What you should know about violence against women (VAW)

* VAW is a threat to human security as it threatens the daily lives of half of humanity.
* VAW cuts across race, religion, age, class, and sexuality. It is rooted in unequal gender relations where men have the power and control over women.
* VAW do not only happen to poor people. It also happens to women in middle and upper class of society.
* Domestic violence and intimate partner abuse destroy love, respect and honor-the very foundation on which people build their homes and relationship.
* Domestic violence and intimate partner abuse are NOT private matters. These are public crimes that violate a person’s right to life, personal dignity and security.
* Emotional, structural, societal, and cultural factors keep women in violent relationships – love and concern for children, lack of resources to escape, lack of education and awareness, and the notion that family preservation should be maintained at all costs.
* Victim-survivors should not be BLAMED for being in violent relationships. Rather, support and assistance should be extended to them to help them get out of the situation and survive the ordeal.