

**UPF UK: *Unsilenced* Film Screening - Elimination of Violence Against Women**

Robin Marsh  
December 9, 2025



**Elimination of Violence Against Women – 'Unsilenced' Film Screening at Universal Peace Federation - UK**

**Organised by the National Association of Women's Organisations and the Justina Mutale Foundation**

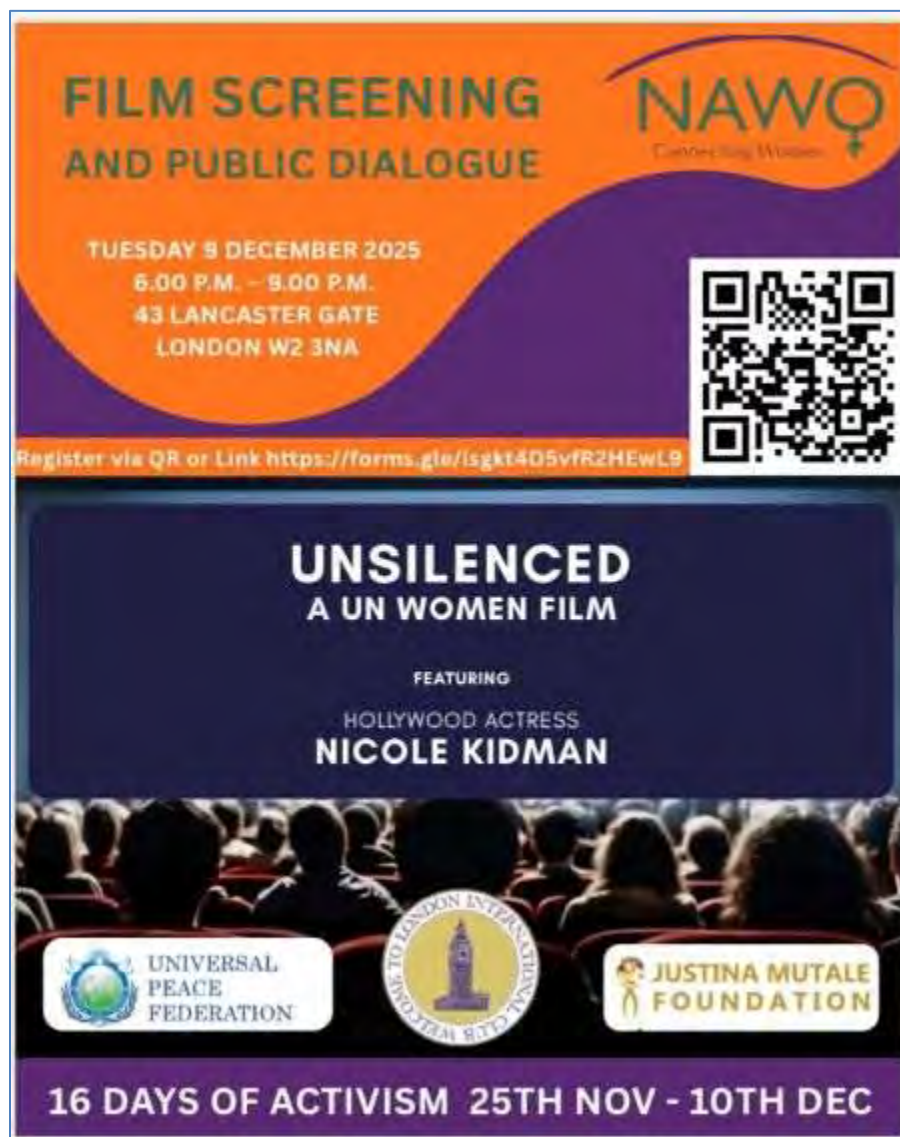
**Advocating Dignity, Safety and Human Rights for Women and Girls  
9 December 2025 | 43 Lancaster Gate, London**



**As part of the UN 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, the Universal Peace**

**Federation UK (UPF UK)** hosted a second programme on the **Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW)**, featuring a powerful screening of the UN Women documentary "*Unsilenced*."

