

Bucharest, November 25, 2025

PRESS RELEASE

George Enescu Philharmonic Raises Its Voice Against Violence Toward Women and Against the Indifference That Allows It to Persist

Today, the **George Enescu Philharmonic** publicly took a stand against violence towards women and the indifference surrounding this issue by launching the Campaign **Stand up for Women**, as part of the global UN communication initiative **UNiTE to End Violence Against Women**, carried out by the United Nations between 25 November and 10 December 2025.

The general public and all interested parties (NGOs, companies, and institutions) are invited to watch and share the Campaign video, created together with the George Enescu Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir, and featuring the exceptional participation of Maestro Lawrence Foster:

Youtube EN: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74zeKos8onw>

Youtube RO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nyi8TZG7vKU>

Facebook EN: <https://fb.watch/DJlyje-94J/>

Facebook RO: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1564258098249746>

Instagram RO: <https://www.instagram.com/p/DResIE5AR2G/>

Campaign Messages

The Campaign **Stand Up for Women** is built on an essential premise: **violence against women is not 'someone else's problem.'** It concerns us all. It touches every one of us - as human beings and citizens; as a community and a society; as organizations, companies, and public institutions.

Inspired by the role of musicians, who use their instruments and voices to bring scores to life, the Campaign seeks to send **a powerful call for awareness and collective action:**

- **Each of us has instruments of our own: our voice, our conduct, our professional duties and responsibilities, our influence, our social role, our knowledge, and our solidarity. We can use them to prevent violence, to report it, and to stop it. And unless we act together, this wound in our society will never heal.**



This is why the Philharmonic's musicians conveyed their message by being themselves - at work. The core of the Campaign is a video featuring the George Enescu Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir, built around a simple, powerful idea: to show, visibly and tangibly, how violence against women affects us all. **When women are attacked, they disappear — and when they disappear, the music disappears with them. Life falters. Life falls silent.**

The video was filmed during rehearsals for the vocal-symphonic concerts of 30 and 31 October 2025, with the exceptional participation of Maestro Lawrence Foster.

The soundtrack of the video is performed by the George Enescu Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir, interpreting the *Gloria* from Beethoven's *Mass in C major, Op. 86*, conducted by Lawrence Foster. The choice of music is deliberate: this luminous prayer for understanding, tolerance, and peace - "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests" - echoes the very heart of the Campaign.

Campaign hashtags: [#EndVAW](#) [#FGEOpritiViolențaImpotrivaFemeilor](#)
[#MusicAgainstViolence](#) [#NoExcuse](#) [#ACTtoEndViolence](#) [#FGENUntoarcePrivirea](#)

Campaign Launch

The Campaign was launched today, **November 25 - the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women** – during a rehearsal break for the Philharmonic's weekly symphonic concert, to allow participation from several of the Orchestra's musicians, including Mădălina Fara, Principal Cellist and Head of the Cello Section; cellist Horațiu Ludușan; the Philharmonic's Principal Conductor, Gabriel Bebeșelea; as well as General Director Marin Cazacu; Cosmina Simiean, General Director of the Directorate for Social Assistance of the Municipality of Bucharest (DGASMB); and Strategic Communications Consultant Oana Marinescu.

Survivors' Participation

Also today, at the Teodora Brody & Violoncelissimo Recital, part of the George Enescu Philharmonic's 2025–2026 Season, 50 survivors of domestic violence were invited from the centers coordinated by DGASMB.

This evening, the Romanian Athenaeum façade will be illuminated in orange, the colour of the **UN UNiTE Campaign to End Violence Against Women.**

Press Statements

Marin Cazacu, General Director of the George Enescu Philharmonic:

“George Enescu Philharmonic cannot remain indifferent to the global reality of violence against women - a reality that spares no society, including our own. This affects us all. Our institution has a long tradition of integrating and respecting women. I recently saw a photograph from 1978, when Sergiu Celibidache conducted our Orchestra: only 12 women were on stage – way too few. Today, there are more than 35. And the more women an orchestra has, the more harmonious its life becomes, the better its understanding, the richer its sound.”

Oana Marinescu, Strategic Communication Consultant:

*“Today, we are sending a social message through music and through musicians. We are launching a campaign through which the George Enescu Philharmonic takes a stand against violence toward women. Why the Philharmonic? **Because it can** - just as we all can. Just as artists use their instruments and voices to say publicly, ‘We care. We want this violence to stop’, every person and every institution in Romania can act. That is the heart of the Campaign: **we must no longer look away.**”*

Cosmina-Ioana Simiean Nicolescu, General Director of the Directorate for Social Assistance of the Municipality of Bucharest:

“This is the first time that social and cultural services have joined forces. Every week, we hear of another femicide — 56 women this year alone. Until now, the conversation about violence against women has lived either in the legal sphere or within social services. But reality shows that we must act together. The message of zero tolerance must resonate in every institution and in every field.”

Mădălina Fara, Principal Cellist of the George Enescu Philharmonic Orchestra:

“It is an honor to be part of this Campaign. We cannot remain indifferent. I speak here as a woman and as a mother. As women and as parents, we must be deeply aware of the example we set for our children, because so many problems begin with the models they see. They are our future — and the words we choose in educating them matter.”

Horățiu Ludușan, Cellist:

*“This subject should not even exist - and yet violence against women is a daily reality. **Behind the statistics are real women - mothers, daughters, friends - human beings with hopes, fears, and dreams of a better life. Through this Campaign, I hope we can say, clearly and together, ‘Stop’ to these acts of violence against women and to violence in general. We cannot be passive witnesses to what happens around us. We must help restore a voice to those who have lost theirs through abuse, and speak for them until they find the strength to speak for themselves again.**”*

Women in the George Enescu Philharmonic

- In 1923, the first two women were hired as Orchestra members — much earlier than in many other prestigious classical music institutions worldwide.
- Currently:
 - 28% of the Orchestra are women
 - 61% of the Choir members are women
 - 41% of all members of the Orchestra and Choir of the George Enescu Philharmonic are women

Campaign Rationale

According to UN documents, violence against women and girls remains the most urgent and widespread human rights violation, causing severe harm to women, families, communities, and society as a whole. While significant progress has been made over the last 30 years with strengthened laws, services, and prevention strategies, the world is failing to eliminate violence against women, which persists at alarming rates across the world, with 1 in 3 women experiencing violence across their lifetimes. **Globally, a woman or girl is killed every six minutes.**

Deeply entrenched stereotypes, harmful social norms, weak implementation of laws, and inadequate resources are impeding progress.

In 2025, the UN campaign highlights the accelerating rise of digital violence — from online harassment and abuse to pornographic deepfakes and coordinated misogynistic campaigns — which severely affect the rights and safety of all women.

This is a broad public awareness and mobilization Campaign against violence towards women, marking the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the launch of the 16 Days of Activism within the global UNiTE to End Violence Against Women Campaign, supported by the United Nations.



The Situation in Romania Is Worsening:

- **In Romania, 56 women were killed intentionally** from the beginning of 2025 until 25 November; two of them were killed during the period in which the Campaign video was produced.
- **The police intervened in 61,000 domestic violence cases** in the first six months of 2025 — an average of **14 cases per hour**.

IMPORTANT FOR THE PRESS

Video footage from the launch conference can be found here:

<https://s.go.ro/pwd3j8q1>

Photographs from the launch — including all speakers — and the campaign visuals, in Romanian and English, can be found here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1eEQ_zgFJa8wK5YvpIGsxGtz2iyKsdOzl

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