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Human Rights Task Force Global Issues of Violence

In 2009, I joined the EAWAC Task Force (now Ending Violence against Women Committee) with a focus on the modern day slave trade, an all-encompassing form of gender-based violence that, sadly, continues to be on the rise around the world.

Over the years, the Task Force has been able to put a spotlight on the issues and get people talking about it more. I hope to be able to continue that dialogue as well as find tangible actions that we can all take to help eradicate these forms of violence. When you look at the facts, you see that even though we have made a difference, we still have a very long way to go.

- 1 in 3 women has been sexually assaulted in her lifetime;
- Rape continues to be used as a weapon during war and conflict;
- Globalization and climate change are having the most profound impacts on women and children who are disproportionately being displaced and left without options.

Gender-based violence is an affliction that millions of women and children suffer in silence and shame. Many become victimized by those that are supposed to love and protect them.

While it is important that we don't focus only on human trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation and lose sight of other forms of violence and oppression, it is an area that is receiving increasing attention globally because of its prevalence and the pace at which it is increasing worldwide.

More people are enslaved now than at any other time in history, and it is estimated that up to 80% or more of them are women or girls.

For more information on these issues or to join the Violence against Women Committee of the Human Rights Task Force, please contact Tonya Teichert at endingviolence@fawco.org