The event was organised by the **National Association of Women's Organisations (NAWO)** and the **Justina Mutale Foundation**, both of which have delivered daily awareness-raising sessions throughout the campaign period - from **UN Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (25 November)** to **Human Rights Day (10 December)**.



### **Highlighting Global Realities: The 'Unsilenced' Documentary**

*Unsilenced* captures women's lived experiences of **domestic violence**, coercion, and cultural practices harming women and girls across multiple nations. Produced by **UN Women**, the film amplifies the voices of survivors, activists, and legal advocates working to end all forms of violence against women.

The programme was moderated by **Ms Itty Bawa**, who guided discussions after each of the documentary's three thematic sections. She emphasised the **urgent need for systemic change**, noting that high percentages of women worldwide continue to face abuse. There also is a difficult course to bring a case to justice often because of stigma, shame, resistance from Police and Justice officials and societal pressure.

### **Key Themes: Law, Culture, Religion, and Social Norms**

Speaker **Justina Mutale** highlighted the ongoing gaps in UK legislation - particularly the **slow adoption of measures required under CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women)**. She noted that commitments made at international level are not yet fully reflected in UK domestic law.

Participants explored a wide range of issues affecting women:

- **Religion and harmful interpretations of tradition**
- **Patriarchal customs and gender norms**
- **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**
- **Child marriage**



- **Barriers to education and economic participation**
- **Legal obstacles and limited police responsiveness**

Despite the challenging testimonies, several examples of **positive transformation** emerged. One inspiring story came from **a couple in Kyrgyzstan**, where the husband had participated in a relationship-education programme. He shared how learning equitable communication transformed his marriage: "We now discuss decisions together... we feel like a team." His testimony illustrated the profound impact of **engaging men and boys as allies** in preventing violence.

**Courage, Legal Reform and Stories of Change**

The film also showcased **young women who bravely challenged legal systems**, cultural assumptions, and long-standing social barriers. Their resilience demonstrated that change is possible - even in environments where reporting violence can lead to stigma, social exclusion, or retaliation.

These **"unsilenced" women** serve as role models for communities and policymakers, reminding us that **ending violence against women requires courage, solidarity, and structural reform**.

**UPF UK's Commitment to Human Rights and Women's Empowerment**



Consistent with UPF's founding vision of **living for the sake of others, upholding human dignity**, and promoting **One Family under God**, UPF UK continues to partner with women's organisations, faith networks, community leaders, and policymakers to:

- Support survivors
- Advocate for stronger legal protections
- Combat harmful practices

- Promote gender equality
- Empower women and girls through education and dialogue

This event forms part of UPF UK's ongoing commitment to the **SDGs**, particularly **SDG 5 (Gender Equality)** and **SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)**.

Related Articles:

[Launch of MAGE - Men Advocating Gender Equality](#)

[Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls - UPF UK Event in the Lords](#)

[International Women's Day 2024 - March 19th, UPF - UK Event](#)

[Universal Peace Federation – UK Report: 12 Years of Action to End Violence Against Women and Girls](#)

[Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: Thirty Years On](#)

[Elimination of Violence Against Women Nov 26th - UPF UK](#)

### Call to Action

- [Become an Ambassador for Peace](#) – Join a global network of leaders, changemakers, and community builders committed to advancing peace, dialogue, and moral leadership.
- [Get Involved in UPF - UK's Charitable Work](#) – Support our programmes in interfaith cooperation, youth leadership, gender equality, and community service. Your participation helps build bridges across cultures and strengthens social cohesion in the UK.
- [Become a Supporter of UPF - UK](#) – Become a Monthly Donor by contributing regularly to sustain our mission. Your support enables long-term peace initiatives, leadership training, and the growth of the Ambassadors for Peace network.