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# USAID Hosts UNFPA Exhibit Congo/Women Portraits of War: The Democratic Republic of Congo



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Mon Nov 30, 4:58 pm ET  
Nov. 30 -

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) will join the global community in observance of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence from Nov. 25 through Dec. 10. To highlight the plight of women and girls affected by violence, USAID will host the exhibition *Congo/Women Portraits of War: The Democratic Republic of Congo*.

Gender-based violence is a pervasive public health and human rights issue. Around the world, at least one in every three women has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused. *Congo/Women* is an international photography exhibition and educational campaign that raises awareness of the widespread sexual violence facing women and girls in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Through powerful life-size photographs, it tells the story of the women whose lives have been affected by violence, highlighting how HIV, trafficking, rape, and genital mutilation play a role in perpetuating these atrocities.

Since 2002, the United States Government has been a major bilateral donor to respond to severe and widespread sexual and gender-based violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. USAID programs have provided care and treatment services for well over 100,000 survivors of abuse, including access to medical care, counseling and family mediation, social and economic reintegration support, as well as legal aid. Community awareness activities educate and mobilize local communities, including traditional leaders and women's groups, to promote women's rights, acceptance of rape survivors, protection of the whole community, and outreach about available services through local providers. For more information please visit <http://congowomen.org>.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2009 – Thursday, Dec. 10, 2009

Visitors are welcome at any time.

**WHERE:** USAID [Ronald Reagan Building](#) (14th St. Lobby)  
[1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington DC 20004](#)

**REPORTERS ATTENDING SHOULD CONTACT USAID PRESS OFFICE**

CONTACT: Natasha Jackson, USAID Press Office, +1-202-712-1647 [njackson@usaid.gov](mailto:njackson@usaid.gov)

Press Office: 202-712-4320

Public Information: 202-712-4810

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