all worse off because of the lack of opportunities for women and girls to advance themselves.

There are so many unsung and unseen people who are making the world a better place in their fight against gender-based violence. Aya Africa applauds the advocates and defenders of the rights of women and girls. Their contributions need to be shared in more deliberate ways.

In the words of Joel Mamboka, an artist from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and currently showcasing his artworks on Aya Africa's platform, had this to say about his art in an interview with the [Aya Africa Edit](#):

**“....My paintings defend women. I paint different women, showing how we treat different women in society.... It pushed me to fight for women ....Those women they are in a weak position. So I was looking to be their defender. I've been looking for which way to transfer that way of thinking, that philosophy. The only one way I can do it is on my canvas, so you will see I paint a lot of different women.....”**



*Some of Joel Mamboka's art*

More stories of advocates, especially men, are needed to end the scourge of violence against women in its totality. Aya Africa praises Joel Mamboka for fighting gender-based violence with his artwork. We need more people like him to do the same through the tools of their trade.

In support of the UN's [UNiTE! Activism to End Violence against Women & Girls!](#) Campaign for 2022, Aya Africa wishes to unite with partners across the board this Black Friday to condemn all forms of violence against women and girls, but also spread messages of hope and positivity. Aya Africa will continue to strive to champion women-led enterprises and work with those that seek to uplift women in every facet of life.

**To all the heroines, lionesses, and they/them, keep pushing and never accept 'no' as an answer. The world needs your wisdom and strength more than ever.**