Groups in More Than 30 Countries Will Take a Stand against Street Harassment, April 10-16
They will Raise Awareness Through Rallies, Workshops, Flyering, and Tweet Chats

RESTON, VA — In its sixth year, Meet Us on the Street: International Anti-Street Harassment Week (April 10-16) will be observed in more than 30 countries. Tens of thousands of people in countries like Afghanistan, Australia, Cameroon, Chile, Egypt, France, Guatemala, the Maldives, Nepal, and Yemen will participate in actions that challenge the prevalent social problem of gender-based street harassment, something that studies suggest most women and many LGBTQ individuals face globally.

Women for a Change, Cameroon is hosting a workshop for youth. “Participating in the Anti-Street Harassment Week means so much to us in terms of building cross-border solidarity against any forms of abuse or violence against women and girls,” said Zoneziwoh Mbondgulo, the organization’s founder.

Youth Advocacy Nepal (YAN) will organize a youth workshop, flash mob, sidewalk chalking, street drama, rally, photo campaign, and more. YAN president Naren Khatiwada said, “Street harassment based on gender has been a neglected issue in Nepal, but it needs to be on the public agenda.”

To Be for Rights and Freedom will hold an informational event in collaboration with other Yemeni NGOs in Aden, to share street harassment survey results, a film, and personal stories. “Women in Yemen are not only dealing with sexual harassment, they are also dealing with threats of acid being poured in their faces if they don’t cover up. They are dealing with magnified violence,” said Rasha Jarhum, a board advisor to the organization. “As such it is important for us in Yemen to participate in this week to document, to share experiences and learnings, and to support women at those especially difficult times.”

The week falls within Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the United States. Events in this country include rallies; chalk walks, workshops, support groups, and the distribution of information about harassment on transit systems.

Stop Telling Women to Smile is a primary co-sponsor of the week and people and groups anyway can request and post the famous “Stop telling women to smile” posters in their community on April 15. “The idea behind the wheat pasting night is to create a night of solidarity,” founder Tatyana Fazlalizadeh said. “People from all over can participate in a night of action, knowing that hundreds of people in different parts of the world are doing the same thing.”

There will be virtual events as well, including a Google+ Hangout Panel on April 14 at 12 p.m. EDT and Tweet Chats. Groups across the globe will join a Global Tweetathon on April 12 (use #EndSH).

“No country has achieved gender equality and no country ever will until we work to end street harassment,” said Holly Kearl, the founder of the nonprofit organization Stop Street Harassment. “By speaking out in a coordinated way, we can amplify each other’s voices and strengthen our efforts both globally and locally to create safe public spaces for all.”

Any individual can help speak out against street harassment during the week simply by sharing stories on and offline. Visit www.MeetUsontheStreet.org for more information about the week and how to join.

Stop Street Harassment is a nonprofit organization dedicated to documenting and ending gender-based street harassment worldwide through public education and community mobilization. SSH organizes International Anti-Street Harassment Week annually and helps activists with local campaigns through the Safe Public Spaces Mentoring Program. They commissioned a 2014 nationally representative survey on street harassment in the USA.