

A photograph of three children sitting on a wooden pier. In the foreground, a young girl with dark hair and a green bow in her hair is smiling and looking towards the right. She is wearing a light blue dress with a large bow. Behind her, two boys are sitting, looking in the same direction. The pier extends into the ocean, and the sky is filled with soft, white clouds.

**Together, we
can create a
safer world**



**Together
for girls**
STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

**brave
movement™**

A young girl is shown in silhouette, looking out of a window. Her hair is tied back, and she is wearing a light-colored shirt with a heart pattern. The background outside the window is bright and hazy, suggesting a cityscape or a distant view. The overall mood is contemplative and somber.

Violence against children is a **global crisis.**

1 billion children have experienced sexual, physical, or emotional violence in the past year.*

That's equivalent to one in every three children around the world.

* Violence against children. World Health Organization. (2022, November 29). Retrieved March 24, 2023, from <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-children>

Childhood sexual violence is a **notably taboo**, and often hidden, form of violence.



Ann Onderi, a Kenyan nurse, meets with a patient. She provides trauma counseling survivors of sexual violence. Photo courtesy of PEPAR Kenya.

It takes many forms, including sexual abuse, intrafamilial sexual violence, exploitation, rape, child marriage, and sexual violence among peers.

It is also widespread. In Uganda, more than 1 in 3 girls and 1 in 6 boys experience sexual violence before their 18th birthday.*

In the United States about 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 13 boys experience sexual abuse at some point in childhood. Adolescent girls are especially vulnerable. Nearly 1 in 5 high school girls in the U.S. experienced sexual violence in the past year.**

* Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Violence against Children in Uganda: Findings from a National Survey, 2015 (2015). Kampala, Uganda; UNICEF.

** U.S. Teen Girls Experiencing Increased Sadness and Violence. (2023, February 13). NCHHSTP Newsroom. Retrieved March 24, 2023, from <https://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom/2023/increased-sadness-and-violence-press-release.html>.



**Sexual violence
against children and
adolescents happens
in every country in
the world.**

In homes


In schools

In sports

In places of worship

Online

**Chances are, it's happening
in your community.**



Childhood sexual violence can have **devastating, life-long consequences** for individuals and communities.

In Kenya, girls and boys who experienced multiple forms violence in childhood, including sexual violence, were more than 5 times more likely to have suicidal thoughts.* And the list goes on: substance use disorders; school drop-out; unintended pregnancy; and HIV.

Violence is also cyclical. Boys who experience violence are significantly more likely to grow up to perpetrate violence against their intimate partners later in life.

The economic cost is staggering. It is estimated that violence against children costs societies 3% to 8% of global GDP** which translates to \$2.9 to \$7.8 trillion dollars."

* Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Kenya, Violence against Children in Kenya: Findings from a National Survey, 2019 (2019). Nairobi, Kenya.

** World Vision International. (2022). (rep.). Counting Pennies 3: Assessment of Official Development Assistance to end violence against children. Uxbridge, United Kingdom.



"I am a researcher, a psychologist, and a survivor of childhood sexual violence.


I've been sharing my story publicly for more than a decade because I know it doesn't have to be this way.

We can end sexual violence against children and adolescents within a generation.

But to do so, we need to move from horror to action, and we need to work together. Through our work, we connect survivors and allies to demand transformational change. Together, we are powerful.

We need to be brave so that children can be safe."

Daniela Ligiero, is the CEO of Together for Girls and co-founder of the Brave Movement.

A close-up photograph of two hands with dark skin resting on a red fabric with black floral patterns. The hands are positioned with fingers slightly spread, and the nails are painted a light pink color. The background is a dark teal color.

Violence against children is a **hidden** and **pervasive issue**, and it is hard to talk about.

The shame associated with childhood sexual violence means **survivors often don't disclose their experiences, and many people are unaware how common it is.**

Governments and institutions reduce it to a personal or family issue and look the other way. And when they do act, the response is often siloed, limited, and woefully insufficient.



A problem of this magnitude can seem insurmountable.

It seems impossible to imagine that changes in **prevention, healing,** and **justice** could be achieved at the scale required to create a safer world.

...But what
if it were?



WHAT IF

Parents were reassured that **schools, technology companies, sports clubs,** and **places of worship** had the right systems in place to protect their children?



WHAT IF

When a child experienced sexual violence, they **felt safe** to come forward knowing that they would be **believed**, and could access **effective, age-appropriate support services** to begin their healing?



WHAT IF

Perpetrators, and those complicit, were brought to justice quickly, **ensuring they could never harm another child?**



Decades of research show that there are **effective ways to prevent** sexual violence against children.

