Teachers and teachers unions: Key actors in eliminating SRGBV

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Teachers and teachers’ unions: the key to success

• Few organizations working to eliminate SRGBV effectively engage with teachers and teacher unions to bring them on board

• Too often, teachers are seen to be perpetrators of violence rather than part of the solution

• Efforts must be made to ensure that teachers and teacher trade unions are included as key actors in meaningful school and community-based multi-stakeholder plans, action and policies to eliminate SRGBV
Supporting teachers for action

• School-based teacher codes of conduct and union-based policies on professional ethics must be widely disseminated and rigorously applied (as well as reviewed and evaluated) within schools and in the wider community.

• Gender sensitive pedagogy and teaching practice must be integrated into initial teacher training and continued professional development programs, to ensure that all teachers are equipped to recognize signs of SRGBV and to take action in their classrooms and in the wider school environment.

• Teachers must be able to report cases of SRGBV when it is being perpetrated by colleagues (including senior colleagues as well as non-teacher colleagues who are part of the education support personnel) without fear of reprisals either at school or in the wider community.
In order to attract and retain the highest quality teachers, governments must increase efforts to strengthen the status of the teaching profession and ensure that teachers:

- Receive adequate pay
- Are able to work in safe and sanitary working environment
- Have access to and receive training in the use of quality teaching tools and materials