In Kenya, the Government used data from the 2010 Violence Against Children and Youth Survey to guide the creation of a National Action Plan aimed at preventing violence and improving response. Actions included increasing access to education; strengthening legal protections; and linking the most vulnerable children to resources, services, and care.

After another survey in 2019, childhood sexual violence was reduced in half for females, and by two-thirds for males. This means that 2 million fewer girls and 1.4 million fewer boys experienced sexual violence as a result of declines in levels of childhood sexual violence.

Flovian, a PEPFAR DREAMS participant.

Photo courtesy of PEPFAR Kenya



**The evidence is clear:
violence is
preventable, change
is possible.**

Merina, a peer educator with Kiota Women's Health and Development (KIWOHEDE) in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania



**Through Together for
Girls and the Brave
Movement, this is
what we do.**

Through **data** and **advocacy**, our global partnership **drives action** to break cycles of violence and ensure prevention, healing, and justice.

We hear directly from children about their experiences of violence. Through the groundbreaking Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS) we have data representing 20% of children, adolescents, and youth living in lower income countries where data is often lacking.

We use this data to create change for children. Working behind the scenes, we support national and community leadership in partnership with leading global experts including the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and civil society.

Multisectoral partners
attended the Data to
Action workshop in
Côte d'Ivoire, 2019



**At Together for
Girls and the
Brave Movement,
this is who we
are.**

Brave Members and allies mobilizing in Brussels outside of the European Union to demand action to protect children online, April 2023.

Ending violence against children cannot be achieved by a single actor alone. Our members and allies are active in all regions of the world, bringing together people from every corner of society.

We are survivors and allies. We are civil society, governments, funders, and UN agencies. We are parents, educators, and allies.

We are the ones we've been waiting for.



Since 2009, **Together for Girls** has been a pioneer in the global fight to create a safer world for children and adolescents.

TfG rang the opening bell of the New York Stock Exchange with allies and other key partners to commemorate TfG's 10th anniversary, 2019.

We are led by survivors. CEO Daniela Ligiero is a survivor of childhood sexual violence. Under her leadership, we catalyzed the first global survivor-centered advocacy movement to end sexual violence against children - the Brave Movement.

We are radically collaborative. We unite disciplines that often do not work together to address a multi-faceted problem. We support national leaders in creating diverse, multisectoral teams in order to avoid silos.



Brave Movement survivor leaders meeting, Oxford, UK, 2023. The SAGE (Survivor Advocates, Globally Empowered) is a globally diverse team of adult survivors of childhood sexual violence, who help lead the vision and strategy of the Brave movement.

The Brave Movement is campaigning to End Childhood Sexual Violence

The **Brave Movement** is a **survivor-centered global movement** campaigning for the right of all children and adolescents to live in **safety** and **dignity**. The Brave Movement campaigns across three pillars:

- **Prevention:** including advocating for a safer internet to keep children and young people safe online.
- **Healing:** including advocating for more resources to support survivors in their healing journeys.
- **Justice:** including abolishing statutes of limitations around the world to aid justice for survivors, and prevent perpetrators from continuing abuse.

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Together for Girls and Brave team members gathered in Washington, DC, June 2023.

This work has never been easy. As the world continues to struggle with multiple and expanding crises, hard-fought gains for children around the world are at risk of being lost.


**Now is the time
to redouble our
collective efforts to
rebuild a safer world
for our children.**

With your help **we**
can generate quality,
comprehensive **data**.



Multisectoral partners and high-level officials gathered at the launch of Nigeria's VACS report, 2015. Photo courtesy of UNICEF Nigeria

- **Know where, how, and why** violence against children and adolescents happens, and find evidence-based solutions that work to prevent it.
- **Address urgent data gaps**, such as studying violence against children in humanitarian settings.
- **Build the capacity** of national governments and partners to collect and use relevant data.



Cambodia Deputy Prime Minister, H.E. Mrs. Men Sam An, spoke at the launch of Cambodia's VACS report, 2014. Photo courtesy of Sofia Ollvid, UNICEF Cambodia

A portrait of a young Black woman with short dark hair, smiling and looking slightly to the right. She is wearing large gold hoop earrings and a dark blue garment. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with a pink wall and a window.

With your help, we can lead **advocacy** to drive transformational action.

- **Shape global and national policy agendas**, building political will to drive lasting change.
- **Shatter the silence around sexual violence** by amplifying survivor voices and making sure they are incorporated into policy discussions.
- **Champion evidence-based solutions to end violence against children**, helping ignite interventions on a national, regional, and global scale.

“My life is what I can use to help others, so I have to be a champion. I want to go out and tell my story and use it to help girls in my community.”

Upendo, DREAMS Ambassador and survivor, uses her own experience to connect other survivors to critical legal and health services, Tanzania 2018).

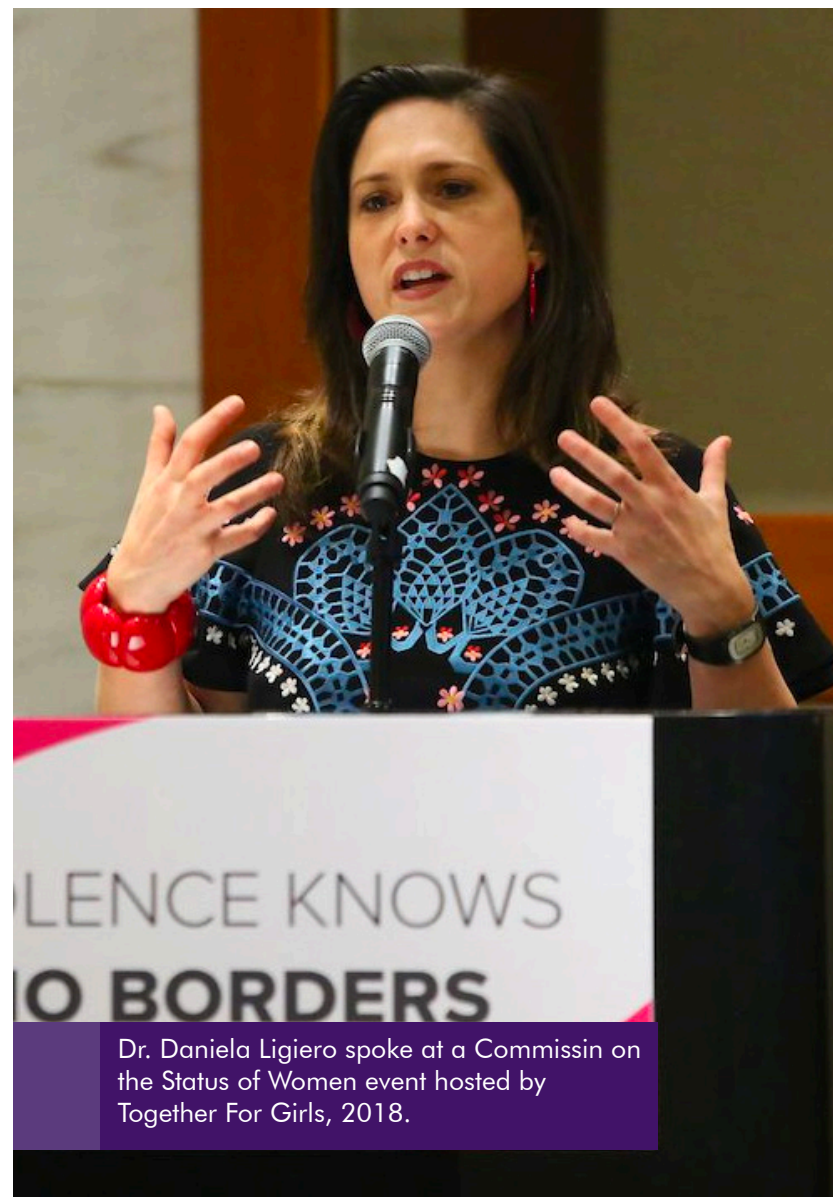


Joseph Triikka Beugre (CDC Côte d'Ivoire), Dr. Solange Amethier (PN-OEV), Bibola Ngalamulume (PEPFAR Côte d'Ivoire), Manuela Balliet (Together for Girls) and Shirish Balachandra (Country Director, CDC Côte d'Ivoire) at the launch of the Côte d'Ivoire VACS report, 2020.

With your help, we can create a safer world.



Madame Sophie Grégoire Trudeau attended the T4G International Day of the Girl event co-hosted with the Government of Canada, 2017. Photo courtesy of Sharon Natoli



Dr. Daniela Ligiero spoke at a Commission on the Status of Women event hosted by Together For Girls, 2018.

To date, our partnership has helped:

- 12** countries ban corporal punishment
- 10** countries abolish child marriage
- 13** countries add child safety regulations
- 21** countries use VACS data to inform policy and programmatic action

And there is much more to be done.



Together, we can create a world
where every child and adolescent is
safe, protected, and **thriving.**